



AMHERST
QUILTERS GUILD

Upcoming Events - by Rebecca Ribis and Judy Phillips

Our December meeting is a Holiday Luncheon held at Pane's Restaurant Saturday, **December 6**, at noon. The address is 984 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda.

January Program: Hot Chocolate Social and a presentation on 'Hexis' by Maryann Braunsheidel..

AQG Meeting Notes - November 20 by JoAnn Kelsch.

November Program: Soup cook-off and members also shared their last minute holiday gift ideas. The soup contest winner was Donna Kain's cauliflower cheese soup, and the runner-up was Heather Buechi's lasagna soup. (see below for recipes)

President's Report: Kathleen Karnath

Kathleen welcomed 1 guest in attendance at this month's meeting.

Officer Elections: Kathleen recognized and thanked Loretta Cadwallader, Nominations Chairperson for her effort in vetting the officer nominees for the 2026 positions. The AQG members in attendance unanimously voted in favor of the following officer positions:

2026-2027 Secretary: Patti Young

2026-2027 Co-1st Vice Presidents: Patricia Ohtake and Gayle Kratt

2026 Treasurer: Carol Roy

Member input: Kathleen encouraged members to think about and provide feedback about what ideas and areas of involvement that they would like to be a part of in the new year. As an example, are there members who would like to take the lead in organizing activities such as a quilt retreat, mystery quilt or block of the month. She will provide more information in the next newsletter.

AQG Website: Kathleen informed the membership that Marie Buchanan has resigned as the webmaster. As a result, this position needs to be filled. If anyone is interested in learning more about this position, contact Kathleen.

New Business:

Opportunity Quilt: ticket packets were distributed at the meeting. Each AQG member is asked to sell at least \$20 worth of raffle tickets.

A previous Opportunity Quilt was returned to the guild. Sally brought the quilt to the meeting. She indicated that the quilt could be put towards a door prize at the quilt show. All members in attendance at the meeting concurred with her proposal.

The meeting concluded with a Show and Share of quilted items made by guild members.

President's Message - by Kathleen Karnath

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2026-27 terms:

1st VPs in charge of Program, Patricia Ohtake and Gail Kratt;

Secretary, Patti Young and Treasurer for 2026 Carol Roy. We look forward to your leadership as you join the AQG Board!

Thankyou to 1st VPs, Judy Phillips and Rebecca Ribis for a wonderful 2025 program year, to JoAnn Kelsch, Secretary for keeping meticulous minutes of our board and membership meetings and to JoAnn Castiglia for keeping AQG financially sound!

Also, please join me in thanking **Carolynn Krupp** for stepping up to serve as our *Media Relations - Website Chairperson for 2026*! The goal is to form a committee to discuss our website and what members want to see on the website and how we can use the website to attract the public/potential members. Carolyn is technology, media and public relations savvy and can take our ideas and turn them into reality. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please let me and/or Carolynn know!

Peg Crawford, AQG member has asked if we would be interested in taking on an additional special Community Service project for 2026, to make dresses for girls in Uganda. Her daughter, Dr. Erika McLean, volunteers as a pediatrician in Uganda each July in conjunction with the Imane Milele Foundation, a charity for children. They set up a "pop up" med clinic in a different village every year, and have various "clinics", serving adults and children from the village and surrounding areas.

These families live in extreme poverty, and the children have primarily only the clothes on their backs. If they are lucky, they go to the school and have a uniform.

She and her daughter, both sewists and quilters, decided that they could benefit from an additional dress, and started the project last year, making 250 cotton dresses which Erika took with her and distributed to girls in Kitongo. They are hoping for 400-500 this year when Erika will be traveling to the village of Kamusenene in Uganda.

Dresses are made from 100% cotton with a simple pattern which Peg can provide. The goal is to make dresses in sizes 10, 12 and 14, which should take 1-3/4 to 2 yards each. They would need to be completed and delivered to Peg by mid June 2026. She has some fabric available, but this is also a great opportunity to thin down your fabric stash!

You are invited to sign onto their Facebook page, Dresses for Uganda, to see some of the pictures and videos of the girls wearing their dresses last year - they're a happy group!!

