



Concord Piecemakers' Grapevine FEBRUARY 2019

Susan Coulter, Editor

Wednesday, February 13, 6:30 pm
At Harvey Wheeler Center, 1276 Main St, Concord, MA 01742

President's Message Suzanne Knight

Piecemakers' Calendar
2018 - 2019

Feb 13 – Sharing Comfort
quilt tops
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

✓ **NAMETAGS**

Marian did a wonderful job once again making the Getaway a fun and productive event. Thank you, Marian, for organizing roommates, ensuring great meals, and smoothing any wrinkles that may have cropped up.

I received a very sweet card from those at the Getaway. I was feeling a bit low about missing the sewing, talking, laughing and eating with my guild friends, but then a card arrived with cheerful notes from everyone. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

At last month's meeting one of the speakers from Sister's in Stitches Joined by the Cloth sparked my interest when she told a story about St Valentine and showed her heart quilt. After a bit of research I learned that there were actually two Valentines, both from Italy – one from Rome and one from Terni who were both put to death a few years apart by the same Roman emperor on the same day, February 14th. According to the story the Roman Valentine disobeyed the emperor's orders that soldiers should not be married by performing secret marriages. He was discovered and imprisoned, but before being put to death, legend says that he fell in love with his jailer's daughter and sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine".

Long before the Romans executed the Valentines, there was a pre-Roman ritual known as Lupercalia that was celebrated until the 6th century. From February 13th through 15th goats and dogs were sacrificed as an offering and folks were anointed in the blood of those animals. That night they feasted. The skins of the animals were carried around the town by naked men who struck people with the fleeces. Women held out their hands to receive the blows believing that the pregnant would be helped in delivery and those not pregnant would be soon be with child.

Valentine cards and letters began to appear after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned at the Tower of London.

In the 18th century, giving gifts and exchanging handmade cards with lace and ribbons was a tradition in England. However, the tradition of cards did not become common in the US until the 1850s when Esther Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, began producing large quantities of cards. By the 19th century the celebration of Valentine's Day had spread throughout English-speaking countries and chocolates and gifts were added to the tradition. The real commercialization of the holiday began in 1913 when Hallmark Cards initiated the mass-production of valentine cards.

I am glad that chocolates and cards remain our current tradition. The only thing missing for me is making Scandinavian heart baskets which my sister and I gave to friends on Valentine's Day. Here are links if you are interested:

- Paper – <https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/woven-heart-craft/>
- Fabric - <http://inspiredbyfabric.blogspot.com/2013/02/tutorial-woven-heart-basket.html>

Happy Valentine's Day!

PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 13th, 7 p.m: Bonus meeting

Please bring a dessert for a pre-Valentine's Day get-together. Finger food only. Our program is sharing our comfort quilt tops. You will have time to tell us all about your quilt, fabric finds and trials and tribulation. We will sit in a circle so that each of us has a front row seat for this evening of show and tell. We want to see your beautiful quilts before they are donated.

Also, we will kick off our heart friendship block collection. Paper copies of the directions for making this simple paper pieced heart blocks, 8 ½ by 11 inches will be at the meeting. The heart blocks will be made into a comfort quilt, maybe not this year but definitely for next year. Let's work together continuing the spirit of traditional quilting bees.

Saturday, February 23th: Quilt-a-thon

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

- If possible, bring a quilt top with an appropriate backing. Please measure the top and pin the size to the two pieces. You can tie them together.
- Bring a little something to eat to share
- Feel welcome to bring a friend/relative/stranger who wants to help

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!

SPRING GETAWAY

Sign up now for the April quilt get-away (the 6th, Saturday → the 8th Monday) right here in Bolton, MA. Sue, the owner of 'The Quilted Crow' has an absolutely incredible B & B that sits on a pond with an area dedicated to quilters! The cost is \$100/night plus tax and you get homemade breakfasts and dinners with dessert! Up to 8 people can sleep over with space for a couple of commuters if you prefer to sleep at your home. If you are staying overnight, a 2 night stay is required. The cost is a bit less for a commuter – I think it is \$75/day which includes the same meals as the overnights. A deposit of \$75 is needed to hold our dates so please sign up ASAP! Here is a link to what you get: <http://www.westpondinn.com/stay-with-us/> Once 4 of us sign up with a deposit check our April dates will be held. IF you have any questions, please call Beth Nadel Dorfman at 978-460-4950 or email her at idecorate@comcast.net