

Hammersmith Quilters Guild Newsletter



www.hqgsaugus.org

May 2020

Special COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Edition

May 6, 2020 meeting- CANCELLED

I hope everyone is doing as well as can be expected during this strange time in which we find ourselves. Although our May meeting has been cancelled, I decided to put out a May newsletter anyway in an attempt to keep us as connected as possible.

Fat Quarter: The Fat Quarter theme for April was Flowers. This will now become the theme for June, or our next meeting, whenever that is. For every fat quarter you enter in the drawing, you get a ticket.

In this era of making nonmedical cloth facemasks, I've seen some great slogans on t-shirts advertised for sale on Facebook and other outlets. A common one is "I Make Masks...What's Your Superpower?" My favorite is "**Sewing is Not Just a Hobby, It's a 2020 Survival Skill.**" Nice to know that we all possess such an essential skill!

President's Message: Martha Mazeika

Greetings!

Thank you to Dottie for putting together this special edition newsletter. I am sad we are not having a May meeting and that the 2020 quilt show was cancelled. So many things not happening in uncertain times. We can continue to share with each other and we are here for each other. Once we know we can start to gather at the Senior Center, we will get back on track with guild activities.

Always here to listen, talk, discuss, and answer questions.
Stay safe and healthy!!

Martha

(413)250-5449
marthamazeika@gmail.com

SIX CHIX

by Isabella Bannerman



Stay-at-Home Special Report

I asked members to tell me what they are doing to keep busy at home during this pandemic. I also asked you to tell me what you miss while you are asked to stay at home. Here are some of your responses:

How I Am Keeping Busy

Margie Berkowitch: looking at old photos and laughing

Donna Cormier: eating and gaining weight, praying for relief, dreaming and scheming, reading, odds and ends of little UFOs, reviewing my hoarding (lots to explore), putting together squares for grandchildren, in good weather-bike riding, in bad weather- movies, TV, games

Linda Anthony: You would think this time would give me a chance to quilt quilt quilt. Surprise- I have not been sewing at all. I have become a kindergarten and third grade home schooling teacher and an emergency algebra aide.

Carmen Arnone: balancing procrastination with performance

Betty Carr: working on a Sonja's Windows quilt

Kristin Callahan: getting overwhelmed with facemask requests- I've lost track of how many I've made.

Ruth Cameron: making masks and starting pots of cukes for family- I make the best bread & butter pickles! I grow lots of cukes so I can give the pickles to all those who love them.

Barbara Adler: spending time with my new grandson!

Merle Gordon: Bird-watching, and cleaning one "forgotten" corner of the house every day!

Gail Dwyer: I am enjoying a solo sewing retreat! Instead of indulging in lots of snacks, I have lost 12 lbs. on the Noom diet!

Sally Nimblett: busy making face masks and scrub caps – "My poor sewing machine must be so tired; she needs a good cleaning!"

Dottie Macomber: We broke out the jigsaw puzzles and the cribbage board. We've also been cleaning out the cellar, the shed, the attic, and under the kitchen sink! And I've made and sent out 40 small pet beds to shelters requesting them through the Small Kennel Quilt Project.

What I Am Missing

Donna Cormier: socializing with friends, church, singing

Gail Dwyer: the library, and taking my granddaughters to the park

Lynda Galvin: My daughter had a healthy baby boy last Saturday...so hard not to be able to see them...

Dottie Macomber: I think we are all missing visiting with family and friends in person. (At the same time, the traffic and noise around my house is much less, and I'm sort of enjoying a break from the usual hustle and bustle.)

Member Photos

(You can find more on our website's Photo Album page.)



