

# Concord Piecemakers

PO Box 1381, Concord, MA 01742

## December 2010

Marla Richmond, President

Kathy O'Toole, Editor

### President's Message

Marla Richmond

I'm taking a design class at the Arsenal Center for the Arts with Nancy Crasco. (The class is HIGHLY recommended! It is fabulous!) If you don't know Nancy Crasco's work, you should. Anyway, we got into a discussion about the difference between art and craft. I see myself as an emerging craftsperson. One class member said she sees herself as an artist because she has always wanted to be one. Another said it is the political difference: craft is utilitarian. Art is elevated. Craft really is a type of art. Hmm.

I see craft as getting the making of a quilt right: it really has points, the corners meet in the right place, and the boarders don't waver. It works and is appropriate. I see art as the magic: either you got it or you don't. It says something, it moves you. I aspire to art. I guess my feeling of the difference goes back to my great love of theatre. I know actors who are artists and actors who are crafts people. All of the crafts people think they are artists. People have made careers in acting and do well, but they are acting. I have seen artists that rise above script and become the character. I suppose some would disagree with some of the people I see as artists, but that is part of the whole purpose of feelings.

The best quilt I have done (so far) was a block of the month I made my niece as a wedding gift. People praised the patterns and colors. I didn't do that part, the incredible Kathy Jamieson picked the colors and patterns (she IS an artist). I put it together. Is that craft, following someone else's pattern? I love the quilt, but I didn't put the magic in it, just the love.

I'm not sure of the difference between art and craft. I guess it is a work in progress for me to figure out. But Nancy Crasco told me to take two more art classes and I would feel comfortable calling myself an artist. There is hope!

If you haven't already, please complete a 2010 Survey form (found at the end of this newsletter) and return it at the December meeting or mail it to me. This will be your last opportunity!

Many happy returns of the Winter Solstice!

Marla

Congratulations to Jenny Johnston who had a piece juried in to the Quilters' Gathering.  
Congratulations to Jessica Leger who had three of her wearables juried in to the Quilters' Gathering.  
Congratulations to Sharon Laughlin who showed a quilt in the Wayside Quilters Show.

## **Meetings**

Fay Martin

Come join us on December 8th at 7:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME!

Please bring a finger food to share with 8 hungry quilters. Make it something that says winter holidays to you.

To celebrate this time of year we will be gambling! We will be playing QUILTO (a quilt-y version of BINGO). One fat quarter (a nice one, one you would actually use, not just one you want to get rid of) will buy you two cards. Buy as many cards as you like. We expect to play 3 to 5 games. We supply the cards and markers. You supply the spirit. Look forward to seeing you there!

## **Wearables**

Eileen Ryan

Don't forget the January Fashion Show. Everyone in the guild is invited to show things they've been making -- jackets, pants, shirts, whatever! It doesn't have to be quilterly, show us what the fabric made you do. There is a form to fill out to describe what you have to show. There will be additional copies of the form at the December meeting and you can turn it in then. If you don't want to walk the catwalk, we'll have someone show it for you. There will be static displays of bags and aprons. You don't have to sign up ahead of time to display those items, just bring them to the January meeting. There will also be a shoe challenge -- decorate any shoe; it doesn't have to be wearable, and enter it in the challenge. There will be prizes. No limits as to how to decorate. Call Eileen Ryan if you have a question.

## **Challenge 2010 -2011**

Elana Schreiber

Sharon Laughlin

## **Go 'round**

You will be making a quilt that is any size and with any materials (new or old, cotton through silk)

Size: Mini through king size

You may work alone or with a small group

Style: traditional, pictorial, abstract

Log cabin block: defined as any block that has strips that go around a center. The center can be any geometric shape with straight edges not necessarily a square. The center does not need to be in the center. It must have at least one strip attached to two sides that are next to each other. Examples of block names that would be appropriate are courthouse steps, white house steps chimneys and corners, pineapple etc.

