

Overview

In-person guild meetings are held at the Rolling Meadows Community Center (3705 Pheasant Drive, Rolling Meadows, IL). Doors open at 6:30 PM, with the meeting beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. Workshop locations will be announced as details are confirmed, unless otherwise noted.

Quick Glance

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT nsqq.club FOR UPDATES.

Thursday January 15	Guild Meeting On Zoom (room opens at 6:45p)	Lecture – Nina Clotfelter <i>THREADS – What’s the BIG deal</i>
Saturday January 17		Workshop - Nina Clotfelter <i>Thread Painting</i> On Zoom 9:30a-4:00p
Thursday February 19	Guild Meeting On Zoom (room opens at 6:45p)	Lecture – Sandy Fitzpatrick <i>Free Motion Fun and Facts</i>
Friday February 20		Workshop - Sandy Fitzpatrick <i>You Choose the Project</i> On Zoom 9:30a-12:30p
Saturday February 21		Workshop - Sandy Fitzpatrick <i>No Fear Free Motion Quilting</i> On Zoom 9:30a-12:30p
Thursday March 19	Guild Meeting	Lecture – Gayle Donahue <i>Fear No Thread</i>

Unless otherwise noted, workshops are 9:30AM to 4:30PM, including an hour for lunch. The most current information and supply lists for workshops are available at nsqq.club/programs. Register for workshops online, or by contacting our programs chair, programs@nsqq.club.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Hello Guild Members!
Happy New Year
to you!*

I hope you had a chance to rest and recharge over the holidays. The Guild has lots of activities planned for 2026. Exciting speakers, workshops, and the winter picnic. You'll see more information throughout this quarter's newsletter.

This is a good time to start thinking about the quilts you will submit for the 2027 quilt show. We would like to see all members submit at least one quilt for the upcoming show. Whether you are new quilter or an experienced quilter, we are all on a journey together. Let's share our quilts!

Need some inspiration?

Take a workshop (see our offerings at nsqg.club), join a Bee (beekeeper@nsqg.club), plan to attend our winter picnic or an upcoming retreat.

Looking to clean up your quilting space first? I recommend Karen Brown, Just Get It Done Quilts annual challenge. It's never too late to start.

However you choose to start your new sewing year, I wish you happy stitches!

~ Pam



PROGRAMS COMING THIS QUARTER

January 15, 2026

Nina Clotfelter – Lecture

THREADS – What's the BIG deal



*On Zoom
(room opens at 6:45p)

This is a FUN lecture on all the things you didn't know you needed to know about thread!

As an educator for WonderFil Specialty Threads, Nina has learned a lot, and she wants to share! Thread is like candy! Sometimes you just can't get enough...LOL! This lecture is FULL of information you'll be thrilled you know now!

January 17, 2026

Nina Clotfelter – Workshop

Thread Painting



*On Zoom 9:30a-4:00p
\$45/\$65 workshop
\$35.00 kit

Thread Painting is many things...creating a picture, adding details, dimension, and/or depth to an applique, making fur on an animal, or just adding little details to make your creation come alive. You will learn loads of techniques in this class, and you'll learn all about stabilizers. You'll create different items using stabilizers. This is a fabulous technique to add to your skills! You'll be surprised how fun and forgiving Thread Painting is!!! Let yourself be warned...this is addictingly fun!!!!

PROGRAMS - Continued

February 19, 2026

Sandy Fitzpatrick – Lecture

Free Motion Fun and Facts



*On Zoom
(room opens at 6:45p)

Sandy Fitzpatrick of Hissyfitz Designs is an applique quilt pattern designer whose goal is to get as many of the quirky designs, that are spinning around in her head, down on paper for you to enjoy!

Her fusible applique patterns are full of whimsy and will certainly bring a smile to your face. Sandy strives to make her full-sized patterns easy to follow and fun to make.

February 20, 2026

Sandy Fitzpatrick – Workshop

You Choose the Project



*On Zoom 9:30a-12:30p
\$30/\$50 workshop
\$8-\$15 pattern

No need to fear the dreaded "A" word any longer. Using fusible and non-fusible techniques, Sandy will take away the

mystery and dread as you learn how easy the process really is. You will improve your machine applique techniques with more than just the basics. Learn how to do so much more with satin-stitching, blanket stitching, and the decorative stitches on your machine.

February 21, 2026

Sandy Fitzpatrick – Workshop

No Fear Free Motion Quilting



*On Zoom 9:30a-12:30p
\$30/\$50 workshop

If you are tired of stitching in the ditch and straight-line quilting, it is time to see what free-motion quilting all is about. Several design elements will be covered to give students the courage and inspiration needed to tackle their unfinished quilts. The three-hour class covers all the basics including lots of quilt designs.

March 19, 2026

Gayle Donahue, Bernina of Naperville

Lecture - Fear No Thread



- How to use heavy weight thread in your machine
- The right needle to use with heavy weight thread
- Applique with your machine and have results look like hand applique

And so much more!!!!