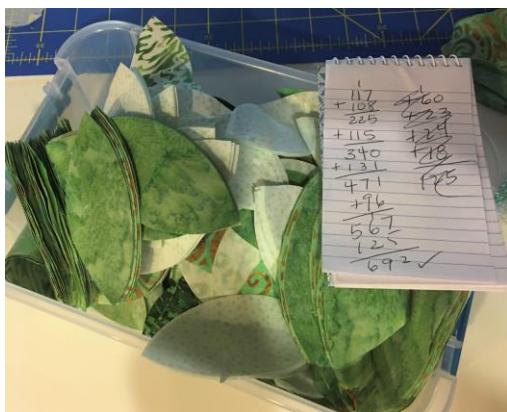
From Linda Anthony: I did finish one quilt before I became a teacher. It is made from all the little triangles left when you make binding and leftover binding. The triangles are not sewn on but trapped under a layer of fancy thin fabric with silver hearts all over. It was made on my long arm. Everything is held in place with the quilting.



Carole d'Entremont has been working on these 80 half-square triangles and 80 hourglass blocks- all pressed and ready for trimming.



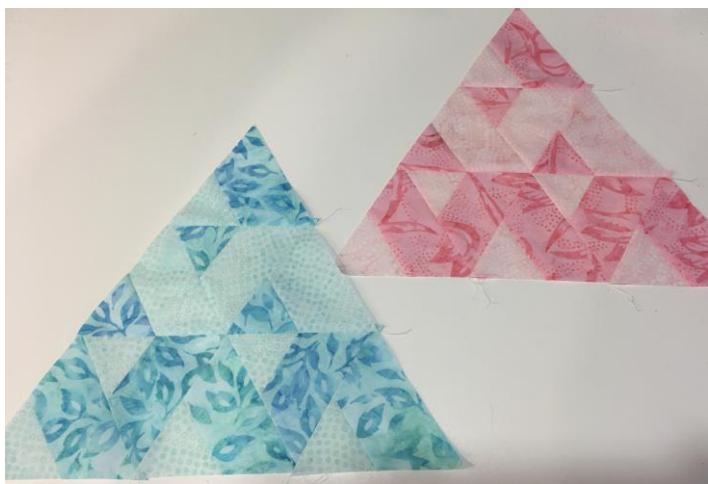
Margarita Blyumkina has been busy- as usual! In addition to making many masks, she has found time for other projects, including this reversible skirt! The first photo shows her clever use of scraps: "I used my time to use up "useless" scraps. I made a box of strips and some strippy blocks, just in case. One day they will come in handy."



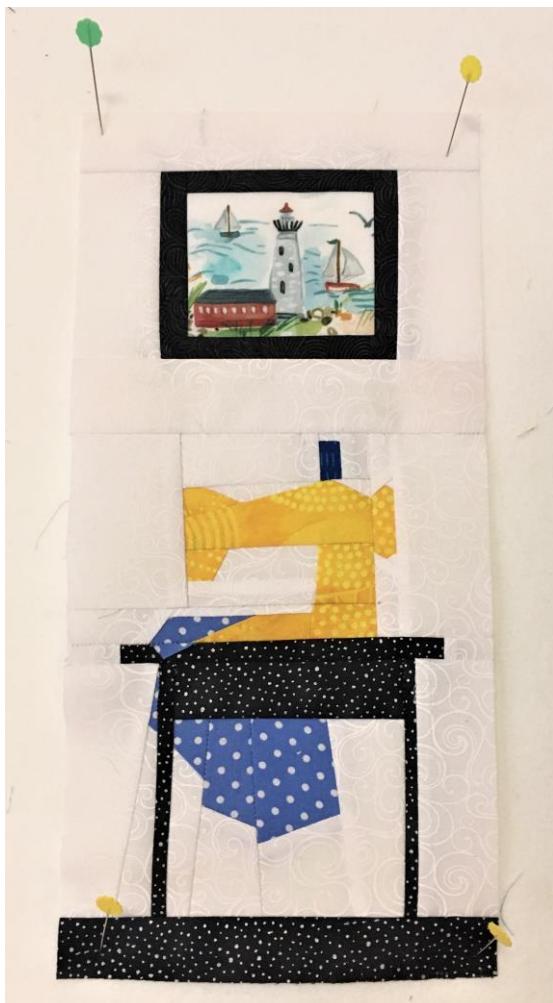
Kristin Callahan has been working on the Mint Chocolate Challenge with Sue Pelland. Looks like lots of fabrics, organization and cutting required!



