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BUDDING QUILTERS: New Quilters & New Members

letter from the president >>>

Joan's Journal

EVERY QUILTER STARTS
SOMEWHERE

This month's theme, "Budding Quilters," takes me back to the very first quilt I ever helped create. As a young girl, I sat with my grandmother, carefully piecing together bowtie blocks made from scraps of fabric left over from sewing clothes for three generations of women. It wasn't an easy quilt – those inset seams were a challenge! But with patience and guidance, the blocks came together. My grandmother finished the quilt by hand, using a soft flannel sheet for batting, binding it with quiet determination.

That quilt sparked something in me. After that first project, I started making placemats, building skills and confidence, and eventually moving on to full-size quilts.



Joan Fulton, 2025 LNCQ President

“

LNCQ is a place
where skills
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”

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to these new members who joined in April. We look forward to getting to know you!

- Cynthia Marquez
- Rachel Sparks

Budding Quilters Giveaway!

Click [here](#) to tell us a story about when YOU were a budding quilter and enter for a chance to win a quilty prize! Entries must be received by May 31.



Today, I find my greatest joy in creating traditional and art quilts alike— a journey that I couldn't have imagined back then. For a long time, I hesitated to call myself a "fiber artist," but I've grown to embrace the title with pride.

Each of us has a beginning, and each journey looks a little different. Whether you are sewing your very first quilt, mentoring a "budding" quilter by sharing knowledge and encouragement, or exploring new creative challenges, your work matters. You belong here. LNCQ is a place where skills grow, friendships form, and creativity flourishes.

I am so excited to see what blooms this year!

Joan

May 5th Meeting Highlights

Crystal Wentz

Our May meeting was filled with creativity, inspiration, and community! The morning workshop was nearly full, and participants crafted charming pincushions using repurposed items like vintage china teacups and unique glass containers—each one a tiny work of art.



We were honored to host the Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild, who shared a moving presentation of their stunning quilts along with a rich history of quilting in the African American community. Their stories included powerful insights about Harriet Tubman and the cultural significance of quilting. They also spoke about the story of Henrietta Lacks and recommended the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*—a powerful read that resonated with their themes of resilience and legacy. The Wa Shonaji choir added a special touch, lifting our spirits with several heartfelt songs.

The room was packed for the afternoon meeting, and the energy in the space reflected our appreciation for the artistry and heritage shared with us. It was a beautiful day of connection and creativity!

THIS TIME NEXT YEAR...

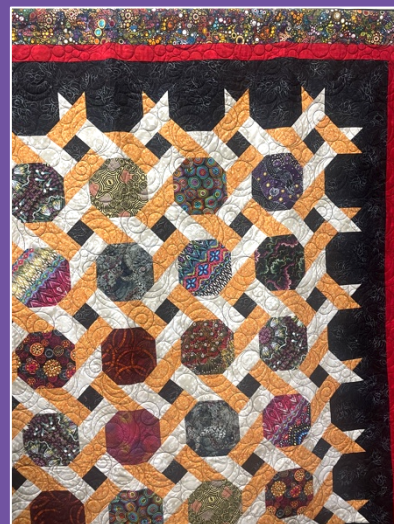
We are pleased to announce that the May 2026 speaker will be Diana Fox. Born and raised in Denver, Diana is a studio fiber artist and quilter passionate about textiles. Originally a traditional quilter, she transitioned to creating art quilts and has never looked back. She has earned numerous awards for her unique and captivating work, which tells stories of color, texture, and influences from nature.



Top: Pincushions created by members at the workshop

Middle & Left: Quilts shown by the Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild

Bottom: "Tree ring" fiber art by Diana Fox, our May 2026 speaker.



NEWLY ELECTED 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

We are pleased to announce that the guild has voted in a new First Vice President! Please join us in welcoming Beth Soderquist to the Executive Board. She brings a passion for quilting and a strong commitment to the mission of LNCQ. We look forward to the leadership and ideas she will contribute to this important role.

