

CONCORD PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD
DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER
GRAPEVINE

Editor: Barbara Kozenko

Wednesday December 11, 2024 In Person/Zoom (Hybrid) Meeting
6:45 PM Socializing, 7:15 PM Meeting

If you'd like to attend our guild meeting or visit virtually, please contact membership@concordpiecemakers.org

Programs: – Please join us for our annual Holiday Party!

We ask members to *optionally* bring the following to the December Party:

- A sweet or savory finger food to share.
- A wrapped swap gift worth \$20 or less. Please include your name inside so the recipient knows who to thank.
- Lots of Show and Tell quilts or bags.
- A check for the get-away.
- We will also be collecting items for Household Goods. Household Goods provides a full range of donated furniture and household items, free of charge, to help people in need make a home. Last year they served roughly 2500 families. In the spring they collect a lot of donated items when students move out of Boston Dormitories. But those stocks typically dwindle at this time of year. If you'd like to bring a new or gently used small household item to the December meeting it would be much appreciated. This might be a good time to declutter your kitchen drawers or linen closet. Suggested items include: kitchen spatulas, knives, measuring cups, dishes, glasses, pots, towels, bedsheets, blankets, quilts, afghans, lamps, fan, or toaster. Please ensure the donated items are clean. For further ideas, see their [website](#).

Big Block Demonstration

At our meeting in December, I will be demonstrating how to make an easy large block using the 10" layer cake squares which we distributed in November. I will also have a quilt that I copied from Sally which uses nickel squares. There will be an instruction sheet to take home. The demonstration will be a "more before", so plan to arrive in time to see the demo. The technique will be repeated as many times as we have before the regular meeting starts.

Barbara Weiss



The President's Message

The holidays are upon us and the rush is on. I hope you all enjoyed Thanksgiving last week and have a plan to navigate the shorter time this year between the big winter holidays. In my house, we keep things simple and both enjoy quiet time while dinner is in the crock pot. For me that's sewing time.

What I sew most now are quilt tops for comfort quilts. One of the things I've always liked about CPM is the generosity of the guild in all its forms. Rosie's Place, Neonatal Sensory Quilts, Pillowcases, Comfort Quilts, plus Food Pantry drives at some gatherings, and the donations for HG's sewing kits, etc. Giving things we make is common with quilters. It both feeds our souls and helps manage the fabric obsession. My fabric supply has reached SABLE status (Stash Accumulation Beyond Life Expectancy), and yours might, too, but isn't it nice to pick up new-to-you fabric, especially for Comfort Quilts? I have an idea for a simple Challenge that I will present at our next meeting. It involves fabric earmarked for the March Quiltathon, and it could help you reduce your stash, too. Come to the meeting to hear about it.

Also at the meeting, we'll enjoy Barbara Weiss' demonstration of ideas using Layer Cakes. We will also work on a community project supporting HG, will enjoy tasty finger foods shared by the membership, and optionally participate in a gift exchange. Most importantly, bring your holiday gift quilts to Show and Tell. See you on the 11th at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center, or on Zoom. Doors open about 6:45pm, and the meeting starts at 7:15. In the meantime,

Happy Quilting,

Donna M-O

Membership

Robin DeMott and Lola Chaisson

We welcome new member Amanda Jones from Harvard. We have 106 members now. This month's meeting will be our last in-person meeting for 2024. January, February, and March will be fully Zoom meetings and our hybrid meetings will resume in April.

Comfort Quilts

Leslie Garrison

Quilts were donated to North Star Family Services in Leominster this month. I brought twin size quilts for use in their family emergency shelter and throw blanket size quilts that they will include as part of the welcome baskets for new families that they help. They were VERY excited to receive the quilts and were amazed at how many beautiful quilts our guild makes each year. I will also complete nursing home deliveries in early December. Please contact me if you would like to recommend a specific facility.

At the December meeting, I will again bring potential fabric for comfort quilts that might go well with a nickel square packet that you picked up at the last meeting. This fabric can also be used for borders, sashing, and backing. Please bring a sample of your project(s) to help finding complementary fabric. I can also bring batting cut to whatever size you need if you email me ahead of time. Please remember to sew on the CPM labels to your comfort quilts. I will bring labels as well.

I emailed the recommended sizes for quilts most needed to everyone this month. Here they are again plus one addition for larger quilts.

Biggest Need:

- Twin bed size for Acton Household Goods, family shelters, and other organizations 55 x 70" minimum up to 68 x 86" ideal size
- Quilts with kid and teen themed fabric for Emerson Pediatrics between 32 x 40" and 40 x 50" for most, and smaller for little kid themed fabric

Smaller Need:

- Throw blanket size for nursing homes, Acton Household Goods, and other organizations around 48 x 60"
- Quilts of Valor for service members and veterans (Bedford VA is overwhelmed with donations) 60 x 80" ideally, but no smaller than 55" x 65", must also have gender neutral, patriotic fabric and be machine quilted (not tied)
- Double and queen bed sizes for Acton Household Goods 80 x 85" minimum for double and 85 x 95" minimum for queen

Woven Bag Workshop - Saturdays January 18th & February 1st, Pompositticut Community Center, 509 Great Rd, Stow, MA

This 18" x 12" lined shoulder bag is first pieced, then quilted, and finally assembled, complete with a double zipper and two or three interior pockets. The woven design is created by piecing various shades of one color (or a focus fabric with complementary colors) with narrow strips of black to make the colors pop. This bag was designed by Carol Stapleton of San Mateo, CA.