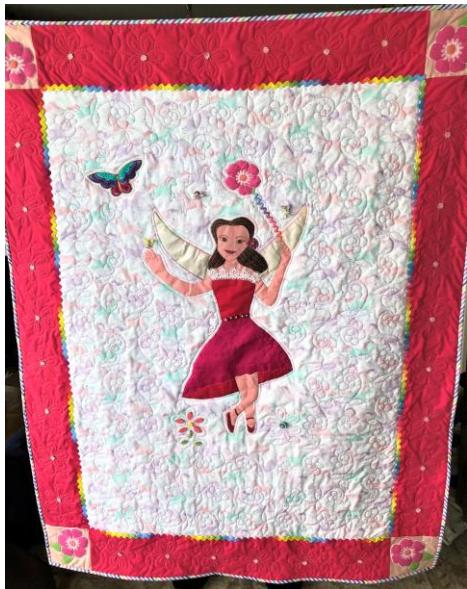
Left: Kathy Connors' Coronavirus Quilt, ready for quilting. Right: From Lynda Galvin: "I couldn't find my seam ripper. This is what happens when you are exhausted from making masks!" (Look closely at the sole plate of her iron- guess the seam ripper got a bit too close!)



Kristin Callahan has also been doing the “beta testing” for an upcoming Block of the Month that will be presented at Quilters Common soon. This is month 1 of that BOM program.



Just a couple of Gail Dwyer's projects in progress. Look closely at the flower head pins to get a sense of the scale of the sewing machine paper piecing!



Welcome Cylis Paul Fraser. We are truly blessed



Left from Molly Conlin: "Rosetta the Flower Fairy- What you won't do for your grandchildren! Designed by a 4 3/4 year old. My second fairy quilt and my last!!"

Right: Lynda Galvin's new grandson!



Ann Ambrose has been busy making a toy and a taggie blanket for her grandson who is expected on April 28th. Ann says, "The toy has ribbons, as well as a rattle and crinkle paper inside to stimulate his senses!! Can't wait till he is safely here to receive it from me!!!"



Left: Margie Berkowitch just finished quilting her Disappearing Nine-Patch quilt. Right: Kristin Callahan's version of "Swirlygig", the mystery quilt pattern for this year.



From Ann Kelly-Maguire: "Just some of the sewing I've completed while house bound. Quilted a quilt top I've had for about 5 years. Pillowcases I always find fun and relaxing. And I've made many masks which, unfortunately, are needed at this time. Hope all are well and staying safe!"

An Easter and A Passover Like No Others

From virtual visits via Skype and Facetime to simple phone calls or waving to relatives and friends out our car windows or from 6 feet or more away, we certainly celebrated Easter and Passover in a different way this year.



From Mary Ann Andree: An Easter present for my granddaughters! I made this from scraps. The pattern is Game Quilt. I got the unopened Quiltsmart pattern at a yard sale for \$1.00 this past summer! These are my granddaughters dressed in their Easter best: jammies, rainboots and ski jackets!



From Ann Ambrose: Here is a photo of the shirt I made to go out to spend Easter with my husband, my children, their spouses and the Grandkids!! Well that didn't happen in view of our "all stay home to stay healthy" policy! Anyway, I wore my shirt and we each celebrated in our own homes and loved each other thru calls, photos and videos!

My shirt is the "London Shirt" from Sewing Workshop Patterns. Fabric is Japanese Cotton purchased from Sewing Workshop, San Francisco as well. Antique black glass buttons I purchased thru eBay. Thanks to Steve for taking my pic while I posed!!!



Left: Margie Berkowitch made masks of bunny fabric for Easter. Right: Dottie Macomber's stepdaughter's family on Long Island, NY, sitting down before Easter dinner wearing the masks Dottie made for them.

Treasurer's Report: Carmen Arnone

The checkbook balance as of March 31, 2020 is \$17,983.24.

