



Concord Piecemakers' Grapevine JANUARY 2019

Susan Coulter, Editor

Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 pm
At Harvey Wheeler Center, 1276 Main St, Concord, MA 01742

President's Message Suzanne Knight

Piecemakers' Calendar
2018 - 2019

Jan 16 - Sisters in Stitches
Jan 18-21 - Getaway wknd
Feb 13 - TBD
Feb 23 - Quiltathon
Mar 20 - Valerie Flanagan
Apr 17 - Janice & David
Jones
Apr 20 - Workshop
May 15 - Tina Craig
Jun 12 - Ginny Radloff
Jun 13 - Workshop

Things to bring to the
meeting:

✓ NAMETAGS

I asked our most senior member, Alice Wiggin, to recall back to her early days of quilting and Concord Piecemakers. Then, I asked our current historian Sally Duscha, past historian Sue Lee, and our New England Quilt Museum liaison Martha Supnik, to provide a bit of historical context for Alice's memories. ***Alice's comments are in bold and italics.***

The word quilt comes from the Latin word 'culcita', meaning stuffed cushion. Evidence of quilting was found in the Temple of Osiris in Egypt where it appears that quilted clothing was worn 5000 years ago.

Quilting gained popularity during the Bicentennial (1976) and following years. This period (1960-1980) marked a significant period of American upheaval. During the Bicentennial old quilt patterns were reintroduced, some dating back to colonial times. Strip piecing had not yet been "invented" therefore, quilters traced cardboard templates on both cotton and polyester double-knits and cut out the shapes with scissors. The block would be stitched by machine or by hand after marking the ¼" seam allowance. In August 1976, the first quilt conference was held – the Finger Lakes Bicentennial Quilt Conference which exhibited quilts and quilted clothing.

The Adult Education department in Concord created a class for beginners, taught by Helen Foster, who was a huge fan of quilting. I was one of her devoted students and she instilled a real love of the art in me and in all of her students.

After a few years we realized we needed to form a guild because the New England Quilters Guild was promoting membership, quilt shows, and workshops. Between 1981 and 1986 the NEQG raised money to form the New England Quilt Museum in 1987. Its purpose was to have a permanent place to preserve, study, exhibit, and educate the public about quilting. The museum experienced a flood in 1991 and was forced to move. They

purchased and moved into the Lowell Institution for Savings Bank – a bank that once encouraged “mill girls” to save their wages.

Although we were a little late in getting organized as the third guild to be formed in Massachusetts, we have always been near the top of supporters of quilting in New England and the New England Quilt Museum.

Concord Piecemakers had our first quilt show at the Concord Art Association. This took place over two weeks and we provided docents every day. We even had a man join as a member so he could exhibit his embroidered bedspreads, but then he left the guild. The Art Association was amazed at the number of people who attended our show and said it was the highest attendance they ever had. Our historical data indicates later quilt shows took place at the Country Manor on 2A (Acton), Monument Hall (Concord), the Trinitarian Church (Concord) and finally landed a home at St. Matthews. The first years our records have for the shows were in 1985, 1986, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1997. The 1999 quilt show was chaired by Alice Wiggin. Our subsequent shows have continued to be held every two years.

Our first "charity " quilt by the Concord Piecemakers was for the Channel 2 (WGBH) Auction in 1982. The following year we made a quilt for a New England Quilt Museum raffle fund-raiser which was followed with several quilts for the new Ronald McDonald house near Boston Children's Hospital to cheer up the visiting families. These activities led us to make our much appreciated "comfort quilts" for families who were experiencing loss from fires, floods, or other serious troubles. We then expanded our efforts by providing quilts for patients getting cancer treatment at Emerson Hospital and we have continued to provide quilts far and wide.

To be able to use my inherited creating genes and bring joy and comfort to others at the same time is a huge blessing for me. Quilts for people in need has always been a special project for me and I especially love the February Quiltathon. Thanks all of you gals!

And as my husband always said, it keeps me "off the streets and out of the bars". Whoopie!!

Thank you, Alice for the memories and being such an active member of our guild. You inspire all of us by providing quilts for those in need as well creating and assembling sewing kits for Household Goods. I am one of many who are always delighted to see you and hear what you are up to – when you pause in your activities, that is!



The Summer Celebration of New England Quilts

Fay Martin's beautiful bird quilt won "best in show" in the CPM quilt show in 2017. Therefore, I have asked Fay if she would be willing to exhibit her quilt at the Summer Celebration of New England Quilts: The Best of the Region's Quilt Guilds. This biennial festival, scheduled August 7 through September 8, 2019, features a selection of exceptional quilts that represent the Museum's Supporting Guilds. I'm sure we will all enjoy viewing Fay's beautiful quilt again.

