



AMHERST
QUILTERS GUILD

Upcoming Programs by [Kathleen Karnath](#)

December 19

Holiday Party at Faith United Church

We'll gather at 6 pm and plan dinner for 6:30. Member cost \$20. Final day to reserve your spot is Tues, December 10.

We will be installing the new officers and exhibiting our Challenge quilts.

2024 Quilter's Challenge -

Use it up, wear it out, make do, or do without

Make a quilt, wall hanging, wearable art, or quilted piece of any size using salvaged and recycled fabric in the majority of the work. Think in terms of upcycling textiles that might disintegrate in a box or end up in a land fill.

Projects are due at the December meeting.

Questions? Contact Betty Lerner blerner628@yahoo.com, 716-689-6995

HAVE FUN!

AQG Meeting Notes - November 21 by JoAnn Kelsch

November Program: "Frame Your Quilt: Border Techniques" by Syliva Siegel, AQG member. – Sylvia walked us through the steps of how to add borders to your quilt top. She included a trunk show of different and unique border options from her own collection and several quilts made by other guild members to include JoAnn Castiglia and Mickey Wittliff. Several of the quilts had innovative borders created from 'Round Robin' quilt projects. – Sylvia instructed the attendees on the floating flying geese border technique; she provided kits and provided instruction on how to piece this border pattern.

President's Update: Sally Ginsberg, AQG President – 2025 AQG Officer Election: Linda Hunter presided over the voting process. There was unanimous agreement among all guild members at the meeting (30+ attendees/quorum achieved) to elect Kathleen Karnath as President, Rebecca Ribis and Judy Phillips as 1st co-vice presidents and Heather Buechi as 2nd Vice President. –

December Program & Meeting will be the guild's Holiday Party on December 19th 6:00pm at Faith UCC. Please RSVP for the event by

12/10/24. Dinner will be catered by Carmine's Restaurant (special dietary needs can be accommodated); member cost \$20. Mail your registration form (noting any dietary needs) and payment to Kathy Karnath. Desserts: we are asking members to bring something to share. There will be no gift exchange this year; other fun activities are planned. 2024 Quilt Challenge Reveal: show & share.

Sally is coordinating the 2nd shipment of quilts for storm victims in Tennessee (other locations in North Carolina and Florida have received many quilts already). Sally has a quilt store contact in Tennessee and that area was also impacted by the hurricane and welcomes donated quilts and pillowcases. Members can contact Sally to make arrangements to donate items and for more information on the timing of the shipment.

Membership Report: Linda Hunter, 2nd Vice President – Linda welcomed the newest guild member, Frederica Zuerner. – 2025 Membership Renewal: Linda encouraged members to renew their membership for 2025 as soon as possible. Annual dues: \$40.

Program Committee: – January 2025 Monthly Meeting & Program will be held at the Audubon Library on 1/16/2025. The library provides a media-ready room which has better acoustics. The guild will continue to meet at Faith UCC for the monthly Open Sew & Community Service events.

Community Service Committee: Jean Miller & Judy Balcerzak – Block of the month (BOM): a new block pattern will be included in the December newsletter so that members can work on blocks for the January 2025 Open Sew being held 1/23/2025. –

Charity quilts: the guild donated 42 quilts to 'Child Life' that is part of both the Oshai Children's Hospital and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's pediatric units.

Next AQG Membership meeting: Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:00pm. Meeting concluded with a Show and Share of items made by guild members.

AQG Board Meeting Notes December 2 by JoAnn Kelsch

Quilts for Courage by Sylvia

On November 8, I took 42 quilts to Oishei Children's Hospital. These quilts will be donated to the Hematology/Oncology Division and given to patients in that department and to the children and adolescents in chronic renal failure and on dialysis. Thank you to everyone who pieced, quilted and sewed the binding for these quilts. These quilts bring joy to the children who are hospitalized with these illnesses. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Membership by Linda Hunter

Please renew your membership to AQG this month, if possible, so we will

be able to plan our programs for next year. Your dues cover expenses for our monthly programs. It will help our new First VPs, Judy Phillips and Rebecca Ribis, to know the type of programs we are able present. They have so many great ideas for us. I do hope you will continue to join us. Also, our dues cover the cost of renting the Faith United Church for the year. That is for monthly meetings on the third Thursdays in the evening, and for our daytime "Open Sew" meetings. including community service, on the fourth Thursdays. We are looking forward to seeing you in the new year. If you are unable to attend, we know you enjoy hearing from the guild through the monthly newsletter, also supported by our dues. THANK YOU!

Please send the renewal form <https://www.amherstquiltersguild.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Amherst-Quilters-Guild-2024-Membership-Application.pdf> with dues of \$40.00 for the year, with check made out to **Amherst Quilters Guild**, to Second VP Linda Hunter at 5229 Mapleton Road, Lockport, NY 14094. You may also give her your renewal at the December meeting.

Sunshine & Shadow by Linda Hunter

Please wish **Theresa Utz** well. She had a fall in her home, and is recovering at Beechwood Rehab, 2235 Millersport Hwy, Getzville, NY 14068. Room 749. I'm sure she'd love a call, card or visitors. Her cell number is 716-864-4937.

