

# The NIMBLE THIMBLE

www.nbqa.org



Happy Spring!

Been waiting for those words through these long winter months. Longer and sunnier days ahead. It's been a long two years of zooming and social distancing. Boy, do I miss all of you! I really want to thank our members and board for all their support through these trying times. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

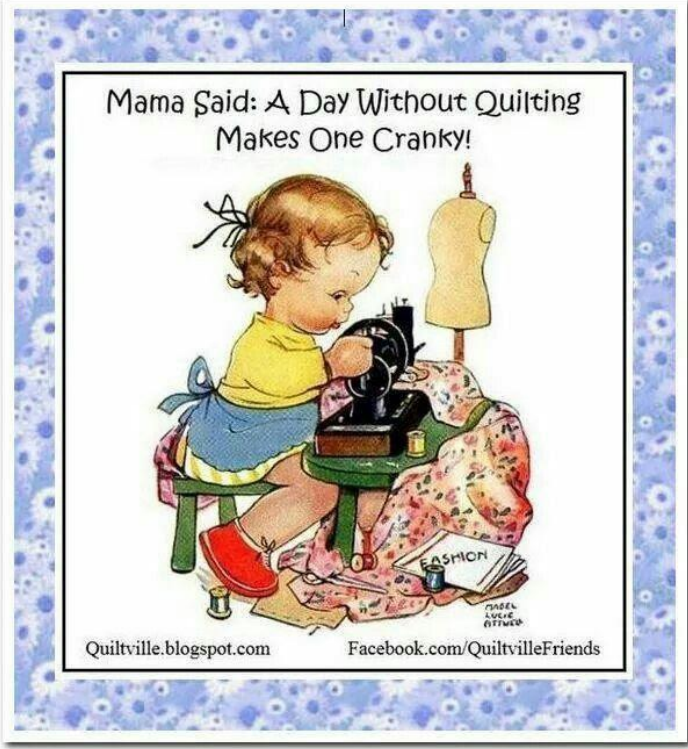
We will be Zooming for two more monthly meetings, and planning an in-person "Welcome Back Meeting" in May. So, get together your smiling faces, the Show and Tells you have been working on for the last 2 years, *President's Challenge* Fidget Mats, and all your Covid stories of survival. Our *Strawberry Social* will highlight the night, so you don't need to bring any goodies. I can't wait to see you all.

As the May meeting will include an election of a new President and officers, and also some committee chairs, please consider becoming active in your guild. I am sure each and every one of you have talents to bring to NBQA. I have been a member for almost 25 years. I have enjoyed every position I have held throughout those years, along with the extended family and friends I have made and kept. We have a wonderful guild, but need some "new blood" to continue our history of 46 years and beyond. So, consider a position as an officer or committee chair or member. Just contact me or a current board member or committee chair for information. Remember, this is OUR Guild, and IT NEEDS YOU.

I promised myself this year, as I turn 65 in May, that I will sort through my stash, finish some UFO's, and get my life in order. It's working, kind of. I have finished some long overdue UFO 's already, and started to clean up my sewing room, so that's a pretty good start. Hope you are doing well on your New Year's resolutions too.

Can't wait to get back into the garden and see the flowers bloom. The *Fabric Challenge* quilts inspired! Winners and Makers at the March Meeting....

Geri Bergreen,  
President  
2018-2022



## MEETINGS

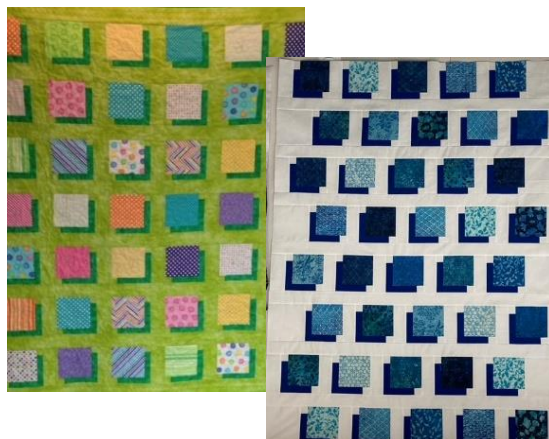
**GENERAL MEETING, Thursday  
March 17, 2022  
6:30 PM Via Zoom**

**GENERAL MEETING, Thursday  
April 21, 2022,  
6:30 PM Via Zoom**

## **PROGRAMS**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022** – Bobbi Fitzsimmons will Zoom lecture on how she makes quilts based on children's picture books, and has done presentations of the quilts for libraries, museums, colleges and, of course, for children. She also will present with her trunk show.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** In-person workshop with Bobbi using her original pattern entitled “The Shadow of your Charms”. This workshop will be held 9 AM-3 PM at Island Creations Studio, 74 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI.



