

Northampton Modern Quilt Guild Minutes & Meeting Notes

October 3, 2021

Via Zoom due to Covid-19

Attendance: 21 NMQG members and 1 guest

We welcomed as our guest Susan Sanders, a member of the Kansas City MQG, who took the Maria Shell workshop with us and is considering becoming a member of our guild as well!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories](#)

Exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, October 10, 2021 – January 17, 2022.

- Timed entry tickets are \$32/person and include general admission.
- Hear artists and the curator recount stories behind works of art in “Fabric of a Nation” on the MFA Mobile’s free audio tour. Download the app onto your smartphone from [Apple's App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#), or [access it on the web](#).
- Jeff Rutherford interviewed Jennifer Swope, the curator of this exhibit on [Episode 15](#) of his “Quilting Stories” podcast.

Sherry Morgan’s Quilt

Many of us admired the quilt behind Sherry on her design wall. The pattern is available on the Modern Quilt Guild website: [Side Stripe](#).

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval minutes of September meeting

Moved by Sherry Morgan, seconded by Lee Sproull and unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Barbara Farrell

People’s United Bank Balance: \$5,390.54

Expenses this month:

- Speaker Flying Parrot \$400
- Speaker’s book for winner of raffle of members present \$27.03

Expenses not showing in the balance:

- \$900 for Maria Shell workshop checks sent not cashed.
- This amount was received from the attendees and fully paid for the workshop.

MQG Charity Challenge Quilt Report – Suzi Day

Diane Wespiser, Denise LeDuc and Suzi Day have nearly finished sewing the blocks together and it is looking gorgeous!

Visitor’s Fee

Background:

- Section 2.2 of our Bylaws states: “Guests who attend single meetings will be asked to pay \$5.”
- The board suspended that requirement when, due to Covid, we began meeting via Zoom because we had no way set up to collect that \$5 fee and had no idea how long we would need to continue meeting via Zoom.
- Instead, visitors have been offered two Zoom meetings “as our guests” – meaning for free – before we require full membership in order to receive the Zoom meeting link.

We discussed the board’s suggestion that through Venmo we resume requiring that visitors pay the \$5 fee per meeting, but raise the amount to \$10 when our program is provided by a paid outside presenter.

This change will require a bylaw amendment which we can vote on in November or at our December annual meeting. Votes on bylaw amendments require at least 2 weeks’ notice.

The general consensus of our discussion was as follows:

- Continue offering at least one “free” meeting to visitors – even if we have a paid outside presenter at that meeting
- For subsequent visits require a \$5 fee paid prior to receiving the meeting link
- But charge \$10 if we have a paid outside presenter

The board will draft a bylaw amendment based on this consensus.

Program Committee Report

Make It Modern” Design Challenge

The quilts must be at least 12” x 12” and completed by November 30, 2021. The winner will be awarded a gift certificate of \$50 to the local quilt shop of their choice! An information sheet was emailed immediately following our September 12th meeting, and is also available on our website in the Members’ Area under “Challenges & Swaps.”

Potholder Swap Reveal Scheduled for November 7th meeting

Besides displaying the potholders received, those who participated will be asked to share how what they learned about the guild member they interviewed influenced the design of the potholder they made for her. The phone interviews took place last spring, and memories may be a bit hazy, so feel free to have a follow-up conversation if necessary.

Fall Programs

- **November 7th:** Timna Tarr has arranged for [Scott Fortunoff](#), president and owner of the [Jafex group of fabric companies](#), to be our guest presenter.
 - Check out Scott’s [blog post](#) on the history of the Jafex companies, which include (among others) Free Spirit (Kaffe Fassett et. al.).
- **December 5th:** Our official “annual meeting” with election of officers, etc., plus time for show and tell. Betty MacLeod & Lauren Price are working on games & special surprises! The winner of the “Make It Modern” design challenge will be announced and all members in attendance will be eligible for a drawing for a \$50 paid membership for 2022.

Maria Shell “Making Prints from Solids” Workshop Report

Participants were first asked to create a color palette of at least 12 fabrics (solids preferred) using the four neutrals white, black, grey and brown, as well as the primary and secondary colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, & purple, plus pink and turquoise. The fabrics were to be of varying values and saturations, but each one should be able to “hold its own” with the others. In the first part of the workshop, September 18th, Maria led us through the construction of a variety of units including stripes, dots, bead strings, zippers, and plaids.

She also invited us to post our work on the Facebook page she created just for her students.

We worked on our units during the following week and re-convened for the second part of the workshop on September 25th, during which Maria presented a slideshow of student quilts illustrating the wide variety of layouts used to put all their pieces together into a coherent and pleasing whole.

At Sherry Morgan’s suggestion we met via Zoom (without Maria) between the two workshop days, and then again after the workshop was finished to share and discuss our work with each other. This was such a positive experience that we hope to continue this practice with future workshops.

Many of us have posted our work on our guild Facebook page, and several of us also submitted photos of our work which were shared – with commentary – at this meeting.

PROGRAM: “Straight Line Quilting” – Sally Wright & Lynne McLandsborough

Perfection is the enemy of creativity, productivity, and joy.

Celebrate your mistakes as learning opportunities and understand that imperfections are the marks left by the touch of your hand and ultimately reside in the soul of a handmade quilt.

Sally & Lynne opened their engaging and informative program with this Jacquie Gering quotation followed by part of Jacquie's MQG website video "[Pucker Free, No Whisker Walking Foot Quilting](#)." They then presented some straight line quilting basics and examples with plenty of time in between for us to ask questions and to share our own experiences with this style of quilting.

Jacquie's books:

- [Walk: Master Machine Quilting with Your Walking Foot](#)
- [Walk 2.0: More Machine Quilting with Your Walking Foot](#)

When we were discussing the problem of wrestling with quilt bulk while quilting on a domestic machine Nancy Foote mentioned the [Shelandy Pet Grooming Arm](#) for partially suspending the quilt. She notes that one should be enough for small to medium quilts.