

Concord Piecemakers Guild

March 2020 Newsletter

Grapevine

Happy Saint Patrick's Day
Editor, Kathie Becker

March MEETING, Cancelled

The President's Message: Carol MacFarlane

These are difficult times indeed! Whoever imagined that everything we do would be canceled, every trip we planned would be called off, that we would basically erase the contents of our calendars? Whoever could have predicted that we would experience this stopping of life as we know it? We may be self-quarantined in our homes, but we can pick up the phone and call one another, we can go outside and enjoy a good walk, even with a friend, and we can spend more of our indoor time quilting. It's hard not knowing when this will all end, when we can resume life again, or if any of our loved ones (or ourselves) will get sick or worse. Difficult times indeed.

In this newsletter are several suggestions for keeping our minds and hands occupied, so that we don't have to constantly dwell on the bad news. Thank goodness we share a love of quilting. Until we meet again, enjoy the slowing down of your busy life, check in with your family and friends often, and above all, stay healthy.

Below is a lovely poem that came to my inbox. I just had to share it. May it touch your heart as it did mine.

Written by: Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

March 13th 2020

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Comfort Quilts:

Completing Comfort Quilts:

from Carol MacFarlane:

For those who have some unexpected free time, what better opportunity to complete some of those love and comfort quilts that we put together at our Quiltathon. Some of you took some home to complete the stitching around the outside. I was going to turn the five I have over to Suzanne Knight, who is storing them for Joy Sussman and her team for tying. But I realized that I might as well machine quilt them, as Joy's team will not be able to meet together for now. I know there is a lot of demand for comfort quilts right about now, and I think we should all work to try to complete them, so that Eileen can take them to the hospital and other places where people need our some "love and comfort". If you do not have any quilts at home, but are willing quilt them, ask Suzanne Knight to leave you one or more on her porch for you to pick up. If you'd like to tie one one on your own, Joy can give you the materials and instructions. Give her a call. Let's get busy!

from Eileen Ryan:

Lots of quilts being machine quilted and tied this month. I will have instructions for lots of quilts that have been shown as well as a few quilting opportunities for those who want to stretch their machine quilting abilities. The scrap bin and backings, as well as kits and directions are available if anyone gets bored. Fabric is being kept in my car trunk if anyone wants to pick through it, just call or text me. I will also make kits on demand

from Suzanne Knight:

I'm storing the "turned and stitched" quilts for Joy's group and also any quilts that have been machine quilted (for Eileen). I guess I could also take those that are still in the more "unfinished" stage. Eileen IS back in town now, but before she stops by to pick up the 7 quilts I have that are finished, I'd like to have some more to give her. Therefore, without a meeting in the near future, please feel free to drop them at my house. If I'm not home, feel free to leave them in a plastic bag right on my front deck.
Suzanne Knight

From Joy Sussman:

If anyone a would like to tie quilts at home, I can supply thread and large needles. My cell number is [508-667-5270](tel:508-667-5270).

Membership:

Lola Chaisson and Robin DeMott

We welcome new members, Fiona Anderson-Bell and Leslie Garrison! We have 115 members. I have sent out an email with an addendum to the membership book.

Nickle Squares:

Barbara Weiss

We will start collecting nickel squares again at our next meeting. To help out the sorting process please do the following:

1. If you wash your fabric, use unscented laundry detergent.
2. Iron the fabric removing threads.
3. Cut and stack the squares neatly.
4. Try to cut a minimum of four squares of any fabric.
5. Multiples of a fabric are especially welcome in background colors- white, cream, beige, light grey.
6. Current fabric of any style. Old fabric does not sell well.

When we get back to having a meeting, here is pricing for nickel squares:

Nickel squares packs, jelly rolls and layer cakes will be for sale. Please bring cash to pay. Checks are also okay. Nickel squares are \$5.00. Jelly rolls are \$18.00 and layer cakes are \$15.00.

Household Goods Sewing Kits:

We can always use containers (metal, plastic) with lids to hold the supplies, plus we can also use tape measures and bobbins. We will also take scissors, thread, pins, safety pins, needles, or buttons that you are going to throw away - we can put them to good use. We don't need crafting supplies, however.

BLUPRINT BLURB:

Elana (and Kitty)

I would like to suggest that maybe it is time to look at what blueprint has to offer. I joined this year and have been loving having access to all the classes and class materials. I find it to be a total time sink but oh so fun. I have been loving the Winnie Fleming classes. Particularly her class The Ultimate T-Shirt Quilt. As may of you know from the getaway frequently Kitty and I are putting together a quilt with random sized squares. Winnie's technique for sizing the squares will greatly simplify how this is done. Her technique is especially nice for those of you who like to be precise.

There are wonderful machine quilting classes for both beginners and more advanced quilters.

<https://www.myblueprint.com/> blueprint has to offer.

Fall Fabric Yarn and Notions Sale: Joan Kerpelman and Kitty Shaw

Hi all. Joan Kerpelman and I, Kitty Shaw, are again co-chairing this year's CPM Fabric Yarn and Notions (FYN) sale (formerly known as CPM yard sale). The date is Saturday, October 17, 2020, at the same place, St Mathews in Acton.

We will start collecting any donations on **May 8** and will send out an announcement a few weeks before then. So, please look through your stash now and start to de-clutter your storage bins to allow space for new fabrics you have been drooling over. Starting May, we will accept fabrics, yarns, quilt books (printed after 2000), notions, unfinished projects, quilt patterns and quilting magazines (after 2000) At this time we will not be accepting any upholstery fabric, nor any clothing patterns, and only fleece over 1 yard long. And please measure and write your donated fabrics by quarter yard denominations and attach the tape on the fabric. This would help us tremendously in sorting fabrics by yardage. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Ideas to do at home:

The summer mystery quilt
A block a day
Finishing UFO's for a third
Look in recent CPM newsletters for quilting challenges
Clean out your fabric stashes to get ready for the Fall Sale

From Lola regarding Rosie's Place:

Hello. Thank you all for your continued generosity with donations for Rosie's Place. Since we all will have extra time on our hands due to cancellations, I thought you might like to check out this clip that gives you a little flavor of the operation:

<https://www.necn.com/on-air/as-seen-on/improving-lives-at-rosies-place/2241784/>

See you whenever we can close the Social Distance! Kathleen and Lola