**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022** – Zoom business meeting (no lecture at this time). Following the meeting, there will be a fun *Sip and Sew* with trivia games and some great prizes for participants. All are encouraged to stay after the meeting for this activity, *especially* those who have never participated in a *Sip and Sew* before.

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022** – Pat Harrison (in-person) Binding workshop, 3 hour class, 9 AM-12 PM at Island Creations Studio.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022** – Kassie Randall and Billie Bunnewith will teach the Laura Heine method of collage quilting 9 AM–3 PM at Island Creations Studio. No sewing machine necessary, just bring lots of scrap fabric.

***FOR ALL WORKSHOPS, PLEASE CONTACT GAIL MACERA AT***

***[jgmacara@cox.net](mailto:jgmacara@cox.net) FOR REGISTRATION.***

***THERE IS A \$35 FEE FOR EACH WORKSHOP.***

Gail Macera

NBQA Programs



## **COMFORT QUILTS**

**February 2022**

During January and February, we donated quilts to the *Elizabeth Buffum Chace House*, and *Wounded Warriors*. Eleven baby quilts were also donated to *Healthy Families America at Meeting Street*. Thank you all for your time and talents in making these donations possible.

**Saturday, May 7, 2022 and Saturday June 4, 2022.** Please save these dates. We will be having Comfort Quilt sewing days at Island Creations by Louise, 74 Nooseneck Hill Road, West. Greenwich, RI, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Bring your sewing machine and kit, and we will supply the sewing materials.

Kits (tops, quilting, binding, the whole thing) are available for anyone who wants to sew at home for Comfort Quilts. They will be available at the sewing days on May 7th and June 4th. Alternatively, you may contact Linda Maslanka or Brenda Starble and we will make arrangements to get a kit to you.



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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDED**

Per NBQA Bylaws, two to three members are needed for a Nominating Committee. This committee will canvas members interested in the four offices. They will present, at the April 2022 General Meeting, the slate of officers for 2022-2023 elections, to be held at the May 2022 General Meeting. Please contact President Geri or Louise Pankiewicz for more information.

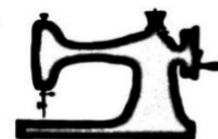


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## RAFFLE QUILT NEWS

In March, the "Sea Stars" raffle quilt will be featured at Louise Pankiewicz's Island Creations Studio, 74 Nooseneck Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI.

Raffle tickets to sell will be distributed to members either at the next in-person meeting, or by mail in the coming months.

We need to start planning our next raffle quilt. If you have any ideas for a design, or want to help with the quilt, please contact Joan Potter at [joanpotter1@cox.net](mailto:joanpotter1@cox.net).

Joan Potter



*The New London County Quilts & Bed Covers* exhibit continues until May 1 at the Florence Griswold Museum, 96 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-5522

## HOT STITCHIN' QUILTING

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Owner

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401-323-0255

[islandcreationsbylouise@gmail.com](mailto:islandcreationsbylouise@gmail.com)  
[islandcreationsbylouise.com](http://islandcreationsbylouise.com)



## Island Creations by Louise

Louise B. Pankiewicz - Owner

55 Island Drive  
Coventry, RI 02816  
401-821-7409  
401-323-0255 - cell  
email: [louisebpd@yahoo.com](mailto:louisebpd@yahoo.com)

[www.islandcreationsbylouise.blogspot.com](http://www.islandcreationsbylouise.blogspot.com)  
<http://etsy.com/shop/IslandCreationsbyLou>





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### SELECTIONS FROM THE NEQM COLLECTION

#### TREE MOTIFS FROM THE 19TH CENTURY TO TODAY

On View January 28 through April 23rd, 2022



### BARB VEDDER: MY LIFE IN QUILTS

Barb Vedder shares a diverse selection of works from her 30-year journey to becoming an award-winning quiltmaker, designer, and instructor.

