

Nanaimo Quilters Guild

Volume 42 Issue 3 ~ November 2025

www.islandquilters.ca

Next Meeting

**Wednesday, November 19,
Nanaimo Curling Club, doors
open at 1:00 and 6:00 pm, meeting
starts at 1:30 and 6:30 pm**

In conjunction with the unveiling of our **2025/26 Guild Quilt Show Challenge**, we have invited special guest, **Philippa Zapf**, to speak to us about quilt challenges. Get ready to be inspired!

Next Executive Meeting (Zoom) November 12, 1:30 pm

Newsletter Deadline

November 21

Refreshments:

In November, members whose last names start with the letters E, F, G and H, it's your turn to bring goodies to the meeting for our coffee / tea break

*In our newsletters' **online version**, blue lettering gives a live link to websites and email addresses. Best viewed in Google Chrome (may not work on a Mac).*

See what our Guild and its members are up to. You can submit photos of your quilts to our Facebook and Instagram sites. Click on the FACEBOOK link [here](#)

Guild Website

The Members Only section password is printed on the back of your membership card. If you have something of interest for our Guild web site, please send it to Sue Creba at smcreba@gmail.com

Presidents' Pen

With the hustle-bustle of a new Guild year launched, Thanksgiving behind us, plus another successful Retreat now stored in memory, hopefully life is settling into a welcomed routine before ramping up for the holiday season activities.

We hope new members are enjoying their guild experience. We welcome your feedback and suggestions anytime. The same holds true for our longtime members. Let us know how you are enjoying the presentations and the incredible workshops we have offered. We are looking forward to our November presenter speaking about how to approach quilt challenges, and the launch of our own Challenge for our upcoming Quilt Show, which is 214 days from this writing!

Before we meet on the 19th, we will have observed Remembrance Day and taken the time to reflect on and honour our armed services personnel. In our guild, we have an opportunity to honour our veterans through the national Quilts of Valour program, coordinated by Joan Irving. Please visit their website at www.QuiltsOfValour.ca to see more and find out how you can contribute.

As the night darkness starts to come earlier and earlier, we hope you can find lots of creative projects to keep you busy. It's also an ideal time to catch up on reading since any library books borrowed this month don't need to be back until January. So take out lots!

Happy Quilting!

Your Co-Presidents Ellen Ellis & Kathleen Kane

Guild Program and Workshops

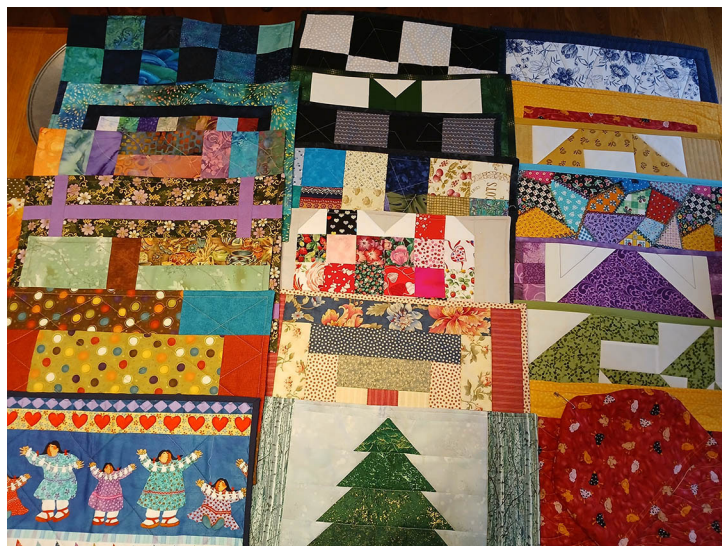
On October 4th, Nanaimo Quilters' Guild hosted a well-attended workshop featuring the **Easy Does it** bag pattern from ByAnnie.com, taught by instructor **Avril Valentine**. Fifteen members participated in the class, eager to expand their skills and learn practical bag-making techniques.

Avril began the workshop with a look at the huge variety of bags available to make, each one unique and based upon the fundamental skills acquired by constructing the *Easy Does it Bag*.



