

Concord Piecemakers

PO Box 1381, Concord, MA 01742

December 2007

Susanne Fuller, President

Kathy O'Toole, Editor

President's Message

Susanne Fuller

There is nothing like a few inches of snow on the ground to remind us of our winter holidays. Are you busy putting the finishing stitches on gifts - as I am?

This month, we have our traditional laid back gathering with a pot luck 'supper' of sorts - finger foods that do not need to be heated or refrigerated. Bring one dish and share the bounty of your friends' good cooking. The board will provide beverages and all the paper goods (plates, cups, etc...). This is always an enjoyable meeting. It is also uplifting because the other part of our December meeting tradition is putting the finishing decorative touches on dozens of fleece hats, mittens, and scarves that we donate to various worthy groups who pass them along to children in need. Last year the collection was awesome; someone referred to the members at one table as "over-achievers". Let's see if we can top that this year.

A special "thank you" goes out to Beverly Jenks, who donated a huge collection of fleece for us to use in our creative efforts for the children. Also to Beverly, we send our prayers as she struggles with a serious illness.

We have some Lost And Found items from the show. One of the exhibitors (Nancy) lost a pair of brown thick-framed sunglasses. And a large plastic bag of gift shop goodies was found. If you know where the sunglasses are or who owns the gift shop goodies, please let me know.

NOTE the December meeting is on the 12th, the second Tuesday, not the usual third Wednesday. I hope to see all of you then.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all of you!

Susanne

Meetings

Jan Wilhelm and Fay Martin

Our December meeting will be December 12 at 7:00 pm. Note the earlier starting time! This is a wonderful time to socialize with our fellow quilters and do something to help those less fortunate. Once again we will be decorating fleece hats, mittens or scarves to be given to charity. You can either make hats, mittens, etc., or purchase ready made ones to decorate. Here are some websites which provide patterns for mittens:

<http://www.thru-hiker.com/workshop.asp?subcat=4&cid=70>

http://www.fabriclandwest.com/Fleece_Country/Fleece/fleece_mittens.htm

http://www.shininghours.com/mittens/mitten_pattern.htm

Please remember to bring your sewing supplies and embellishments for the hats and mittens as well. Also, bring some finger food to share with everyone! It's a great evening to chat, nibble, and sew!

Our speaker for the meeting on January 16, 2008 will be Ruth McDowell. She has titled her talk "New Work." This program is open to members only.

Anyone that is interested in more information about Karen Eckmeier and the April workshop can check her website www.quilted-lizard.com

Quiltathon

Marilyn Brownlie

Our annual Quiltathon will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at St. Matthew's Methodist Church in West Acton. Save the date. We all look forward to this day of quilting, tying, stuffing, and enjoying each other's company.

For those of you who are new in the group, this is a wonderful way to get acquainted with other guild members. Everyone brings a quilt top and back. We provide the batting, supplies, and work space. We have stations for sewing, stuffing, tying and we all work together. In most years we finish about 50 quilts that day and the unfinished ones are completed at home or in the comfort groups and added to the total. They are then donated to charitable agencies in the area who deal with children and young people.

We hope you'll all be able to make a quilt top. Baby size tops and twin bed sizes are most desirable. The patchwork can be as simple as you wish and "cheater cloth" tops are also a possibility. If you aren't able to make a top, perhaps you'd like to donate batting and/or come on the 1st to help. We will also need sewing machines, irons and other equipment—so there will be many ways to participate. We will be sending a signup sheet around at the January meeting. Mark your calendar. Plan to come and join us!

Getaway Weekend

Marian Bressel

There is still time to sign up for the *GetAway* weekend. This year the weekend is February 9 and 10, with an option to stay on until Monday the 11th. Final payment is due to Marian Bressel on or before the January meeting. We also have openings for a Sit and Sew day for \$50 which includes lunch but not dinner or breakfast. Prices are:

Saturday and Sunday	\$160 each person, double occupancy
	\$190 person, single occupancy
Sunday through Monday	\$135 each person, double occupancy
	\$165 single room
Friday night	\$75 each person double occupancy
	\$150 single room
Friday plus weekend	\$235 each person, double occupancy
Friday plus weekend plus Monday	\$370 each person, double occupancy
Weekend plus Monday	\$295 each person, double occupancy
Sit and Sew day	\$50, no dinner

Sew many options!!

2007-2008 "Keep-it-Small" Challenge

Sue Reeps

Elana Schreiber

This year's challenge will be to create one or more small pieces each of which has a perimeter that does not exceed 50 inches. It doesn't have to be a "miniature" with small pieces, like the ones that George Siciliano showed us at the November Meeting.

It just has to be small in overall size. For example, you could just do a single block that you've been interested in trying that finishes at 12 inches by 12 inches (total perimeter 48 inches) with borders. You might also want to try a small rectangular landscape quilt (8 by 10 inches - perimeter 36 inches) using Karen Eckmeier's "Accidental Landscapes" technique. (She'll be speaking at the April Meeting but you can check out her website for ideas.) You could also choose to do a group of small quilts with a common theme or color scheme that you would intend to hang together. A triptych of three long narrow pieces, each being 6 by 18 inches (total perimeter of each individual piece being 48 inches) could be interesting. Or... you could make multiple pieces, each a different size and shape that blend together in some way as long as each individual piece does not exceed the 50 inch perimeter limit. Plan to present your creations at the May Meeting! If you have questions, give one of us a call. Website for George Siciliano is www.georgesiciliano.com. Karen Eckmeier's website is www.quilted-lizard.com.

Membership

Joan Kerpelman

Remember to sign in and pick up badges, membership cards, Yearbooks, and Fabric Place cards when you arrive at the monthly meeting. If your name is highlighted on the check-in sheet, we have something for you. There are three new members and one correction for you to add to your yearbook.

Special Recognition of Our Members

Marla Richmond

Congratulations to the following who had quilts juried in to the Quilter's Gathering Show: Valarie Maser-Flanagan had 3 pieces accepted and Joy Sussman not only had 3 pieces accepted, she also got a ribbon for hand quilting!

Valarie Maser-Flanagan has her quilt, Tango, in the Quilt Art 2008 Engagement Calendar. Look for it the week of September 29.

Sewing Kits

Alice Wiggin

Alice Wiggin reports that she sent 32 small sewing kits to Ramona, Californian women who lost their homes and sewing supplies in recent fires. Thanks to all who so generously donated the supplies!

Comfort Quilt Group - Evening

Sue Reeps

Evening comfort quilts is held at 7:00 pm at my home, on either the first or second Tuesday of the month, depending on my work travel schedule. I send out email (or call if you have no email!) to let you know which night we are meeting. If you are interested in joining us, even on an occasional basis, just let me know and I'll include you on the notification.

Comfort Quilt Group - Daytime

Joy Sussman

The daytime comfort quilt group will meet only once this month. The meeting took place on December 5th. We will resume our usual schedule again in January. We have been meeting at Joy Sussman's house. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:00pm. We had a very productive year last year sandwiching and tying quilts. More people are needed so please join us.

Daytime Machine Comfort Quilt Group

Eileen Ryan

There is a new group making comfort quilts by machine. It meets on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the West Concord Assisted Living facility in West Concord. The group offers the opportunity to learn new quilt patterns and learn, as well as to practice, machine quilting techniques.