We also want to extend our deep thanks to Kaea Beresford, who recently stepped down to accept an appointment to the Governor's Council to Fight Human Trafficking. Her leadership and heart for service have made a lasting impact on our guild, and we are grateful that she will continue to be an active member and involved in guild activities.



FOUND QUILT!

A lovely quilt was found after the May meeting, and it seems to be missing its way home! We're not sure if it's a community service quilt or a personal project, but either way, it's looking for its quilter. If you think it might be yours, please get in touch so we can help this quilt find its rightful home...

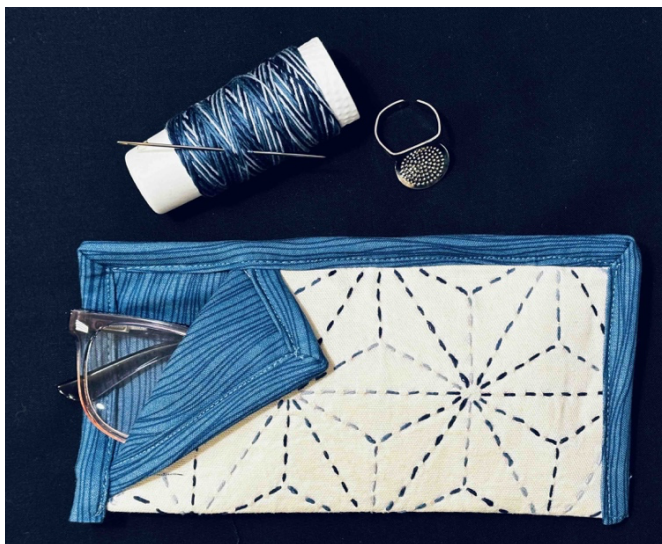


June 2nd 6:00 pm LNCQ Meeting at PVREA

The Ancient Story Behind Modern Sashiko

Presented by Crystal Wentz

There's more to sashiko than beautiful stitches—there's a whole story stitched into every line. In this presentation, we'll take a journey back to sashiko's humble beginnings and see how a simple way of mending clothes grew into an art form that's inspiring makers around the world today. Whether you're new to sashiko or already love the look, you'll leave with a deeper appreciation for the meaning behind every stitch.



June 7th Workshop: Asanoha Eyeglass Case

with Crystal Wentz

Discover the timeless beauty of sashiko, a traditional Japanese embroidery technique, in this hands-on workshop. You'll learn how to stitch the iconic asanoha (hemp leaf) pattern and transform your finished panel into a functional and stylish glasses case.

Date: Saturday, June 7
Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lunch will be provided
Location: 5132 Snead Ct.
Fort Collins, CO 80528
Cost: \$30
Kit Fee: \$15

This workshop is perfect for beginners and seasoned stitchers alike—no prior sashiko experience needed.

Come ready to relax, stitch, and leave with a beautiful, finished project! Click [here](#) to register.

Upcoming 2025 Programs

AUGUST 4
Yvonne Phenicie

OCTOBER 6
Lea McComas

NOVEMBER 3
Jackie Vujcich

quilty q & a >>>

Q: How do I know if I'm a traditional quilter?

If you own more tan thread than you're proud of, it's likely.

A: If you've bragged "this pattern's from the thirties"—it's confirmed.

If you prewash, press every seam to the dark, and still have your first quilting ruler—welcome home.

Q: What makes a quilt modern?

If it's got bold solids and you're not sure which way is "up," it's modern.

A: If it's quilted within an inch of its life with straight lines—it's modern.

If it's 60% negative space and 40% inner turmoil, it's very modern.

If your binding is neon and the back's pieced like a bonus quilt, you nailed it.

Q: What makes a quilt an "art" quilt?

If it tells a story, breaks a rule, or makes someone squint—it's art.

A: If you had to explain it to your spouse more than once, it's definitely art.

If there's a 3D object stitched to it... you've crossed into "installment."

If you've ever made a sampler, a statement, or a glorious mess—you're a quilter.