On View January 28 through April 9, 2022

### FLYING HIGH

#### OUR FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS

This exhibition of contemporary, traditional, and studio art quilts celebrates birds and the many ways in which they help sustain our delicate ecosystems.

On View January 28 through April 9, 2022

### FOR THE LOVE OF GAIA

SPONSORED BY [EQUILTER.COM](http://EQUILTER.COM). This exhibition featuring works by thirteen award-winning quilt artists celebrates Gaia, the Greek goddess of Earth and mother of all life.

On View January 28 through April 9, 2022

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022 AT 1 PM

Luana Rubin on the latest trends in quilt textiles and tools

## EDUCATION

The Education Committee's Winter Ornament Activity was held at the Cranston Public Library's "Makers' Morning" on Saturday, January 22nd. The workshop went very well, but was sparsely attended due to the inclement weather. The additional kits that were prepared were given to the Library to hand out to their patrons. A big "thank-you" to Myra Paul for spearheading the activity (and doing most of the work!), and to Geri Bergreen and her sister for helping us out that morning. The Library was very appreciative of our efforts, and wants to arrange more joint activities in the future. The Education Committee will continue to meet monthly throughout this year, and we invite any interested NBQA members to join us in planning future activities. Please contact Peggy Ann Lane at [drpalane@cox.net](mailto:drpalane@cox.net) if you would like to help out.

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## QUILTER'S QUESTION...

Here are many stash storing ideas submitted in response to the question *"HOW DO YOU STORE YOUR STASH?"*

behind every  
quilter  
is a  
huge  
stash of  
fabric

\*\*\*\*\*

Being a relatively new quilter, I probably do not have as big a stash as most, though I still have a closet full. I enthusiastically built up my collection sometimes just buying fabrics that caught my eye and other times for specific projects. I took a class with Weeks Ringle last June, and working with her handouts and book, I was convinced that organizing by color was the best way to get a handle on what I had. I also decided that my garment making habit of always washing my fabrics was so ingrained that I washed everything before organizing. It was a great exercise – it took two days, but by the end I really was connected to my stash and achieved a better understanding of Tone and Hue, etc. I also became more aware of "who I am" in fabric – what attracts me and what I like is where I have settled. I am my stash??? I have limited funds and limited space – which makes me very aware of the value of my space and the need to work with only what is available...I also have a closet with a yarn stash and am determined not to turn the living space we have into storage. SO – once I had my stash organized by color, I went off to the Container Store for their least expensive containers. I bought a couple of different sizes based on how much space each color category needed – they are clear so I can see what is in them (I now have decided that the large ones are too unwieldy and stick to medium) they stack very nicely and fit into my cupboard space. I also have separate containers for fabric for specific projects - this also helps me remember what I have to work on! Now all my fabrics are washed and folded and sorted. I press them when I use them. I have a container set aside for "good size" scraps and toss things in there as I work - and a container for finished squares or strips that are left over or extras - Lord knows what I will do with them but it is also time I made some "comfort quilts" so... Since I did all this, I find that I can keep my space more organized and find what I need much quicker - with the exception of a quilt I am making for a great-nephew that recently announced his wedding plans, I am making the year 2022 the "Year for Working With What I Have" - we'll see how that works - I am doing that with my yarn also! It will be fun to see what I come up with!

**Jane Kratsch**

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I recently reorganized my stash as Ryco closed and I acquired a lot of unplanned fabric and the cardboards that bolts are wrapped onto. Fabric is sorted by size: 1 yard or more, 1/2 yard, fat quarters/jelly rolls. In each size grouping the fabrics are folded onto cardboards and stacked in large plastic file buckets in color sequence. There is one bucket for "strips and squares" that includes remainder strips from binding, a variety of HSTs created from corners cut from stitch-and-flip, a variety of odd sizes that are the remainders that are too small to fit into the above categories. Some day it will be a crazy, scrappy quilt.

**Myra Paul**



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Here's my system: I use the flat cardboard card from Ryco's on which lace and trims were stored (a bit of nostalgia here) to fold my stash into similar sizes then stack them on shelves in a cabinet, roughly sorted by size then color. The cabinet protects them from sun and dust. Pieces that are not big enough to be folded get stored in a drawer cart, sorted by color with strips going in the back of the drawer. I found the cart on clearance at Home Goods. Everything is easy to find but I just need to stay disciplined enough to put everything back after each project! Pieces that are too tiny to reuse get tossed into a small bin near my machine to be used as leaders and enders.