Please let me know if you are interested in this project as a guild and/or as an individual. This would not replace, but would be in addition to our longstanding quilts for Children's Hospital.

Speaking of Community Service/Open Sew...we have been notified that the BNHV will NOT be available on Thursday mornings in 2026 for us. They have offered Wednesday mornings instead. Several members have suggested that the Library would be a better location, especially in the winter months. So, in the meantime, we have reserved the Audubon Library for our Community Service/Open Sew for January 22 and February 26. More details, dates and locations to follow – without a “permanent” home, we need to be flexible!

We have had some donations to the guild from a member and former member that will be available for sale with 100% of proceeds to the guild. I have fabric (\$4/yd), fat quarters (\$1 each), rulers (Stripology Mini (\$24), Stripology XL (\$35), Omnigrid 6” square(\$6)), Steady Betty ironing surface, Gypsy Gripper, Quilting Clamps (9), Quilt Binding Express – all for sale at ~ ½ price! Please contact me if you are interested.

As we look toward 2026, please think about what committee(s) you’d like to participate in – Community Service, Education, Hospitality, Membership, Program, Media Relations, QCNY, etc. And we could even start some new committees...maybe Mystery Quilt or Block Exchange or quilt retreat????!! We invite you to participate.

And of course, we need “all hands on deck” with regard to quilt show preparations and sale of opportunity quilt tickets.

I look forward to seeing you at our holiday party on Saturday and wish you and yours a happy holiday season!

Education - by Rebecca Ribis, Linda Hunter, and Sally Ginsberg

Judy Schryver will lead a Workshop on Fabric Collage. It will be held on Saturday, **January 10th**, 10:30 to 4:30 at the Audubon Library, 350 John James Audubon Parkway, Amherst.

You can bring your own pattern or use one of her free patterns. More details are available once you sign up.

The nonrefundable charge is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. Sign up and fees are due by December 20. You can pay at the Holiday Luncheon.

AQG 2025 Challenge Quilt - 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:

Rules - Challenge quilts will be original design

1. no larger than 120" perimeter
2. comprised of three layers (top, batting, and backing)
3. bound and quilted through all three layers and have visible quilting by hand, by machine, or both
4. made using fabrics of any color
5. 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, QuiltCon. www.quiltcon.com

The date for completion of the challenge quilt is moved to the February meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patricia Ohtake at patricia2576@gmail.com.

Membership by Heather Beuchi

Happy December!!

This is the final month of 2025.

2026 memberships are on the way! We will start accepting renewals and new memberships at our December Holiday Party. But please note that if you give a check it will not be deposited till January. Those who have given or sent me a check please note that it will not be deposited till January.

Membership is still \$40 for the calendar year.

Quilt Show MaryAnn Krafft, chairperson •

2026 show will be a “judge-free zone.” All members are encouraged to enter their quilts. There is a quilt registration form that will need to be completed; registrations are due at the March meeting.

There will be a ‘Viewer’s Choice award.’ and a ‘Members Choice Award’, Judy Phillips and Linda Hunter volunteered to coordinate this award.

Boutique: 10% of member proceeds from the sale of their items will go to the guild. Kathleen Karnath will have forms available for members to complete who want to sell their items at the show. Volunteer Sign-up: MaryAnn had sign-up lists available at the meeting.

Gift Basket Raffle: Sally Ginsberg asked guild members who plan to donate a basket and/or items to contact her via email. Sally will also have a letter available to give to organizations who wish to donate an item/service for the basket raffle.

