



# RIVERWALK QUILTERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Naperville, Illinois  
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*Please be sure you read all the news because every page has information you can use!*

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## What to Bring to Meeting:

Name Tag  
Spring Challenge Projects  
Show & Tell  
Membership Renewal for 2024-25

Keep in mind that summer is the perfect time to start projects for the auction. If you haven't paid your 2024-25 dues, now is the time. We don't want to miss you or for you to miss an exciting year.

Bev

## President's Message

We had a great party in June to celebrate 30 guild years. Deb Obriecht, with help from Peggie Getz, planned the event and a good time was had by all. Congrats to those who won prizes for the three games and to those who won the three raffle baskets. Along with the party, Julie Milldrum put on another super rummage sale (more in her report), with all leftovers gone to good homes.

Along with the fun in June, we elected new officers and committee chairs, all listed at the end of this newsletter. A special welcome to the new folks: Carol Gruchala (treasurer), Loraine Nemo (co-librarian), Linda Kurcz (newsletter), Darlene Schille (auction), and Ann Weaver (video). Mary Cieslak is remaining on the board but switching from newsletter to membership. Welcome to the new ones and to those staying on for another year. A special thanks to those who have served well: Ganga Gubbi (treasurer), Judy Morgan (co-librarian), and Margaret Zitt (membership), all moving out of state; and Kathy Herbach who has done so much with video communications. Although not on the board, Heidi Enright has worked tirelessly with nominations.

Sadly, we still have no contracts/programs person. This is a chance to invite speakers you want to hear. If you've been thinking about volunteering for the position, please contact Heidi or me and we'll be happy to answer any questions.

Now we're into the first year of our fourth decade. Nancy Sturgeon planned another interesting year of programs (check out her article). Be sure to attend in person if you can or on line if you can't. As before, both January and February will be online only due to the possibility of bad weather. We'll have special evenings for schoolhouse, small quilt auction (check out Darlene's article), philanthropy sew-in, and June party/rummage sale. In December, we're trying something new, a game night, sewing bee, and the opportunity to buy premium fabrics, pieced tops, fat quarters, and more. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

## July 9<sup>th</sup> Speaker- Michael James



2024 marks Michael James's "official" golden anniversary as a career player in the domain of the quilt. When he started out, the quilt world as we know it today was a much smaller place, and neither he nor that quilt world had any inkling that it would get the traction that it generated from the moment of the US Bicentennial. *The rest is history* as they say. Michael will talk about some of his work, past, present and future, and reflect on the work of hands and its meaning in the 21st century.

A Massachusetts native, Michael James lives and maintains a studio in Lincoln, NE. From 2005 to 2020 he chaired the Department of Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, whose faculty he first joined in 2000 after thirty years as an independent maker. At UNL he held the Ardis James Professorship and taught graduate and undergraduate courses in foundation design, textile design and quilt studies. His textile art is included in the collections of the Museum of Arts & Design in NYC, the Baltimore Art Museum, the Racine Art Museum, the Newark Museum, the Fuller Craft Museum, the Mint Museum, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Shelburne Museum, and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum (DC), among others. In 2015 the Renwick Alliance honored him as a Master of the Medium in textiles, for lifetime achievement, and he is the recipient of the Luminaries Award from the Fuller Craft Museum (2011), the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award of the University of Nebraska system (2009), the Nebraska Arts Council's Governor's

Arts Award (2008), the Lincoln Arts Council's Mayor's Arts Award for Artistic Achievement (2003), and an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth (1992), his undergraduate alma mater. His work is represented by Modern Arts Midtown in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Michael James** works in the medium of quilted fabric constructions and was the vanguard leader of the **art quilt** movement that began in the 1970's. He has become one of most famous and respected artists in the medium of quilted fabric construction, and his textiles have been recognized and exhibited internationally in many venues. **Click on the links below to read more about Michael James, his life, and his quilts.** We are very lucky to have him speak live to us via Zoom at our next Guild meeting.

<https://michaeljamesstudioquilts.com/>

<https://quiltershalloffame.net/michael-james-rhythm-and-color/?print=print>

## Rummage Sale Wrap up

Many hands make short work. That was so true for the rummage sale.