Shopping for heavy weight thread and needles – Gayle will have a table of goods.



RETREATS & EVENTS

February 6-8th, 2026 Retreat

at the Schaumburg Hilton Garden Inn,
located at 1191 Woodfield Road

Is now SOLD Out!

If you would like to be put on a wait list,
please email retreats@nsqg.club.

Winter Picnic!

Saturday March 21st, 2026

- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine
1190 N Hicks Rd, Palatine, IL 60067
- 9:00am-4:00pm
- Potluck Lunch (please label dish with your
name, the dish's name and main ingredients)
- Members Free

Join us for a day of sewing, quilting, making
projects, a pot-luck lunch and a whole lotta fun!

We are currently preparing our class offerings. In
February you'll have the ability to sign-up for the
classes on our [website](#).

Look for:

- All Day Sew-In (reserve your space to sew
all day, you choose your own project)
- Make a Quilt Block Board with Becky
Reeve and Cathy Steiner

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Come join the fun—everyone is welcome! We'll be
hosting monthly activities at our in-person
meetings. You can find details at the links below,
or on the NSQG website under **Member
Activities**. I'll also be helping to connect members
who share an interest in working on similar quilt
projects or exploring new techniques.

If you'd like to start or join a group, just let me
know! Karen Snell at activities@nsqg.club

- March 2026 Member Activity: [Quilter's Soup
Challenge](#)

Groups currently forming:

- **English Paper Piecing Club** – Whether
you're already working on an EPP project or
want to learn how to get started, contact
Karen Snell at activities@nsqg.club.



Since July 1st, 2025, we donated over 57 quilts to
Rainbow Hospice, 2 quilts to Heartland Hospice,
and 31 quilts to Project Linus (kids quilts). These
numbers are counting only the ones that I know
about. I know that many of you drop off quilts to
these and other charities yourself. Keep up the
great work! --**Deb Szott, Charity Coordinator**

GUILD HISTORIAN

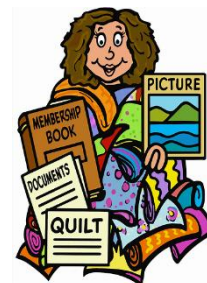
As always, I thank our Guild members who have
donate or loaned me items to catalog for our guild
records. This Spring, as we are all cleaning and
organizing our spaces, if you come across any
Guild items, big or small, and would like to donate
them to the guild Archives, I would gladly come to
you to pick up those. We are always looking for
Board minutes, Directories, Quilt Show items
(brochures, minutes, book markers, tickets),
printed newsletters or newspaper clippings about
Guild events. Even photos and slides!

We are especially looking for items from the 2023
Quilt Show.

I can take scanned items as well. My email
address is Guildhistorian@nsqg.club.

Happy organizing and let me know if I can help.

--**Annette Wegener,**
Guild Historian



FROM & ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

We've gathered some fun and informative "get to know you" questions to the board, committees and service positions to help members learn more about the people who guide and support the guild. We hope you will feel more connected to us and maybe even inspired to consider serving on the board or a committee in the future.

Executive Board Members



President – Pam Jackson

- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I prefer machine quilting.
- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be? Or have you quilted with a famous quilter?** I would love to take Wanda Hanson's colorwash class. I don't think she's teaching it any longer. Her quilts are amazing.
- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** My first finished quilt was a lap size quilt for my neighbor's daughter that I finished in early 2016. I don't know if she still has it but I know she used it because her Mom sent me pictures of it being with her every time she went on vacation. She asked me to make her a twin quilt when she was in high school, 2021.
- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** Learn to play guitar
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** I love a rainbow palette
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I joined in 2017 after my oldest son graduated from high school and my youngest started high school. It was time for me to do something for myself. I wanted to make new friends and learn more about quilting.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** Being on the board is a way to give back to the guild and help it to continue to move forward.
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** Spending time with other talented guild members and developing creative ideas. Whether we are planning an upcoming

program or quilt show, or solving a problem, its fun to work together.

- **What's one thing you hope to accomplish during your term?** I hope to continue to build enthusiasm for the guild, find the next group of guild leaders and help run an awesome quilt show in 2027. Whew. I guess that's more than one thing!
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** Quilt show setup. It's so amazing to see the empty gym at the beginning of the day, and then later in the day or the next day, it's filled with beautiful, inspiring quilts.
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** Just do it! You will have fun, meet new people and experience new challenges. We all help each other, so you don't have to be an expert coming into a volunteer role.



