



# BITS & PIECES

Holly Berries Quilt Guild  
P.O. Box 516  
Mashpee, MA 02649-0516

[www.hollyberryquilters.com](http://www.hollyberryquilters.com)  
[hollyberryquilters@gmail.com](mailto:hollyberryquilters@gmail.com)  
Winter 2024      Volume 40

## President's Message

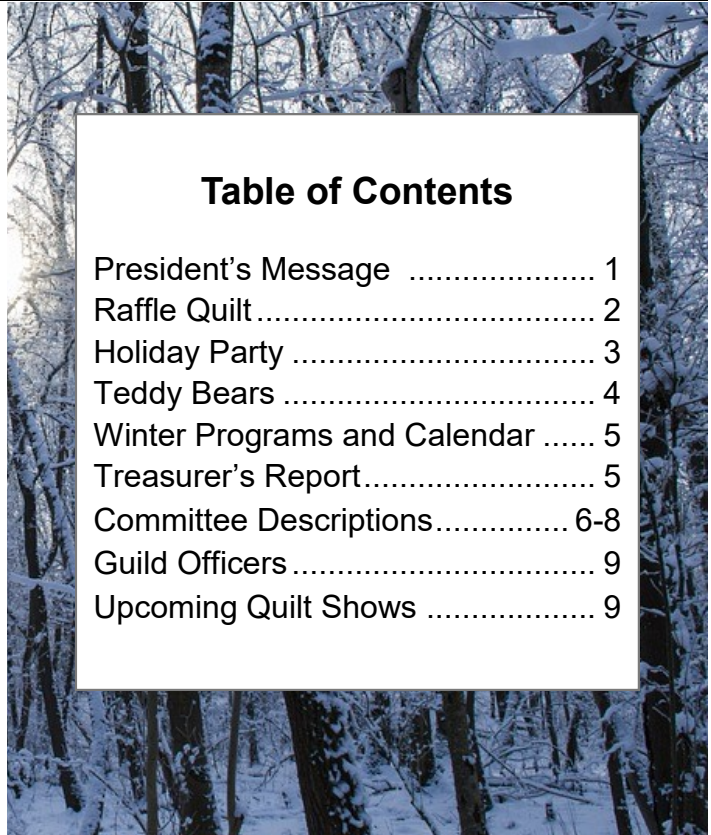


When I was a little girl, growing up in the '60s and '70s, I couldn't imagine the way life would be in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Technology has caught up to and in some ways surpassed the sci-fi shows we watched as kids. Most of us are carrying

around our cell phones or have a phone on our wrist like Dick Tracy had in the comics, but yours has more information on it than he dreamed of having at his disposal.

Some of us have high-tech sewing machines that can be programed to do all kinds of different designs. Once a pattern is picked, your machine may quilt or embroider without you being present; you can walk away and do other things while the machine does the work. Some people are happy just using a needle and thread to make their quilts. One of the reasons I like to quilt is that it offers you endless possibilities in patterns, designs, construction methods, and ways to quilt it. There's no one "right way" of making a quilt, and that usually gives people comfort. Being in the quilt guild offers us the opportunity to see other quilters' work and the chance to try new techniques.

Another part of being in the guild is to participate by chairing one or more of the different committees we have available. Some positions are a commitment for all year, some a few weeks, some only one or two days, but all are necessary to run the guild. We usually round up these positions in April or May, and we will need a nominating committee, of three, to make sure these positions are filled so the guild can vote on the members selected for the positions in



## Table of Contents

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| President's Message .....          | 1   |
| Raffle Quilt .....                 | 2   |
| Holiday Party .....                | 3   |
| Teddy Bears .....                  | 4   |
| Winter Programs and Calendar ..... | 5   |
| Treasurer's Report.....            | 5   |
| Committee Descriptions.....        | 6-8 |
| Guild Officers .....               | 9   |
| Upcoming Quilt Shows .....         | 9   |

May. Anyone interested in being in the nominating committee can let me know in January.

I have asked the different committees to give a brief description of what they do so that, if the positions become available, the next member(s) interested in filling the position will know what their duties will involve. I'm making this sound like a chore, but it's really just part of making the guild fun.