I want to thank all the people that made it possible. From the people that donated, to the people that worked to hard to get it set up, during the sale and to clean it up.

We were able to raise \$1,416.00.

The remaining donations were sent worldwide. One set of donations went to Sisseton, South Dakota. Two Native Americans will use some of the material to make star quilts. Star quilts are given to people in the Native American population for special occasions. The remaining material will be used by the 4-H program. They just got a grant to start a sewing program for their young participants. What a wonderful collection of fabric to start the program. The large yardage fabric will be sent to South Sudan to continue the sewing school there. That fabric will be sent in late October or November. I am still collecting fabric and supplies for the South Sudan mission. Contact me if you have anything to donate

What a successful Rummage sale we had again this year. Thank you for all your help.

Julie Milldrum [Educateread1@gmail.com](mailto:Educateread1@gmail.com)

## Spring Challenge – “RIVERWALK 30”

**The Spring Challenge projects are due at the JULY guild meeting.**

To commemorate our guild's 30th anniversary which we celebrated at our June meeting last month, we are wrapping up our spring challenge “Riverwalk 30”. All challenge entries must be brought to the July meeting.

### Challenge Drop Off Instructions:

1. Bring your challenge item to the table near the display quilt rack (be sure to include any written explanation regarding your interpretation of the word Riverwalk and the number 30 that should be displayed next to the item).
2. Your item will be assigned an entry number and displayed on either the quilt rack or a table, depending on the type and/or size of the item.
3. You can pickup your item after voting has concluded and the meeting has ended.

**Here's a quick reminder of the challenge parameters if you're finishing yours up or plan to make something quickly to participate in the challenge:**

### Challenge Overview:

- Make a quilted item that represents the word “Riverwalk” and the number “30”.
- Your interpretation of the word and number do not need to be literal interpretations – get creative if you'd like!

### Challenge Instructions:

1. Make your quilted item using the guidelines above
2. If it is not obvious when looking at your item, write a brief explanation of how you interpreted the word “Riverwalk” and the number “30”
3. Bring your completed item and the written explanation to the July guild meeting for display
4. Members will vote for the top 3 entries at the July meeting
5. Challenge winners will be announced at the August meeting and will receive a prize

**Questions?** Contact Sherry Gendel, Special Events Chair, [RQGSpecialEvent@gmail.com](mailto:RQGSpecialEvent@gmail.com)

## School House Event Coming in August!

The fun guild tradition known as School House will be returning at our August meeting! Be sure to attend this event to learn some fun and exciting techniques from some of our talented guild members who will be serving as our schoolhouse “teachers”. Due to the nature and setup of this event, there will be no Zoom session offered; it will be an in-person meeting only.

## Mystery BOM for July

This month’s block for the 2024 Mystery Block of the Month is such a pretty block! I’ll be choosing my fabrics and making my block over the holiday weekend. My quilt is really starting to feel patriotic with all the red, white, and blue fabrics I’ve been using and all the outer stars surrounding each monthly block! What color palette are you using for your quilt?

If you’re participating, feel free to share your blocks at Show and Tell or plan to share your completed quilt next winter. And remember...if you don’t want to commit to the full quilt and making all 12 blocks you get to choose how many blocks you make and which ones you make. You could choose a favorite block (or blocks) and make multiples of only that block (or blocks) for your project. Also your project could be a tote bag, a square pillow or rectangular bench pillow, a table runner, wall hanging, smaller quilt, etc. Because the patterns provide two block sizes, you could even exchange 4 smaller blocks in place of one of the larger blocks in your project for a custom design. The options really are endless! It will be fun to see all the variations that are made!

