



April 2020 Newsletter

No April guild meeting. All activities have been cancelled or postponed.

Sew What's New?

Nothing like quarantine sewing, huh?!? Truthfully, I haven't gotten a lot done – but I have big plans. Your Executive Board met today using Zoom video conferencing! Since we are located from Fox Island to Poulsbo, this will now be our go-to method of meeting, except for open meetings. It was time-saving and easier on the pocketbook.

We discussed several items, some of which will be expanded upon in the newsletter.

First up, we believe that it will be prudent for us to **cancel guild meetings for April and May**. From there, we'll have to see how the virus alerts are going. Cancelling May's meeting also means that the Laura Heine class will not be held. The instructor has proposed tentatively scheduling the lecture during our August sew-in, with classes to follow Wednesday and Thursday that week. Please see Penny's article for more information.

This month, we were supposed to have three members search for Board vacancies, to be voted on in May. The good news is (well we hope you find it good news) we only have one vacancy to fill. Judy Clark is stepping down as Activities VP. Three members of the guild were contacted to serve as the Nominating Committee. One person has stepped forward, and was unanimously agreed upon by the committee. All of us are technically up for election. *I want to make it clear that that if anyone wants to run for an office, they may contact me or Judy Clark before the election to get their name on the slate.* We are considering using Survey Monkey for voting – more information on that in the next newsletter.

If any committee chairs wish to step down, please contact me. Judy Reikena, Hospitality Chair, will be vacating her position. We would really like to see two, new members (joined within the last year) to team up to fill this position. It's a good way to get involved in the Guild, and we'd love to have you on the team! The new fiscal year starts in June.

We're thinking about the need for a creative group of maybe 3 people to manage the website. We're still working out what we would like to see on the website. Certainly, we want it to be a place where members can easily find Guild information. The program we're using is WIX; if you have experience using it, please let me know. It's not necessary to know it to volunteer for this committee, though.

Finally, in the past, we have started collecting annual dues in April. I spoke with Jan Sachs, and she would prefer that we not send checks in the mail to her or the post box. So write your check, payable to the Gig Harbor Quilters for \$40, and put it on your refrigerator with a magnet, and bring it with you the next time we meet.

I wish you good health and a productive quarantine season. Aren't you glad you have a hobby now?

Mary Ann



Officers and Committee Chairs

President: Mary Ann Hooker
VP (Programs): Penny Specht
VP (Activities): Judy Clark
Secretary: Suzanne Shema
Treasurer (interim): Mimi Miller

Chairpersons and Volunteers:

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Colyar
Hospitality: Judy Riekema
Set-Up/Takedown: Marcy McIntyre
Retreats: Jan Sachs

Service and Charity Groups

Library: Laurel Hyde & Belinda Mayer
Photography/Facebook: Janey Herrera
Membership: Jan Sachs
A Place Called Hope: Jean-Ann Williamson
Mary Bridge Hospital: Diane Elliot
NICU Quilts: Janet Larson
Comfort Quilts: Carol Arnold
Sunshine: Peggy Aronson
Logo Embroidery: Diane Elliot
Quilt Show: Anne Puckett
Treasure Table: Lynn White
Lunch Bunch: Donna Egan



<i>Judy Burkhart</i>	<i>April 8</i>
<i>Trish Dolge</i>	<i>April 15</i>
<i>Beth Christ</i>	<i>April 17</i>
<i>Mimi Miller</i>	<i>April 25</i>
<i>Jeri Voyles</i>	<i>April 29</i>



From Penny:

As VP of Programs I contacted our May presenter and instructor for the **Collage Quilting class**, Brigitte Okamoto concerning the need to postpone due to the Covid-19 virus. She requested that we postpone and reschedule for later in the summer. We're tentatively looking to schedule her for our meeting in August. We will include her one hour presentation during the August sew-in with the collage workshop Brigitte teaches scheduled the following two days, provided, of course that the Yacht Club is free at that time for our use. This is sad news for all who were looking forward to learning a new quilting skill. Brigitte said Montana was slower to experience the start of the virus, so she expects it may also be longer before they are in the clear. We all want everyone to stay safe from this virus, so please take good care of yourselves in the meantime. We'll all look forward to a return to life as we were accustomed to living it.

If it's ok with all of you who've currently signed up for the class, we'll hold the fees and your spots on the register. If you know you won't be able to participate, let me know and I'll arrange for your refund. Just know that we won't know for a while yet when it will be safe to resume our normal activities.

Our June speaker has agreed to be "on hold" depending on how things change. I'm negotiating with our April speaker, Judy Irish, regarding bringing her back sometime in early 2021 since our fall speakers have already been scheduled.

