Thursdays at the Museum 2012
Collaborative Quilting: A Tribute for Our Gold Star Mothers

In conjunction with our Community Quilting projects, the New England Quilt Museum invites you to a series of special Open House and "Sit and Sew" events as we assemble blocks and quilts in collaboration with the Massachusetts Chapter of **Home of the Brave Quilts,** a non-partisan group of dedicated volunteers providing comfort quilts to grieving families of our fallen soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. All interested individuals are welcome to visit the museum, sign a completed block and/or stay to assemble more blocks and quilt tops. Everything is provided for your use -- kits with pre-cut fabrics, sewing supplies and sewing machines. Registration is **not** required for these **free** workshops. Come for all or any part of the day. Bring your lunch or purchase one from any of our neighborhood restaurants. Coffee and tea are served.

Open House/Sit and Sew: **10:00AM – 3:00 PM**
Dates: Thursday, January 26
Thursday, March 8 – A Special Lowell Women's Week Event
Thursday, March 29
Thursday, May 31 – The Traditional Memorial Day
Thursday, June 29
Thursday – Saturday, August 9 – 11 at the Images during the Lowell Quilt Festival
Thursday, October 25
Friday, November 9 – A Tribute to Veteran's Day

The Beginning of NEQM's Collaboration with HOBQ

During the spring of 2011, Massachusetts needed more than 100 quilts for our fallen soldiers' Gold Star mothers and spouses. The New England Quilt Museum agreed to collaborate with Julie Crossland, Marilyn Davis, and Diana O'Connor, the **Home of the Brave Quilts** Massachusetts Coordinators, to sew quilts as well as raise awareness of the efforts and needs of the organization.

In July 2011, NEQM received donations of Civil War reproduction fabrics to be used for these quilts. Outreach staff and **HOBQ** coordinators hosted its first "Sit and Sew" during the Lowell Quilt Festival, August 11 – 13, 2011. Quilters, newcomers and experienced, worked together and assembled quilts blocks. Their creativity was contagious, and visitors sewed and signed hundreds of blocks!! *Thursdays at the Museum 2011* initiated *Collaborative Quilting: Home of the Brave Quilts* in September. Museum members, local quilt groups and interested individuals attended **free** workshops and continued to assemble these comfort quilts. As of December 2011, the number of quilts completed has surpassed 60% of the Massachusetts Chapter's goal.

For more information, visit www.homeofthebravequilts.com . For more information about this local drive, please contact Julie Crossland at 603-595-9519 or at quiltsappraised@comcast.net.

For additional information to participate in the workshops or to donate Civil War reproduction fabrics, please contact Rhonda Galpern at 978-452-4207, ext. 17 or at outreach@nequiltmuseum.org .

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