### Here are this month’s links:

- [July 2024 Block Pattern](#)
- [July 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)

(and here are all the previous links in case you missed them or want to start late and catch up)

1. [Fabric Requirements for AQL BOM 2024](#)
2. [January 2024 Block Pattern](#) and [January 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)
3. [February 2024 Block Pattern](#) and [February 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)
4. [March 2024 Block Pattern](#) and [March 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)

5. [April 2024 Block Pattern](#) and [April 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)
6. [May 2024 Block Pattern](#) and [May 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)
7. [June 2024 Block Pattern](#) and [June 2024 Block Video Tutorial](#)

*As a quick reminder, one of our past speakers, Sherri McConnell of A Quilting Life, has agreed to let us run her mystery BOM as a guild special event this year. Each participant needs to download the pattern from Sherri’s website, so the links provided will take you to the blog post where you can find the pattern.*

Please contact Sherry Gendel at [RQGSpecialEvent@gmail.com](mailto:RQGSpecialEvent@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Get a book, take a look!

Our guild has a fabulous library with up-to-date books on all aspects of quilting.

Did you know you can access a complete list of books via the guild website? Just click on “home”, then “library” in the dropdown menu.

The guild library will be open at our July meeting, so stop by and take a look, and remember to return any books you’ve checked out.

Please note that all books belonging to our library will now have bright stickers on the binding, an easy way to identify guild books from your own personal collection. Sandy & Loraine

## Hello From Social Media

Let’s keep in touch this summer and fall by sharing all of our quilt encounters on our travels near and far.

Send me your photos of personal projects or quilts you find in the wild!

Margaret Donahue  
[Rqgsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:Rqgsocialmedia@gmail.com)  
@naperriverwalkquilts  
@magm3501

## Small Quilt Auction

Put Thursday, October 10, 2024 on your calendar for our annual Small Quilt Auction. Note the day of the week has changed to Thursday 10/10. We were happy to hire our favorite Auctioneer Matt Hart. Matt makes it lots of fun.

The location is:

Grace United Methodist Church (lower level)  
300 Gardner Rd., Naperville

It's not too early to get started making several items for the auction and or boutique.

Thanks,  
Darlene Schille

## Introducing a Sewing Bee for Philanthropy!

I would like to start a bee for sewing philanthropy projects. Would you like to join in?

Our first meeting is Friday, July 19 from 9:30 am to approximately 1:00 pm. It will be at Community United Methodist Church, Room 308, 20 N Center St in Naperville. At that first meeting we will sew and will also discuss days and times for future gatherings.

You can sew on project kits that I provide or you can bring your own philanthropy project to work on. Please bring your machine and scissors etc. Or bring your own handwork if you prefer.

The theme for kits that I will provide this time is Christmas in July. There will be Christmas pillowcase kits and Christmas stockings cut out and ready to sew.

Please let me know if you are interested in sewing with us and being part of this bee for philanthropy. If you can't make this meeting but are interested, please also contact me. I'm looking forward to sewing together!

Amy Shuter  
[pianoman810@yahoo.com](mailto:pianoman810@yahoo.com)  
630-661-2888

## LOOKING FOR A QUILT PHOTOGRAPHER

I am planning a program for February 2025 on antique quilts owned by several of our members. Because we will be meeting on Zoom, I would like to photograph the quilts including close-ups and make a power point presentation for you to view. We will be able to see the quilts spread out whole and also see close-up photos of the quilting and piecing details and maybe applique details too.

Do any of you have any experience photographing quilts/antique quilts or have a space with good light where we could photograph them? I have looked this up on line, and most recommendations are for photographing outside in bright shade. These quilts do not have hanging sleeves. I have a quilt stand and rings with clips on them. We could use these for hanging each quilt.

Any ideas from you would be appreciated. I need your help to hang and photograph the quilts. There are quite a few.

In documenting the quilts, we will help the owners preserve their history.

Please contact me with your ideas and also if you own any antique quilts for the slide show. Thank you for your help.

Nancy Sturgeon

## A Singer That Hums

If you were at our June guild party, you may have noticed the gem of a sewing machine that was left at



the end of the evening. This sweet little machine is fully functional, and does a great straight stitch. You could say this Singer hums!

If anyone in the guild is interested in buying it, please make an offer. OR if

you are someone who sells items on NextDoor or Facebook Marketplace, and are willing to put the machine up for sale with proceeds going to our guild, please notify **Bev Parker** or **Loraine Nemo** for details and to make arrangements.