1st Vice President / Programs – Linda Panozzo

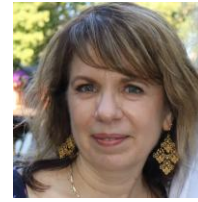
- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I love machine quilting - both piecing and machine applique. My machine has a much more consistent stitch
- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be? Or have you quilted with a famous quilter?** Susan Garman - I'm working on one of her patterns now and have several others on my wish list. She did a very eye-catching mix of colors combining applique and piecing.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** I love scrappy - black & white, brights, multicolor... love them all

- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I joined again after retiring - I wanted to take classes and hear the speakers
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** My friend Joyce offered me candy if I signed up. I just couldn't resist.
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** Working with the board has been really enjoyable, it's a great way to meet more quilters. Doing contracts has given me the opportunity to reach out to and get to know speakers.



2nd Vice President / Membership – Debbie Weber

- **What is your favorite quilting tool?** Combo of rotary cutter, mats and rulers, without these I would not be quilting.
- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter past or present who would it be?** Before I ever joined the guild, I saw Georgia Bonesteel on TV and thought "she makes it look so easy" I need to try that.
- **What's the first quilt you ever made. And do I still have it?** Yes, I do still have my first project. Although it is not displayed as it was starting to fade. I took a class at Prints Charming when it was in Long Grove. It was a beginner class, hand piecing, hand quilting. I took this class with my mother. It was a 3 block sampler, one pieced block, one applique block and one curved pieced block (drunkards path).
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board?** Getting to know the members, I am in awe of everyone's talent.
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity and why?** Show and Tell. Again, in awe of everyone's talent. Very inspiring.
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** Don't be afraid to ask questions or to ask for help.



Contracts/Raffle Quilt – Jackie Berry

- **What's your favorite quilting tool or technique you can't live without, and why?** Good rulers. Cutting matters.
- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I pay to have my quilts quilted by machine.
- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be? Or have you quilted with a famous quilter?** I took a class with Victoria Findlay Wolfe and one with Jen Kingwell.
- **What's the most unusual fabric you've ever used in a quilt?** I pretty much use cottons and wools. I have used silk and silk neckties as well as T-shirts.
- **Do you have a "dream quilt" you've always wanted to make?** A log cabin. I've made placemats using log cabin but not a whole quilt. I know its not a hard quilt, but it is a lot of work!
- **What's your favorite quilting snack or drink?** Depends on the time of day, but usually tea (hot or iced). Sometimes a glass of Merlot.
- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** A baby quilt for my daughter. And yes I still have it. I use it in the beginner classes I teach as an example of how not to do something.
- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** I knit, read, garden.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** One of my goals is to use different color combinations, so I don't really have a favorite although if you look at my quilts, warm colors tend to dominate.
- **What's your favorite quilting tip or trick to share with others?** One-seam binding. I teach a class on this and many quilters find it to be a great addition to their tool kit.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I wanted to meet other quilters and be inspired by their work.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** I started out my volunteering by chairing the Raffle Quilt Committee. I love the challenge of design work.
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** Working with other quilters and making new friends. And, truthfully, having so many people admire and buy raffle tickets for the 2025 Raffle Quilt was awesome.
- **How has being part of the guild impacted your quilting journey?** I have learned new techniques and made several quilts that I never imagined I'd be able to make.
- **What's one thing you hope to accomplish during your term?** Continue our excellent programming.

- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** The Quilt Show. I love how it brings together so many volunteers, both within and outside of the guild, to display the amazing quilts of our members.
- **How do you think volunteering helps strengthen the quilting community?** You learn from others, get new ideas and diverse perspectives, and elevate what we can offer.
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** Make sure you have the time. Involve others where possible.



Becky Reeve – Recording Secretary

- **What's your favorite quilting tool or technique you can't live without, and why?** I use the Guidelines4Quilting tape guides to get a good scant 1/4" seam.
- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I have a Handiquilter Avante long arm machine with the ProStitcher attachment. So I can use electronic patterns on my quilts. Between my aunt and I we have quilted over 470 quilts!!
- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** I love to cross stitch and have many completed and in progress projects.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** Blue is my favorite color and usually included in most quilts.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** My mom and aunt were members of NSQG.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** Figured it was my turn to help the guild - it takes a village.
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** Love the retreats for community and getting projects done.
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** Do it!! Best way to meet new people and help the guild grow.



Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter – Paige Mistak

- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** Machine quilting with a longarm! I loved my Gammill. One day I'll get another.
- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be?** Kathy Doughty, of Material Obsession. I love her use of fabric designs and colors.
- **Do you have a "dream quilt" you've always wanted to make?** I've always wanted to design a one-of-a-kind story quilt. Taking all my favorite fabrics, pieces of this and that, old and new, pulled together with creative borders and unique connectors - pushing my limits!
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** To spend more time with my besties! And when my sister joined, I had to join. Being part of her quilting journey has reenergized my quilting passion.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** I wanted to feel more connected to the guild. I started the Crystal Lake Modern Quilt Guild with a friend many years ago and miss being part of the process of building the guild community and learning from everyone.
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** Don't hesitate, volunteer! I'm an introvert and I tend to stay close to my friends during meetings, so volunteering has given me confidence to approach without fear and meet so many wonderful people!



