



AMHERST
QUILTERS GUILD

Upcoming Programs by Rebecca Ribis

February Program is:

The Amherst Quilt Guild will host Faye Lone on **February 20th**, at the Faith United Church of Christ, 1300 Maple Road Amherst, NY at **7pm**. She is from the Tonawanda Seneca Nation, Hawk Clan. She quit her Federal job to move back home and start a business in sewing, quilting and fiber art. She is an award winning fabric artist with quilts in various Museums including the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. She will discuss her creative process and bring examples of her original stitching designs and quilts.

March:

The Amherst Quilt Guild will turn 50 in March!

Our program will be with Joanna Christopher, a Qigong instructor, at Faith United Church of Christ, 1300 Maple Road Amherst, NY at **6:30 pm**. Join us as we learn to lower our stress levels, improve our well being, and help our bodies function better. At 5:45, we will be making cards for local Senior Facilities.

President's Message

We are off to a great start for 2025.

*Thanks to our Treasurer, JoAnn Castiglia, the board has approved a budget for 2025. The expense side of the budget was easy with many fixed costs, such as our rent, insurance, Zoom cost, QCNYS dues, community service supplies and of course monthly program expenses. Unfortunately, dues alone do not cover those fixed expenses. In order to get close to a balanced budget, on the income side, we set some aggressive goals including growing the membership (we need all current members to renew and we need to get at least 10 new members), and a goal for donations in the form of fabric/quilting supplies sales. (I'll have some books and fabric for sale at our February meeting, so bring some \$. All proceeds go to the guild.)

*We have negotiated with Faith United Church to continue to use their facilities as needed, and also have the option of using the Audubon Library.

*Our Co-1st VPs, Judy Phillips and Rebecca Ribis have a great schedule of programs planned, but I will let them share the details.

*Heather Beuchi, our 2nd VP in charge of membership, has updated our membership form, created business cards, is working on establishing a presence on Instagram, and is excited about the potential to reserve the display case at the Audubon Library to showcase the Amherst Quilters Guild...which should help us to increase membership! Heather is really excited about promoting our guild and I appreciate her energy! She will also be greeting members or assigning a member to be a greeter at our meetings to welcome new members, guests and all members at each meeting.

*Linda Hunter, Rebecca Ribis and Sally Ginsberg are working on a Quilted Jacket workshop – look for details from them!

*Jean Miller and Judy Balcerzak have some new ideas for Community Service Quilts, as they weren't getting much response from the block of the month. I will let them present their plans.

*Marie Buchanan is working behind the scenes to improve and expand our website, so be sure to visit www.amherstquiltersguild.org.

*Patti Young has volunteered to be our QCNYS liason!

*Maryann Braunscheidel has agreed to continue to see we have some refreshments at each of our meetings.

*And of course you wouldn't see this message if it weren't for the efforts of MaryAnn Krafft, our newsletter editor!

*Speaking of MaryAnn Krafft, she is also our 2026 Quilt Show Chairperson! She and I met with and have a proposal from the BNHV to hold the quilt show there. The board has not yet approved as we need a couple more details finalized, but I feel confident that we WILL have a quilt show in 2026!

I look forward to a great year and appreciate all of the efforts of our board members, committee chairpeople and committee members and all members who share their expertise and love of quilts and quilting.

AQG Meeting Notes - by JoAnn Kelsch.

January Program: "Slow Stitching" by Lianne Reinhardt. – Lianne introduced us to the relatively new art form - Slow Stitching - which is known as a "mindful" craft that encourages sewers to enjoy the process of stitching without following set patterns. It uses traditional hand stitching techniques to piece together a variety of different fabrics and/or mediums such as ribbon, beads, buttons, lace, the options are endless! Lianne conveyed that Slow Stitching is not about the finishing, it's about the process that evolves as you work and leads to the creation of a beautiful piece of artwork. – Lianne included examples of her artwork to include Christmas tree ornaments made from an old family quilt and an embellished flower design using beadwork and lace. She reviewed the tools needed for Slow Stitching and had kits available for members to

purchase to begin their own Slow Stitching journey. More information is available on Lianne's site on Etsy: 'Buffalo Summers.'