Membership: Sally Nimblett

If you have a change of contact information (address, phone, email), please see me and get a change-of-information slip. We want to keep our membership list up to date to make sure you are informed!

Revised Due Date for your annual dues: Dues for the 2020-2021 guild year are due by August 31st. You may pay them anytime now by mailing them to me, Sally Nimblett, at 22 Pleasant Park Rd, Winthrop, MA 02152. If you have special circumstances which prevent you from paying in a timely manner, please contact me and we'll work something out.

Refreshment Committee: Barbara Martinson & Kathy Connors

The following members signed up to bring refreshments in April or May: Linda Talanian, Sheila Darcy, Linda Anthony, Mary Whitaker, Nancy Kershaw, Dianne Cheney, Diane Bucknell, Maureen Matthews, Kathy Boardman, Rebecca Mohammedi, Mary Fitzpatrick, Susan Bidollo, Jean Balliro, Ellen Moore, Lesley Pew, Lyrel Gillette, Mary Ann Andree, Linda Reppucci, Barbara Adler, Helen Fortucci and Matty

Graciano. When we all get back together, please sign up again for another meeting, or contact Barbara Martinson to tell her that you will bring them to our next meeting that needs refreshments (not the June Ice Cream Social or the December potluck).

Sewing and Donating Non-medical Facemasks

For those of you who still wish to make and donate masks, I am including the information below:

Here is a link to the website for North Shore Fabric Masks for Health Professionals. It includes the locations of drop boxes where you can donate fabric masks, and it also tells the locations where those masks are going.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/gykOHI7OECrEp/>

The following members have requested masks for the facilities listed. They have agreed to be the point person collecting masks for those facilities, so contact them to see the best way to get masks to them.

Kathy Connors, 781-420-9094, The Residence at Melrose Station in Melrose

Barbara Adler, 42 Bartlett Rd, Winthrop, MA 02152, Hale House in Boston needs 62 masks- Barbara is out of state without her sewing machine (!), spending time with her new grandson (she left home before the stay-at-home order applied), but her husband will take care of delivering any masks sent to her home address.

Program Committee: Gail Dwyer and Dottie Macomber

Summer meetings are planned for Wednesday, July 1st and Wednesday, August 5th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This will, of course, depend on the status of the stay-at-home advisory AND whether or not the Saugus Senior Center is even open then. Stay tuned...

From Dottie: All of the **UFO quilt tops** have now been taken. To everyone who has taken a top to complete: there is no deadline for completing these quilts, but **remember** to report to me with your finished quilt before you turn it in to Gretchen and the Charity Donations committee so I can take a photo to send to the group of seniors in NH who donated all these tops to us AND so I can give you your UFO charm! Now would be a great time to complete these- and I should practice what I preach and finish mine!

Charity Donations Committee: Gretchen Berkowitch, Sally Nimblett & Louise Nazzaro

This stay-at-home time would be a good one in which to make a pillowcase or two to donate. We continue to collect pillowcases for kids and for Quilts of Valor. You may pass these in at any time.

As a reminder, we ask that each guild member donate a pillowcase and a small quilt each year. The pillowcase can be a generic kids' fabric one, a winter- or Christmas-themed one for our holiday stuffed pillowcase project, or a patriotic-themed one for Quilts of Valor.

We continue to collect quilts any time. Because of the cost to you that is associated with making larger quilts, we are no longer going to ask for specific sizes each year; if you would like to pass in a small baby quilt (size of baby quilts is between 30" x 35" and 40" x 40") or a child's lap quilt, that is fine. Of

course, if anyone wants to make and donate a larger quilt, we will certainly accept it and find a good home for it!

As always, thank you for your support of our various comfort projects.

Creative Quiltworks Committee: Kristin Callahan & Ellen Moore

Project for June (or whenever we meet again): English Paper Piece a Medallion. See April newsletter for instructions.

