



The Comforter

Crosstown Quilters

July 2023



President's Letter *from Nancy Hunt*

Dear Crosstown Members,

I want to thank all of you for making my first year a success. The members' trunk shows were amazing - there is so much talent in our group! Our program committee of Jeanne and Betty Anne did a marvelous job. I am sure we all enjoyed the presentations; I know I did. Blocks of the month were very popular - great job, Mary and Donna. I made multiple blocks each month and was fortunate enough to win them a few times.

There are so many happy times to look back on like the Christmas luncheon and raffle. The Get-Away on the Cape was the best one yet; many thanks to Jane, Pat and Marilyn for all your hard work.

Looking ahead, we have our guild quilt show in October. I hope everyone will be working diligently over the summer making items for the boutique and getting those quilts ready to show. Make sure you fill out those forms and get them to Edith soon.

I had fun showing you some of my favorite things. More are on the way for next year. Also, keep those tips coming for my tip jar.

All in all, you made my job easy. I look forward to another fantastic year and welcoming new members into the fold. Thanks again, everyone.

Fondly, Nancy



A Message from Anne Marcin

I want to express my thanks to ALL OF YOU!! You have shown so much support for the National Guards' project I have been working on since 2011. It would NOT have been the same without YOUR help, whether financial or sewing quilts or just tops, providing fabrics and, of course, encouragement. It is such a nice feeling to know that you are there, ready and willing to help!

So many children have been graced with a quilt or pillowcase. It is amazing to see their faces when they try to decide on which one to pick!!! Thank you for your kindness and love! I find this quote from Mark Twain VERY APPROPRIATE: "*Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.*"

A "Thank You" to Anne Marcin

This tribute was submitted by several members with the request that it be shared in the newsletter.

Kudos to our Program Chairs Jeanne Young and Betty Anne Doherty for the wonderful program they organized on January 24 by encouraging Anne Marcin to speak to us about her charity program. Right now, Anne makes quilts for the children of the National Guard troops who are deployed all over the world. Many of us in the guild

donate quilts or sew together those packages put together by Anne, so it was time for everyone to know the story of this amazing woman.

This program evolved from an invitation to join women at the Boston Red Sox to make quilts for their charity. Since Anne is a hard-core Red Sox fan, this was right up her alley. But, over time things change, people move on, so Anne and her friends Maureen Anderson, Jackie Leahy and Cindy Meaney have continued to make the 100 quilts that was Anne's goal. But they needed another mission. They were directed to contact the National Guard, and from this meeting they decided to attend every deployment of our troops and give a quilt to the children of every man and woman being deployed. Anne makes a small matching quilt the size of a potholder with a star on it their mom or dad to put in their knapsack.

Originally, the quilts were mostly red, white and blue, but after a few deployments, they realized they needed something for little girls - lots of pink. At that time, she put out a call to our guild for "Girley fabrics." So, for the past eleven years, Anne has purchased beautiful coordinating fabrics, precision cut them into the desired patterns, and made up packets. She has many volunteers who help by quilting them for her.

Someone asked her why she is so dedicated to the military, and she told us the amazing story of her father. He was a captain in the French military during the second world war and was captured by the Germans and in prison for FIVE years. Her mother had been an exchange student from Smith College and lived with his family. They fell I love but she had to return home when the war started. Her dad was allowed to write two letters a month, one to his mother and one to Anne's mother. In his letters he would ask for certain things that he could use to bribe the guard and she would send them. Anne has told me that is what kept her dad alive because she would send things like cigarettes, coffee, and chocolate, things that were available in the States.

Anne is a beautiful quilter herself, but we don't see much of that right now. However, she said that she has many great-nieces and nephews coming along so we will be seeing them in the future. She was always sending quilts to France for her extended family.

She is a wealth of knowledge and so willing to help anyone. She doesn't forget anything. She served as our treasurer for many years and is the photographer of our quilts. We are so lucky to have her in our lives.





Quilt Show Update

Sandy forwarded an update on preparations for our October quilt show. Arranged by date, they are:

- **July** – All quilt shops should have bookmarks and flyers for the summer crowd. During their summer excursions, members can help by distributing these and/or checking to see if these quilt shops already have them. As Sandy says, we all know that a quilter will travel in all directions to a quilt shop.

NOTE: The July planning meeting will be on Tuesday, July 11, 9-11 am at the Tufts Library in Weymouth. Team leaders are asked to attend.