**Treasurer
– Gina Ordonez**

Hello, I am Gina Ordonez, the NSQG Treasurer, I have been a guild member for 6 years. In my involvement in various clubs, I have observed that a small portion of the members do much of the work, so when asked to take on the role of Treasurer I did so willingly. The position is not difficult, about an hour a week, and I am fortunate to

work with a board composed of kind individuals who share a passion for quilting and charity, so there is no downside. Quilting retreats are my favorite club activity.

I have been sewing since I was a child of about 7. My earliest memory of sewing is when my grandmother marked my left index finger with a pen to help me create even stitches on barbie doll clothes. Now the only thing I hand sew is the binding. I think learning and teaching quilters is the best way to keep the craft alive. My nieces and great nieces have learned to sew with me. I have also taught colleagues how to quilt, led a beginner's class for preteens at a church in Riverside for about a decade, and volunteered at "Dress A Girl around the world" in Vernon Hills. I have done a couple of demos for NSQG.

The special people in my life who appreciate quilts already have plenty, so these days, I mostly sew for charity.

Standing and Advisory Committees



Past President – Debbie Yates

- **What's the most unusual fabric you've ever used in a quilt?** I made part of a sweater with cotton yarn to incorporate into my self portrait for the 2023 Challenge quilt.
- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** My first quilt was a "crazy" quilt made with fabric left over from garments I made.. I used to make most of my clothes in Junior High and High School. I used thick polyester batting from Sears and tied it with blue yarn. Once I learned to quilt with a machine, I went back and started quilting the blocks. It looks awful with the polyester batting. But I still have it!
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** About 90% of my quilts have red in them... usually an accent color.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** NSQG is a wonderful opportunity to learn from world class quilters and instructors. And these are my people... they understand my obsession with quilting.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** This is our organization... we

are responsible for it. I felt it was my time to give back.

- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** You will have the help and support from all of the members and, particularly, the women who have had your position before you.

Service Positions

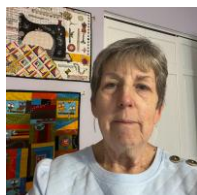


Activities Coordinator – Karen Snell

- **What's your favorite quilting tool or technique you can't live without, and why?** My favorite quilting tools have to be a rotary cutter, ruler and mat. Can you imagine cutting out all your pieces with a pair of scissors and cardboard template? Those women are my superheroes!
- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I'm a machine quilter. I love doing English paper piecing and wool work by hand.
- **Do you have a "dream quilt" you've always wanted to make?** I would love to make a double wedding ring quilt. I've taken a workshop with Victoria Findlay Wolfe and even helped with last year's raffle quilt. The only thing holding me back is the 50 projects I already have in progress!
- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** There aren't many crafts I don't enjoy. I also love gardening, biking and canoeing.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** The last few years, I've really been into blues.
- **What's your favorite quilting tip or trick to share with others?** Don't overthink things. Done is better than unfinished.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I've been a member of NSQG on and off for nearly 30 years. I originally joined with my mom and friends to spend time together while learning more about quilting.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** Volunteering in the guild is a wonderful way to get to know fellow members and learn more about how the guild works.
- **How has being part of the guild impacted your quilting journey?** As a guild member, I am

constantly learning—whether it's a new technique, designer, tool, or pattern. Together, we are a rich source of shared knowledge.

- **What's one thing you hope to accomplish during your term?** As Activity Coordinator, my goal is to design activities that bring members together, encourage fun, and create opportunities to challenge and learn from one another.
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** I love our one-day events, such as the Winter Picnic and Camp Quilt-I-Wanna. They provide wonderful opportunities to learn and connect with others. The guild's workshops are another great way to explore new techniques with established teachers, and they're a real bargain.
- **How do you think volunteering helps strengthen the quilting community?** Everyone's strengths benefit the guild, and through volunteering, we can bring new ideas that keep it moving forward.
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** It can be intimidating to step into a role when you're new or unfamiliar with how things work, but quilters are the best people. There's always someone who has done the job before and is happy to help.



Bee Coordinator – Joyce Sullivan

- **Favorite tool:** rotary cutters in all sizes. I can't begin to cut straight with scissors. Of course, you need about two dozen rulers to be successful. At least this is what I tell my husband.
- **First quilt:** a Christmas table runner which I still have and used on my table this season. A couple of the seams are fraying because I missed the seam allowance. The corners of the binding are terrible. I took a class at Quilter's Destination to learn how to make this runner using a Stripology ruler, which I had to buy for the class. It was a terrible experience. I arrived for class at the stated time it was to begin. Who knew you were suppose to arrive early to get set up. We were crowded into a small space. My machine wasn't working properly, and I didn't know how to fix it. It's amazing that I continued to try this thing called quilting.

