

Concord Piecemakers

PO Box 1381, Concord, MA 01742

January 2010

Marla Richmond, President

Kathy O'Toole, Editor

President's Message

Marla Richmond

Happy 2010, Piecemakers! I really missed everyone last month. A month without Piecemakers is like a month without...FRIENDS! I suppose this means the June pot luck will have to be bigger and badder than usual. I think we're up to it. Remember that if Concord Public Schools are closed, so is the Harvey Wheeler Center. If the weather deteriorates during the day we will make the decision by 1:00 p.m. and make sure that all are informed.

The January meeting is a good time to catch up with everyone and learn some great things about our sewing machines. Trust me, our speaker is a lot of fun and got me (superchicken) to play with the tension on my sewing machine. Then we have our Getaway (can't wait!) followed by the Quiltathon. Let's get those comfort quilts done, folks! The rumor mills have it that other guilds are putting out less comfort quilts this year. The economy. WELL.... We Piecemakers have stashes that pre-date the economic downturn and hearts as big as Walden Pond. We'll show them! The need never gets less and we will keep up with it.

Keep warm, keep safe and keep turning out those comfort quilts! (Hey, that UFO that you never finished because you decided you hated it would make a great comfort quilt AND you get a UFO credit for it! Double win!)

Marla

Request from the VP

Barbara Kozenko

If you have anything that belongs to the guild (extension cords, banners, etc.), please contact Barbara. She is compiling a list of all the assets available to the guild so we can find things more easily. Thanks!

Meetings

Fay Martin

Jenny Johnston

Sometimes we come across a program that just can't wait for another season; and we have found one this year. Several Piecemakers were blown away by a recent presentation on the subject of sewing machine tension, and we just couldn't wait to share it with the rest of our

Guild. So for our January meeting, Cathy Racine of the Charlton Sewing Center will provide our program. Some of you know Cathy as the owner of this unique shop and as a sewing machine technician *extraordinaire*. Ok, ok, so I feel you shaking your heads (I did too). How exciting can this be, I've been sewing and adjusting my tension on the fly for years! Well, somehow Cathy's lively and informative talk, complete with props, will teach you a thing or two. And she does it in the most engaging way. She will also bring the many threads she carries and she will answer all your questions. This is a must-see program, and I can't wait to see it all over again.

Please note that our January program that we will be starting at 7:15 that night to give the speaker ample time for all her information and for questions. Hopefully the business meeting will be speedy, but we will show any UFOs before the talk, just to make sure we get to see everything. And, on that topic, the prize basket will make its first appearance.

QUILT EXHIBIT AT CHARLTON SEWING CENTER

We want to thank all of you who lent quilts to our exhibit at the Charlton Sewing Center. We delivered around 20 quilts on Monday and the show should be hung early this week. So, plan a road trip to Charlton! If you don't know it, the shop is in an old church, complete with pipe organ; a truly inspiring space for contemplating your next project.

WORKSHOP SIGNUPS

Our April meeting will feature Caren Betlinski on the topic of *Thread Painting*. Following her lecture, Caren will give a 2-day workshop on April 22-23. We will learn the basics of this technique, yet another way to use our machine! We will create a quick machine appliqué background. Over this background we will design a composition of Black-eyed Susans, and then use basic thread painting techniques to create detail and interest. By taking the two-day class you should be nearly finished with your demo piece. If you can only stay for day 1, you will learn how to get started and be on your way to finishing your first thread painting. A \$20 kit is required, payable to Caren, and will include most everything you need.

Cost:	\$70 for 2 days; \$40 for the first day only, plus kit price.
Dates:	Thursday and Friday, April 23-24
Place and Time:	St. John's Lutheran Church, Sudbury, 9:30 - 4

Please note that we have about 7 preliminary signups. Your check reserves your place. This should be a popular and FUN workshop. Don't be intimidated!! I know I am since I don't paint, but Caren is most lovely and patient, and as a former special needs teacher, I think she can even teach me!

Getaway

Marian Bressel

Here's the scoop on Getaway Weekend 2010:

LOCATION: Colonial Hotel, Gardner, MA.

DATES: Friday January 29, Saturday January 30, Sunday January 31, and Monday February 1.

PACKAGE: Dinner, a room, and breakfast. This can be applied to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

STUDIO HOURS: Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. 'til midnight; Monday 8:00 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m.

The basic getaway is Saturday and Sunday. Meals included are: Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. If you want to stay late on Sunday but not sleep over until Monday, you will have to buy your own dinner (should you be able to tear yourself away from your sewing). The Sunday night option includes dinner Sunday night, breakfast Monday, and a light lunch Monday. The Friday night option includes dinner Friday and breakfast Saturday. The studio will close Monday at 5:00 pm.