Placemats

The meeting in October was great, especially the trunk show by Patti Dance, AND the fact that we had 47 placemats and 2 tea cozies turned in. We now have 408 placemats and 29 tea cozies. That is terrific, however we will need to hold 100 back from our Christmas donations for the Quilt Show, so please try to make a few more for the November Meeting. There will of course, still be time to collect more prior to the Quilt show in May, so perhaps I will only have to hold back some of them. See you in November and I will have more battings cut 13" X 19". Placemats should be approx. 12" X 18" but it does not have to be exact. *Your Placemat Committee: Heather, Norma and Maureen*



Membership

Renewals keep arriving – thank you! Your new membership cards and receipts are available for pick-up at the membership table at our monthly meeting.

We have two new members! Please welcome Michele Cloutier and Wynne Oram.

The membership fee is \$40 for the year with a charge of \$16 for those who want the newsletter mailed to them.

Membership forms are available on the NQG website, or in the newsletter on page 12.

Renewals and new memberships can be made at any time by email and e-transfer payment, or by Canada Post mail. Memberships can also be completed at the monthly Guild meeting.

For further information and instructions please see the Membership Tab on the NQG website <http://www.islandquilters.ca/membership.htm>

If you have any questions, please contact us at: membershipnqg@gmail.com

A list of members for the coming year will be posted on the NQG website, in the password protected Members Only section.

We currently have 133 members in good standing. Well on our way!

Keep on creating and we look forward to seeing you soon. *Barb Kerfoot & Laura Beswick, Membership*



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Quilt Bee January 31, 2026

Our Quilt Bee is taking place at Oliver Woods Community Centre on Saturday January 31, 2026 from 9:00-4:00 pm.

Currently we have 20 guild members signed up to attend. I have sign up sheets at the guild meeting or you can email me to have your name added. I will be bringing pre-made quilt kits and batting to our meetings.

I will be delivering 20 bags and 5 quilts to Haven House shortly.

The Christmas stocking pattern is on line with a tutorial at Sewingpartsonline.com Click on Pattern at top of the tutorial for the stocking pattern.

I am hoping we can supply Haven House with 20-30 stockings before Christmas

Thank you again for supporting this organization.

Joan Irving

Thread Spools Needed

I will be collecting thread spools at our meetings for Canada Comforts Society to include in children's assessment kits which will be used in clinical and community visits, and in trauma counselling sessions.

Joan Irving

October Quilt Along

We completed our first month of Farm Girl 2. I knew three people at retreat had made blocks. BJ brought her blocks to the evening meeting. Thank you so much! In future you must bring your blocks, get checked off and hand them to be eligible for the draw, which will be made at the evening meeting. I will ensure you receive your prize. October's winner was **Kathleen Kane**.

Thanks to Sarah Beyer for helping out on the evening meeting. We will still accept sign ups to join the fun. Just start from where we are.

Some hints to make Columns 2 easier: when using a square to make a triangle corner on a rectangle, start sewing from the long side rather than the corner. It's less likely to get chewed up in the needle plate. Sew a thread or two to the direction you'll be folding your triangle so you get a better fit. If it's too big you'll resolve that when you square up your unit

Lay your block out on a piece of fabric or batting so you can see immediately if you've missed cutting any pieces. This also makes it easier to see your next steps.

I hope this helps. Any questions?

Sandra Radley 250-756-2421

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Guild Program and Workshops continued from page 1



Avril provided clear and detailed instruction, guiding participants through each stage of the construction process with many tips and helpful hints along the way. Her expertise and encouraging teaching style as well as personal attention to all participants ensured that everyone was able to progress confidently.

The workshop atmosphere was industrious yet friendly, with participants sharing ideas, comparing fabric choices, and assisting one another throughout the day.

By the end of the session, many members had completed their bags or were well on their way, each project showcasing individual creativity and colour sense. The completed bags all looked fantastic with a polished finish inside and out!

The Guild extends its sincere thanks to Avril Valentine for her excellent teaching and to all who participated for contributing to such a productive and enjoyable event.

If there are more ByAnnie Bags that people are interested in, please let us know as we are in the early stages of planning for the 2026/27 workshop year!

Upcoming Workshops

Saturday, November 29 IMPROV FOR PLANNERS 9:00-3:30 (via Zoom) \$30 See September and October newsletters for additional info

Wednesday, March 4 FLOWER COLLAGE MINI ART QUILT 9:00-3:30 (via Zoom) \$30

Nametag Challenge

There is still time to freshen up your NQG Name tag or start from scratch with a new look for 2025/26. Enter to win a prize at the November 19th Meeting. Simply show us your personalized quilted name tag and we will enter you in the draw!