- **August** – All quilt entry forms should be turned in to Edith Neil by August 4. Finish those quilts!
- **September** – Volunteer sheets go out. Please think about the duties you would be comfortable doing. Karen Hand and Elaine Cristoferi are going to work together to have hourly coverage for white glove and admission. There will be “sit down” tasks as well as light activities throughout the show. We want the show to be as smooth as our last one was, and laughter through the halls of the Abington Senior Center!
- **October**
 - Friday, October 13 – set up for show, quilts processed and hung, moving company on property
 - Saturday, October 14 – working members arrive early (time TBD); show time 10-4
 - Sunday, October 15 – working members arrive early (time TBD); show time 10-3; ribbon hung, moving company on property (time TBD)

A special note from Sandy: *Please have fun getting ready for **your** show, and tuck, pin, stitch, press, and gather up your prize quilt to show how this amazing gift of creation brings like-minded friends together in fellowship and a community gathering that has stood the changes of time and life's challenges!*

Crosstown Quilters' Tips, Tips, and More Tips



From Anne MacDonald:

When cutting a long piece of fabric, place a hand weight (3-5 lbs.) at the further end of your ruler. This, hopefully, prevents that end of the ruler from swaying off to one side or the other.

Use the empty plastic spool of a lint roller that has a handle to store the binding that you have made for your quilt. When sewing it onto your finished quilt, it helps that the binding is coming off a spool. No more tangles - maybe!

Lift the presser foot to release tension on the thread. This allows you to pull your thread through and get rid of a thread jam.

Use the hand wheel to sew with an edge, a thick area or when starting at a particular point.

For topstitching a narrow seam/edge (less than ¼"), use your zipper foot. You can get very close to the edge.

The "Trefa Craft" site shows helpful videos. You will have to peruse the site to find the hints that you are interested in. Visit <https://www.trefa.vn/>

From Barbara Graceffa:

Hang a magnetic knife bar near your sewing machine to corral your scissors, seam ripper, screwdriver, pinch nose pliers any metal tools.

From Peg Weldon:

Recycle expired calendars by cutting out numbers. Perfect for pinning to quilt rows to help/keep your rows in order.

Put used needles and old pins in used empty medication containers.

I swear quilt fabric is actually 50% cotton and 50% rabbit fur; it multiplies while your back is turned.

From Jeanne Young:

Use "Color Catchers" made by Shout to ensure that colors don't run in the washing machine. She includes one sheet with each quilt she gives away - a great idea.



Upcoming Quilt Shows

Maine Quilts, 2023 – Pine Tree Quilters Guild

Thurs, 7/27, 6AM-2PM; Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Dr., Augusta, ME

Bayberry Quilt Show

Wed, 8/2-Fri, 8/4; Cape Cod Technical High School, Harwich, MA

Quilts All Around the Town

Fri, 8/4-Sun, 8/6; Connecticut College, 270 Monhegan Ave Pkwy, New London, CT

“Sewing Mends Our Souls” – Marathon Quilters

Sat, 9/16, 9:00 AM Hopkinton Center for the Arts, Hopkinton, MA

“Quilting in the Land of Mild & Honey”

Sat, 10/7-Sun, 10/8; Town of Middlebury Parks, Middlebury, VT

Bennington Quiltfest

Sat-Sun, 10/16-17; Mt Anthony Union Middle School, Bennington, VT

Crazy Quilters of Cape Cod – Annual Quilt Show

Sat, 10/7; Gus Canty Community Center, Falmouth, MA

Ninigret Quilters 2023 Quilt Show

Fri, 10/13-Sun, 10/15; Westerly Armory, BX#614, Railroad Ave, Westerly, RI

“Wrapped in Comfort” – Crosstown Quilters 2023 Quilt Show

Sat, 10/14-Sun, 10/15; Abington Senior Center, 441 Summer St, Abington, MA

Annual Portland Early Bird Christmas Arts and Craft Show

Sun, 11/19; Fireside Inn and Suites, Portland, ME

Photos from Our Last Meeting



Getting to Know You

Several months ago, Barbara Graceffa suggested we add a section to our newsletter featuring an interview with one of our members about her history and experience with quilting. I understand that in years past there have been similar “getting to know you” features at Crosstown and I’m glad to begin that anew. Since Barbara will take over as newsletter editor after this issue, it seems appropriate that she be the first subject for this column.



