

CONCORD PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

GRAPEVINE

Editor: Barbara Kozenko

Reminder - There is no regular member meeting this month.



The President's Message

Happy frigid February, friends. The fact that this is the shortest month is good news with this never-ending cold. The days are lengthening, but I don't venture far from the wood stove in this weather -- Barely to my sewing room which is cold until around noon. All this is a wonderful prelude, though, to the Getaway, a warm and friend-filled place to indulge our fantasies of sewing all day and inspiration long into the night. Oh, and not having to cook dinner! I can't wait to see all the various quilts rolling off all of your sewing machines. Many of those quilts will be headed to the Quiltathon in March. If you haven't picked out just the right quilt to send to the Quiltathon, come by my table and try one of the Eleanor Burns Quick Trip patterns, or grab some of my 2 1/2" strips for a jelly roll quilt, or try one of the 3-yard quilts by bringing (or checking out the Comfort Quilt table) 3 pieces of fabric of about a yard each. Patterns will be available.

Another place for inspiration of an even greater magnitude, is all the prize-winning quilt pictures rolling out of Road to California. Many of you who signed up for the QuiltShow.com newsletter after Alex Anderson's lovely program, will have seen them. You can always Google various quilt shows to see the winners. Another favorite inspiration for me is all the free patterns at Quiltville.com. They are mostly scrap quilts, my favorite, and range in difficulty from very easy to a little more complex. A lot of those blocks can be stacked by your sewing machine to piece either as "leaders and enders" or when you want to just piece without thinking.

I know I've never left a Getaway without being inspired by someone's quilt to try that pattern, too. How about you?

Eileen Ryan

Getaway Weekend!

Marian Bressel

The Getaway is fast approaching! If you would like to participate in one or both of the special tutorials (Saturday, Tina, pouches; Sunday, Léonie, rope bowl) please let me know so our teachers can have enough materials. We will also have a tutorial (at a time of Nanette 's choosing) and printed directions for the pillowcases. We will also have some 45" wide batting on hand. See you all soon!

HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR QUILT TOP FOR THE QUILTATHON YET?

Why not? The Quiltathon, which is held on March 14th, from 8 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's in Acton cometh! It may be the most important day in the CPM year! We will gather to make quilts for folks who really do need them. Please bring a quilt top, a back that goes with it, and a piece of paper with the dimensions, and tie it up together. We will make quilts to give to cancer patients, hospice patients, kids who are ill or traumatized. It feels great! Also please bring a snack (breakfast, salad, dessert) to share with 10 hungry quilters.

OK, so you didn't finish your quilt top. We forgive you this time. But there is still plenty to do! Spread out quilt tops on batting (the guild supplies) and pin it together with the backing. Next it goes to the sewing machine to be stitched together and get a label. Then back to the standing workers to turn it inside out and back to the sewing machines to sew the last of it. Some are machine quilted; some are tied. We also help decide what to do to which quilt. You may learn a lot about the process; you will certainly learn about your co-guild members! The guild supplies lunch, water, and coffee/hot chocolate.

We can still use some sewing machines, so let us know if you want to bring yours. Be there! It's a wonderful day of comradery and good feelings. See you then!

Joy Sussman, Marla Richmond, Léonie Davis

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.

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

The Quilt Show 2026 team (Carol MacFarlane, Joan Kerpelman, Léonie Davis, Gayle Coit and Pam Cincotta) would like to encourage all members to make items to be sold in the Boutique. At Q250, items that weren't very expensive flew off the shelves! What could those items be? Christmas tree ornaments, colorful coasters or trivets, table runners, book marks.... Let's use our scraps to make items that will benefit the guild! (More about the boutique below)

At the Getaway, we will present two challenges (if you wish to participate) in addition to the Programs' Team excellent UFO challenge. Stay tuned!

We have also decided to adopt a new way of hanging our quilts at the next show. We will use the method developed by Quilters' Connection that was used at the Quilts 250 show. This approach uses a single crossbar between the uprights which is much safer, drape panels to give a solid background for all quilts (unless so big they don't need a drape panel), and the quilts will be hung from the "S" hooks using fishing line. Everyone will supply their own support rod for their quilt. Details on how to prepare your quilt for show is detailed at the end of the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Getaway!

Quilt Show Boutique

Pam Cincotta

A major part of our quilt show is providing our membership the opportunity to sell their craft as well as giving our guests the opportunity to browse and shop after viewing our lovely show. Many of you have consistently provided crafted items for our boutique and I thank you for that and am hoping you plan to continue this year. Those of you who have thought about crafting items for the boutique but have never done so, I encourage you to make this the year you participate in the boutique.

Items that have done well include: children's toys/items, knitted items (hats, gloves etc.), home décor items (napkins, placemats, table runners etc.), décor and useful items for our sewing rooms, and handbags. At the time of our show, we will be at the beginning of the Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas seasons so holiday items such as ornaments and holiday décor would be great items for us to showcase in our boutique.



Programs Team

Is there a speaker or workshop you would love to have the guild sponsor? Here's your chance to help make that happen.

Léonie and Tina are looking for 2 or more people who would be interested working on the Program Committee next year. We have a list of future potential lecturers along with a list of past activities that we can pass on to the new team.

Ideally, we'd like 2 or more people to sign up soon (preferably by March 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.

Quilts 250 – Book Sale

Gayle Coit

Sara Schechner, Holly Cratsley, and Gayle Coit met with the printer's representative last week to look over the final proofs of the book. It's going to be lovely! We're so excited that the book is finally going to print!