Here is my updated Name Tag and matching lanyard...I can't wait to see and share yours!



If you have any questions about our workshops or would like to register, please email programsngq@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Carolyn Hunter,
Programs Committee

GUEST SPEAKER NOVEMBER 19 GUILD MEETING

In conjunction with the unveiling of our 2025/26 Guild Quilt Show Challenge, we have invited special guest,

Philippa Zapf, to speak to us about quilt challenges. Get ready to be inspired!



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Library

It's that most wonderful time of the year ... the books you sign out at the November meeting are yours until January. Bring your bags, boxes or backpacks to fill with reading material to keep you busy over the holiday season. For those who are new to the Guild the Library does not operate in December as all floorspace and tables are dedicated to our Christmas festivities. *The Library Team*

Donation Quilts

In October, we took in 9 quilts, 8 NICU baby quilts and 10 bags. Thank you to all our members who turned in quilts or bags for their generous donations.

As 2026 will be the last year that the Scrappy Bags will be doing the quilt donations for the Guild, we are beginning to train anyone who is interested in the Committee for the upcoming Guild year. Please see any member of the Committee if you would like to volunteer next year for Donations.

Also, please see the request for fidget quilts on page 6, which we will begin accepting. *Donation Quilts Committee*

Raffles

The raffles and mystery fabric tickets are still only \$1.00 so please bring your loonies to the Wednesday meeting. Several ladies in October had to wait until we got enough change for them. Bringing loonies saves you from waiting to buy tickets for our wonderful prizes. In November we will have a few Christmas themed prizes to give you a chance to finish something for that special day.

Special thank you to Ann Gillespie for fabric donations, and NanGo Grannies for fat quarters. A very special thank you to the estate of Laurie Webster. She was a Nanaimo Guild member and lived on Gabriola Island. We were given enough 1 metre pieces of fabric to cover the mystery fabric for a year. That is a \$225.00 saving to the guild. That money helps to donate a scholarship to a high school student going forward with their education in fibre arts.

Carole Phinney, Raffles and Mystery Fabric chair

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Fidget Quilts for Seniors

Here are the parameters for the fidget blankets that VIHA (Vancouver Island Health Authority) has requested for their senior folks in emergency that may be experiencing levels of dementia .

They should be no smaller than a 20 inch square and no bigger than a 24 inch square. I used 6 inch squares: 4 across, 4 down - which gave a 22 inch square. No batting is needed. Use fleece or a really good, heavier flannel for the backing (JYSK often has fleece blankets for \$5 or less). The strap should be attached on one side near the top. Finished length should be 36 inches long with a small square of Velcro attached at either end. Please see the picture.

A variety of items can be used as long as there are no sharp edges and they are securely fastened. Some items to use are: lace, big buttons, zippers (as long as the pull is large), ribbon, tassels, other fancy trim, fabric with different textures (flannel, satin, corduroy, etc.), large beads, old ties, etc. Dollar and thrift stores will give you more ideas.

Be careful with black and white fabrics as this can be difficult for some to see. Wild patterns can also be disorientating. Bright colours are great. Try to have some of the fabric squares relate to familiar things such as animals, pets, food, flowers, other scenery, common activities, etc. The familiar is comforting!

Please leave the blankets at the Donations table and I will collect them. Thank you for your help! *Nancy Lutes*




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NQG Quilt Show May 28-31 2026

As of this newsletter our 2026 show is seven months away. After Christmas all focus for our guild will be on the show. It takes everyone to get the most out of this weekend.

Planning for the show is going as scheduled. For now I would like to ask all members to make a placemat for the tea room. These are used on the tables and as centre pieces. We need about 100 to do this up right. Great way to help out.

At our November meeting the show committee will present the raffle quilts for consideration. This is a very large part of our show's income so your feedback is welcome.

In January we will be giving a full report of how some items on voting and ballots have changed and any new procedures that are being put in place. This is a very useful meeting to attend.

It is time to start spreading the word to family and friends. We need to get the word out there as much as possible.

