

**Concord Piecemakers Guild**  
**May 2020 Newsletter**  
**Grapevine**

*Spring Edition*  
Editor, Kathie Becker

**May MEETING, to be held on ZOOM**  
**May 20, 2020, 6:45 PM socializing, 7:15 meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82391133170?  
pwd=TVY4OWNVa0lvRVA2dXRDWmFCdlBRZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82391133170?pwd=TVY4OWNVa0lvRVA2dXRDWmFCdlBRZz09)

Meeting ID: 823 9113 3170

Password: 003110

**Wednesday, Guild Meeting, 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.

The meeting will be open at 6:45 p.m. for socializing and then begin at 7:15 p.m.

We will be voting for the following Board Positions during the meeting.

President - Carol MacFarlane

Vice President - Linda Merwin

Treasurer - Mary Jalenak

Secretary - Judy Jakobsche

Membership - Robin DeMott, Lola Chaisson

Programs - Elana Schreiber, Sally Duscha, Carol MacFarlane

Member-At-Large, Marian Bressel

## **President's Message**

Carol MacFarlane

### Silver Lining

There is a silver lining! That's the good news. After our first successful Zoom Guild meeting in April, the Board has held two topic-specific "Town Hall" discussion meetings via Zoom for any members who wanted to join in the conversation. I'm impressed by the number of members participating in these discussions.

Shortly after our April meeting we offered up a Town Hall meeting to debrief the Quiltathon. Sixteen members "attended" that meeting and provided great feedback. The only real change that came out of that meeting is a desire to use the church's Youth Room for our lunches in the future. Again, a silver lining. We wouldn't have known about lunch in the Youth Room if we hadn't had to unexpectedly move this year's Quiltathon activities upstairs! In addition we recognize the need to emphasize that folks can participate for the morning, or the afternoon, and are not expected to put in a full day's work.

This week we held our second Town Hall meeting to discuss how to proceed as a guild considering 1) the reality of the virus hanging around into the fall and beyond, and 2) that no one has volunteered to be vice-president next year. We had 22 members participating in this thoughtful discussion. As for Zoom meetings, many expressed frustration about not getting together, but we assured everyone that we would move back to Harvey Wheeler as soon as it was safe to do so. Meanwhile, there are advantages to Zoom meetings. We don't have to drive to meetings, and we can have presenters from anywhere (no driving, no flying, and cost savings at that!). We can even hold some workshops via Zoom. Our program chairs are working hard to fill this need.

In addressing the difficulty in getting volunteers for leadership roles, we discussed ways in which we need to move toward more sharing of responsibility for all guild functions. We may need a consortium of leadership sharing the tasks. Linda and I will remain in our roles as President and Vice-President, and we are committed to working with the Board next year to transition to new approaches to shared leadership.

## **VP Musings**

Linda Merwin

### What Do You Hope For?

It is Spring time; a time that speaks of hope. The renewed life force that we see bursting in nature all around us after the dead of winter speaks of hope. The blossoms, the fresh Spring green, the fragrances, the breezes point to the hopeful abundance of Summer. I find this year's Spring particularly poignant as we begin to live in the midst of a little known corona virus. Humankind is straining under the uncertainty of the virus, yet Spring is bursting forth as ever, unaffected by a virus. The normalcy of our Spring gives me hope. I find myself asking, what do I hope will happen? What outcomes do I hope for? Asking ourselves this question helps us to engage in our world with positive intention. I hope that the corona virus will cause Democrats and Republicans to find themselves on the same side, fighting a common enemy. I hope that as Americans we will share this struggle together and find our better selves again. I hope that not just Americans, but all nations will come together to fight a common enemy, enabling us to lay down our short-sighted self interests and consider the well-being of all. I hope that we will recognize the benefits of the corona virus to our environment long enough that we will act to consider the well-being of our planet, also.

Our quilts speak of hope. When we send out a comfort quilt, not knowing with whom it will land, we are speaking a message of hope to the recipient. We hope the quilt will cheer them; we hope it will comfort them. Our quilts are a thing of beauty, pointing to the beauty of the world around us, like Spring. Seeing beauty, really seeing it, gives hope.

In these uncertain times, I hope that you will be encouraged by your own quilt making, knowing that our work also creates hope. I encourage you to ask yourselves, what do you hope for, no matter how big or how small; how important or trivial. Hope engages our hearts during a time when we most need them, giving us courage to dare to hope.

## **Workshops and meetings**

Sally Duscha and Elana Schreiber

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## **Workshops and Meetings, continued**

### **Workshop: Saturday, May 23. Sign up now**

#### Secondary Designs in Quilts with Jen Sorensen

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 \$25. The meeting number will be distributed with the pattern. So if your sewing machine is too heavy to lug to a workshop, this one's for you. <https://www.etsy.com/listing/807684415/reserved-concord-piecemakers-secondary>

### **What's coming on Wednesday, June 10th?**

HollyAnne Knight will do a virtual meeting on how to finish your quilts with confidence. Her specialty is free motion quilting. She will demonstrate how different quilting will enhance your piecing or add pizzazz to a simple quilt design. [stringandstory.com](http://stringandstory.com) for more information about HollyAnn. You can practice quilting on a comfort quilt!

