

Concord Piecemakers Guild

April 2020 Newsletter

Grapevine

Plague Edition
Editor, Kathie Becker

April MEETING, to be held on ZOOM
April 15, 2020, 7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99849450955?pwd=b1ZWR1NaRm9sWjNjV1M2TmtYTGdhUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 4945 0955
Password: 000745

President's Message

Carol MacFarlane

I hope that all of you and your loved ones are in good health. These are difficult times indeed, with the peak of this virus expected to hit our state right about now. Thank goodness we all share the love of quilting, which keeps us happily occupied while we remain sheltered at home for such extended periods of time.

We are entering a new age, the age of Zoom. Quite frankly, I don't think I'd even heard of Zoom until the end of March. But since then I've opened my own Zoom account and set up "meetings" with my extended family, happy hours with friends, and have even attended weekly church services on Zoom. Well, now the Concord Piecemakers are joining the Zoom craze. Our April meeting, and all meetings for the foreseeable future, will be via Zoom. You can access Zoom on your computer, tablet, or phone, but the computer will maximize your ability to see everyone and their latest quilts and/or other projects.

Your Executive Board has been very busy, via Zoom I might add, during this time. Since our January meeting, we have been reviewing, rewriting, and refining all the job descriptions for the officers, committee chairs, and all other volunteer positions. We've even documented "How to's" for running the Quiltathon and FYN (Fabric, Yarn, and Notions) Sale (formerly known as Yard Sale). These documents are posted on our website and should make it much easier for anyone starting a new position.

In addition we have been working on a proposal for making some bylaw changes, which under normal circumstances, we would send to you prior to a vote at the May meeting. However, since we cannot meet in person to discuss these changes, we have decided it

would be best to wait until a meeting in the fall when we can once again get together in our meeting hall. In the meantime I'd like you to know why we are proposing these changes.

The first proposed change involves changing the Executive Board position of Historian to that of Member-At-Large. Since the Nominating Committee for the past two years has not been able to find someone to fill the slot of Historian, and since we are now transitioning to archiving all documents electronically, we have given the Historian's responsibilities involving compiling and archiving documents to the Secretary, and feel that the other Historian responsibilities are no longer needed. But we do recognize the value of having another voice on the board, so we have created the position of Member-At-Large. This person would serve on Board, have a vote, and take on tasks agreed to by the Board. We have a volunteer for this position, but since we cannot vote on the bylaws until the fall, she will appear as "Historian" on the slate, though she will actually be serving as a Member-At-Large.

The second change involves changing the date when the new officers assume their duties from June 1 to July 1. Originally the June 1 date was chosen because the last guild meeting of the year was in May. But many years ago the guild added the June meeting. We realize that it would be better for the current officers to complete the guild year before the new officers assume duties. If you have any questions about these proposed changes, please feel free to contact me or any other board member.

Quarantine UFO Challenge

Sally Duscha

For every UFO, you finish before our next meeting, you will receive a ticket to enter a raffle to win a gift certificate to a local quilt shop. It is time to work from your stash. Happy Sewing!

Heart Blocks

Love is the answer so why not make a heart block for the cooperative Valentine's Day quilt? Please, make your blocks in sizes that are a multiple of 2 inches (2, 4, 8, inches). There are many different free patterns to choose from or design your own. One quilter said, that all reds go together. Let's test that theory. White and black backgrounds work well.

Take a break from a bigger project and make a heart block for the cooperative guild Valentine's Day quilt.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUyxg9uSUYg>

This is a Jenny Doan video but the block is 8 inches not my original idea. Please, adapt the idea to a size that is a multiple of 2 inches such as 2, 4, or 8 inches.

We need YOU!

Although this is an unprecedented year, with all of us hunkered down at home, hoping and praying that we don't get exposed to the coronavirus, become very ill (or worse) or lose a loved one, life does go on. We've learned to adapt and have very generously heeded the call for mask making, perhaps putting our quilt projects on hold while we turn out dozens of masks for those on the front lines.

There is another call that needs heeding—the Guild needs YOU, one of you, to come forward to fill a two-year position on the Board—that of Vice-President transitioning to President. A few days ago, Linda Merwin sent an e-mail to all of you regarding the need to fill this position. There was no response.

I'd like to tell you my story. I first attended the guild in March 2017 and became a member in April. In the April newsletter, the guild president, Pam Cincotta, wrote a most convincing message. (And with her permission I've included it in my email message to you.) That April I was brand-new, but they needed a Programs Chair. I volunteered. Immediately I came to know the members serving on the programs committee, and I really enjoyed the position. A year later I was asked to be the Vice-President, knowing that I would eventually be President. I said, "Yes, I can facilitate a meeting, I can do this." And I have to tell you, being the Programs Chair was way more work than being President. It isn't that daunting, really! Working with the other Board members fun. "The Vice-President and President work collaboratively in managing the guild" (from the new job description), which means the President is not working alone, and the Vice-President is learning what the President's position is all about. It is a partnership. It is a great experience.