**Nicole Christie**

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I don't have a very good system. Some of my fabric is sorted by color, some by style (batiks, landscape, Christmas, kids), and some is set aside for a particular project I hope to start one day. I have some bins for pre-cuts, and some with recent purchases (in the past 2 years) that I haven't sorted out yet or fabrics I was going to make something with and just haven't put away. My stash is definitely out of control!

**Joan Potter**

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I use milk cartons on their side on the shelf of my sewing room closet. Small pieces are in a storage bucket under my sewing machine table. Current projects (2) are on top of my sewing machine table in a small storage box. Design wall has current projects displayed so I can see them all the time. I ordered fabric from Hancock. It was nothing like the picture. So I would not recommend buying fabric on line.

**Audrey Dellagrotta**

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Yes, I do have fabric stashed all over my studio, not just to keep that stash looking like it's smaller than it is, but to keep types of fabrics happy sorted with their own kind. My main stash of regular woven cottons are prewashed and dried, then folded and sorted into shade-covered-shelves by the 24 colors of Joen Wolfrom's 3-in-1 Color Tool™. As I was organizing this years ago, I found that all the practice with the color tool helped me better identify the hue of each fabric and its undertones and got me thinking more about the use of pure versus toned fabrics to create effect. My batiks are separately sorted as I tend to use them together in a project rather than mixing them in with regular cottons. I also have novelty prints separated and then there's my treasured collection of stripes which I love to use in a bias binding or in a piping. A small collection of silks, some lames, hand dyes, a few drawers of solids, and a dresser full of backings round out my stash, so needless to say I probably don't need to go shopping anytime soon! My philosophy about fabric stashes is that we quilters receive as much joy from the collecting of fabrics and the memories attached as we do in the use of fabrics in a quilt. So... it's all good!

**Pat Harrison**

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I don't cut strips into smaller pieces, because I make a lot of log cabin blocks/quilts. Pieces less than a fat quarter are stored by color, not size. I also like to make my own charm packs by making 5" squares with my Accuquilt. When I see that things are getting out of control, I make a nice big, scrappy quilt. Every piece is a remembrance of quilts gone by! And I am not afraid to throw things out. Do I really need that 1" square?

**Paula Weston**



## **PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE**

I am challenging all the members of this guild to make a " Fidget Mat" by our May 2022 meeting. That would be a wonderful tribute to my Mom, who passed from this 12 years ago, and to my 4 years as your President.

A "Fidget Mat" is easy to make with any left over scraps and notions you may have on hand. There are lots of patterns on line. Just google it, or try the one I have below .



<https://nancyzieman.com/blog/sewing-2/sew-an-alzheimers-activity-mat/>

Activity Mats are the size of a placemat and include pockets, zippers, buttons, strings of beads, bells, etc. They may also include a textured pocket with a soft toy or vinyl pocket for photos. Making activity mats is a great volunteer opportunity and gift from the heart.

The activity mats are designed to safely stimulate and soothe people with Alzheimer's and other cognitive challenges, while providing a better quality of **LIFE**.....

- L** – Lift spirits and entertain users while relieving caregivers.
- I** – Interest users in items on the mat. This stimulates senses and reinforces memory.
- F** – Focus user's attention during therapy or conversation with a caregiver. Helps visitors and staff find topics of conversation with users.
- E** – Exercise hands and fingers.

So, I hope you will join me in this challenge. I appreciate your support in this worthwhile cause, and can not wait to see what you all will be making.

Thanks again,  
President Geri

## **BUTTON, BUTTON, WHO NEEDS A BUTTON...**

Any new or renewal members needing a name button with their first name (for identity) please send proper spelling to Anne Sabatini at [anne.sabatini61@gmail.com](mailto:anne.sabatini61@gmail.com). Deadline is May 1, 2022 so they will be available for pickup at the in-person May 19, 2022 General Membership meeting. If you have lost your first button, you will be given a pass on the replacement cost due to "COVID Reprieve".



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At the 4th light, Thorndike Street merges into Dutton Street. Go to the 2nd light and turn right onto Market Street.

*The museum's changing exhibitions, Brown Bag Lectures, gallery talks, and special events are updated weekly at [nequiltmuseum.org](http://nequiltmuseum.org).*