### **Continuing Challenges**

Keep counting the number of masks you have made. We have added a most creative mask category, too.

Consider who is your Hero and make a small quilt celebrating them, and their contribution to our world.

Keep working on your UFO so that you can enter our Quarantine Raffle.

Make a heart quilt block for a nurse, a grocery store employee, a grandchild you can't see right now, or a friend who has died. Love is the answer. (4, 6, 8, 12 inch blocks) The block will be combined with other members to make next year's Valentine's Day comfort quilt.

## **Quarantine UFO Challenge, (repeat from April newsletter)**

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 chose 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.

## **Raffle Quilt Blocks**

Mary Jalenek

Thanks to all of you that have picked up raffle quilt blocks to complete – some of you have made multiple trips to the “contactless delivery” station. As a result, all the blocks have been distributed!! I hope you are enjoying the piecing of those lovely pineapples. (My apologies for some packaging errors with the kits.) When you have completed your blocks, you can return them to the “contactless drop off” station; the station will be either in the wagon in the garage or in the back of the car. The station will be open 10am-6pm daily; if you cannot make a drop off during those hours, email [mjalenek@comcast.net](mailto:mjalenek@comcast.net) and we can make alternate arrangements. Please return the completed blocks, if possible, by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **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.

## **Comfort Quilts**

Eileen Ryan

They're stacking up ladies! Yes, all kinds of opportunities for you! Some are turned and you can tie them at home - Joy will talk you through it. Some are tops and if you don't want to pin baste to practice your free motion quilting, I'll even do that for you.

And fabric! Lots of scraps and larger pieces, lots of backs, lots of new donations from members, and kits, kits, kits! So come check out my no virus offerings available from the trunk of my car.

I recently checked in with all the places we normally send quilts and they're not quite ready for us. Remember we donated 80% of our quilts last year starting in the fall and we still donated more than 150 quilts. So don't let those stacks that we have now (about 70 completed, which includes the label!), slow you down. We are getting a nice number now that are gender neutral, so thank you for that, as well. Keep at it!

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

The dues for the 2020-2021 year are expected to be submitted on or before May 20. Full membership is \$30 and Associate membership is \$15. You may download a registration form from the website [concordpiecemakers.org](http://concordpiecemakers.org) or use the form that was emailed last month. Please make sure to update any address or email changes for the new membership book. Payment should be made by sending your completed registration form and check to: Membership Chair c/o Concord Piecemakers PO Box 1381, Concord, MA 01742-1381.

As a special incentive, all members who rejoin by May 20 will be entered into a drawing to be held at the June meeting. The winner will receive a free membership.

Please be prompt as late submissions run the risk of being excluded from the membership book and make more work for the Membership chair during the summer.

# Concord Piecemakers Membership Registration

For Membership Use Only	
Check #	_____
Date Rec'd	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal      \_\_\_\_\_ New Member

### Membership Level (Please indicate one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Full (\$30): meetings, exhibit in show, workshops, newsletter and yearbook (emailed), voting rights

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate (\$15): meeting fee \$5, exhibit in show (space permitting), newsletter & yearbook (emailed)

Name (**Please Print Clearly**) \_\_\_\_\_

### Make check payable to Concord Piecemakers

Return this form along with dues on or before the annual meeting in May. Membership Year is June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

-- OR --

Mail your completed form and check to:

Membership Chair, c/o Concord Piecemakers, P.O. Box 1381, Concord, MA 01742

Complete the following information **ONLY** if it has changed from last year's yearbook or if you are a new member. **Please print clearly.**

Street \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your interest in the following guild opportunities.** Check all that pertain.

#### Activities

\_\_\_\_\_ Quiltathon

\_\_\_\_\_ Yard Sale

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Quilt

\_\_\_\_\_ Quilt Show

\_\_\_\_\_ Programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair a Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Be a board member

\_\_\_\_\_ "More Before" demos

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate Nickel Squares

\_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality

\_\_\_\_\_ Open Sew

#### Charity

\_\_\_\_\_ Make Comfort Quilts

\_\_\_\_\_ Bind Comfort Quilts

\_\_\_\_\_ Make Pillowcases

\_\_\_\_\_ Quilts of Valor

\_\_\_\_\_ Make String Blocks

Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_

#### Special Interest Groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Wearable Arts

\_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Comfort Quilts

\_\_\_\_\_ Machine Embroidery

\_\_\_\_\_ Miniature Quilts

\_\_\_\_\_ Art Quilts