[Pam Cincotta's very convincing words from April 2017:](#)

[To those of you who say: *I'm new to the guild*](#), I say that this makes you the best candidates for these roles. Just ask anyone on our board today. All of us were basically new members to the guild when we took on our board positions and I can guarantee you, every one of us will say it's been a wonderful experience and has facilitated our getting to know other members and feeling a part of this fabulous guild. It's a win, win situation! You gain the immediate sense of being an active member and belonging that comes along with many new friendships. The guild gains by having a position filled with someone who has a fresh, new outlook to share.

[To those of you who say: *I've done my part and served in a board or committee position in the past*](#), I say that at some point, we need you to serve again. Many, many of our guild members fit in this category and we are truly thankful for their support in holding chairs in the past but at some point we need to lure some of you back in order to fill roles otherwise our member pool to choose from becomes very small. Everyone deserves to take a few years off but at some point we hope you are feeling refreshed from your break and willing, once again, to take on an active committee or board member role.

[To those of you who say: *I'm too busy*](#), my response is the majority of board and committee positions do not take up as much time as you would think. Many members currently holding these roles work outside the home and have families that depend on

them. By breaking up the guild duties into several roles and even within those assigning committees we attempt to minimize the time commitment in holding these positions.

2020-21 Slate of Officers

President	Linda Merwin
Vice-President	TBD You?
Secretary	Judy Jakobsche
Treasurer	Mary Jalenak
Programs Co-Chairs	Elana Schreiber, Sally Duscha
Membership Co-Chairs	Robin Demott, Lola Chaisson
Historian (Member-At-Large)	Marion Bressel

Comfort Quilts

Eileen Ryan

Well, I expect you're wondering what to do next. So far we have 49 completed quilts for the year, stockpiled and ready for distribution. There are quite a few more, turned and ready to be tied. And I bet you all have completed more over the past few weeks. I ended up turning my demos for nickel square extravaganza into two entire tops! I mail ordered a walking foot for my featherweight from featherweight schoolhouse (which goes over those pleated masks like a charm) and have been putting it to work quilting with the ideas learned from Jacquie Gering on blueprint (free until mid April). Even if you're not ready to take off the training wheels, that walking foot can do amazing things. Check her out on line.

Remember, there are bins in my trunk, released from afar, in which you can pick through scraps, backings, and now larger chunks that Joy has been collecting for us from various members. I'm also happy to cut batting for comfort quilts.

Membership

Robin DeMott and Lola Chaisson

Our Annual Membership Drive kicks off in April. The renewal form will be sent out in a separate email to the guild. Next year includes the Fabric, Yarn, and Notion Sale (formerly the Yard Sale) and a packed schedule of speakers thanks to the hard work of our Program Chairs. Renew by May 20th and you will be entered in the raffle for free membership. Please make sure to update any address or email changes for the new yearbook. The membership renewal form can also be found on the Concord Piecemakers website under Becoming a Member.

Hero: A Quilting Challenge for June, 2020!!!

Elana challenges us to create a small quilt that celebrates a person who has made a positive change in the world. It can be someone famous or not. The person can be making a difference globally, locally or personally. Harriet Tubman and Jacques Cousteau were honored this year in quilts exhibited in Houston. Now it's your turn. You may use any technique you wish. It can be pieced, machine or hand appliqued or fused. It must have a 100 INCH PERIMETER. Who will you pick? What issues are you passionate about? One person that comes to Elana's mind is a her walking buddy who reuses ziplock bags, uses glass containers for leftovers and always has a reusable water bottle--small doable changes for a better environment.



Next Month's Guild Meeting on Zoom
Elana Schreiber and Sally Duscha

Wednesday, May 20th, Jen Sorensen Zoom lecture

Jen Sorensen will share her journey to Modern quilting from the first quilt she made to creating her own designs. Her kaleidoscope quilts and secondary designs in her quilting make her work stand out as exceptional. Jen's stunning quilts have been featured on many quilt magazine covers. Jen uses Zoom in her professional life and is excited to reach out via Zoom to our quilt to accommodate our current stay at home lifestyle. Jen's website The meeting will be open at 7 p.m. for socializing and then begin at 7:15 p.m.
<https://www.aquiltingjewel.com>

Jen Sorensen Workshop on Zoom

Save the Date: Saturday, May 23
Elana Schreiber and Sally Duscha

Secondary Designs in Quilts

With the right use of color and block placement amazing secondary designs really make a quilt sing, according to Jen. Her interactive workshop will be a combination of Jen speaking, individual exercises to learn, and a group discussion. First she will discuss historical and traditional quilts that use secondary designs, and then we will do an exercise to help us notice these designs. Then she will talk about her design process of creating secondary designs in her own quilts and what she finds most effective. Again, she will follow this with a short exercise for us to explore secondary designs. The last topic is how to design your own unique quilt. (Copyright issues are eliminated! If your work is original.) Breaks and time for informal discussion will be provided. Maybe we can enjoy lunch together afterwards on Zoom just to socialize?

The workshop is 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and yes, you can come in your pajamas if you want! The materials will be available through

Jen's Etsy shop and must be downloaded ahead of time. The cost is \$20. The meeting number will be distributed with the pattern. There is no workshop fee! So if your sewing machine is too heavy to lug to a workshop, this one's for you.

<https://www.aquiltingjewel.com>



Household Goods Sewing Kits

Suzanne Knight and Tina van Roggen

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.