PROGRAM

Wednesday, January 16, 2019: Sisters in Stitches

The January meeting features quilts by Sisters in Stitches Joined by the Cloth, a quilting guild with members from the greater Boston area, South Shore, Springfield, and Worcester. These artists will share their quilts that depict stories of the African American struggle, from slavery to the racial conflicts of the present day. However, their quilts are not only a way to reflect on dark times, they also stitch together memories of joy, perseverance, and celebration.



Comfort Quilts by Machine Eileen Ryan

We have acquired access to the blue room at St Matthews to work on comfort quilts. We will meet on the morning of the regular meeting dates, in this case, Wed, Jan. 16th, from 9:30 to 12:30. Bring whatever comfort quilts you are working on or use some of the fabric and patterns available to start one. We have lots of 2 1/2" strips of bright children's fabrics, some panels and lots of other, more adult choices. We have several quilt patterns available, some of which can be completed in a morning, and are always looking for other quick quilt ideas. Irons and cutting mats will be provided, just bring your machine. Or come to cut. Or come to visit.

Free Table Eileen Ryan

Starting at the January regular meeting, there will be a table to bring stuff you want to get rid of, but is too good to throw away. Fabric, notions, patterns, magazines. Everything will be made available to the group for free. There are no restrictions on what to bring at this time and we'll see how it works out.



THE QUILTATHON IS COMING!!!!!! THE QUILTATHON IS COMING!!!!!!

Marla Richmond and Cassy Bosworth

February 23 is the high point in the Piecemakers' year! We all gather at St. Matthew's Church in Acton and spend the day putting together quilts for Comfort Quilts. We ask each member to make a quilt top (preferably twin or lap size) bring a piece for the back of the quilt, bring a little something to eat to share. In return you get to spend the day with a bunch of great people, eat a supplied deli lunch, drink all the coffee (decaf or high test), water and tea you want, lay out and pin quilts, tie quilts, quilt quilts and feel good that you are doing something for someone who really needs a "quilter's embrace".

We begin at 9 and work until 3. You can spend any part of the day with us, you can spend the whole day with us. If you are busy that day, you can give your comfort quilt to be finished to Marla or Cassy. This is a time to go wild with your comfort quilt. Use colors you never use and you may find that they are not that bad after all (or not). Use a different pattern that you were planning to use on a King sized wedding quilt, now you can see if you really like it. You never have to see the quilt again, and someone else will really love that you cared enough to make it. As soon as the holiday quilts are done, put some of your scraps together and find something beautiful. You don't have to wait until the last minute to start (though some of us always will). See you there!



COMFORT QUILTS *Linda Merwin*

Wow! In 2018 we donated 89 quilts to a variety of non-profit organizations. These include Emerson Hospital Bethke Center, House of Hope in Lowell, Bedford V.A., and the Lawrence community center to aid those who lost their homes in the gas explosions.

Shortly before the holidays I received our last batch of tied quilts from the 2018 quiltathon. These will also be donated over the next few weeks, putting our total giving for 2018 at nearly 150 quilts. Wow, again!

THANK YOU to all of you who have made these donations possible. They really make a difference.



ROSIE'S PLACE

Rosie's Place had a very successful holiday donation season. Unfortunately, they are already running low.

They are especially looking for more of the following:

- Coats: Parkas, winter jackets, hoodies
- Hats, scarves, mittens/gloves
- Yoga pants
- New t-shirts
- Jeans and sweatpants
- New slippers and bathrobes
- New underwear and socks
- New and gently used bras
- New full and travel-size toiletries
- Maxi Pads
- New and gently-used towels
- Non-perishable food
- Adult paperback books and children's books, hardcover and soft
- Regular sized mugs

Please bring your donations to the meeting on January 16th, if possible. Lola will also gather some donations at the GetAway, but her car will be filled with quilting supplies and will not have massive amounts of space available. Items will also be collected at February's Quiltathon. We will be sure Rosie's Place receives them.

Lola Chaisson and Kathy McIsaac

From Open Table:

We at Open Table very much appreciate the long-time support of the Concord Piecemakers Quilting Guild. Every year you all are so generous and thoughtful. Support like yours enables Open Table to succeed in its mission of helping the needy in our area. Thank you so much!





In Case of Inclement Weather – Please check before you attempt to travel to a Guild Meeting. If Concord Public Schools are Closed we will not be having a meeting. If a storm comes in later in the day, we may have to cancel a meeting even if the schools have been open. Always check your email for notification of meeting cancellations. Decisions will be made by noon on the day of the meeting.



CPM BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to all members on these dates, at 7:00 PM.
Please contact Suzanne Knight for the location.

Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1

The guild has a few members who are very sensitive (allergic) to scents. Please remember to NOT wear scented products/perfume when attending guild meetings.