*—Marge Overholtz*



## Raffle Quilt

### **2023-24 Raffle Quilt Is Ready to Take Wing**

The 2024 Holly Berry raffle quilt is ready to make the rounds of local venues. Gail Goraj and Deborah Winograd headed the project this year and the stunningly bright colors and dynamic pattern of Flying Geese blocks are the result.

The pattern is an original one named Radian, designed by Jennifer Wothen, a quilter with a PhD in Computational Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. Unlike the original, our guild chose to use a strong blue background that made the bright triangles seem even more vibrant. Our quilt is named "Flying over Cape Cod" and finished at 73 inches square.

Most of the Guild membership participated in making the blocks from packets of background fabric and "geese" with bright primary colors from their stash. Some members did multiple packets.

Arranging the colors in a pleasing design took several hours, and then the quilt was sewn together on the diagonal, which is always challenging. The top was then sandwiched with batting and backing and quilted by Guild member and professional long-arm quilter Mary Ann Bowman.

The quilt was a challenging one to make, but the results certainly speak for themselves.

The Guild is now seeking several members to volunteer to chair the committee that will tackle our 2024-25 raffle quilt. Are you ready to take on the challenge?



*The proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets, minus the expenses involved in making the quilt, amounted to \$1,700 and were donated to the Fairgrounds to thank the staff for hosting our meetings all year.*

## Holiday Party

By December 14, most of us were ready for a little break from all the shopping, writing greeting cards, wrapping gifts, and baking we do to celebrate the special days that December brings. Our holiday luncheon was just the ticket—a chance to greet old friends, admire the handiwork of our membership, enjoy a wonderful luncheon, and relax with a game.

The hospitality committee (Gail Goraj, Maryann Bowman, Ann Giuggio, and Pat Wahlberg) arranged for a delicious catered lunch, which was supplemented with appetizers and desserts contributed by our members. There were charming centerpieces of candleholders decorated with “snow” and tiny wreaths.

Show and Tell was extensive, with both quilts and gaily dressed teddy bears (see p. 4) earning effusive admiration. Finally, many members stayed to participate in a game of Trader Dice, a game that lets everyone leave a winner. Altogether, it was a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season and our amazing quilt guild.



## ***Teddy Bears...and a Rabbit, a Fox, a Pup, and a Sheep***

Beginning around Labor Day, the Salvation Army in Hyannis starts to collect "wish lists" from parents who don't have much discretionary income to spend on Christmas gifts. They include things that their children would like Santa to bring, and teddy bears are always a frequent request.

Our annual project of dressing teddy bears for needy children in Hyannis usually starts in the fall. In 2023, it was a year-long event, with members collecting stray bears from thrift shops and other places to add to the usual bag of 18 bears purchased through the Salvation Army supplier. There were many more bears than anticipated, and a few other cuddly critters including a dog, a rabbit, a fox, and a sheep, but Holly Berry members rose to the challenge. As a result, we dressed a total of 42 stuffed animals; almost every one accompanied with a child-sized quilt, throw, or knitted afghan. There were almost as many separate quilts for the animals themselves, including one bear clutching his own Chicago Bears quilt.


In sum, it's unbelievable how generous our members are, and how very creative. Santa had a lot of helpers this year, and there will be many happy children snuggling their new friends as a result.

*The photo below shows the first installment of teddy bears to go to Hyannis. The rest were donated in amazing numbers and variety at our holiday luncheon. Individual bears might be princesses, sweet babies, or even rock star Bruce Springsteen. Thanks to all who participated.*



## ***A Look Ahead: Winter Program Planning***

Programs for January through March are as follows:

- January 11      Member Karen Schlueter will present a trunk show.
- January 25      Presentation by Valarie Poitier, an African American art quilter from the Boston area. Learn more about her at her blog online and see some of her quilts at <https://msvpoitier.blogspot.com/>.
- February 8      Janet Elia of the Quilt Corner Studio will show and teach about borders and bindings.
- February 22      Cindy Harris tea party! 
- March 14        TBA
- March 28        Member Mary Ann Karpinski will present a trunk show of challenge quilts.

Thanks to the ongoing work of our Programs committee members Deborah Winograd and Conny Doty for arranging these events for us. Come, learn, and enjoy!



### ***Treasurer's Report***

The fall Ways & Means event added \$1361.50 to our income. The Guild also gave the Barnstable County Fairgrounds \$1700 this year from the sale of raffle tickets from the 2023 raffle quilt. Thank you to all the members that participated in the Ways & Means, and who sold raffle tickets for the raffle quilt.