- **Go-to color:** I tell everyone I like yellow, but I go to blue-green shades. My quilty friends tell me I work with a lot of grays. Go figure.
- **Why NSQG:** I wanted to find a community of quilters. I felt that I was able to find this community my quilting skills would grow. I joined NSQG during Covid when all the meetings were via ZOOM. I clearly remember "attending" my first meeting. The scheduled speaker could not give her talk and the guild found a substitute at the last moment. The speaker talked about the history of sewing machines for an hour and a half. Once again, I marvel that I stuck with it.
- **Guild's impact on my quilting journey:** I wouldn't be the quilter I am today without my guild friends. The support, knowledge, sharing, demonstrations, guidance and encouragement that I have received from my fellow guild members is immeasurable. I have found my community.
- **Favorite event:** I have to say it's the bees. Sewing with other quilters. Sharing stories. Enjoying the laughter. For me, every Bee is a party.



Charity Project Coordinator – Debra Szott

- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I prefer to machine quilt but I love the look of hand quilting.
- **Do you have a "dream quilt" you've always wanted to make?** I've always wanted to make a landscape quilt.
- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** I saw a quilting TV show and decided to make one. The piecing turned out not too bad but the quilting was a huge mess with folds all over the back. I do still have it in a closet - it never gets used.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I had attended NSQG quilt shows several times and I liked what I saw. I also liked the idea of the different types of speakers and classes offered.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** At one of the meetings I attended, the president at the time said they had a couple of positions open. I volunteered for both. Did one for a year and have continued to do the charity work ever since.

- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** Doing any kind of work for charity is always rewarding as you are helping people. I pick up and sort donations to the guild and then distribute things to guild members who do various types of sewing for charities. At meetings I try to bring fabric, precuts and quilts ready to be quilted. Sometimes in the donations, there are partially finished quilts or blocks. It is kind of fun to try to finish the project or repurpose / reuse it for a hospice or children's quilt. Doing this has forced me to work with colors / patterns that I would not normally choose which has helped me to grow as a quilter.



Historian – Annette Wegener

- **Famous quilter:** I don't know if she was really famous, but I would like another quilting session with my Mom, former NSQG member, Elizabeth Armstrong. She was a pattern designer, nationally awarded quilter and her collaboration with Diane Gaudynski was featured on the Premier issue of Machine Quilting magazine. I never felt like I could quilt her work appropriately, but she admired how I could machine quilt. She passed away in 2021.
- **Other hobbies:** I love scrapbooking (cutting up paper is like quilting!) and working on Genealogy projects (stitching together the truth about families).
- **Color palette:** My palette is usually based in fall colors; think Thimbleberries, Kim Diehl or Kansas Troubles.
- **What inspired me to join:** I had been handcrafting, sewing, cross stitching, rug hooking since I was a child. Way back in the late 1980's, I discovered Eleanor Burns "Quilt in A Day" series on PBS. Seeing how effortless the hobby looked on screen, I gave it a try and liked it. Anxious to meet other enthusiasts, I found out that NSQG met in Rolling Meadows, not far from my home. I started attending meetings and was inspired by the show and tell items. A few years later, my Mom decided to tag along and for several years, we attended NSQG meetings together.
- **Why a board or committee position:** After I left the guild in the mid 1990's (kids came along and life got crazy!), my Mom continued with the guild and took

various committee and board positions. In her leadership roles, ranging from membership to programs to quilt show and winter picnic demos, she wanted to encourage others to create for enjoyment. After she died, I longed to hear stories about her during her many years of membership (1992-2018). I came back as a member in 2022. My first effort with the board was with membership in 2023 and I enjoyed that. But when I found out that the "Historian" role was open, that seemed to call my name. My professional background included 12 years as an organizer/designer at The Container Store so the role seemed to fit my personal interest and professional background. I have been in this role since summer of 2025.

- **What do you hope to accomplish in your role:** My goals as Historian is to safeguard the guild's past while preparing for its future. After inheriting the archives this past summer, my first goal was to try to secure as many missing pieces of "history" as possible. To do that involved inventorying 45 plus years of guild records and organizing several boxes of miscellaneous files. That process is still in the works but is just about complete. There are also 2 guild photo albums from the 70s and 80s that are falling apart that need to be re-created. My scrapbooking experience will be helpful with that project! My Container Store experience gave me experience with using archival safe products for document and artifact preservation. Finally, the next "BIG" project is to create a spreadsheet of guild history and lists, including Guild Programs, Shows, Meeting Locations, Board Members and other statistics. My vision is to create one place where members can find out details of the guild's past and be enabled with that information to make easy transitions from one leader to the next.



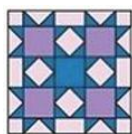
Hospitality Coordinator – Kim Starr

My name is Kim Starr. I am a retired nurse. I have been sewing since high school. Garment sewing, Halloween costumes, curtains. I started quilting in about 2010. Because my friend from church had been bugging me to join her bee 'Sew Bee it'.

- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I am a machine quilter. Hand quilting would

make me nuts. At this point in life my hands wouldn't cooperate for long.

- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** The first quilt I ever made was a one block wonder. Everyone says what...I didn't know much of anything. I joined a bee in my neighborhood that one of my friends from church was in, she invited me. They just told me what to do each step. And I had a quilt. It was made with poinsettia fabric. I get it out each Christmas.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** Almost all my quilts are bright colors, True colors- not muddy tones at all.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I joined because I wanted to take Laura Heine's class. My friend Diana was already in the guild. She'd been bugging me to join her.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** I was helping Debbie clean up after the summer picnic. She said she needed a hospitality chair. I asked what was involved and volunteered. You are responsible for set-up for any activities that have food included. Providing plates, silverware, water etc.
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** I have gotten to know more people and been able to put names to faces. You understand how the guild works and why we do what we do. You also learn about the history of the guild.



Monthly Raffle – Sandy Ratter

- **What's your favorite quilting tool or technique you can't live without, and why?** My sewing machine
- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** Machine quilting
- **What's the most unusual fabric you've ever used in a quilt?** Minky for my daughter in law's friend. Okay I didn't know any better at the time.
- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** A hand embroidery one from 45 years ago, I have passed on for a grandchild.
- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** Sewing, I am always looking for ways to fill my days with positive projects.
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** Okay I saw a picture of a fellow member on her iPad.

- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** As a beginner, it was a job I could do. I love how people come and check out what is on the raffle table. The group always answers questions to explain an item for me.
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** The members I always can find someone willing to answer a question for me.
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** The August get together was so much fun and relaxing.
- **How do you think volunteering helps strengthen the quilting community?** I hope what I do does. This is a wonderful group.



Publicity/Facebook – Ann Kelly

- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be? Or have you quilted with a famous quilter?** All my quilting life (almost 30 years), I have enjoyed taking classes and learning from others. Since 2015, I have taken at least 9 workshops with Victoria Findlay Wolfe (including 2 through NSQG in 2019), attended several of her lectures (online and in-person), and traveled to 3 different museums to see her Option Expedition series of quilts. I've learned so much about color, design decisions, and accurate piecing from Victoria. I happily admit it - I am a VFW groupie!!
- **What's the most unusual fabric you've ever used in a quilt?** I made a series of memory quilts for a family whose son/brother/grandson died much too young. One of the quilts was made from his upcycled blue jeans. I used the different shades of denim to create a color-wash effect, and it was beautiful. Some of the jeans were "Lucky" brand, which had interesting fabrics for the inside of the pockets. I incorporated those into the label on the back of the quilt. It's been about 12 years since I made that quilt, and the family still uses and treasures it.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** I love to play with clear, bright colors, often pairing them with black and/or white. I love

"true" color - not grayed out shades, and not pastels.

- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** In 2000, when the Internet was still young and before Facebook was invented, I participated in online quilting chat groups on about.com. A group was organizing a Y2K swap (those were a big thing), and one of the other swappers was Anne Fiedler from Barrington. We noticed each other's names and locations and decided to meet for lunch one day in Schaumburg. She was President of NSQG at the time, and she invited me to join the guild. I've been a member ever since. RIP, Anne, you are missed.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** I tend to volunteer and get involved in any group or organization I am part of. I don't like to sit on the sidelines; I like to be engaged and feel that it is my responsibility to be involved at some level if I care about a particular group or organization. When I was a new member of NSQG, I volunteered for small jobs, like helping with set-up for the Winter Picnic, or white-gloving at the quilt show. A few years later, I was asked to run for VP-Membership and really got to know a lot of members through that position. I've been the Publicity Chair or Co-Chair for at least 12 years; I co-chaired the 2019 quilt show; I have chaired one of the raffle quilts and helped with many others. Volunteering satisfies my need to be involved and help support groups I'm involved with, lets me get to know other members of the group, and ensures that the group can continue successfully when MANY people volunteer to get the work done. Don't sit on the sidelines - get involved and help NSQG continue to be successful!



Quilt Rack Rentals – Gail Gregory

- **My favorite quilting tools:** My machine, rotary cutter, and Accuquilt fabric cutter. I use them almost every day.
- I like to hand quilt mini-quilts. I machine quilt small quilts, and quilt by checkbook for larger ones.
- I usually have a cup of coffee and a raisin oatmeal cookie when I work in the morning. In the evening, it is usually a glass of wine as I bind in front of the TV.

- I went to my first Guild meeting when a friend and neighbor suggested it and picked me up to go to a meeting.
- Being part of the Guild and Board is sharing your talents, knowledge, workload, and fabrics with others. I was a high school Home Ec teacher. That's what I did every day at school, so it seemed natural to share and help out at Guild. It takes a village...
- I always enjoy the monthly meetings. You see friends, meet new people, hear guest speakers, see their quilts, hear their quilting stories, and you always learn a little something new.