Please tell us a little about yourself. Although my husband Phil and I have lived in Quincy Center for the past 11 years, I’m a Weymouth gal at heart. (I was even the high school mascot, Ferdinand the Bull). I grew up in an artsy-craftsy family with a dad who could draw and paint, a mom who loved wreath-making (boy, I picked up a lot of pinecones, horse chestnuts, and beech nuts as a kid!), and a grandmother who could crochet and sew.

I hold a master’s degree in management from Emmanuel College where I also earned my BA in French and Spanish. I worked for nearly four decades in higher education administration, retiring as a director of marketing. In 2007, I opened my own part-time interior decorating business, Secretary of the Interior. My first book, *Inside Information: Secrets from an Interior Decorator*, will be published later this year.

As for family, I am the primary caregiver for my 89-year-old mother. My husband and I enjoy going to museums, cooking family recipes, and planning movie nights with our eight nieces and nephews and their children.

Even before you began quilting, were you involved in other crafts? Following in the footsteps of my family, I have dabbled in many crafts. I remember beginning with embroidered potholders. I moved on to do lots of crewel work but always went back to sewing. I really enjoyed making dolls clothes when my nieces were younger. Their American Girls were the best dressed dolls in Weymouth with handmade cheerleader outfits, wedding gowns, even fur shawls and muffs.

Do you remember how you came to learn about quilting? What initially drew you to it? I made my first quilt as a senior in college when I had no money to buy my boyfriend (now my husband of 39 years!) a Christmas gift. I had lots of scrap fabrics from sewing my own cotton sundresses and skirts so all I needed to buy was polyester batting and a sheet (I've learned a lot since then!).

Have your quilting interests/foci changed over the years? I started as a traditional patchwork and appliqué quilter. But I'm easily bored. I want to learn new things, and quilting is no exception. In recent years, I have tried my hand at stained glass, reverse appliqué, collage, fracture, and other techniques, often creating my own patterns. These days, I love adorning or manipulating panels to create artistic quilts.

What is your greatest quilting accomplishment? The first time I entered a competition, my art quilt was accepted to an international juried show. When I went to the artists' reception, I was beyond thrilled to see it hanging in the front window.

What do you enjoy most about quilting? Least? I enjoy the design phase. Pinterest is my muse-I have over 9,000 pins including drawings and paintings I can transform into appliqué work. What do I enjoy least? Achy hands from sewing binding.

If you had unlimited time, which UFO would you tackle first? I don't have many UFOs. I'd finish the quilt from our David Sirota workshop, Storm at Sea.

Do you have a quilting "bucket list"? If so, what's on it? First on my list-and it's been on the list too long-is taking lessons on machine quilting. I'd also like to create art quilts of an octopus, water lilies, wonky stars, aerial map, tiger lily, and a food quilt like a multi-layered burger.

Other thoughts? I'm working on two new books. The first quilt book is almost finished, *A Walk Down Cheat Street: An Inspirational Quilt Guide Using Panels and Large-Print Fabric*. The second one is on creativity. It uses Pablo Picasso's words of wisdom and polymath art fields and painting styles for lessons on boosting your creativity.

If you'd like to be interviewed for a future newsletter, please let Barbara know at barbara@sec-interior.com.



Turtle Bars

This recipe came from the magazine Real Simple (May 2005) and was passed on by a friend.

2 c	flour	1 tsp	vanilla
1/2 c	confectioners' sugar	1 c	pecans, coarsely chopped
1 c	butter	3/4 c	semisweet chocolate chips
1 can	sweetened condensed milk (14 oz.)	1 c	toffee & chocolate baking pieces, such as Health, Skor or Butterfingers
1	egg		

Pre-heat oven to 350°.

Chop pecans and toffee-chocolate pieces (you can use a mini food processor.) Set aside.

Combine flour, confectioners' sugar, and butter in a bowl until crumbly dough is formed. Press dough firmly into a greased 9 x 13" pan. Bake until just golden...about 13 minutes.

In the meantime, whisk together the condensed milk, egg, and vanilla. When dough is golden remove from oven and pour filling over the baked crust. Sprinkle the pecans, chocolate chips and toffee pieces evenly over the filling.

Bake until the filling is set, the edges are golden, and the toffee is melted. This should be about 25 minutes. Remove from oven and cool on rack for 20 minutes. Cool completely in the refrigerator about 2 hours.

Cut into 32 bars. ENJOY!