### ***Mark Your Calendars...***

...with these confirmed Guild meeting dates:

| <b>Month</b>    | <b>Meetings</b> | <b>Sew Days</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>January</b>  | 11<br>25        | 4<br>18         |
| <b>February</b> | 8<br>22         | 1<br>15         |
| <b>March</b>    | 14<br>28        | 7<br>21         |
| <b>April</b>    | 11<br>25        | 4<br>18         |

## **Q. What Makes HollyBerry Run?**

Answer: The efforts of many dedicated people, who work together on everything from goal-setting to nit-t-y-gritty details. Here is a brief description of the jobs that they do to make our meetings and group projects so successful.

Want to get more involved? We need people to work on the following committees for 2025:

Raffle Quilt Committee  
Bus Trips  
Nominating Committee

Please take a look at the job descriptions for open positions below and consider volunteering for one that suits your interests and strengths. Then look at the positions that are already filled with volunteers for 2024-25 and take the time this year to thank those volunteers for their hard work and creativity.

**President:** The President putting an agenda together for general meetings and presides over the meetings following Robert's Rules of Order. She delegates items and directs member concerns to the appropriate committee(s). She may appoint working groups as needed.

**Vice President:** The Vice-President fulfills the functions of the President if the President is absent or needs assistance fulfilling responsibilities.

**Secretary:** The Secretary takes notes during all Holly Berry meetings. She writes up these notes and submits them to the President in a timely manner.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer is responsible for maintaining the financial records for the guild. She collects membership dues and money earned from events sponsored by other committees and makes bank deposits. She pays the bills in a timely manner and submits paperwork to the state about the proceeds from the raffle quilt. In August, she works with other officers to plan a budget and throughout the year she monitors spending to be sure it is in line with the budget.

**Raffle Quilt:** The Raffle Quilt Committee consists of

two or three members who choose a pattern for a quilt and coordinate the efforts of members to piece or applique blocks for it with colors and fabrics chosen by the committee. The committee sews the quilt together, purchasing background fabric, backing, and batting if necessary. The committee obtains bids for the long-arm quilting and engages a quilter. Raffle tickets sold for this quilt generate proceeds which, after expenses are deducted, are donated to the Barnstable County Fairgrounds in thanks for their generosity for the use of the meeting room. The quilt is named and shown at various locations and at the Barnstable County Fair.

**Mystery Quilts:** The Mystery Quilt coordinator researches a mystery quilt pattern for the Guild to do. Usually she looks for quilts that can be done in various sizes, using precuts like fat quarters, jelly rolls, layer cakes, and/or scraps. Sometimes we have to pay, other times we have used free patterns. She takes sign-ups of members who want to participate, getting everyone's email address. The first "clue" is usually printed out and put in a folder. The remainder of the steps are usually emailed to the participants on a monthly basis. The mystery is started in the fall (late September, early October). Then we have the big reveal in June at the year end luncheon. It is great fun to see the same quilt done in different fabrics.

**Finished Item Auction:** This is usually in May of each year. The members give finished handmade items, either made by themselves or by someone else. Some items donated in the past are quilted table toppers/runners, placemats, wall quilts, purses/tote bags, sweatshirt jackets, quilted vests. Knitted items like scarves; hand woven baskets are also donated, just to name a few. Then at the meeting, 1-2 members will be the auctioneers, and 2+ members are runners. There is usually a minimum bid, and it goes up from there. This has been a very successful event for the guild.

**Monthly Raffle:** The raffle is usually held on the first meeting of the month. This person is responsible for any monies collected from raffle sales. Raffle items are purchased with these funds. At the end of the

## ***What Makes HollyBerry Run, cont.***

year, a gift is purchased for each member in good standing using whatever monies are collected during the year. Any remaining funds and any remaining items purchased for raffle will be turned over to person taking over the position.

**Secret Sister:** Every year the coordinator sends a form for sign-ups. She collect the forms and matches the Secret Sisters, keeping lists of the matches. These lists help to vary the secret sisters so they don't get the same people they have had. It is a good idea to take pictures of the forms and keep these for the year, as someone forgot their person last year. The secret sisters are asked to give cards and small presents to their person. At the last meeting, everyone learns who their secret sister is. The Secret Sister coordinator delivers the gifts and cards to the sisters at the meetings.