Costs are:

	SINGLE	DOUBLE (TWO PEOPLE SHARING A ROOM)
Friday night (includes Friday dinner, a room, and Saturday breakfast)	\$215	\$151
Saturday night (includes Saturday lunch, dinner, a room and Sunday breakfast and lunch)	\$215	\$151
Sunday night (includes Sunday dinner, a room and Monday breakfast and light lunch)	\$205	\$141
Sit and Sew	\$65 (lunch only)	

Payment in full is due now!!

If you have any questions, please contact Marian Bressel.

See you there!

Quiltathon

Jan Wilhelm, Joanne Williamson, Fay Martin, Nanette Moffa, Susan Ostberg and Sue Colwell

The Quiltathon is coming!!

Saturday, February 20 8:00-4:00 at St. Matthew's Church, Acton.

Come one, come all! Bring your quilt tops (backings are appreciated!), your scissors and your energy!

Stay for an hour or stay for the day.

Lunch will be provided!

Heartstrings Block

Susan Monsegur and Maura Cain

Sometimes making a whole quilt can be overwhelming. For our getaway weekend we thought people could participate by donating their strings/strips and making a block or several if they'd like. The guild has purchased muslin and donated some red bandanna fabric. Susan Monsegur has offered to cut the center (diagonal) strip (with her new GoCutter she bought for Christmas!), as well as the muslin block. All you have to do is add your strips (they should not be more than 3 inches wide; the longest strip you will need will be 18", the rest will be shorter in length) to the block via the "sew and flip" method. No need to trim the block, as Susan or Maura will do so afterwards.

This can also become an ongoing project if guild members would like to continue so you don't have to be going on the getaway to participate. Susan M got her inspiration from Heartstrings, an online organization (of which she is a member). For more information about Heartstrings, please see <http://heartstringsquiltproject.com/about/>

Raffle Quilt

Joy Sussman

Remember to bring your ideas for the next quilt to the Get-a-way or submit them to Joy ahead of time!

Outreach

Scena Proodian

Greetings in the New Year!

A big thanks to all in the guild who help to provide quilts for the various organizations that we support. In late December, I delivered six quilts to Rose Colosi for the Bethke Cancer Center at Emerson Hospital.

Please remember if you are making a quilt top for the Quiltathon or a finished quilt here are the sizes needed:

Bethke Cancer Center - Emerson Hospital Lap quilts for men and women
approximately 40 X 60 inches

The Sharing Foundation - Cambodian Orphanage - Quilts for girl's dormitory 40 X 80
inches

Project Linus - babies and young children no smaller than 40 X 40 inches

Children's Hospital - non-Oncology Hospice Unit - babies and young children no
smaller than 40 X 40 inches

Lowell Nursing Home - Twin sized bed quilts and lap quilts for men and women

Please let me know if you have a new organization that needs quilts. If any guild member is interested in helping with the outreach efforts - just give Scena a call.

Membership

Carol Hartman

My membership news is that we have added another member. Kay Mueller has renewed her membership. We warmly welcome her and we now have 148 members.

CPM 2009-2010 UFO Program

Fay Martin

Jenny Johnston

Join us this year in finishing some/all(?) of your lingering projects. Our program is meant to encourage and inspire you to get those old projects done, even re-create those you thought you'd never finish. Be eligible for our grand prize drawing in June.

Here's how to play:

Finish a quilt project started before January 2009. (The UFO may have been finished since our June meeting for the Quilt Show.)

- Bring it to a monthly meeting where we will have a separate UFO show and tell.
- Fill out a slip for each quilt finished and shown and then drop it in the lovely container.

At the end of the June meeting, we will draw a slip for the Grand Prize and others prizes. For this program, a UFO is any quilt project begun before January 2009; that is, it must have been cut out or sewn on, not just imagined or designed. A quilt will be considered finished when it is quilted and bound, ready for display or presentation.

Challenge Quilt for 2009-2010

Elana Schreiber

Sharon Laughlin

This year we are focusing on finishing UFO's (unfinished objects). I was looking at my box of unfinished treasures and realized that with each one there is some reason that I have not worked on it for a while. By far the most common reason for me is that it had lost its excitement for me and I would rather start something new! I thought that if I were to take one of these quilts and adopt the following requirements, it would be more fun to finish.

- Create things in your quilt that start with the first letter of your name. Include at least 5 of them.
- Your initials must appear somewhere in your quilt.
- A heart must appear somewhere in your quilt.

These requirements may be met with appliqué, piecing or incorporated into the quilting. Have fun!

Library

Sheila Macauley
Janet Rich

If anyone would like to suggest any books for the library to purchase, please email your Librarian, Sheila Macauley.

Comfort Quilts - Daytime

Joy Sussman

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month at 1:00 PM at Joy Sussman's house. We will resume on January 4th. Please feel free to join us. Contact Joy Sussman for more details!

Daytime Machine Comfort Quilt Group

Eileen Ryan

A group of quilters making Charity Quilts by machine meets the first Friday of the month at West Concord Assisted Living by the West Concord train station from 10 am to 2 pm. We work on simply pieced patterns and help each other come up with machine quilting ideas to finish them. Come join us.