



# Seacoast Modern Quilt Guild

## DISCOVER THE FUN OF MODERN QUILTING

### May 2024 Newsletter



#### May Meeting Wrap Up

Our May meeting, the sew-in to benefit Crossroads homeless shelter in Portsmouth, was a success. 27 people attended and worked in teams to create quilt tops. These tops will be finished and donated in the guild's name to Crossroads. Patty Crafts has graciously offered to longarm the quilt tops from the sew-in. The Community Outreach committee, chaired by Brenda Scolaro and Karen Kenney, provided all of our needs, from fabric to food! Kits are available for members to take home, sew a quilt top, and return at a meeting to be finished and donated to Crossroads. The next Community Outreach sew-in is in October at Portsmouth public library. Many thanks to Brenda and Karen for organizing these events and to all who participated.

### JUNE MEETING OPTIONS: 2 CHOICES

#### Option 1

SMQG has been invited to be the guests of the Maine Modern Quilt Guild at their annual picnic. MaryLee Welling ([wellingmarylee@gmail.com](mailto:wellingmarylee@gmail.com)) is coordinating this event. She is requesting that all who are attending the picnic contact her.

Parking is very limited so attendees will need to carpool. Below is the invite from MMQG:

Date: Sat, June 1st

Time: 9:30am - 1:00pm

Location: Wolfe's Neck State Park; park pavilion picnic tables (capacity 60)

Address: 426 Wolfe's Neck Rd, Freeport ME 04032

Upon arrival at the park simply tell the attendant that you are attending the MMQ picnic. There will be no cost to your members. Parking is somewhat limited at the park, so please carpool to the park.

#### Option 2

The guild will also hold its monthly membership meeting at the Exeter library Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Meeting room doors open at 9:30am, meeting convenes at 10:00am. All ongoing activities (Lottery Blocks, BOEOM, Pizza Box Challenge) will be brought up to date as we skipped the May membership meeting to hold the sew-in. June 17 – 22 is MQG Quilt Label Week. Documenting our quilts is very important, both for today and in the future. Our June program will be a video presentation by Amy Milne, the Quilt Alliance Executive Director. Amy explains why quilt documentation is important and provides suggestions for what to put on a quilt label. She also shares 13 ways to label a quilt. We invite all attendees to share sources and how-to's they use for their own quilt labels, such as printing their own, ordering from Etsy, Spoonflower, and other resources. While this topic was covered at the February meeting, we have had many new members since then. MQG Quilt Label week is a good opportunity to readdress this important topic. We will also be voting on the bylaws and finally be able to institute the 50-50 raffle! Many thanks to new member Karen Ryan for volunteering to manage this fun activity and fundraiser at each membership meeting.



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## Reminder:

The membership will be voting on accepting the proposed bylaws at the June membership meeting. Members were emailed the bylaws in March and have until May 31<sup>st</sup> to ask questions, raise objections of any points, or make suggestions. Send these to Joyce Hoelzer, who will place the remarks in the guild's google groups for full discussion by the membership. If you are not attending the June membership meeting, you may send your vote to the guild secretary, SueAnn Walker, and it will be recorded. If you did not receive a copy of the proposed bylaws, contact Joyce Hoelzer. You may send all of these emails to the guild email address: [seacoastmodernquiltguild@gmail.com](mailto:seacoastmodernquiltguild@gmail.com).

## BLOCK CHALLENGES



**Lottery Block** – This challenge is offered on the *odd number months* for 2024. A new block is offered at a given month's meeting, each time teaching a different technique. Participants make the block at home, as many blocks as they wish to make. On the next odd number month, the blocks are returned at the meeting and participants pay \$1.00 per block into the kitty and enter their name. At break time, a name is drawn, and the winner gets all of the blocks to finish as they wish and keep or donate. The money is placed in the guild's

Community Outreach fund to be used to purchase materials for donated quilts. The 2024 Community Outreach recipient is Crossroads homeless shelter in Portsmouth, elected by the membership at the February meeting. This challenge is managed by Diane Sheckells.

**Block of Every Other Month (BOEOM)** – This challenge is offered on the *even numbered months* for 2024 and runs until the December 2024 meeting. For this challenge, a new block is presented at a given meeting, each teaching a different technique. Participants make the blocks, as many as they wish, at home and then at the end of the 12 months they will have enough blocks to complete a quilt to keep. This challenge is managed by MaryLee Welling.