## RQG - In The Beginning

Since we just celebrated our 30th year, here are a few facts about the very beginning of the guild. RQG was founded in 1994 by a group of dedicated organizers many of whom were professionals at Bell Labs. Our first meeting location was Wesley United Methodist on Franklin St. We met in the semi-lower level. Muscle power was needed to set up chairs which were in storage on heavy rolling carts. Our first president was Chris Moline who was at our June party this year. Chris still lives in Naperville. She is a certified quilt appraiser and continues to do appraisals and teach classes at Quilters Quest and guilds. Chris is a Featherweight expert. The guild logo which is the pattern for our name badges, depicts the Naperville Riverwalk and was designed by charter member Dorothy Larsen. For several years our monthly newsletter was printed, collated then made available at monthly meetings...no computers, no email! Contracting for speakers was done mostly via USPS mail and phone calls...no computers, no email! Speakers from out of town were often offered lodging in a members' homes. Our first major event called a Gathering was organized by member Kitty Benneke. It was held at what now is the Marriott in Lisle. The event included a sit-down luncheon and quilt displays. Our guest special guest was noted quilt historian Merikay Waldvogel who spoke about Sears quilt contest at the 1933 World's Fair.

## RQG PROGRAMS 2024-2025

**July 9, 2024—Zoom—Michael James—Lincoln, NE—*Past Forward***

**August 13, 2024—Schoolhouse**

**September 10, 2024—Zoom—Cindy Grisdela—Reston, VA—*Anatomy of an Improv Quilt***

**October 10, 2024—Small Quilt Auction** at Grace United Methodist Church, Naperville

**November 12, 2024—Zoom—Jaimie Davis—W. Linn, OR—*The History & Mystery of Baltimore Album Quilts***

**December 10, 2024—Holiday Meeting—sew-in, games, sale of premium fabric (kits, fat quarters, etc.)**

**January 14, 2025—Zoom—Ellen Lindner—Melbourne, FL—*Playing With Fabric***

**February 11, 2025—Zoom—Antique Quilts**

**March 11, 2025—Philanthropy Sew-In**

**April 8, 2025—Zoom—Amy Struckmeyer—Oak Park, IL—*Reframe Your Color Story***

**May 13, 2025—Zoom—Audrey Esarey—Louisville, KY—*Foundation Paper Piecing***

## Meetings begin at 7:00pm at

Knox Presbyterian Church  
1105 Catalpa Lane  
Naperville, IL 60540

And on Zoom. Link is provided to members.

## 2024 – 2025 RQG BOARD and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

POSITION	2024 – 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD	CONTACT INFORMATION
President	Bev Parker	RQGPresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Mara Gallagher	RQGVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Mary Saba	RQGSecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Carol Gruchala	RQGTreasurer@gmail.com

POSITION	2024 - 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS	CONTACT INFORMATION
Contracts		RQGContracts@gmail.com
Library	Sandy Doubek Loraine Nemo	RQGLibrarian@gmail.com
Membership and Directory	Mary Cieslak	RQGMembership@gmail.com
Newsletter	Linda Kurcz	RQGNewsletter@gmail.com
Philanthropy	Lisa Klingbeil and Bee	RQGPhilanthropy@gmail.com
Programs	Nancy Sturgeon	RQGPrograms@gmail.com
Small Quilt Auction	Darlene Schille	RQGSmallQuiltAuction@gmail.com
Social Media	Margaret Donahue	RQGSocialMedia@gmail.com
Special Events	Sherry Gendel	RQGSpecialEvent@gmail.com
Video Communications	Ann Weaver	RQGVideoCom@gmail.com
Website	Rosemary Sanza	RQGWebsite@gmail.com

## Newsletter Ads

The Riverwalk Quilters Guild newsletter is published monthly. To submit articles for inclusion, contact our RQG Newsletter Chair by the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Guild members may place free ads for personal use only.

Please make sure the ad is directly related to our shared hobby.

If the ad is for a business, Rates are as follows:

Full Page: \$50.00

Half Page: \$25.00

Quarter Page: \$12.50

Eighth Page: \$ 5.00

Full page ad available for a single month only.

Make checks out to Riverwalk Quilters Guild and mail to the following address: Riverwalk Quilters Guild, PO Box 5092, Naperville, IL 60567