

NORTHAMPTON MODERN QUILT GUILD

Minutes – October 6, 2019

Rocky Hill Cohousing Common House, 100 Black Birch Trail in Florence, MA

Attendance: 9 members and 5 guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fabric Donations Wanted

[Days for Girls](#) – Diane Wespiser is working with a Days for Girls team in Lee, assembling menstrual kits for distribution in third world countries around the globe. In some parts of the world today a menstruating woman or girl is still considered taboo, unclean, and so is segregated from the community. In many other places girls and women don't have the money to buy menstrual pads, and so are forced to stay home from school or work for 5 days every month. Diane's group would love to have fabric donations – but see attached the fabric guidelines.

[Greenfield Shopping Bags Project](#) – Sherry Morgan reported that Greenfield's ban on plastic bags will take effect in January 2020, and reusable bags are needed for those families that would find it burdensome to obtain them. Mary at The Textile Company can provide you with a pattern, and would love to have donations of fabric in half yard cuts or larger for volunteers making the bags.

BUSINESS MEETING

Fall Workshop with [Melissa Averinos](#): Still a few spaces left. Payment due: \$25/members, \$35/non-members

Guild Officers for 2020: Please let us know if you are interested in serving our guild next year as President, Vice President or Treasurer.

Planning for Fall 2020 Workshop: We now have 34 members, far fewer than the 100+ members of more traditional guilds. As we want our guild to remain a joy rather than a burden, we need to take care not to spread our volunteer resources too thin as we seek to fill officer positions and project planning committees. Mancuso has invited us to participate in World Quilt New England again next year, so at our December meeting we will discuss whether we want to both participate in WQNE *and* sponsor a fall workshop next year, or perhaps alternate years.

Tabled until our December meeting:

- ***Pro-rated membership?***
- ***Waive \$5 visitor fee for first-time visitors?***

Treasurer's Report: \$4,893 in the bank. We took in \$450 our quilt raffle at World Quilt New England, but incurred \$288 in expenses for a net of only \$162. Printing our promotional materials was the greatest expense, but we have lots left over for future use. The white gloves we purchased are also re-usable.

PROGRAM: “Big Stitch” Quilting ~ Diane Wespiser & Barbara Haugen
“Big Stitch” quilting uses the simple running stitch.

Barbara began with a slide presentation on Kantha quilts of Bengal and their inventive use of the running stitch.

Diane brought examples of the needles, threads, hoops, etc. used in “Big Stitch” quilting. She also shared videos of three different techniques for working with the required larger needles and thicker thread, as well as several of her own “Big Stitch” quilts. See her attached sheet for further information and a list of modern quilters who use this technique.

[Attachments next 2 pages]



Big Stitch Quilting

“**Big stitch quilting**, sometimes referred to as Utility Quilting, is a method of hand quilting that uses longer stitch lengths (1/4”) and thicker threads – most commonly #8 perle cotton. The stitching shows more prominently on the quilt than machine stitching and adds an extra layer of design to the finished quilt. Big stitching has many other benefits as well: it creates a softness to the quilt that’s is not seen with machine quilting, it provides strong graphic vibes, it’s fast and it’s therapeutic (aaahhhh!).” <https://www.quiltingcompany.com/the-big-stitch-hand-quilting-with-big-stitches/>

Tools

Thread - #5 or #8 perle cotton, embroidery floss, size 12 thread
(the smaller the number the thicker the thread)

Needle – embroidery or crewel needle, quilting needle #5

Thimble

Small scissors

Needle threader tool

Optional *Hoop or Q frame*

Painters blue or masking tape

Resources

<https://www.sarahfielke.com/pages/tutorials>

<https://www.shinyhappyworld.com/2016/02/big-stitch-quilting-an-easy-and-fun-hand-quilting-technique.html>

<https://redthreadstudio.com/blogs/guest-blog/big-stitch-quilting-tutorial>

<https://www.rebeccamaedesigns.com/homesweethome/finishing-hand-quilting/>

<http://www.shannonfraserdesigns.ca/2017/10/big-stitch-hand-quilting-thread-list-of.html?m=1>

Books

Big Stitch Basics by Julianna Smith Pope and Janice Pope

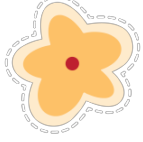
Utility Quilting: Simple Solutions for Quick Hand Quilting by Carolyn Foster

Artists

Heidi Parkes
Tula Pink

Jenn Kingwell
Sarah Fielke

Sherry Lynn Wood
Gavin Fry



www.DaysforGirls.org

Fabric Choice Matters

Global feedback informed the fabric guidelines we use for DfG Kits in order for them to work well culturally, physically and durably. It matters... for the girls.

Fabrics for DfG Kits should be NEW:

For Shields: Quality, durable 100% cotton (sometimes called Quilter's cotton)

For Liners: Quality 100% cotton flannel

For Bags: Quality, durable 100% cotton or cotton/poly (cotton/poly okay for bags only).

All fabric should be:

- Appealing Medium / Dark colors, preferably with patterns that help hide stains.
- Botanical, geometric, batik, etc. patterns are best.
- No light colored fabrics that will easily show stains
- No prints with a face/eyes (animals, fish, people, etc.)
- No insects or snakes (butterflies okay)
- No Camouflage / Guns / Hunting
- No solid saffron fabric for Asia (monk robe yellow) Patterns okay
- Avoid Cartoon / TV / Pop Culture / National flags / Words / Glam

Bed sheets should not be used because the threads are usually smaller and therefore not as durable or strong as the quality fabric you buy at a fabric store.