President's Update: Kathy Karnath, new AQQ.President
Kathy welcomed new guild members Laura Barkewitz and Grace Dunker, and guests Katie and Liz. –

2025 Challenge Quilt: Patricia Ohtake is coordinating this year's challenge quilt project. This year's theme is 'Make it Modern.' Kathy distributed a handout with the details about the challenge quilt. Some modern quilt resources include <https://quiltcon.com/>, <https://modernquiltco.com/> and Quilting Arts magazine or TV (PBS).

Program Committee: Rebecca Ribis, 1st co-Vice President Programs –
February Program: Faye Lone, award-winning fabric artist, will discuss her work which has been featured in museums including the Smithsonian and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art.

Education Committee: Linda Hunter and Rebecca Ribis
– New workshop for 2025: 'Making a Quilted Jacket' with guest instructor, Bridget Spitler. Bridget was the presenter at the guild's Oct 2024 meeting. The workshop details are still being worked out; it will most likely include a series of 5 classes held every other week; cost TBD; 6-10 participants. Rebecca has a sign-up list for members who would be interested in participating in the workshop and requested that they provide input on what day/timeframe will work best for them.

Library Sewing Class: Several guild members participated in an event at the Audubon Library this past Saturday. The guild offered a sewing class, Learning to Use a Sewing Machine, led by Kathy Karnath. There were nine students ages 9 – 14; the students made a pillowcase. The class was well received by the students and Audubon librarian.

Show and share: deferred because of timing; the business meeting did not end until 8:30

AQG December Board Meeting Notes by JoAnn Kelsch

- 2025 AQG Budget was approved. Guild income is dependent on membership dues and projected proceeds from donated fabric sale(s). -

- Membership report: 32 members as of the board meeting 1/7/25; additional new members and renewals have been received since the board meeting. Heather Buechi, 2nd VP Membership will have an update next month (she was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to the inclement weather).

- Non-member/guest meeting attendance fee: the board discussed charging non members/guests \$5 to attend the guild's monthly meetings. If the person decides to join the guild that month, the \$5 fee will be applied towards their membership dues. The board would like to implement this fee starting next month (February).

Pro-rating membership dues: The board has approved a change in the reduction of the dues from a quarterly pro-rate to a semiannual pro-rate. Therefore, for new members that join after July 1, the dues will be \$20; dues will remain \$40 for new members who join between January 1st – June 30th. -

Monthly meeting time and location: the board would like the monthly meetings to be held at the library because of the room acoustics, the availability of audio/visual equipment that the library provides and there is no cost for use of the room. However, at the present time, the guild can only reserve the room 1 month in advance and the library requires us to end our meeting by 8:30pm. There was a discussion about changing the meeting's start time from 7:00pm to 6:30pm. Several members voiced concerns that the earlier start time would not work for them because of their work schedules. The library is not available in February, so the monthly meeting will be at Faith UCC. The Newsletter will communicate the upcoming month's meeting location and start time.

Open Sew will continue to meet at Faith UCC on the 4th Thursday of the month.

2026 Quilt Show Location Opportunities: The Buffalo Niagara Heritage Museum will not be closing as previously indicated so it may be an option for the 2026 Quilt Show. MaryAnn Krafft & Kathy Karnath met with the museum staff to begin discussing options for the guild. The museum will be undergoing renovations and the timing and buildings involved are still being worked out. The museum may also be an option for guild meetings in the future.

Tips and Tricks -

Is the sole plate of your iron gunky? Grab a Tylenol pill with some tweezers and rub the heated sole plate. It WORKS !!

Need help choosing fabric for your quilt?

https://www.diaryofaquilter.com/choosing-fabric-for-a-quilt/?utm_source=convertkit&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20Tumbler%20Quilt%20Tutorial%20%20%20Last%20Minute%20%F0%9F%92%95%20Ideas%20-%2016550400

Membership by Heather Buechi

As of February 1st we have 4 new members!