2020 Quilt Show Postponed: Dottie Macomber & Holly Petersen, co-chairs

Our quilt show has been postponed due to the uncertainty around the coronavirus. Even if restrictions are lifted later this spring or this summer, we would not have enough time to do the advance preparation necessary to put on a quality show. We hope that life will return to normal in time for us to have our show in October 2021.

In the meantime, this give you plenty of time to work on entries for the show, including a challenge item. I am including the parameters for the "Walk Around the Block" challenge below:

There were some **questions at the February guild meeting about the Challenge category** for the quilt show. This is a separate entry category for those who would like a challenge; the challenge is to make a small quilt, no larger than 20"x20" (or 80" perimeter, for those who were at the February meeting and saw Martha's geometry lesson!). This quilt should be your interpretation of the challenge theme, which is "Walk Around the Block". What do you think of when you read that phrase? Do you think of a quilt block or a city block- or kids' building blocks?? Do you think of what you see when walking around your block or neighborhood? Whatever that phrase means to you, make a small quilt (no larger than 20"x20") illustrating that. This entry is entirely optional, but it's always fun to see how different people interpret the same theme. Also, keep in mind that this challenge entry counts as one of your 3 entries.

You also have plenty of time to craft homemade items to sell in **our show's boutique**, so get sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, jewelry-making, or whatever other craft you do. Remember, the guild gets 20% of your boutique items' selling prices, so this is not only a great way to make money yourself but it is also a fundraiser for the guild!

The "secret" word for June (or whenever) is **applique**. (If you don't know what I'm talking about when I mention a "secret word", read the rest of the newsletter to find out!) I'm going to choose multiple winners when we finally get together.

Secretary Report: Dottie Macomber

Printed reports containing the full minutes of all previous meetings for the current guild year, both general membership and executive board, are available for your perusal at monthly guild meetings.

As the Secretary, I am in charge of the **Sunshine and Shadow** "committee". If you know of any member who has suffered a serious illness or accident, has had a death in the family, or needs cheering up for any other reason, please let me know so I can send them a card on behalf of the guild: 781-932-3602 or mcandmac@comcast.net

Member News & Miscellaneous: Dottie Macomber

If you have made or are making the mystery quilt that Kristin Callahan was coordinating for our cancelled getaway, please be sure to include information on your label about the designer, who is Kristin Roylance of CuteQuiltPatterns.com. She has given us permission to use her pattern, called "Swirlygig" and would appreciate credit for it, especially if you are going to display it in our show or another show.

I would like to thank Jeanie Bartolo for giving the guild a shout-out in the Saugus Advocate newspaper dated 4/10/20. The link is <http://publizr.com/advocatenewsma/saugus-advocate-04-slash-10-slash-20#/13>

As always, if anyone submits quilts to shows or fairs, or if you have any other quilty accomplishments to report, please send the information (with photos if possible) to me, Dottie Macomber, at mcandmac@comcast.net or 9 Fletcher Rd, Woburn, MA 01801.

In an attempt to get everyone to read the newsletter so they can be well-informed and get the most out of every guild meeting and activity, I am hiding a "**secret**" word or phrase somewhere in the newsletter. If you find this secret word, when you come to the next guild meeting come see me and write the word or phrase on a piece of paper, which I will provide, along with your first **and** last names. During my monthly announcements, I will draw a name and if that person has the correct secret word, then she/he gets a small prize. (These prizes are from my personal stash of brand new, unused, fun items; no guild funds are being used.) Look elsewhere in the newsletter for the secret word. Multiple winner will be picked at our next meeting, whenever that may be.

Book Review

I know that our public libraries are closed now, but when they reopen, I recommend that you borrow the book **The Sewing Machine by Natalie Fergie**. The novel takes place in Scotland over several decades and traces the journey of a Singer sewing machine from the factory in Clydebank in the early 1900's through several generations of one family. It is one of those books with an "Ah ha!" ending, where all the loose ends are tied together. The author lives in Edinburgh and there are many British/Scottish phrases and words that are definitely not U.S. English, but you can figure them out through the context. It's a good read, and I highly recommend it. - *Dottie*

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Macomber, Secretary