Do you want to work in a small group? I envision this small group as meeting a couple of times; the group will decide. I would think that they would get together to talk about what they plan to do, meet the following month to see what they have done so far and maybe another time in the early spring to

help each other with finishing ideas. If so you will need to fill out a sign up sheet. We will make your group so you can get to know some new people. The group will decide on a meeting time that works with the people's schedule. Please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter titled "Join a Challenge Quilt Group."

## Getaway

Marian Bressel

Here's the scoop on Getaway Weekend 2011:

LOCATION: Colonial Hotel, Gardner, MA.

DATES: Friday January 14, Saturday January 15, Sunday January 16, and Monday January 17<sup>th</sup> (Martin Luther King Day)

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)	\$125	\$75 per person
Saturday night (includes Saturday lunch, dinner, a room and Sunday breakfast and lunch)	\$170	\$151 per person
Sunday night (includes Sunday dinner, a room and Monday breakfast and light lunch)	\$170	\$140 per person
Sit and Sew	\$65 (lunch only)	

**A downpayment of \$25 secures you a space.**

If you have any questions, please contact Marian Bressel.

See you there!

## **CONCORD MUSEUM's "A Little Scrap for Recollection's Sake"**

Carol Duff

The Concord Museum is currently exhibiting quilts from their collection and two from the Alcott House. The exhibition is on until mid March. For the two days after Thanksgiving they included a family program in the barn and invited Concord Piecemakers to participate.

Parents and children came to the barn and made some of the simple blocks available using pieces of fabric prepared with fusible backing. Once they chose their fabrics and placement, a volunteer ironed the fabrics to the blocks. For the "little" people there were markers (many, many colors to choose from) and they sat and colored their quilt designs.

As part of the program, we showed the visitors techniques used in quilting along with some of our work. (The "we" being Chris Lang, Marla Richmond and myself.) Chris was labeling quilts for the Emerson Sale (which led people to ask when it was going to be), Marla was binding a baby quilt (with her sprained thumb) and explaining how to make a professional finish, as well as talking up the Concord Piecemakers, our quilt show next fall and handing out membership apps to a few interested ladies (she also brought one of our picture albums) and I set up my Singer Featherweight, demonstrated paper piecing (I was making Palm Leaf blocks) and explained the history of foundation piecing in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Adults and children alike "oohed" and "awed" our work and asked the usual endless questions we all hear like "How long does it take to make a quilt?". (One little boy wanted to know what the machine was, what it did and could he make it work? Answer: I don't think so!)

The Education Director was thrilled to have us. She explained how it added so much to the event and many who saw the exhibit said how much more they appreciated the show having seen "real" quilters at work and the amount of time needed to make a block, never mind a whole quilt. In the two days I completed 16 parts for two blocks! Not the actual blocks, mind you - so much to talk about.

So much fun and the time just flew. We even offered to supply labor for future events! So drop by the museum and check out the exhibition. You'll feel the connection.

### **Outreach**

Scena Proodian

Thanks to all who have made and/or finished quilts for this effort. Your efforts and the results are truly appreciated. These are the lean months -- most of the finished quilts from the February Quiltathon have been delivered to me and I have forwarded them on to the various groups that we support. In addition, a few members have asked for a special quilt that could be raffled for a fund raiser.

The wonderful inventory of quilts for distribution is getting low. So, if you:

- still have a quilt that you took home from the Quiltathon
- found a UFO at the Yard Sale
- or have a quilt for Outreach

Please try to finish it and deliver to me for distribution. Thank you so much in advance for your help with this.

## **Heartstrings Block Update**

Maura Cain  
Susan Monsegur

Since we started the Heartstring Blocks in January, we have received 189 blocks! We have several tops in the works that will be ready for tying at the Quiltathon. If you would like to make a block, stop by the front table at the next meeting to pick up muslin squares, red center strips, and directions if you need them. 'Thanks' goes to Eileen Ryan for sharing her 'String Quilt as You Go' technique. If you missed her demo last month, directions will also be available at the front table. Anyone who has completed string blocks, please bring them in!