Please welcome: Grace Dunker, Sue Keppel, Judith Palmer, Nan Scinta! We are so happy to have you with us! Please bring things to Show and Share!

We are at a total of 44 members. If you talk to any past member that has not renewed, Please remind them to renew! We miss them!

We will have business cards made to hand out to all members. Please use these cards to put at stores or bulletin boards to raise awareness of the guild. Places can include quilt shops, restaurants, community centers, etc.

Also we are going to reserve a spot at the Library to advertise and hang some quilts.

We will be making an Instagram page to go along with our Facebook page. Please be on the lookout for that in the near future!

2026 Quilt Show by MaryAnn Krafft

Planning for the 2026 upcoming quilt show has started. Dates are April 17-19, 2026. Do you have any clever names or should we just stick with "2026 Quilt Show". Submit your suggestions to ma.krafft@yahoo.com and we will vote on a name at the March meeting.

AQG 2025 Challenge Quilt by Patricia Ohtake

Make It Modern - The 2025 Challenge Quilt theme is Modern Quilts. Members are encouraged to create a small quilt that incorporates one or more of the principles of modern quilting:

- bold use of color
- high contrast and graphic areas of color
- improvisational piecing
- minimalism
- maximalism
- expansive negative space
- alternate grid work
- modern traditionalism

Rules Challenge quilts will be:

1. original design
2. no larger than 120" perimeter
3. comprised of three layers (top, batting, and backing)
4. bound and quilted through all three layers and have visible quilting by hand, by machine, or both
5. made using fabrics of any color
6. made using any of the following techniques: pieced, foundation pieced, English paper pieced, hand or machine appliqued, hand or machine embroidered.

A great place for inspiration is the website for the Modern Quilt Guild's annual quilt show, www.quiltcon.com

The deadline for the quilt submission is the December 2025 Holiday Party.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patricia Ohtake at patricia2576@gmail.com

QCNYS (Quilters Consortium of NYS) - by Patti Young

- QCNYS is arranging a bus trip to Mississauga, Ontario (near Toronto) for the Quilt Canada 2025 show in June! Let your QCNYS representative (that's me! Patti Young) know if you are interested. The dates of the show are June 18-21, 2025. Registration opens March 12-June 14, 2025. Although they're still early in the planning stages, here's a link with additional information.
<https://canadianquilter.com/quilt-canada-2025/>
-
- QCNYS is offering an opportunity to join them on a Mystery Quilt project. It's called Pathways 2025. There's approximately 150 participants at this point. Both Kathleen and myself have joined in. It cost \$10. Instructions are emailed to you the first of each month and there are zoom meetings available for Q&A.
-
- The first quarterly meeting for 2025 will be held March 19, 2025: Hosted by the Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Illion in Mohawk, NY.

Community Service - by Jean Miller

This month we are doing Jelly Roll Race quilts. There will be some kits at the guild meeting. Come on February 27th to see or cut 2 1/2 inch strips from the guilds fabric to make more kits or sew the ones available!

Save the Dates -

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

Thurs, Feb 27 - open sew at Faith UCC 10am-2pm

June 19-21 - Quilt Canada at the Interational Centre in Mississauga, ON- <https://canadianquilter.com/quilt-canada-2025/>

Officers

President - Kathleen Karnath

First Vice President - Rebecca Ribis & Judy Phillips

Second Vice President - Heather Buechi

Secretary - JoAnn Kelsch

Treasurer - Joanne Castiglia

Committee Chairs

Accuquilt - JoAnn Kelsch

Challenge Quilts - Patricia Ohtake

Community Service - Jean Miller & Judy Balcerzak

Quilts For Courage - Sylvia Siegel

Education - Rebecca Ribis & Linda Hunter

Facebook - Sylvia Siegel

Hospitality - MaryAnn Braunscheidle

QCNYS Consortium - Patti Young

Program - Rebecca Ribis & Judy Phillips

Publishing Editor - MaryAnn Krafft

Sunshine & Shadows - Linda Hunter

Website - Marie Buchanan



Copyright © 2025 Amherst Quilters Guild, All rights reserved.