As we face these difficult times, I take pleasure in thinking of all the fun we've had together through our amazing guild and look forward to the time when we can be together once more. Keep in touch with each other to help provide some cheer. May you all stay healthy!!! Wash your hands!

--Penny



A QUICK MESSAGE FROM YOUR VP, ACTIVITIES

As everyone tries to navigate this uncertain time and changes to our "normal" lives and schedules, I just want to express how fortunate I feel to be part of the quilting community. As our neighbors try to find activities to occupy their free time, we, as quilters, can just turn to our many UFO's, endless supply of patterns and projects, and that very important and opportune "stash" that we've been coveting for so long, and start sewing. I think I can actually hear the whir of all those sewing machines. I can't wait to see what everyone has created!

Hopefully by the May newsletter I'll be able to provide an update on upcoming group trips and free workshops. For now, STAY AT HOME and keep on sewing. Also, be sure to take breaks and get out and enjoy the beauty of spring, while maintaining social distancing. Stay safe and healthy!

Judy Clark

REPORT FROM YOUR ELECTION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The GHQ Executive Board, in spite of social distancing, is trying to keep our group strong and prepared by following our bylaws as closely as possible. According to the bylaws, a three person nominating committee appointed by the President is supposed to present a slate of officers at the April meeting for the 2020-2021 year. Judy Clark, Donna Blum and Mary Camden agreed to be this year's nominating committee. They had a very easy job since four of our five officers have agreed to stay on for an additional year. The only open office is Vice President, Activities. We have also had a volunteer for that position.

Here is the slate of officers being presented for the 2020-2021 year:

President	Mary Ann Hooker
Vice President, Programs	Penny Specht
Vice President, Activities	Janet Rosenburg
Secretary	Suzanne Schema
Treasurer	Mimi Miller

If you are interested in running for any of the above offices please contact Judy Clark so you can be added before voting takes place. Since our May meeting has been cancelled, the Board is working on an on-line voting option which will be confirmed by a vote at our next meeting. More on this later.

Stay Healthy. Keep sewing!

Judy



NICU QUILTS AND BLANKETS (Candy Jackson)

If you are looking for a small project to work on, please consider making a quilt or flannel blanket for the little ones coming home from the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). The suggested size is 34 to 36 inches square. Either quilts or flannel blankets would be greatly appreciated. Janet Larson (artnquilts.jkl@gmail.com) has info and kits available for the flannel blankets. (Please do not use any fabric softener on any of them.)



About Masks. . .

Daily reports from those in the medical field tell us about the critical shortage of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for medical workers on the front lines of the Covid-19 virus. Many of you have already been at your machines, using your stash, creating kits for various agencies. It is important to know that the masks you make will likely NOT be used in hospitals by medical personnel, but will free up standard medical masks for these heroes. Our Kristin Tow has done a great deal of research on the styles of masks you can make and the organizations interested in receiving them. This synthesis of the information she has

researched is both important and useful as we all want to contribute to this effort. From Kristin:

For those of you interested in making face masks to donate, here's what I know:

The **St. Anthony auxiliary** is making masks for the hospital. You must use their fabric, pattern, etc. Kits are (or will be) available. Contact is Susan Melampy, smelampy@msn.com. Phone 253-905-7847.

To use your own fabric & supplies, here are 2 options:

Masks for **Tacoma General** from this approved design: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLOh8AoXvcl>

Fabric should be 100% cotton, tight weave (batik qualifies). Ties or elastic ok. Must have a wire at the nose bridge. I'm using floral wire because that's what I have on hand. Judy Redder is collecting masks in Gig Harbor. judyredder@gmail.com 253-432-1711.

NW Mask Brigade is making masks for a variety of places (medical, rehab/senior residential, etc.). Plenty of info and pattern video at their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NWMaskBrigade> (no need to be on Facebook). Using a pleated design with nose wire. Attached is a simplified pattern. Use your own good-quality cotton (tight weave) or they have fabric to share. They're short on elastic so they'll move toward using ties (1/4"-3/8" x 16" long). To participate/donate, text Sylvie at 253-720-8562 or email harborsail@aol.com (allow time for response).

It is best to pre-wash your fabric.