The date of the book launch has changed! A large "No Kings" rally is scheduled for Concord (and across the nation) on March 28th! Parking and getting around will be too difficult. The new date will be April 11th and the new location: Harvey Wheeler! The launch will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be refreshments and speakers. More to come.

Save the date!

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: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. 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 the 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

At the getaway, plenty of fabric for comfort quilts will be available! I have two bins of fabric for backings as well as a selection of bolts. Two bins of fabric that are 1/4 yd to 2 yd will also be there for quilt tops. Eileen will bring pattern books and instructions for "3-yard quilts" that can use these smaller pieces. She will also have some "Quick Trip" precut kits available. Remember that adding an extra row of blocks and/or a bigger border can bring your quilt up to twin size (55x70" minimum). Please restrict the use of the fabrics in my bins to comfort quilts as that was the condition of the donation in many cases. Thanks!

Pillowcases for Children at Emerson Hospital

Sue Colwell and Nanette Moffa

There will be a demonstration and handout at the Getaway on how to make a pillowcase. The directions are on our website but sometimes it's helpful to see the steps live.

Current ZoomBee



Friday ZoomBee, 2:00 P.M. – on

Join us on Zoom for an hour or so of sewing and chatting.

Our current project aka Elana's obsession (!) and Moira's procrastination project (!) is

➤ The Stardust Quilt

String-pieced squares for a group Bonnie Hunter Stardust Quilt. Join us and make as many or as few as you like. Elana and Moira will combine them into a single comfort quilt.

We'll have some cut papers available at the Getaway if you want to bring a few blue and white strings and make a few squares then. If you're eager to make a start ahead, come on a Friday or contact Elana or Moira for details.

True to Bonnie's scrappy tradition the more variety the better so anything that will read as a blue and/or white solid-ish at a distance is fair game. We're planning for the colors to read:

- blue rather than aqua or teal
- white rather than beige or brilliant white

The pattern is available on the Bonnie Hunter's website, quiltville.com and can be seen on her blog. We have purchased a copy for the comfort quilt project but if you'd like to make your own version, we ask that you buy your own copy. Bonnie is running a business after all!

When you have completed squares pass them on to Elana or Moira. No need to trim or remove paper we can do that for you.

Happy Sewing
~Elana and Moira

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!

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) - No clothing donations
- 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.

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."

Cont...

19th Century Blues: The AQSG Quilt Challenge

The American Quilt Study Group (AQSG) is a membership organization that provides opportunities for quilters, 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 quilters 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 quilters learned during the process, and their reflections on the original quilts that inspired them.

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.



Preparing Your Quilt for the Show

First make a sleeve.

Make a tube that is at least 4 inches wide and 1" less than the width of the quilt.

Make a finished ¼ inch hem on each short edge.

There are two different ways to attach the sleeve:

1. For a permanent sleeve, after making the tube, center the sleeves to the width of the quilt and line up the raw edges of the sleeve and sew it down on the binding seam line (before slip-stitching your binding down). Then, slip-stitch the binding at the top edge of your quilt, going through the sleeve to catch the quilt backing in your stitches. Carefully slip stitch the remaining three sides (two edges and one bottom) of the sleeve to the back of the quilt, catching only the quilt backing and not the quilt front.
2. To make a detachable sleeve, sew the tube from above, and turn it right side out. Center the sleeve across the width of the quilt. Line the sleeves approximately 1/2" from the top of the binding and pin all the way around. Carefully slip stitch all four sides (two edges, one top and one bottom) of the sleeve to the back of the quilt, catching only the quilt backing and not the quilt front.

Before attaching your sleeve, you may wish to press it flat, then roll one of the long edges up ¼ inch and press again. This will open up the sleeve a bit to hold the hanging rod helping your quilt to hang flat.

Second you need wood slats.

To hang your quilt for the show, you will need wood slats or lattice moulding. For smaller and lighter quilts, you can use one "LWM 265 ¼" x 1-11/16" Pine Lattice Moulding." Another one you can use is "WM 267 which is ¼" x 1-5/16" Solid Pine Lattice Moulding."

For heavier quilts (twin size or larger), heavier moulding is necessary. A good choice is "WM 8144 1 1/16" x 1 3/4" Solid Pine Nosing" moulding. This has been available at Home Depot and other lumber shops, but if you cannot find it, you may substitute a so-called 1" x 3" board (whose actual dimensions are less than ¾" x 2 ½").

You do not have to use the above, but it needs to look like a slat (see below), and make sure



that the wood is strong enough so that it does not bow or break under the weight of the quilt. Also, make sure that the slat is not too wide to fit into the sleeve (i.e., that it is less than 4").

After you have identified your slat, measure the width of your quilt, and subtract ½". This is the number that you will use to cut the wood's length.

Cut the wood.

Drill two holes in your slat.

The outer edge of first hole will be about ¼" from the left edge of the slat; the outer edge of the second hole will be about ¼" from the right edge (see below). Holes should be between 3/8" to ½" in diameter.



NB: If your quilt is small and you prefer to use a dowel or rod with screw eyes attached, that is okay.

Mark your slat with your name and the name of your quilt just in case the slat and your quilt get separated.

Third, you will need a label.

All quilts need a cloth label. The label should include your name, town, and quilt title. Feel free to add the date of the quilt or other information. Please sew the label to the bottom left or right side of the back of the quilt.

Roll your quilt.

Before you drop off your quilt, please insert the slat into the sleeve and roll up your quilt so that the label shows. This will speed up your drop off.

Further instructions for times and locations to drop off and pick up your quilt will be sent separately by email.