## **Pillowcases**

Maura Cain

Last month we collected 78 pillowcases! Thank you, special 'thanks' to the Harvard Gang and Sharon Laughlin. If you took a pillowcase kit or completed a string block, please bring them in!

## **Nominating Committee**

Diane Payne

We are in need of a Programs chairperson! It's a fabulous job because you get to meet and work with famous quilters who also happen to be nice people. The first year is already set up so all you have to do is introduce the speakers and get to work on the 2011-2012 season. Please contact Marla Richmond if you are interested.

## **Membership**

Carol Hartman

Don't forget to wear your name badges in order to participate in the raffle each month. If you have lost or misplaced yours, drop me an email and I'll have it for you at the next meeting.

## **Library**

Sheila Macauley  
Janet Rich

If any members would like to suggest some books that they would like the library to purchase this year, please email Sheila with the names of the books and she will put them on the list to purchase.

## **Daytime Machine Comfort Quilt Group**

Eileen Ryan

On the first Friday of the month, a group of quilters meets at West Concord Assisted Living to work on machine pieced and quilted charity quilts. We share quick quilt patterns, quilting ideas, and get lots

of work done while we improve our quilting techniques. We'd love to have you join us. Call or email Eileen Ryan for more information.

## **Comfort Quilts**

Joy Sussman

A small group of us meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 1:00 pm. Our mission is to complete the quilts from the last February Quiltathon by doing the tying. We meet at my home. Please join us if you would like. We will meet November 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Join a Challenge Quilt Group

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

When would you like to get together?

Daytime, Saturday or Sunday daytime, weekday evening

Experience level:

Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Do you want to be involved as a scrap or exchange?

Reference: A New Look at Log Cabin Quilts by Flavin Glover

1. How many years have you been a member of Concord Piecemakers? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many years have you been quilting: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What other hobbies do you have:

_____ machine quilting	_____ appliqué	_____ hand quilting	
_____ sewing	_____ knitting	_____ scrapbooking	
_____ embroidery	_____ crochet	_____ beading	_____ buttons
_____ felting	_____ ? _____	_____ ? _____	_____ ? _____

4. The most important aspect of belonging to a guild for me.....is:

PLEASE CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY

- a. Lectures and trunk shows by known quilt artists.
- b. Entering my pieces in the quilt show.
- c. Workshops to improve/learn new skills.
- d. Fellowship with other quilters.
- e. Others: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you a member of another group that meets to quilt/sew/embroider?

- a. No and I prefer to work alone
- b. Yes: *(it would help us connect to other groups if we know we have members in them)*
  - i. We meet \_\_\_\_\_ times a week/month.
  - ii. Describe the group: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. No, but I would like to be. I would be willing to host a group in my home.  
**yes no maybe**

6. I attend monthly Piecemakers meetings - PLEASE CIRCLE CORRECT ANSWER

- a. Every month when possible



- b. About half the time.
- c. When the presenter interests me.
- d. When there is a party.
- e. I don't attend monthly meetings.

7. MONTHLY PROGRAMS - What/Who would you like to see in a monthly program?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

8. WORKSHOPS

a. What/Who would you like to see in a workshop?

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Would you be interested/comfortable in presenting a min-workshop within the guild Yes/No

- i. If yes – on what: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of the following have you participated in? Check all that apply and if possible provide your level of support (chaired, member of, participated etc)

- a. Quiltathon

- b. Get away weekend
- c. Block of the month
- d. Quilt show
- e. Wearables Group
- f. Comfort Quilts
  - i. Daytime
  - ii. Evening
- g. Mystery Quilt
- h. Workshops
- i. Round robin
- j. Special interest or service groups
- k. Others: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. A volunteer organization like us relies on its members to participate by taking a leadership position when they themselves feel able. Would you be willing to be on a committee, a committee chair, co-chair or officer? IF.....

- a. I were asked
- b. I were given a job description and records of what my predecessor did
- c. I got some help and training
- d. When Hell freezes over