Submit your quilty questions to newsletter.lncq1996@gmail.com

Spring Retreat

When life gives you lemons... sew anyway!

Carol Manusco

No water, no worries—our Spring Retreat turned into an Easter miracle we'll be laughing about for years!

Late on Good Friday, we learned the Allenspark retreat center had no water, forcing us to find a new venue just days before our event. Thanks to a quick trip to Estes Park and some good luck, we secured space at the YMCA of the Rockies. With no kitchen access, Joan Fulton led a heroic effort to organize meals using crockpots, Instant Pots, and bread machines. Thanks to everyone's teamwork, the food was great and spirits were high.

Despite the change of plans, the retreat was a wonderful success. Susan Truit and Carla Lucas handled venue communications, and Lauri Dykstra organized sleeping arrangements and made adorable bee/flower charms. Carla also kept us entertained with fun activities. Carol Mancuso's team created "Grim Ripper" kits, and Joan Fulton hosted a quilt block competition, won by Beth Soderquist with Ellen Rankin as runner-up. Four members completed Carol's Two Fabric Bargello class. We welcomed three new members: Joanne, Karen, and Kathy. In between sewing, we enjoyed pickleball, swimming, hiking, and lots of visiting. What a memorable weekend!



June Retreat

**Final in town retreat of 2025 –
secure your spot today!**

Lauri Dykstra

Attention, LNCQ members! The June retreat marks the last opportunity for our in-town retreats in 2025, and you won't want to miss out on this unique experience. With only a few spaces left, now is the perfect time to secure your spot. Click [here](#) to register!

Date: June 9th & 10th

Location: [Best Western Plus Loveland Inn](#)
[5542 E US-34](#)
[Loveland, CO 80537](#)

Fall Retreat

New Dates and a New Home at YMCA of the Rockies

Joan Fulton

After evaluating several options, the committee has decided to return to the YMCA of the Rockies for our upcoming **Fall Retreat**. Not only does this venue offer beautiful scenery, but it also comes with enhanced amenities that will make for an even more enjoyable retreat experience.

Mark your calendars:

- **Location:** YMCA of the Rockies
- **Dates:** October 20–23, 2025



Please note that the improved amenities come with a slightly higher cost. The Retreats Committee is working hard to balance quality with affordability and will share more details—including pricing and registration information—in the coming months. Stay tuned!

THE QUILTED FOREST

An Immersive Quilt Exhibit presented by LNCQ, curated by David Taylor Art Quilts, and displayed at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum

THE QUILTED FOREST celebrates our abundance of National Forests in Colorado. What better venue to showcase the talents of Northern Colorado Quilters than the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum?

The quilts will be suspended from the ceiling, allowing visitors to walk amongst the creations. Double-sided quilts are preferred, but single-sided will be considered for wall placement.

We are looking for new creations reflecting the lush diversity of flora and fauna found in the forest. Let your imagination run wild!

Depictions of rocks and streams; trees and wildflowers; all kinds of critters and creatures (both real and imaginary); settings in winter, spring, summer or fall – all are acceptable. Humans interacting with nature also fit nicely into the exhibit theme.

The Quilted Forest exhibit will debut at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum in Golden, Colorado, in July 2027.

Ideas for submissions and confirmation of participation will be due at the LNQC meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025. Quilts must be completed by May 2027.

For questions or assistance with your project, please email David Taylor: david@davidtaylorartquilts.com.



Artist Rendering



PARAMETERS:

Width or diameter: Quilts should be at least 6 inches but no more than 16 inches in width or diameter.
Height: Quilts should be at least 72 inches but no more than 120 inches tall.

SUBJECT:

Quilts must be representative of forest life found in Colorado. Quilts are not required to be pictorial or landscape in nature.

Representational art is not a requirement. Traditional, abstract, modern, contemporary ... all aesthetics are welcome.

Mammals, insects, trees, plants, wildflowers, humans, landscapes, waterscapes, etc., are all acceptable as subject matter and should be reflective of the forest theme.

