

Concord Piecemakers

PO Box 1381, Concord, MA 01742

October 2010

Marla Richmond, President

Kathy O'Toole, Editor

President's Message

Marla Richmond

Valerie Maser-Flanagan came by to drop off some things for the yard sale last week. She looked at my studio and said, "I read "Clear Your Clutter with Feng Shui" by Karen Kingston and it changed my life!" I looked at my studio and understood what she meant. That afternoon I went to a used book store with my son and the book was out on the counter. Kismet! I bought it. I haven't read it yet, but I've looked at bits and pieces of it. You don't have to believe in Feng Shui to get what Kingston means.

People always say to me "quilt! It will make you feel better." It does, but I don't do it. When I do quilt I find that I bruise my shins going between my sewing machine and the ironing board. If I am machine quilting, I knock things on the floor from the table the machine is on. If it's hot I can't open a window because there is too much on the floor in front of the window. Why don't I quilt more? I need to clear my clutter! Time for me to do something about it. You too? I don't use patterns often but I have a ton of them. Maybe someone else can use them. I have books that I have never looked at that friends have picked up at the remainders table at Barnes and Noble. Does anyone really ever look at old quilt magazines? Clear out your clutter! If you can get into your studio it will be a lot more fun to use it. Fabric piled up on the floor is not going to get used. Clean it, iron it, put it on a shelf or in a drawer. Cleaning out a deceased quilter's stash makes me not want to buy fabric. OK, not as much fabric. Get rid of things you don't need. There are people who really want the clothes that no longer fit. I have to admit that I will never get back to THAT size again. Clean out your closets! You never know what you might find that you actually can -- and want to -- wear. Throwing out, donating, selling things is liberating.

We have a yard sale coming up. That is the perfect place to get rid of craft items that, let's be honest, you're never going to use. Contact Jan Allen, Monica Natwig, Scena Proodian or me to see when you can drop off your cast offs. This will benefit the guild and those places we support. Make your life more livable and feel good about it at the same time. Make room!

This month at our meeting we will be collecting names for people who want to join neighborhood groups. Neighborhood groups are small groups of quilters who meet at regular intervals to do hand work together. You can even knit, but don't tell me. This is a way for a guild as large as ours to feel more manageable. Make friends and help each other with artistic or practical issues in your quilting. Give it a try. My group has been meeting for about 10 years and the neighborhood is about 25 miles around. Sign up at the October meeting and we will help you find your "neighborhood".

Don't forget to wear your name tag to enter the raffle at our October 13th meeting. ***Please note that this month's meeting is a week ahead of our usual date!!!***

Marla

Welcoming New Members

Laurie LaConte

A New Member Welcome Party is going to be held on Wednesday, October 20 at Laurie LaConte's home. All new members from the past few years should have received an invitation by e-mail. If you did not receive an invitation, or if you have been a member for a longer time, but you still feel "new" and would like a chance to meet and socialize with other new members, please contact me and I will send your invitation.

In conversation with several people, I heard the feeling that it can be hard to feel part of things as a new member of the guild. I thought that it would be nice to welcome the new members and give them a chance to get to know each other. Many of us, having been part of CPM for decades, have our friends and routines. I have heard several say that they came to a meeting, sat alone in the back, and left without any interaction. Please note the new members by the colored nametags and try to help them feel a part of things. We are working on other ideas toward this goal as well and would welcome suggestions.

Meetings

Fay Martin

Our speaker this month will be Mary Walter, a familiar figure on the local quilting scene. Mary's lecture will be on Welsh Quilts.

And heads up. Our second hands-on program will be in November. Trish Hodge of Batik Tambal (www.batiktambal.com) will present a lecture/demo using Shiva paintstiks with her Indonesian copper tjaps to make batik stamp rubbings. She will bring the paintstiks and stamps, we will do the rubbings. This activity will flow nicely with her Saturday workshop on November 20 in which we can use these rubbings and/or other panels to make a small wall hanging. Do you have any small batik, or other, panels hanging around in your stash? Can you find them? Do you remember why you bought them? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this workshop is for you. Trish's forte is in how to incorporate panels into a well-designed piece. We will continue sign-ups in October for the November workshop, so please check out Trish's website for more information. I am very excited about this opportunity to learn from and work with Trish; my sources tell me she is a talented artist with a unique twist. The workshop fee will be \$40.

Yard Sale - October 23, 2010

Monica Natwig

Janice Allen

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 23rd for the CPM Yard Sale at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Acton. This is our only fund raising event for 2010!

Reminder - clean out all of those boxes, drawers, and plastic bins for the big event:

- Donate your unwanted items to make room for new books, yards of material, and other goodies.
- Check with friends, neighbors and family for additional items.
- Pack up donations and make a date to drop off.

Items needed:

- Material (no polyester) - label yardage (masking tape works well)
- Quilting or sewing notions and tools
- Batting, patterns, yarn
- Quilting and craft books
- Quilting and craft magazines - bundle so title is visible using string or rubber bands
- Needlework kits
- Miscellaneous craft items

Thanks for your help! We really need everyone on this one.

Yard Sale Co-Chairs: Monica Natwig (978-549-2193) and Jan Allen (978-263-2032)

Please call for drop off:

Monica Natwig
28 Milldam Circle
Acton, MA 01720
978-549-2193

Scena Proodian
361 Arlington St.
Acton, MA 01720
978-505-0561

Marla Richmond
52 Vine Brook Rd.
Westford, MA 01886
978-629-6252

Janice Allen
13 Coughlin St.
Acton, MA 01720
978-263-2032

We need everyone's help to publicize the Yard Sale. Because we have members in over 30 communities (!!), we need help in spreading the word. I will be sending by e-mail a flyer and "invitation" to advertise the Yard Sale. Please print out flyer to hang in your area, workplace, etc. Please send an e-mail to everyone you know who might be interested in the yard sale. Other quilters and crafters are the ones that will be most interested, so please share with all of your sewing friends. Please help spread the word about this fundraiser.

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 Diane Payne if you are interested.

Wearables Group

Eileen Ryan

A group of Piecemakers who have a special interest in turning their art into their clothes meets once a month to share ideas and learn new techniques. All are welcome to join and we would love to add your ideas to ours. This will be a big year for us with a guild fashion show in January. We have several challenges for the Wearables group that you might find fun and lots of expertise within the group. We all learn from each other. If you think you might be interested, call or e:mail Eileen Ryan for more information. Our next meeting is October 16.

We also have a challenge for the guild at large: decorate a shoe for fun and prizes. More on the challenge at the meeting.

Membership

Carol Hartman

Please welcome two new members, Janet Branch and Christine Dudley-Marley. Also, welcome to a returning member and a past president, Christine Lang. Their personal information was emailed in September. 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 e:mail 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.