**Orphan Blocks** – Members are encouraged to take their orphan blocks, or that they find elsewhere, and apply their creativity to make a quilt top. Bring the completed quilt top to Show & Tell and tell us the story behind it. Holly Read, the coordinator of this challenge – has offered to longarm the orphan block challenge quilt tops that are destined for donation to a charity of your choice in your local community. You will also need to give Holly the completed backing.



**Pizza Box Challenge Round Robin** - This is another 12-month challenge, begun in April and will conclude in April 2025. For this challenge, each participant is given a pizza box with instructions for that month. Inside are the completed items, blocks, borders, and so on, from the preceding months. Participants are not allowed to open the boxes prior to that month's selection or to pick a box number that they have had before. Complete the instructions for that month, place the items back in the box, and return the box at the next meeting, picking up a different box to take home for the next month. You may include extra fabric to help sewers in future months. At the end of the 12 months, each participant will receive back their original box to take home and create a quilt with the components inside and keep the finished quilt. Bring the finished quilt to a future meeting for Show & Tell. Holly Read is managing this challenge. Below are the instructions for the first two rounds (April & May).

Pizza Box Mystery Round Robin Month #1

Make a 12" block using fabrics that have many color opportunities.

Square your block to measure 12 1/2".

Pizza Box – Month #2

Add a 3" finished size border using only squares and rectangles!

Your "block" will measure 18 1/2" when you are done.

Place your block AND some of the fabric you used in the pizza box.

Write your personal number on the top of the box with a bold marker. (Holly has the number list if you don't remember)

Do not share your creation with other members!

Bring your box to the next meeting!



## SMQG is Seeking...

The guild is in search of a 2025 Retreat Chairperson. Don't be intimidated! The retreat is well-documented with much already in place. The venue is booked and volunteers are available for the committee. All forms and information, both from the 2024 retreat and past guild retreats, are on file. No need to start from scratch. You can elect to repeat or delete ideas from previous retreats, as well as add new ideas and activities. This can also be a two-person position if you and a fellow member wish to team up. Contact any board member or email to the guild email address: [seacoastmodernquiltguild@gmail.com](mailto:seacoastmodernquiltguild@gmail.com).



## A Bit of SMQG History

Seacoast Modern Quilt Guild was formed as an independent quilt guild about 15 years ago by Amy Friend and her mom. Amy is a quilt designer and teacher in Amesbury MA. Just a few years later, Modern Quilt Guild was established and SMQG became one of the chapters. Our guild has members in northeastern Massachusetts, eastern and southern New Hampshire, and far southern Maine. One of our long-term members and past presidents, Diane Sheckells, won one of the guild's very first Lottery Block challenges and here is a photo of that quilt. Diane has done a great job developing the challenge into the program we have today.

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## Mark Your Calendars

### Area Quilt-Related Activities

- Autumn 2024                      Southern New Hampshire Shop Hops <https://southernnhshophops.com> for more information. The fall Southern New Hampshire Shops Hops is held the end of October. Dates to be announced.
- September 1 –                      The All New England Shop Hop <https://allnewenglandshophop.com/>  
October 31                              There are currently 91 shops signed up.

### Area Quilt Shows (Resource: <https://quiltnewengland.com>)

- May 17 - 19                              Genesee Valley QuiltFest, Rochester institute of Technology, 1 Lomb memorial Drive, Rochester NY, \$12.00
- July 25 – 27                              Maine Quilts, Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta ME, \$15.00
- July 31 – August 2                      Bayberry Quilt Show, Cape Cod Technical High School, 351 Pleasant Lake Avenue, Harwich MA
- November 16 – 17                      Cocheco Quilt Guild's 2024 quilt show, rescheduled for November instead of their usual October dates due to construction at the venue in October. James Foley Memorial Community Center, 150 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

### New England Quilt Museum

Lowell, MA - The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The following exhibits and lectures are currently on display at the New England Quilt Museum. Please visit their website for more information:

#### EXHIBITS:

- Saturday May 18  
11AM                                      Steampunk presentation with Bruce Rosenbaum of Modvic Domestic Partners
- March 26 – June 15                      Dawn Allen's fiber art portrayals of the human-animal bond
- Now – July 13                              Yellow quilts from the permanent collection

### Upcoming Exhibitions

- April 30 – July 13                      StitchPunk - The world premiere of SAQA's most imaginative works inspired by science fiction
- June 18 – Sept 14                      Kaleidoscope Quilts - Works by Paula Nadelstern
- July 16 – Oct 10                      The Electric Needle - 160 Years of Innovation in Quilting Arts Anita Loscalzo, Guest Curator