TECHNIQUES:

Appliqué or pieced, mixed, hand or machine, foundation-pieced, whole cloth, painted, thread-painted, embellished, shaped, single-sided, double-sided or dimensional ... Explore it all!

CALENDAR:

announcement
May 5, 2025

confirmation of participation and submission of ideas
Monday, October 6, 2025

community work days
To be determined. Watch for announcements in the LNCQ newsletter

quilt review and acceptance
November 2026

completed quilts due
May 2027

REMINDERS:

This is not a competition. Create from your heart and see what grows!

In order to achieve maximum participation, we are not implementing an entry fee.

Entrants must be a current member of the League of Northern Colorado Quilters to participate.

David M. Taylor will be the exhibit curator and is serving as liaison with the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum. He is responsible for making final selection of submissions.

Spotlight on Karen Riley

Pat Baker and Crystal Wentz

NEW MEMBER PIECES WITH HER HEART – NO PATTERN NEEDED

If you've had the pleasure of meeting Karen Riley, you already know her as someone with a warm heart and a creative spirit. Karen became a member of LNCQ thanks to a surprise gift membership from her friend – “a trickster, but a good-hearted one,” Karen says with a smile.

Karen's quilting journey began back in high school when she first learned to piece squares. Her husband's grandmother gifted her a handmade quilt and a charming pillow blanket, which sparked her fascination with quilting. Since then, she's been piecing quilt tops for friends and family over the years, with a special love for the process of piecing—“putting the top together is my favorite part,” she says, though finishing them can be a slower process.

Karen's creative eye and visual thinking make her quilting approach especially impressive. Rather than following written patterns, she can simply look at a quilt she likes, study it for a while, and figure out how to recreate it. “I'll look at something and just kind of analyze it,” she explains, “and then I go from there.” It's an intuitive, self-taught style that speaks to her natural talent.



Creativity runs deep in Karen's family. Her husband is a woodworker, her daughter is an art major, and Karen finds joy not just in quilting, but in jewelry making, crafting, and giving handmade gifts to her many communities, including P.E.O. and her church. Her quilting style leans toward bright, happy colors—florals, rainbows, and whatever catches her eye. Though she doesn't follow traditional patterns, she has an intuitive approach, analyzing designs visually and making them her own.



Karen's favorite quilt is a large black, white, and gray piece made entirely from scraps. With a touch of red and quilted in red thread featuring musical notes and instruments, it's a piece that reminds her of her daughter's love of music and concerts. Though her brother-in-law jokes about wanting it for Christmas, Karen says it may someday be used for a meaningful charity auction.

She's currently working on binding several finished tops and hopes to complete a red, white, and blue “wonky star” quilt as a wall hanging before the Fourth of July. While she's never entered a quilt in a show, her projects are always made with someone special in mind. “I don't usually keep quilts for myself—there's always a person or purpose behind them,” she says.



Karen is part of the newly formed “Backroad Bobbinheads” small group and enjoys sharing her quilting time with friends and neighbors. Her favorite tip for quilters? Use the same machine, foot, and seam allowance consistently on a project—mixing them up can throw everything off!

Outside of quilting, Karen stays busy supporting women's education through P.E.O., participating in Bible study groups, and expressing her creativity through handmade jewelry. She loves the instant gratification of completing a pair of earrings or a bracelet between quilt projects.

And what might surprise you most about Karen? Her deep well of gratitude. “I believe with God, all things are possible,” she says. “I'm a positive person, and I'm grateful for each day I'm given.” She just returned from LNCQ's four-day retreat at the YMCA in Estes Park—an experience she found fun and refreshing, but she was also happy to return home.

If you're ever at a retreat or meeting and spot Karen, don't hesitate to say hello. You might just walk away inspired.



AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER NOW!

QUILTER'S PRESSING BOARDS

Each board is covered in silver water- and scorch-resistant thermal fabric, making it easy to wipe away any water leaks from your iron. Put one on top of a chest of drawers or cabinets for a stable pressing station with storage.