**Sunshine:** The Sunshine person sends out cards to members that are need of some sunshine! It is usually sympathy cards, get well cards or "just thinking of you." She also sends holiday cards as needed.

**Historian:** The historian is responsible for the Guild Facebook group. This includes picture-taking at guild meetings and the posting of the pictures on the Guild Facebook page as well making them available to the website manager. Occasionally a printed book of photos is compiled to commemorate a speaker or other event. It is a good backup to have members available to step in and take pictures in the case of unexpected absence.

**Membership:** In mid August, the Membership person writes, or has the President write, a letter telling about the dues and the raffle quilt money that are due by the first meeting. Sent out with the letter is a renewal form and a self-addressed envelope. This is sent to all members and, if the membership is under 60 people, to those who have inquired about becoming a new member. The person who picks up the mail separates the checks from the renewal forms and gives the renewal forms to the membership person. These forms are compared to the previous list and used to generate an updated membership list which is distributed to the member-

ship. Membership cards are made for those who have paid, and name tags made for new members.

**Programs:** The members of this committee are responsible for speakers, demonstrations, trunk shows etc. for the meetings. (They are not responsible for the holiday or end-of-year parties, Ways and Means, or the Finished Item Auction.) The first meeting is usually a show and tell of items that were in the County Fair, membership renewals, upcoming programs, & a lot of social time. That leaves about 12 dates that need to be filled. They can be filled by an outside speaker, member trunk show or demonstration. "Outside the box" programs (non quilt-related programs such as dyeing, basketweaving, knitting, tea party, etc.) are appreciated and enjoyed.

**Ways and Means:** One of the chief fundraisers for the Guild, this activity is usually separate from Programs (but in the past two years has been done by Programs). Members donate fabrics, notions, yarn, patterns, and other craft items to be sold to other members. This can be done by bundling like items & raffling them, or selling them by the yard or piece.

**Hospitality:** The Hospitality Committee sets a budget for social events each year. Committee members ensure that there are sufficient supplies provided for meetings and set up a table to hold them. They make sign-up sheets to allow for four members to sign up to bring refreshments for each meeting. They plan a catered holiday party and a year-end luncheon; prior to these events, they inform the fairgrounds staff of the table set-up needed.

**Raffle Tickets and Permit:** This person goes to Falmouth Town Hall to get the application for a permit to conduct a raffle, fills it out and takes it to the Falmouth Police Station for the permit number and signature. She then takes it back to the Town Hall to register the number and get the permit and pay for it. She also orders the raffle tickets and, when they come in, puts the tickets in envelopes to distribute to members.

**Comfort Quilts:** The committee should have at least 2 or 3 members, since sorting and measuring fabrics is quite time-consuming. The chair or host of the

## ***What Makes HollyBerry Run, cont.***

committee ideally will have some storage space. One member takes appropriate size fabric and rolls it into fat quarters that are offered at each meeting for \$1.00. They put kits together using 3 single yards of coordinating fabric. If there is extra fabric, they add some for backing. The 3-yard pattern books are available in the guild library. Some smaller quilt patterns are also very useful when we distribute. Someone will also cut some large tumbler blocks if we have some good fabric in small pieces. Ideally all members will make a comfort quilt each year. We have many members that do far more than that number.

**Bus Trips:** The person organizing bus trips needs to contact shops to see if they are interested in participating in a shop hop. It is important to map out a route allowing at least 1 ½ hours at each shop. Plan on using shops that are a workable distance from each other. Also discuss any specials the shop owner will offer participants; most will offer a small snack at their shop as well. The organizer should test out the route to check timing and mileage and to meeting shop owners/managers. She should secure information on bus/van costs and reliability and choose between brownbagging lunch and stopping at a restaurant. All this information should be shared with members to determine their level of interest. (Note: If the cost is too high, members could decide to carpool for the same trip.)

**Photo printing:** Members supply the person in charge of photo printing with a photo they want copied and the size they want. She prints them on 8.5"x11" white cotton fabric with a paper backing. These can be sewn to make pillows, memory quilts, labels or other items. The cost is \$4 per photo. They can also be printed onto cotton fabric with an iron-on backing.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter editor, in consultation with the President, establishes deadlines for publishing three issues of the newsletter, *Bits & Pieces*, per year. She collects information from committee chairs about past guild activities and upcoming events and selects photos to use with them. She edits articles written by members and writes others.