Our guild has always given back to our community, usually through donating quilts. From time to time, we have decided to help the community by donating nonperishable items to the Faith church's food pantry. Our holiday party and last meeting is the perfect opportunity to bring a food item for the pantry this month. Please bring something to donate on December 19. Thank you.

Sewing Class for Kids by Kathy Karnath

We are partnering with the Audubon Library to offer a sewing class for kids! The program will be held Saturday, January 11 from 1–3pm for young people 10 – 16 years old. We will be limiting class size to 10 and plan to have 3 sewing machines and 2 ironing stations with a minimum of 3 guild members. I have already made kits with flannel fabric precut to the sizes needed. Participants will have a choice of a red/black Buffalo check or (Buffalo Bills) red/white/blue plaid kit. The class will be advertised as:

Learn to Sew - Make a Pillowcase

Learn the basics of using a sewing machine from members of the Amherst Quilt Guild. You'll make your own pillowcase, using the "burrito method" (don't worry, we'll explain) from a kit provided. All supplies will be provided, just bring your enthusiasm!

Learning to sew can open a world of creativity and practicality from mending torn clothes to making your own clothes, crafts, household items and quilts!

Please let me know if you are willing to help with this class and/or let us use your sewing machine at class.

Block of the Month 12 inch Sailboat block.

Sky Fabric. 2 - 6 1/2 x 3 1/2,
2- 4 inch squares,

Sail Fabric. 2- 4 inch squares.

Use the 4 inch squares from sky fabric and make half square triangles Trim to 3 1/2 inches

Boat Fabric. 1- 3 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches

Water. 1- 3 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches,

2- 3 1/2 inch squares. Sew these squares diagonally on each end of the boat as shown in the picture!



This is from Acrabacabra Quilting on Ytube! Use white for the sails!

Tips and Techniques - Ensuring a Square Quilt

Having a square quilt doesn't mean that your quilt is literally square in shape, but rather that your quilt will lie perfectly flat with no puckers, tucks, or unwanted pleating after it has been quilted. Here are some helpful hints from *National Quilters Circle*.

Precision Cutting

First, be very careful when [cutting your fabric](#). Precision is key! Do not use your cutting mat for measuring – it should be used as merely a surface for using the rotary cutter. You will want to invest in a quality quilting ruler such as an [Omnigrid](#) or similar. (I will confess that I am guilty of using my cutting board to measure...but no more.)

Ensuring a Square Quilt

Then once you have cut your fabric, you'll want to ensure [precision in your piecing](#) too. If possible, use the same sewing machine for the entire quilt as every machine has their own 1/4 inch allowance. This may sound strange, but when machines are assembled they can be off ever so

slightly. If sewing on multiple machines you can end up with varying block sizes depending on the number of pieces in each block. Every time a seam is made, it can increase or decrease the size of the block depending on where the needle is coming down.

Squaring Up

The next thing you will want to do is square up your blocks once they are all pieced. You will want to be sure not to cut off any star points or flying geese points, and always leave a quarter-inch from any points so each point will be properly displayed in the finished quilt. And of course ensure that your blocks are the same size using your quilting ruler.

Sashes and Borders

A common mistake that many quilters make is neglecting to measure sashing and borders. Too often, quilters will take a strip of fabric and begin sewing it onto their quilt or block and then cut it when they reach the edge. Unfortunately this is not a reliable way to build your quilt. Fabric will always have some stretch to it and when applying borders or sashing you can end up with what we refer to as “wavy quilts.”

The proper way to size the sashing or borders is to measure through the center of the quilt lengthwise and then again between that measurement and the edge of quilt on both sides. Then take the average of these measurements and cut borders to that length. (Do this for the width as well.)

Once cut, pin the center of the strip to the center of the side, pin the ends to the ends, and insert extra pins as needed. As you sew, be careful not to pull or tug on the fabric.

Save the Dates -

Thurs, Dec 19 - Holiday Party 6pm at Faith UCC

Sat, Jan 11 - Sewing class for kids - 1-3pm at the Audubon Library

Thurs, Jan 16 - monthly meeting at 7pm at Audubon Library

Thurs, Jan 23 - open sew at Faith UCC 10am-2pm

Thurs, Feb 20 - monthly meeting at 7pm at Faith UCC

Officers

President - Sally Ginsberg

First Vice President - Kathleen Karnath

Second Vice President - Linda Hunter

Secretary - JoAnn Kelsch

Treasurer - Joanne Castiglia

Committee Chairs

Accuquilt - JoAnn Kelsch

Challenge Quilts - Betty Lerner

Community Service - Jean Miller & Judy Balcerzak

Education - Rebecca Ribis & Linda Hunter

Facebook - Sylvia Siegel

Hospitality - MaryAnn Braunscheidle

NYS Consortium - Judy Phillips

Program - Kathleen Karnath

Publishing Editor - MaryAnn Krafft

Quilts For Courage - Sylvia Siegel

Sunshine & Shadows - Linda Hunter

Website - Marie Buchanan



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