Website Services/Publicity/Facebook – Cathy Steiner

- **What's your favorite quilting tool or technique you can't live without, and why?** My HandiQuilter Capri because I can quilt my own quilts!
- **Do you prefer hand quilting, machine quilting, or both?** I prefer machine quilting but have done both.
- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be? Or have you quilted with a famous quilter?** I would love to have watched the making of the original Jane Stickle 'Dear Jane' quilt. I would love to have known what she was thinking, how did she draft the blocks, was she lonely, worried, did she have help, all those things.
- **What's the most unusual fabric you've ever used in a quilt?** Seersucker and Linen from old clothes.
- **Do you have a "dream quilt" you've always wanted to make?** I have always thought I would love to make a Baltimore Album Quilt. I have all the books and have tried a few blocks but it is a skill I do not yet possess!
- **What's your favorite quilting snack or drink?** Coffee!
- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** The first quilt I ever made was a little purse I made from a pattern in a Japanese book of bags. I made it from leftover fabrics my Mom had when I was about 19 or 20. I still have it.

- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** Painting. I enjoy watercolor and oil.
- **What's your go-to color palette when starting a new project?** Blues, Greens, and Pinks
- **What's your favorite quilting tip or trick to share with others?** Menards carries Best Press in Unscented and Lavender. They also carry 2 Gallon size Ziploc bags, which are the perfect size for projects! That's my shopping tip. As for an actual quilting technique tip I use the marks on my pressure foot to guide me when sewing binding. If you have a Bernina, on the #37 foot there are 1/4 inch markings to help you know how far your needle is from the edge. It's brilliant!
- **What inspired you to join the NSQG?** I knew about the guild for a long time but had a 3rd Thursday conflict until 2010-ish. I came to a couple of meetings as a guest. I finally joined after the 2013 Quilt Show, that was my inspiration.
- **Why did you decide to volunteer for a board or committee position?** I decided to run the next quilt show after the guild decided not to have one in 2015. I had joined because of the show and didn't realize all the changes that were happening in the guild. I stepped up. Then once I was on the board realized we needed a website person to keep the updates so I stepped up for that job too.
- **What's the most rewarding part of serving on the board or committee?** Getting to know all of our members, making friends, getting the 'behind the scenes' info on who's coming and what is being planned.
- **How has being part of the guild impacted your quilting journey?** It has pushed me out of my comfort zone. I have learned 20x more from the guild than I ever would have learned on my own.
- **What's one thing you hope to accomplish during your term?** I am now serving in a service position (website) so change is always happening! My goal is just to keep up!
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** Camp, Winter Picnic, Retreats, Workshops, because they are escapes from the mundane day to day chores of life and I get to dedicate that time to focus on quilting and friends!
- **How do you think volunteering helps strengthen the quilting community?** I think volunteering in a guild helps to strengthen the quilting community because at the core of what we do is keeping the tradition of quilting alive. The guild volunteer is working to bring the programing to members and we

dedicate our efforts to teaching people how to quilt from the best teachers in the industry, as well as from our own members! We learn from each other, which is incredibly significant. A guild really plays a vital role and there are so many ways to contribute to the guild. A guild is only as good as we make it.

- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** If you are waiting for someone to ask you to volunteer, this is your lucky day! Please consider volunteering in our guild. There are so many ways to get involved. From being a greeter at the door of our monthly meetings, to working on a quilt show committee, to helping sew our Raffle Quilts, to driving to pick up a Donation, to making a Charity Quilt, to coming early to Camp or Winter Picnic to set-up or staying late to help with the clean-up we need you and we can't do it without you. Thank you for considering it and I encourage you to do it! There's no better way to get involved, make friends, then to volunteer!



Zoom Coordinator – Linda Nemec

- **If you could quilt with any famous quilter (past or present), who would it be? Or have you quilted with a famous quilter?** I have had the opportunity to quilt (take a class) with a number of now famous quilters through a guild I belonged to in the 1990's including Jinny Beyer, Ricky Tims, Harriet Hargrave, Carol Breyer Fallert and a few others of a little less notoriety. Jinny Beyer and Ricky Tims are rock star teachers. I learned concepts and design techniques that I continue to use to this day. They were passionate and humorous and delightful teachers who could teach a beginner as well as an experienced quilter. I was a naive beginner quilter with a new machine when I took classes with Harriet Hargrave. Though I learned some good techniques, I did not know how to use my machine properly and lost the learning I could have achieved. Many years later after taking additional machine quilting classes and struggling, I found out that my particular machine has a specific setting just for free motion quilting. It is not mentioned in the manual and we didn't have the internet. I learned this at a retreat from a woman who sold sewing machines!

- **What's the first quilt you ever made—and do you still have it?** Many members may have seen my first quilt at the show last year. I started it in 1985. I took a class with my mother at Prints Charming in Long Grove. It is a sampler quilt used to instruct beginning quilters. Rotary cutters had just been invented but acrylic rulers were not. My blocks sat in a box as did my mother's until three years ago. When she passed and I came across her blocks I became determined to put those wonky blocks together in a quilt. The show was just the motivation I needed to complete it.
- **If you weren't quilting, what other hobby would you spend time on?** Genealogy
- **How has being part of the guild impacted your quilting journey?** Participating in a Guild broadens your horizons. My primary desire was the ability to take workshops with speakers/teachers that quilt shops did not have. But Guilds are so much more. Quilting with all its types and techniques is just our language to get to know one another and participate in each other's lives.
- **What's your favorite guild event or activity, and why?** I am so excited for the interest groups that Karen Snell has initiated. I have chosen to participate in the English Paper Piecing and Tula Pink interest club. If you have an interest, start a group!
- **What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering?** Volunteer in any capacity. It can start as small as greeting members at the door or as involved as taking a board position. Use a skill you enjoy other than quilting and see how that fits into the quilt world. You will get to know the people in the guild; you get to know how a guild works; you may find more about quilting and the quilt world that you didn't know.



SHOWS & SHOPS

This list is by no means all inclusive. If you would like to share details on shows or new shops please email me at newsletter@nsqg.club.

Date(s)	Event Name	Location	Highlights
April 23-25, 2026 Thursday 5-8p Friday & Saturday 9-7p	Kalona Quilt Show & Sale www.woodinwheel.com	511 C. Avenue, Kalona, IA Kalona YMCA Community Ctr	200 New & Antique Hand-quilted Quilts on display and for sale. 2 great fabric shops, The Kalona Quilt and Textile Museums downtown.
May 1-3, 2026 (4/30 classes begin)	Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival	Stephens Convention & Conference Center in Rosemont, IL	Registration/Tickets open February 1st

CLASSIFIEDS

Have an item to sell? Own a business? The NSQG Newsletter is a great way to reach your audience. Contact newsletter@nsqg.club if you're interested in advertising.

Wanted: Used Sewing Machine

New sewist seeking a well-maintained, reliable used machine for garments, quilting, and bag making.

- Top Pick: Juki F300 (or similar)
- Key Features: Speed control, twin needle capability, and enough power for denim/canvas
- Preferences: Top-loading bobbin preferred; open to mechanical or computerized models.

If you have a machine looking for a new home, please contact Kim Q. via newsletter@nsqg.club for full contact details.

Quilters Only Home Sale — Estate of Rebecca Lamb

February 6–8, Friday–Sunday, 9am–5pm
2155 Derby Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008

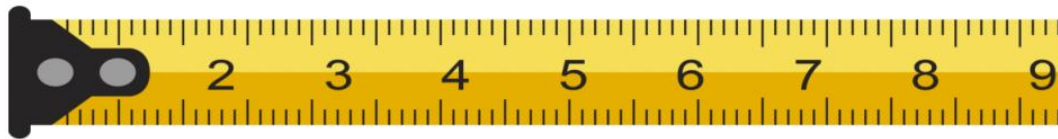
**Parking is available on Derby Lane in the common parking area, in the lot at the front of the house, and at the south end of the parking lot.*

Former NSQG member, 1991 president, and 1987 & 1991 quilt show chairperson **Rhonda Settle** will be holding a special **Quilters Only Home Sale** following the passing of her sister, **Rebecca Lamb**, a prolific and beloved quilter, on December 22, 2025.

The sale includes:

- 100+ finished quilts in all sizes
- Bolts of high-quality cotton fabric
- 12+ drawers of fat quarters
- Wool, quilt patterns, quilting books
- Cross-stitch patterns and finished pieces
- And much more — all priced to sell

Please spread the word. Everything must go.



No Frills Crafting Weekend Getaways

Join your fellow Crafty Chicks for a weekend getaway to work on your UFO's or whatever projects you have

Join us at 1 or all 4 weekend getaways in 2026 at the

Mount Prospect Hampton Inn & Suites

March 6 - 8, May 1 - 3, Nov 6 - 8 & Dec 4 - 6

Cost per crafter is \$80.00 for the weekend

Pre-Registration is required to hold your spot

Each crafter will have ample crafting space, equipped with extension & power cords

Each weekend begins at Noon on Friday and ends at 5:00 pm on Sunday

Come & go as you please, No make & takes, no schedules, just open crafting time

Discounted hotel rates are available 1 month prior to each weekend \$129.00 for a double queen or king room, breakfast is provided for all staying at the hotel, including an underground parking garage

For more information or to register please contact Julie Kapustka at (847) 977-3421
craftychickschicagoland@gmail.com

Got Quilt Tales, Tips, or Tasty Treats? I'm always on the lookout for stories that make this newsletter sparkle—so don't be shy! Send me your quilting adventures, proud finishes, upcoming shows, clever tips, or even your go-to holiday recipe (because let's be honest, quilting and snacking go hand in hand). Bonus points for photos—especially if they include fabric, friends, or frosting.

Help me stitch together the next issue with your brilliance: **–Paige at newsletter@nsqg.club**