Another way to help out is to volunteer to be a depot captain which means members in your area (where you live) will bring their entries to you to be delivered to the show. Actually a fun way to help out. This is a great way to meet other members of the guild as well.

Also at the November meeting the challenge committee

will be introducing the kits and the parameters for the challenge.

The show committee hopes you are busy sewing and putting the finishing touches of your show quilts. We need around 300 to fill up the curling rink so everyone should try to get something in the show. It's a really fun weekend for us all.

I hope if you have any questions or concerns you will come to myself or Bonnie Dormuth so we can help you out.

I will say again the success of the show is directly related to covering our expenses and charity work for the next 3 years so please help in any way you can.

The next meeting is on November 27, 1-3 pm at Bowen Country Grocer. *Thanks, Janet and Bonnie, co-conveners.* Janet quiltyjan@gmail.com 250-245-5936

Guild Quilt Show Challenge

Take the Quilt Show Challenge! Pick up a package, follow the directions and create away. Packets will be available for purchase at the November meeting. Five dollars will get you started and give you approximately one fat quarter of three assorted fabrics to be worked with plus your own additions. (continued on page 9)

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General Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2025

Call to order: 1:32 pm by Kathleen Kane, Co-President.

Hospitality: Afternoon: 65 members, 2 guests.

Moved by Debbie Hollett and seconded by Michele Cloutier that the Minutes of September 17, 2025 General meeting as published in the newsletter be accepted. **Carried.**

Announcements: Serge and Sew is hosting a special afternoon on Friday, Oct. 31 for Guild members. To show their appreciation for members support, they will offer a discount of 23% on purchases. Guild members must show their membership card to receive the discount. Jonanco is holding their Sew Days from Thursday to Sunday this week. Everyone welcome!

Correspondence: none.

Treasurer's report: posted on bulletin board.

Committee Reports

Quilt Show: Janet Knecht asked for a volunteer to make 10 centerpieces for the lunchroom. Isabelle Bunning kindly volunteered. Janet announced that she needed one more bed size raffle quilt that had to be quilted by mid November so photos could be taken in preparation for the raffle license. She reminded members of why

funds made at the Quilt Show are vital for the running of the guild for the next three years. She enlightened the members about the increased expenses to put on the Quilt Show and encouraged them to start spreading the word as we need as many people as possible to attend the show. Sign up sheets for volunteer positions will be available in January.

Retreat: Vicki Zoltay is taking over the guild retreat from Judy Peterson who is stepping down after many years on the job. Lorraine Daley and Judy Hunter will assist. Vicki reported that 4 incubator quilts, 20 placemats and 16 totes were made by retreat participants. Next year's retreat will take place Oct 13-16 and 27 members have signed up to date. Those who attended this year's Oct. 14-18 Retreat have until the November meeting to put their \$50 deposit down for next year, after which time, registration will be open to all members.

Library: Pat Ryan reminded members that she has two copies of Farm Girl Vintage 2, one is for sign out and the other will be kept in the library for reference.

Quilt Bee: Joan Irving reported that the Quilt Bee will be held on Jan 31, 2026 at Oliver Woods. *cntd on page 9*

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General Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2025 continued

Quilt kits, stocking kits and tote kits are all available for members wishing to start their sewing early.

Quilt Along (Farm Girl Participants): Sandra Radley announced that the draw for a prize would be held at the evening meeting. She asked participants to meet as there were corrections in the pattern to be noted.

Donations: Bonnie Eaton reminded members where some of our donation quilts go. She said donations of fabric and batting are always welcome to help keep down costs.

Membership: Barb Kerfoot announced that we have 131 members.

New Business: The Program Committee needs helpers. Michele Cloutier kindly volunteered to join the committee.

We need a First Vice President and we need someone to host the Zoom Sew-In as Jeanette Blackmore would like to step down from that position.

Nancy Lutes introduced Susan Barr from the Clinical Emergency Services Committee who spoke about the need for Fidget Quilts. She talked about the frail elderly folks who sometimes must spend an inordinate time in the Emergency ward and how they become quite upset and agitated. Handling Fidget quilts helps to calm them. Nancy showed several examples of the quilts and explained how to make them. She will submit all the details to the newsletter (see page 6). It is hoped that every guild member would make one fidget quilt and that would see the Emergency department through the year.