You will need the following gear:

- Sewing machine, foot pedal, and power cord
- Sewing machine manual (just in case)
- ¼" piecing foot
- Zipper foot
- Walking foot
- Needles—Size 80 for piecing and size 90 for quilting and assembling the bag
- 50 wt. thread for piecing (same color as bag) and black 50 wt. thread for quilting
- Cutting mat and rotary cutter, ruler (6 ½" square or other small ruler)
- Small scissors, seam ripper, pins, etc.
- Quilting gloves (optional but highly recommended)

You will need the following fabric

- 12 to 16 fabrics (or more) of various shades/prints in one color of your choice. Or you may want to use one focus fabric for every other square, and complementary fabrics to fill in. You will need enough for 108 2 ½" x 2" rectangles, but having a few extras is good.
- ¾ yard black fabric
- 1 yard lining (to match color of bag), darker is better
- 1 yard fusible fleece (Pellon 987F) *
- ½ yard batting
- 18" to 22" purse zipper with double pulls*

I will provide:

- Complete instructions
- Plastic canvas for bag bottom insert
- Basting spray

*I may be able to provide the fusible fleece and zippers, so hold off on those for now.

Please sign up with Carol MacFarlane, Tina van Roggen or Leonie Davis by January 8th. We'd like to know who is interested so that we can schedule a Zoom session for initial instructions to prepare us for the first class.



Proposed Bylaw Change – Associate Membership Category

The Board has voted to discontinue the Associate Membership category. It no longer applies to the guild and it serves no purpose. The benefits of full and associate memberships are the same except for voting rights. Associate members cannot vote on guild business. The Associate category was developed many years ago, when newsletters and membership books were mailed rather than emailed and associates did not get the mailings. Associates were only allowed to exhibit in the Quilt Show if there was space available. We have not had space issues in recent years. Associates are also supposed to pay a \$5 fee to attend meetings, and we have been erratic in collecting the fees.

The Bylaw Committee will review this proposal and if accepted, will present it to the membership. We will vote on the bylaws change at the April meeting.

Current ZoomBees



Join any ZoomBee at our standard Zoom Meeting link at the top of the Newsletter. The Tuesday and Thursday meetings have been inactive for a while, so for now, they are closed.

Friday Block of the Month ZoomBee, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (New Time)

The winter Bonnie Hunter Mystery colors have been chosen; aqua, melon, red, and white. This is a split complementary color scheme. (<https://www.incolororder.com/2011/11/art-of-choosing-split-complementary.html?m=1>)

This free mystery finishes sometime in January. For more information check out Bonnie Hunter's Quiltville blog - look for the Old Town Mystery tab.

Here are choices and possibilities to consider:

1. Make a smaller time commitment by making half the blocks.
2. Make blocks cooperatively for one quilt. Each person makes half or ten friends get together and each make one step. Then you can fight over who gets to keep the quilt or donate it.
3. Maybe you want to use totally different colors that's ok.

Remember, Bonnie's quilts use tiny pieces 1 1/2-inch blocks or strips are not unusual so if you do not like to work with small pieces chose another project.

Come sew with us. We can't tell if you are working on the BH mystery, last year's mystery, or something else. This is a great way to get to know your fellow guild members.



Quilts 250: *Stitching in the Spirit of Democracy*

Have you entered quilts yet? With the holidays rapidly approaching, it might be easy to forget that the deadline to register quilts for the show is JANUARY 15th! Don't wait to the last minute, register today!

<https://www.quiltersconnection.org/Quilts250.html>

Hooray, hooray! Carol MacFarlane and Donna Morales-Oemig have stepped up to chair Quilt Hanging at the show!

The following positions are still open and in need of leadership:

Registration/Day of - Taking in Quilts, Attach Labels

Quilt Take Down

End-of-Show Quilt Distribution

Children's Activities - needs one person to join Lesyslie Rackard (Sisters in Stitches Joined by the Cloth)

Treasurer

Signage - Day Of

Boutique - Has one person, Karen Hohler (QC), with retail experience. We need someone with good computer skills to work with her.

Don't forget to make items for the Boutique! The split is 80/20. Items that sold well at our last CPM guild show were bookmarks, table runners, pot holders, lavender sachets, and holiday items.

This show is a once in a lifetime event! I hope everyone chooses to participate!

Quilt Getaway!

Marian Bressel

Keep the date: Feb 21 – 24, 2025. Never too soon to start thinking about our next Getaway!!

*****Watch your email for details this weekend and don't forget to bring your checkbooks to the meeting to sign up.*****

News from the New England Quilt Museum

Martha Supnik

Current Exhibits: Last day for all is Saturday, December 28, 2024

Joe Cunningham: Quilts For These Times

Go Figure: Portraits in Textile Arts

Political Quilts and Textiles from the Permanent Collection

Barbara Barber Tribute Exhibition

I forgot to mention this last month, but in 3 small rooms of the main gallery there are a variety of wonderful quilts by the late Barbara Barber formerly of Rhode Island. Don't miss this chance to see them as well as the 3 exhibits listed above and described fully in the November newsletter and on the museum website at <https://www.neqm.org/on-view-index>

In the museum store: Wonderful Gift Items for all in the family, come shop!

The museum will close from Saturday, Dec 28 at 4pm until it reopens on Tuesday, January 14th with 3 new exhibits. I'll send that information as soon as it's released.

Rosie's Place

Kathleen McIsaac

Wishlist

- Travel or full size: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant and body wash
- Toothbrushes, floss
- Chapstick
- Disposable shaving razors
- Hairbrushes, picks, combs, elastic hair ties
- Socks, underwear, sports bras (new & in original packaging)
- Paperback and hardcover books (new & like new, no textbooks)
- Yarn (unused) and crochet hooks (new & like new)
- \$25 Gift cards** to Target, Old Navy, Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens