

CONCORD PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

GRAPEVINE

Editor: Barbara Kozenko

Wednesday January 21, 2026 Zoom Meeting
6:45 PM Socializing, 7:15 PM Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

If you'd like to visit our virtual guild meeting, please contact membership@concordpiecemakers.org for the Zoom link.

Programs: – Alex Anderson! – Lessons From a Quilty Life

Alex Anderson's virtual trunk show with everything about... her journey! She encourages people to follow their hearts, embrace chance and continue to grow as quilters.

Alex is the author of many quilting books, was the host of Simply Quilts on HGTV and is now the co-host with Ricky Tims of <https://thequiltshow.com/>.



The President's Message

Don't you look forward to the New Year and a fresh start?

It's hard to look at my stack of finished tops that are waiting to be quilted, but it's also inspiring me to get these UFOs out the door. Many are potential comfort quilts, an always satisfying destination. Another inspiring destination is for this year's Quilt Show. Some have been sitting a long time waiting for "just" a border, "just" some stitching in the ditch, even "just" some binding.

This time of year, there is not much pulling me out the door and a lot of enjoyment in going to my sewing room. Frequently my comfortable reading chair distracts me from the goal of the day when I reach there. But the great UFO challenge has been laid down by our Program Chairs and we must rise to their challenge! Don't forget to send me pictures of yours for our Zoom meeting Show and Tell.

I'm hoping to see lots of UFOs finished at the Getaway! I love those ta-da moments.

Eileen Ryan



UFO Challenge

Léonie Davis

Calling all UFOs! June is just around the corner. These cold days are the perfect time to get those UFOs finished!

The information is on our website. Feel free to bring completed slips to the Getaway or email me the information. (Please see your membership book for Léonie's email address.)

Getaway Weekend!

Marian Bressel

Keep those cards and letters coming!! The Getaway is rapidly coming up. February 20 - 23 at Devens. I will need your info and \$ money \$ in the next week. If anyone has any questions, please get them to me ASAP. As usual, looking forward to a wonderful weekend!

Editor's note: Please reference Marian's email from January 4th for complete details. Make checks out to Concord Piecemakers, and sent to Marian Bressel (Please see your membership book for Marian's home address.)



THE MIGHTY QUILTATHON IS COMING!!!!

On Saturday, March 14, your presence is requested between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at St. Matthew United Methodist Church, 435 Central Street, Acton. Please bring a finished quilt top, some fabric for the back that goes reasonably well with the front, and the dimensions of the quilt top. Tie these together with a scrap of fabric (if it is big enough, we can use it for a string quilt!)

Also bring a snack (breakfast, a salad, a dessert) for 10 hungry quilters to share. The guild supplies hot drinks (coffee, hot chocolate, tea), water, sandwiches and cut fruit. It is a fun day working together to make something that will cheer up someone at a difficult time that we don't even know. The work is fun and the companionship is the best. Also bring scissors, reading glasses, pins, whatever else you need. Please label your scissors with your name or Concord Piecemakers will gladly accept the donation. Come early, come late, stay 1 hour or the whole day. This is a great time for the Piecemakers to get together and create!

Also, if you are planning to bring your sewing machine for quilting or preparing quilts for sandwiching, please let one of the chair-people know. We need a certain amount to be able to get things done!

Joy Sussman, Marla Richmond, Léonie Davis

Quilt Show 2026 - Friday & Saturday, October 16 & 17

Your Quilt Show Committee is working hard to get us all ready to put on a fabulous quilt show again in the fall, but we still have some openings for function chairs that need to be filled. These are relatively small tasks, but we do need someone to take on each of them.

Books & Magazines—This simply involves gathering the books & magazines that are stored in the church storage area and arranging them on the table that will be provided. You could also put out a plea to guild members for more books and magazines. You will need to make a sign with the prices.

Fabrics & Yarn—This simply involves gathering the fabric & yarn that is stored in the church storage area and arranging them on the table that will be provided. You could also put out a plea to guild members for more fabric or yarn. You will want to make sure that each piece of fabric is labeled with its yardage, and make a sign with the prices.

End of Show Distribution—Supervise a small group of workers to gather the quilts once they are taken down and organize them for distribution.

Outreach—Advertise the event, using the materials that Bailey will design and print, through magazines, local papers, posters, mailing, member post cards, fliers at other shows, and on the internet.

Demonstration Room—Reach out to the membership for a number of people willing to demonstrate a skill. Schedule the various demonstrations.

Also, there will be **two** quilt show challenges, which will be revealed at the Getaway on Saturday! We will also present them at our March guild meeting.

Programs Team

Léonie and Tina are looking for 2 or more people who would be interested in organizing a slate of lectures, workshops, and other activities for the guild. We've been enjoying this job for the last two years, but our philosophy is that it is good to get fresh opinions every now and then for this job. We have a list of future potential lecturers along with a list of past activities that we can pass on to the new team, plus NEQM has resources and there are online resources for finding lecturers. Ideally, we'd like 2 or more people to sign up soon (preferably by February 1st) so that we can help you transition into the role by working together on the 2026 slate. If you're interested, please contact Léonie and Tina.



Website Management

Tina is looking for someone interested in taking over the CPM website. It uses WordPress and is fairly easy to edit. If you are interested in taking over this job sometime in the coming months, please contact Tina.

Solid Color Workshop with Barb Vedder

Tina van Roggen and Léonie Davis

This new Modern workshop is a great introduction into making quilts with solids. Students will supply inspiration photos, use a quilt block or work in the abstract. Barb will guide us on how to use color and composition to make a small quilt or the start of a larger project. This is an opportunity to play with color and the focus is to have fun and experiment.

When: 9am-3pm Thursday April 16th, 2026 in Sudbury, MA

Cost: \$60, pay ahead to get your spot. Make a check out to Concord Piecemakers and return to Léonie Davis. (Please see your membership book for Léonie's home address.)

Limit: 20 people, CPM guild members have first dibs on a spot.

Further details will be provided after payment is received.



Comfort Quilts

Leslie Garrison

December was a busy month for donations! I brought 4 to 6 quilts to several nursing facilities to give to residents who are alone over the holidays or who would appreciate extra comfort. These included CareOne Concord skilled nursing, LifeCare Acton skilled nursing, Westford House skilled nursing, Concord Park assisted living, and Newbury Court's memory unit. I also brought a set of quilts to the maternity ward of Heywood Hospital in Gardner where they were very appreciated. Lastly, quilts went to Household Goods who said that their needs are especially great this time of year. After I connect with Emerson Hospital this week, I will be left with only 10 completed quilts! Of course, I know that there are many partially completed quilts out in our group, and I have some that just need the final quilting step.

Now that we are taking a break from in-person meetings, please email or text me if you are in need of batting, fabric for backing or sashing, or quilt labels. I have sandwiched quilts ready for quilting for those who like this step the best. Fabric will also be available at the Getaway!



Pillowcases for Children at Emerson Hospital

Sue Colwell and Nanette Moffa

With the Getaway next month, it would be great to see a few pillowcases being made as we gather together in Devens. If you can't attend, you can still participate.

The pillowcases go to children at Emerson Hospital. When choosing fabrics consider using colors and themes that would make a child/teen smile. For example, cars, trucks, dinosaurs, animals, princesses, dance, unicorns, soccer, hockey, basketball, football, sport teams, and logos. Flowers and/or bright geometric shapes are a hit for older teens.

Below is a link to a pattern, which is also on our website under Community Service. We'd be happy to do a demonstration at the Getaway if anyone would find that helpful.

<https://www.rileyblakedesigns.com/assets/images/freepatterns/sewingpatterns/RollUpPillowCase.pdf>

Quilts 250 – Book Sale

Gayle Coit

We are starting advance sales of the book to hopefully alleviate lines to purchase the book at either the book launch or at guild meetings. Those that have pre purchased can be in a separate line to be checked off and pick up books - much faster!

Those that wish to pre purchase books can make their checks out to Concord Piecemakers with Q250 in the memo line. \$40/book. Mail the order/check to Gayle Coit. (Please see your membership book for Gayle's home address.) Please mail envelopes containing checks from inside a post office to thwart mail box fishing.



Current ZoomBee



Friday Block of the Month ZoomBee, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Bonnie Hunter's Winter Mystery Quilt was revealed on Jan 9th. The clues will soon be taken down from her site so if you're missing any of the 8 parts you should download them pronto! Elana recommends that if you haven't started it you should wait for the upcoming pattern release since the full pattern is easier to adjust to your liking since obfuscation is no longer Bonnie's goal.

Some of the Friday regulars went full rogue this year—mentioning no names — and made changes beyond choosing their own color schemes and omitted the half rectangles. Look out for finished tops in the near(?) future.

The mystery's reveal returns us to regular time/order on Friday afternoons. We sit and and chat about our quilting projects although some of us actually sew. It would be wonderful to have you join us. All are welcome and there is no commitment to show up weekly.

Come to:

- ~ get encouragement to work the top you will donate to the Quiltathon,
- ~ finish that UFO that has been on your to do list for a while,
- ~ show us your colors for the new project you are planning to start,
- ~ just chat.

Elana and Moira hope to see you Fridays at 2:00 on Zoom — use the usual guild link.

Rosie's Place

Kathleen McIsaac

- Travel-size or full-size shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash
- Toothbrushes, floss, Chapstick, Disposable shaving razors
- Hairbrushes, picks combs, Elastic hair ties
- Socks, Underwear, Sports bras (all 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

We'll be collecting items at the Getaway.



Household Goods Sewing Kits

Tina van Roggen

I continue to make sewing kits for Household Goods in Acton. I especially need donations of hand sewing needles and white dress shirt buttons. But I could also use thread, tape measures, scissors, pins, other buttons, safety pins, small boxes for pins or buttons, and empty spools and bobbins. If you have extras of any of these items, please bring them to the Getaway. Thank you!



News from the New England Quilt Museum

Martha Supnik



Opening Tuesday, January 13 through Saturday, April 11, 2026

Blue on Blue: Quilts from 1825 to 2025

“Blue color is everlastingly appointed by the deity to be a source of delight.”

John Ruskin (1819 – 1900)

Blue holds a unique place in our human consciousness. It is an elusive color, rarely found in nature, and yet universally associated with the sky and the sea. In our imaginations and the art we create, it manifests as wide horizons and starry nights, peaceful waters, and powerful waves, the royal and the divine.

The quilts selected for this exhibition by NEQM Curator, Pamela Weeks, span 200 years and range from exceptional antique quilts to cutting-edge contemporary works. They not only illustrate a diverse range of techniques and styles, but also display an extravagant variety of blue textiles--deep indigo, Prussian blue, turquoise, cobalt, and cornflower, to name just a few. The works are complemented by informative curatorial research on the intriguing, lesser-known, and often brutal, history of this captivating color.

Pam Weeks says: “In the main galleries there is an entire room with nineteenth century indigo and white quilts from the collections of Sharon Waddell and Debra Grana, all Albany NY area. The exhibition is very eclectic--masterworks of traditional applique on cotton and silk; Modern quilts; art quilts, and a previously unknown Molly Upton quilt, dated 1976.”

19th Century Blues: The AQSG Quilt Challenge

The American Quilt Study Group (AQSG) is a membership organization that provides opportunities for quiltmakers, enthusiasts, collectors and academics to study, research and publish findings that advance the knowledge of quilts and related subjects.

For this exhibition, participants were challenged to select a nineteenth-century quilt that fit specific guidelines, and then create a smaller replica, interpreting the elements of the original quilt in a new and fresh way. The intended goal is for the quiltmakers to research the assigned topic in general and their chosen study quilt in particular. Twenty-five of the fifty quilts made for this challenge were selected by AQSG to travel nationally. The NEQM Genre Gallery features these creative and meticulous quilts accompanied by photographs of the original inspiration quilts, personal statements about what the quiltmakers learned during the process, and their reflections on the original quilts that inspired them.

Cont'd...

Blue Quilts from the Permanent Collection

Continuing the theme of the color blue, the Donahue gallery will display nine blue quilts from the museum permanent collection dating from the 19th century through contemporary living artists on the walls and antique bed and more blue fabrics in the drawers we hope you'll open.