PROGRAM: Patti Dance gave a wonderful presentation showing her quilts and tracing her journey as an art quilter, with an emphasis on her work in batik. She showed some of her gorgeous canvas bowls to whet the appetite of those who are taking her workshop on Thursday, October 30.

Raffles:

Afternoon: E. Martinlaw, Isabel Bunning, Rebecca Meehan-Danesin, Greta Simmons, Anni Rauer-Bothwell, Kathy Doyle, Michele Cloutier, Phyllis Moore Evening: Val Ansell, Tuesday Shea, Nancy Lutz, Janet Knecht

Mystery Fabric: Barb Kerfoot Evening: Laura Beswick

Show and Share: Vicki Dods

Hospitality: Evening: Laura Beswick

Quilt Along: Kathleen Kane

Meeting adjourned at 4:06pm

Next meeting is November 19, 2025

Submitted by Valerie Ursulak, Secretary

Quilt Show Guild Challenge cntd.

Lots of time to get creative juices flowing as you have till the May meeting to hand it in.

Never done this before? Phillippa Zapf will help you along with a presentation about completing challenges at the November meeting.

*Barb Kerfoot & Laura Beswick
Show Year Challenge Coordinators*



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Quilters' Chat Room

I am just home from the Canvas Bowls Workshop, it was fun, productive and very informative and we each took home a canvas bowl! Watch for some samples at our November 19 Guild meeting.

Patti Dance spoke to the Guild at our October meeting and presented a number of her art quilts, many of which have been chosen for the National Juried Show of the Canadian Quilters' Association. Check out the photos of bowls and artistic quilts Patti has created at: <https://www.facebook.com/phatbearcreations/>

Ricky Tims is a long time quilter and presenter in the US. This year his quilt "The Visitation" won best in show at the Houston International Quilt Festival. You can see how he created his quilt at: <https://thequiltsow.com/blog/watch-the-documentary-on-the-making-of-ricky-tims-quilt-the-visitation>

I have been following Meredith Woolnough, an Australian visual artist. She uses free motion embroidery to create incredible art pieces. With some thread and a sewing machine, she forms different complex patterns found in nature, such as the veins of a leaf, patterns found in coral, and even lines and shapes found in red cabbage. Check out her amazing pieces on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=meredith%20woolnough%20artist> or her website: <https://meredithwoolnough.com.au/home-1> Meredith offers a free course online on how to

do free motion embroidery.

Brandy Maslowski, better known as Quilter on Fire, hosts a weekly podcast which explores the stories behind quilts. From shop owners to pattern designers, teachers to trunk show travelers, Brandy explores the journeys of people making their way doing what they love. This former firefighter from Summerland, BC now travels the world exploring everything quilting. www.quilteronfire.com

If you have a recommendation for the next newsletter, please send in your idea along with why you are making this recommendation and the web link to: ellenellis53@gmail.com
Happy quilting, Ellen Ellis

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October 23 Show and Share



Above:
Moire's quilt

Left:
Karla's tote bag

Right:
Nancy's quilts

October 30 Canvas Bowl Workshop



Ellen's bowl



Teresa's bowl





Nanaïmo Quilters' Guild

Membership Registration Form

2025 / 2026 year

Name _____ Membership # _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Are you a new member? _____ Have you ever been a member in the past? _____

I wish to have the Guild Newsletter delivered by: regular mail (\$16) ☐ online ☐

I was an Honorary Member in 2024-25 ☐

I do ☐ do not ☐ consent to my personal information appearing on the online Guild membership list accessible only to members and is not to be shared.

X

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Areas in which I am willing to volunteer:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| ☐ Angels | ☐ Christmas Event | ☐ Coffee | ☐ Donation Quilts |
| ☐ Hospitality | ☐ June Picnic | ☐ Library | ☐ Membership |
| ☐ Phoning | ☐ Programs | ☐ Quilt Bee | ☐ Workshops |
| ☐ Raffles | ☐ Placemats | ☐ Block of the Month | |
| ☐ Other _____ | | | |

Do you have an **expertise** you could present at a program or workshop?

To be completed by NQG Membership Committee

Pd: Date _____ ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque # _____ ☐ Credit Card ☐ e-transfer

\$40.00 Membership Fee Pd. ☐ \$20 Prorated Fee (Feb. to Aug. 31) Pd. ☐

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