The newsletter is then laid out using desktop publishing and distributed to members by the President through email.

**Barnstable County Fair:** The county fair runs for seven days in July. Before the fair, the chair of this committee prepares a list of volunteers to sit with the quilts during the fair. Four to six days before the fair, committee members spend a few hours cleaning up the quilt corner in the exhibit hall. Intake of quilts is from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Wednesday before the fair begins; judging and hanging take place the next day, and quilts are returned to their owners on the Monday after the fair.

**Nominating Committee:** The members of the nominating committee cannot be officers of the Guild (President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer). Members check with currently serving committees to see if members want to stay in their positions or if openings need to be filled. They then work to find candidates to fill any openings. Voting for a slate of candidates is usually at the May meeting.

**Librarian:** The Librarian maintains our collection of quilting books and updates our website with new additions to the collection. She takes requests from members for new books and occasionally "retires" old ones. She puts books out at meetings for members to sign out and returns them to the closet in the meeting room at the end of meetings.

### **Still looking to make your New Year's Resolution?**

**Here's a suggestion: Get more involved by joining one or more Holly Berry committees.**

- **Make new friends**
- **Get to know old friends better.**
- **Help our Guild stay lively and creative.**



**Holly Berry Quilt Guild Officers, 2023-2024****President** Marge Overholtz**Vice President** Lorene Shapiro**Secretary** Michele Allen**Treasurer** Penny Bartlett**Chairpersons****Comfort Quilts** Micki Tor and Jean Weinrich**Historian** Pam Mulveyhill**Hospitality** Gail Goraj, Pat Wahlberg, Ann  
Giuggio, Mary Ann Bowman**Librarian** Ann Giuggio**Ruler Lending Library** Susan Jenkins**Membership** Deborah Winograd**Newsletter** Eileen Mattingly**Monthly Raffle** Micki Tor**Mystery Quilt** Penny Bartlett**Programs** Deborah Winograd and Conny Doty**Raffle Quilt 2023-24** Deborah Winograd and  
Gail Goraj**Raffle Quilt 2024-25 - OPEN****Raffle Quilt Permit and Printing of tickets**  
Marilyn DeCoste**Person Overseeing Raffle Quilt Tickets** Mari-  
lyn DeCoste**Secret Sister** Donna Mattison Earls**Sunshine** Karen Lovely**Organizing Bus Trips - OPEN****Accuquilt GO Cutter (Electronic, Manual, and  
Dies)** Penny Bartlett**Barnstable County Fair** Cindy Harris, Karen  
Schlueter, Michele Allen, Dottie Sullivan**Fabric Photo Printing** Deborah Winograd**Nominating Committee - OPEN****Quilt Events Coming Soon****Woods Hole Library  
Fabric and Fiber Sale****February 11, 2024****10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

581 Woods Hole Rd., Woods Hole MA

**Thimble Pleasures Quilt Show****March 16 - 17, 2024**Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High  
School

65 Pleasant Street

Upton MA 01568

**<https://thimblepleasures.org>**Admission: \$10.00 purchased at door; children  
under 18 admitted free**Burlington Quilters Guild  
Quilt Show****April 6 - 7, 2024**

112 Middlesex Avenue

Wilmington, MA 01887

**<https://www.burlingtonquiltersguild.org>**

Admission: \$10; Children under 12 are free

**Quilts after Covid Quilt Show****April 6 - 7, 2024**

Tewksbury Senior Center

175 Chandler Street

Tewksbury, MA 01876

**[http://www.tewksburypiecemakers.com/  
index.html](http://www.tewksburypiecemakers.com/index.html)**

Admission: \$8; Children under 12 are free

**Looking for our quilt library?**Go to the website at **<https://www.libib.com/u/hollyberry2//124993>**. You can also link to this through our Holly Berry website. At this site you will see all the books, rulers, and AccuQuilt Go cutter dies that our guild library has to offer.

Holly Berry Website

**<http://www.hollyberryquilters.com/>**

Holly Berry Facebook:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/132067107871>**

Holly Berry Email

**[hollyberryquilters@gmail.com](mailto:hollyberryquilters@gmail.com)**