

"It was a tremendous pleasure to join A Quilter's Gathering in 2005 - that year, the record attendance was amazing! The quilts were beautiful, and a wonderful time was had by all who attended. Best wishes in the coming years!" - **Jan Krentz**

Happy 20th Anniversary to "A Quilters' Gathering"!!! I was thrilled to be awarded a ribbon in the Made to Wear fashion show, way back in 1992. In 1996, I was honored with my first invitation to be a part of your faculty and will forever be grateful for the opportunity Jeanne and Marie gave me to share my work with your enthusiastic participants. Here's to another 20 years of quilting fun. - **Mary Stori**

The title "A Quilter's Gathering" is perfect because that's what it feels like, a gathering of close friends. I remember well the first time I came to the Gathering. Coming from rural Nebraska I was a little nervous about teaching in Massachusetts for the first time, I was worried how I would be received by the eastern "big city" quilters but my concerns were soon put to rest by the enthusiastic students in my classes. Marie and Jeanne were so warm and welcoming, they made me feel right at home. The second time I came back to teach at the Gathering it was like attending a big family reunion. I think that is the way Marie and Jeanne made everyone feel, like we are all a part of their quilting family. - **Shelly Burge**

"It was a treat to work with the superb staff and wonderful students at the 2007 Gathering event." - **Susan Raban**

"I love teaching at a Quilters Gathering. I love all of the beautiful quilts and the fun shopping and especially the students. A great caliber of student signs up for the classes. It is always a ton of fun" - **Katie Pasquini Masopust**

"My experiences during "A Quilters' Gathering" have been fun and memorable. Judging and teaching for the Eastcoast Quilters Alliance introduced me to wonderful quilters and excellent students I might not otherwise met." - **Nancy Brenan Daniel**

"A Quilters's Gathering" reflected the love of quilting and quilters by its founders, Jeanne and Marie. They wanted the best for all participants including the teachers and that is a rare gift." - **Sylvia Einstein**

20 years at the Gathering

Our first visit to the Gathering was actually made on a whim. Our sister Ann saw it mentioned in a local quilt shop. We were all very new to quilting so when she told us about it and we decided we'd stop by and see what it was all about Needless to say, we LOVED what it was all about!

Over the years The Gathering has become our "sister's run-away". It became our annual event – our time to get away and just have fun. I remember the first year we stayed overnight at the Westford Regency. Our room was on the same floor as the Vendors Mall. We were like little kids in a candy store – IMAGINE THIS!! We could go shopping for fabric, tools and toys without even putting our SHOES on! Quilt shopping in slippers!! One year, when my daughter was planning a fall wedding, I made ABSOLUTELY SURE she knew the "mother of the bride" would NOT be available the first weekend in November....

Long before there was a website, we would eagerly await our flier telling about the classes for the next Gathering. We would sit up until all hours of the night, talking on the phone to choose classes and get our registrations back the next day!! Of course that's not too hard to remember because we still do it ☺

In 2000, I moved to a new town. That year, in Mary Sorenson's Feathered Friends Workshop my sisters and I spotted a nametag on someone from a neighboring town. Then that evening at the Gathering, we saw someone from another nearby town.... Since that time we have become close friends and get together to quilt.

We've spent time in the Hot Tub with Marianne Fons and Liz Porter! We've had breakfast with Elinor Peace Bailey! We've had dinner with Anita Shackleford! We've met and taken classes from countless talented teachers from all over the country! And each year we were greeted with the warm smiles of Jeanne and Marie.

What has 20 years of "The Gathering" meant to us? It's been 20 years of Gathering:

- Gathering quilting skills, techniques and ideas
- Gathering inspiration and excitement
- Gathering fabrics and patterns
- Gathering toys and gadgets
- Gathering friendships that last a lifetime
- Gathering wonderful memories and special times spent together
- Not to mention – YEARS on unfinished projects!

Did I mention that we STILL wait for the flier telling us about the next Gathering? Did I mention that we STILL sit up until late at night and pick out our classes and rush them to the post office the next day? Some things never change.... We're looking forward to the next 20 years of Gathering.

The Three Sisters - Nancy, Ann, and Bonnie

"When I think about my previous times at the Quilter's Gathering, what stands out most in my memory are the people I met." – **Vicki L. Johnson**

"EXCELLENCE" A show one will always Remember. Expectations raised with quality year after year. Visit the best at The Gathering. - **Dot**

"Who would want to miss this event? Great classes, great friends, great quilts and the beauty of New England thrown in for good measure. Congratulations and thanks to everyone at A Quilters Gathering for 20 years of quilting fun and inspiration!" **Ricky Timms**

It is surprising how intimate such a large gathering can be. I am sure it is because Marie and the Glenfield Girls treat every one of us, attendees and staff alike, as if she is the most important person there, and for that moment while they are talking to you, it is true. I am sorry I did not get a chance to meet Jeanne, but I feel I know her in the reflections of her daughters. Keep up the good work "Gathering"! – **Debbie Caffrey**

I have fond memories of teaching at "A Quilter's Gathering". As I recall, it was a well organized and well attended show, better than other shows in many respects. It's not too small or too big, but just the right mix of quilts, vendors, teachers and classes. I wish I could have attended every show. – **Gayle Bong**

"The privilege of being part of The Gathering for many years is only surpassed by the friendships it created between all of participants, teachers, vendors and The Gathering founders, Marie Geary and Jeanne Glenfield. It is a pleasure to honor everyone involved on the 20th Anniversary of this fine event. Congratulations. - **Helen Weinman**

Wow, was I tired and exhilarated. It is so much fun to hang out with the students and other teachers. I loved the 'gatherings', the friendly atmosphere; teaching is what I like to do and it sure was fun teaching at the Quilters' Gathering. - **Anne Gallo**

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Attending The Gathering was always fun and exciting. The opportunity to meet with quilting friends and be inspired by the quilts on display made The Gathering an event not to be missed. - **Carol Doak**

"I can never forget the first time I entered a quilt in a show. It was *The Sower*, my second quilt (I had been quilting only six months when I made it, and got the binding all wrong!). The show was *A Quilters' Gathering, 1999*. The wonder, the thrill, of that experience will remain with me always. At the close of the show Marie Geary and Jeanne Glenfield said, "We expect another quilt next year!" Those kind and generous words launched me on an amazing adventure that hasn't ended, an adventure of discovering within myself abilities I had no idea were there, and a passion for quilting. *A Quilters' Gathering* has been a very special place for me ever since, a place where creative minds are set free, a place where the founders, current president, and staff convey to each participant and visitor a sense of caring, warmth, and closeness, along with an atmosphere of profound artistry and the most amazing accomplishment. *A Quilters' Gathering*, in its own unique way, has a heart and a soul. - **Christine Fries**

A Quilter's Gathering began twenty years ago and even then the Islip Girls were represented. Lil Dowling and her husband went for a short vacation to see a Decoy Carving Show in New England and Tom spotted an advertisement for a quilt show. He decided to surprise Lil and got all the info and headed there on Saturday morning and it's become an annual event for the Islip Girls since then. And so we've compiled our top ten reasons for returning each year.

10) It's a weekend away with just the girls and plenty of laughs.

9) The Gathering is like a reunion of old friends with quilting as the main theme.

8) Although only scheduled for five days, it really lasts throughout the year. In May we begin to wonder when the paperwork will arrive. When it finally does in June, we get together the very next day at the crack of dawn and go over our choices, fill out our papers, write the check and one of us runs to the Post Office to get it mailed NEXT DAY DELIVERY. Then we wait until July to hear if we've gotten what we wanted and to start studying our supply lists. By September we have to send in our slides if we plan to hang anything in the show and then wait for the acceptance or rejection (we've had some of each). October is crunch time getting together supplies for the classes. And it's November and we're off but time flies and before we know it, we're back home. As soon as we unpack, it's time to work on our newly started projects – we're so anxious to get them ready for Show & Tell at our local guild. The holidays come and go, the cold weather finally ends and before you know it, one of us is asking "Shouldn't The Gathering paperwork be arriving soon?" See what I mean, it lasts a year!

7) The classes are always the greatest (well, maybe we've picked the wrong one once or twice) but 99.5% great; the teachers are just the best. Our criteria seems to be "Did I pick up one new tip in the class?" And then we sit around in our hotel room at night and share "So and so said to do it this way; you should really try it!"

6) Wow! What a Merchant Mall (actually now three of them). It's a good thing Sandy doesn't check the weight of our bags when we start packing the van for home. We'd all be paying an overcharge all the time.

5) The show itself – Wow, wow, wow! I'll never forget Linda Poole's Bride or Christine Fries' depiction of the woman with the beautiful hair. But it's not all artsy. There are plenty of traditional quilts to keep it balanced and inspire us all. One year we volunteered to help hang the show. Let me tell you, after driving five hours from Long Island and doing our chore, we all knew what tired and hungry was all about especially when we presented ourselves at the dining room only to be told they were closed. And all we knew about Westford Mass was I-95 to the Regency. Do they have fast food there? We couldn't find it.

4) Our keepsake tote bag and mug for being a Quilt Bitch, I'm sorry the word is Stitch! And the guessing game we play to see what color will be the theme for the year. And our souvenir mugs – Gloria has only 18 mugs to 19 for the rest of us. One year, Audrey's husband took ill and we had to leave for home early on Sunday morning. Well, Gloria was scheduled to help out on Sunday so she never earned a mug. In later years we tried to buy the mug she was missing, we even put our artistic talents to work trying to make her believe we had one for her. But you know what – it's more fun listening to her good natured needling of Audrey all the time about her missing mug.

3) The lectures and getting to know the teachers up close and personal.

2) The evening Gathering with our cookies and cocoa and the Show & Tell from the day's classes. It gives us a chance to mingle with quilters who we've met during the day and returning quilters from year to year. It's also nice to be able to meet the teachers whose classes we are not taking. And the door prizes and cheering wildly when our names are called even if we are third from the end.

And the number one reason we keep returning to A QUILTER'S GATHERING is the staff. We feel like members of an extended family. Sarah, Amy and Kate – we feel like we've watched you grow up. Marie Geary and her grandchildren and the wonderful way she introduces "My sister, Josephine!" All the other ladies who tend to our wants and needs and keep The Gathering a well oiled machine. But by far, we'll always remember the smile and hug we each got each year from Jeanne Glenfield when we reported to the Registration Table and her greeting for us – "I always know that The Gathering is under way when the Islip Ladies arrive." And so, we keep coming back! **The Islip Ladies – Ronnie Alber, Gloria Bleidner, Audrey Collins, JoAnn Incalcaterra and Sandra Sievers**