Choose the size that fits your space:

- Portable Pressing Surface (24"x24") – \$30
- Medium Pressing Surface (24"x48") – \$60
- Large Pressing Surface (24"x72") – \$90



TABLETOP BLOCK DESIGN BOARDS

Perfect for quilters, these tabletop block design boards make fabric layout easy and portable. Each board features a sturdy yet lightweight poster board core, layered with soft batting to hold fabric pieces in place without pins. The edges are neatly finished with decorative tape for a polished look and extra durability. Use them to arrange quilt blocks, audition fabric combinations, or transport pieces from the cutting table to the sewing machine without shifting.



This set includes three convenient sizes to suit a variety of project needs – 17" square, 12" square, and 8" square.

- Tabletop Block Design Boards (set of 3) – \$15

AVAILABLE TO ORDER THROUGH JUNE 30

Boards will be constructed in July and available for pickup at the August 4 general meeting. If you're unable to attend the meeting—or if the boards don't quite fit in your car or space—we're happy to arrange home delivery.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)

This fundraiser is brought to you by Ways & Means. A big thank you to Becky Williamson and Pat Baker for volunteering for this fundraising sub-committee!

Community Sew Day

Mary Doty

Monday, July 14
10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Quilter's Dream
281g E 29th St.
Loveland, CO 80538

Bring your sewing machine & rotary cutter or pick up a top to take home for longarm quilting. Join us in serving the community with quilting!

Postcard Exchange

Carla Lucas

LNCQ is partnering with the Quaking Aspens Quilt Guild of Boulder for a 2025 Postcard Exchange! The theme is "Happy Summer" or "Blossoms and Butterflies," and postcards will be exchanged by mail between August 1 and August 15. Full details and the registration form are available now near the bottom of the [Event Registration](#) page of the LNCQ website.

For Sale by Members

*Looking for great deals on quilting tools and machines? Click the button above to explore items listed by fellow members, including a **BabyLock Coronet with a 7' frame and tons of accessories!***

This service connects members but does not constitute an endorsement of the items for sale.

final thoughts >>>

Crystal Wentz

As spring brings new life, our guild is blooming with fresh faces and budding quilters. Whether you're threading your first needle or just stepping into the rhythm of our meetings, we're so glad you've joined us.

I made my first quilt at eight years old—a strip pieced *Around the World* pattern. My mom did the rotary cutting and I proudly stitched the strips together. We backed it with flannel for extra coziness and had it longarm quilted with hearts. I still use it today—a reminder that **even the smallest stitches can hold a lifetime of comfort.**

Everyone starts somewhere—with crooked seams, uneven stitches, and a little uncertainty. But what makes quilting (and this guild) special is that no one walks the journey alone. We grow our skills and friendships together, one block at a time.

If you're new, don't be shy—ask questions, join a small group, come to a retreat, or show off your latest project at Show & Tell. Every experienced quilter was once a beginner who kept going.



next month >>>



June: Fun, Sun, and Scraps!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Send your scrappy quilt photos or quilting tips to
newsletter.lncq1996@gmail.com

quilting community news >>>

Looking for more ways to fuel your creativity and connect with fellow quilters? Here are some upcoming quilting events & news that might pique your interest! While these events aren't officially hosted or endorsed by LNCQ, we're sharing them as a service to our members who love to stitch, learn, and explore!

Larimer County Fair

Time for LNCQ members to enter their beautiful quilts in the local county fairs! The Larimer County Fair is accepting entries until July 29.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to enter your quilts in the 2025 Larimer County Fair.

RMQM Exhibit: Colorado Japanese American Women's Quilt Project

The Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum is exhibiting a project to tell the Colorado Japanese American women's story through the creation of quilts.

This project was initially shown with the Smithsonian Exhibit "Strength and Diversity: Japanese American Women 1885-1990" at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Arvada, CO from Nov 1995-January 1996.

Click [here](#) for more information.