March 19 - Thursday - registration deadline

Apr 13 - Monday - take in day 9am- 4pm

Apr 14 - Tuesday - take in day 9am- noon
- start hanging til 4pm

Apr 15 - Wednesday - set-up days 9am-4pm

Apr 17 - Friday Show day 10am - 4pm

Apr 18 - Saturday - Show day 10am - 4pm

Apr 19 - Sunday - Show Day 10am-3pm

cleanup 3pm- 6pm

QCNYS by Patti Young

The December 2025 meeting of QCNYS was held via zoom due to weather conditions. It was a disappointing circumstance for the host guild as they were not able to share their attendee favors or gift raffles. The meeting went off as is typical short of the "show and tell". The highlights included:

- Mystery Quilt 2026 registration in process. Clues begin January 1, 2026 and monthly thereafter for a 6 month period. Registration via <https://qcnys.org/mysteryquilt/>
- Travel Club Passports - Drawing was postponed 2 weeks. If you have a passport, please mail it in ASAP to the address on the passport. A Facebook Live event will be held for the drawing. AND, just a reminder that the content for the 2026 Passport for our quilt show is due prior to January 15, 2026.
- Information was reiterated regarding the 40th anniversary event - including the first "eras" presentation and opportunity for the raffle quilt. The quilt is complete. It is in QCNYS colors of red & white. The pattern is the Sawtooth Star and Irish Chain. The pattern was chosen because it was the pattern used for QCNYS's first raffle quilt. If you ever thought about attending these quarterly meetings, 2026 is probably 'the year' because of the anniversary events.
- QCNYS VP Lisa Phalen shared a powerpoint of "Awards of Excellence" quilts - these are the "best in show" quilts from the Guild member shows throughout the past year. QCNYS reps attend and a QCNYS ribbon is awarded.

- Grape Country Quilters had won one of the Community Service grants. They used the funds for batting to make quilts for Habitat for Humanity in the Rochester area.
- An Education Scholarship winner presented her results - it was a class in beading. Note that all members are eligible for this scholarship. You apply September - November 15 of the prior year. Winners (there are 5) are selected randomly at the December meeting. The award is \$100 and you do not have to have a specific class in mind at the time you apply. You are responsible to present what you've learned at one of the quarterly meetings.
- Bus trip to Vermont Quilt Show, June 18-20, 2026. Cost is \$350 per person. Includes round trip bus from Destiny Mall in Syracuse and hotel/breakfast. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required. At this time, there are only 50 seats available.

Save the Dates 2026

Sat, Jan 10

10:30-4:30 Fabric Collage Workshop at the Audubon Library,

Thurs, Jan 15,

6pm: Sally Ginsberg will show us how to make half-square-triangles.

6:30pm. AQG meeting at the Audubon Library. Hot Chocolate Social and a presentation on 'Hexis' by Maryann Braunsheidel.

Thurs, Jan 22

10am Community Service/Open Sew at the Audubon Library

Thurs , Feb 26, (note the date change)

10am Community Service/Open Sew at the Audubon Library

6:00 Linda Hunter will discuss 'Preparing Quilts for a Quilt Show.'

6:30pm - show your 'Modern' challenge quilt

Award Winning Recipies

Donna Kain's Cauliflower Cheese Soup <https://bakeatmidnite.com/cream-cauliflower-cheese-soup/>

Heather's Lasagna Soup -

1 yellow onion (chopped)
2 cloves garlic
1/2 lb. ground beef
1/2 lb. Italian sausage
2 tbsp tomato paste
2 cups marinara sauce
3 cups chicken broth
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/2 box of lasagna noodles
1/2 cup parm cheese
1 cup mozzarella (or more)
1/4 cup fresh basil
salt
pepper
italian seasoning
Chili flakes (optional)

1. Sauté 1 chopped onion in olive oil over med heat until translucent, 7-10 mins Add 2 cloves of crushed garlic, ground beef, Italian sausage. Season with salt pepper, Italian seasoning and chili flakes.
2. When meat is cooked, add tomato paste, marinara sauce, chicken broth (less if you want a thicker soup) and heavy cream.
3. Bring to a boil then add the lasagna noodles broken into pieces. Once cooked add parm cheese, mozzarella and the sliced basil, stir till all melted in.

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 - Jean Miller

Education - Rebecca Ribis & Linda Hunter

Facebook - Heather Buechi

Hospitality - MaryAnn Braunscheidle

Nominating - Loretta Cadwallader

QCNYS Consortium - Patti Young

Program - Rebecca Ribis & Judy Phillips

Publishing Editor - MaryAnn Krafft

Sunshine & Shadows - Linda Hunter

Website - Carolynn Krupp