From the Editor:

We are living in unprecedented times. Staying at home, (“stay healthy; stay at home,”) is the new normal. Life has come to a standstill. For those who love to quilt, staying at home is a kind of luxury, and we retreat to our quilt spaces to create beauty, to satisfy our need to be productive and creative. Several guild members responded to my request for photos of their work, for poetry, words that have had meaning for these days. Thanks to everyone who sent me submissions. So—presenting here—

The Covid-19 Virtual Quilt Show



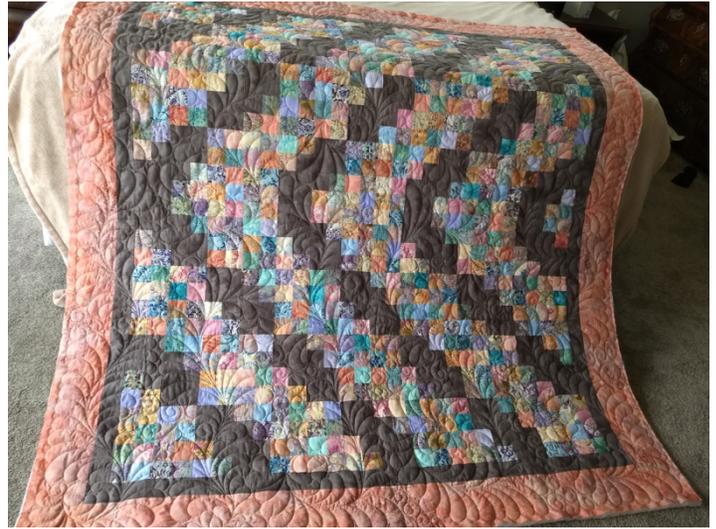
Pam Binns



Bobbie Ventur



Candy Jackson



Donna Smith

Of all the things a woman's hands have made,
The quilt so lightly thrown across her bed—
The quilt that keeps her loved ones warm—
Is woven of her love and dreams and thread.
--Carrie A. Hall



Jan Sachs: an improvisational
Pillow from class with
Katie Peterson



Suzanne Shema



Patti Vincent: A quilt—and a plethora of pillowcases!



Two by *Mary Camden*
(to the right: finished quilt from Cathy Stone's improvisational quilting class!)

“Patchwork? Ah, no! It was memory, imagination, history, biography, joy, sorrow, philosophy, religion, romance, realism, life, love, and death; and over all, like a halo, the love of the artist for his work and the soul's longing for earthly immortality.”

--Eliza Calvert Hall





Nancy Davenport



Jean Ann Williamson: Hi-Tech Tucks



Jo Woodward's Cat Quilt in progress



If Dr. Seuss were alive today, he might write something like this: (to be read with Dr. Seuss-like rhythm!)

The buildings were big and people would smile
 And travel they would mile by mile.
 But sick they become, in numbers it grew
 Businesses worried, communities too.
 Things stopped for a bit, they world slowed its roll
 The virus had certainly taken its toll.
 But what they then saw from slowing things down,
 Is in fact they now had less reasons to frown.
 Families now gathered, what game shall we play?
 Pass me the blue crayon, give mommy the grey.
 Dad's home guys! He'll read us a book
 Then all of us together will cook.
 The lungs of the planet caught a small break
 Less travel meant less pollution to make.
 People did realize they'd all be ok
 They don't need so much to get through the day.
 Maybe this virus that caused so much stress
 Showed the whole world that more can mean less.
 (written anonymously, inspired by Dr. Seuss)
 Contributed by Jean Ann Williamson

“What with rearin’ a family, and tendin’ to a home, and all
 My chores—that quilt was a long time in the frame. The
 Story of my life is pieced into it. All my joys and sorrows”
 --from diary of a West Virginia quilter



An activity quilt for a precious grandson—by *Laurel Hyde*



Keep on Keepin' On—LYNN WHITE



My new project: making one house each day
 Of Miss Rosie's Village pattern. The pattern
 Is available on line—free. Use up your stash
 And mark your “Stay Healthy; Stay Home” days
 In a tangible way! -- *Marilyn Colyar*

“It was not a woman's desire. . .
 To be forgotten. And in one simple, unpretentious
 Way, she created a medium that would outlive
 Many of her husband's houses, barns and fences;
 She signed her name in friendship onto cloth and,
 in her own way, cried out, *Remember me.*
 Linda Otto Lipsett

Spring Scenes and Poetry to Gladden our Hearts

Kindness – Naomi Shahib Nye

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.



Photos by Candy Jackson & Marilyn
Colyar

And Finally: A request from Jean Ann Williamson for Alta Vista:

AND.....

Take good care of yourselves. Stay in touch with friends and family. Wash your hands. Keep creating! Light a candle each night in gratitude for your life and the lives of all those medical workers on the front lines of this crisis. Share love. Be kind. Be patient with yourself and others. Remember the words of Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

Sending virtual hugs to all—
Marilyn

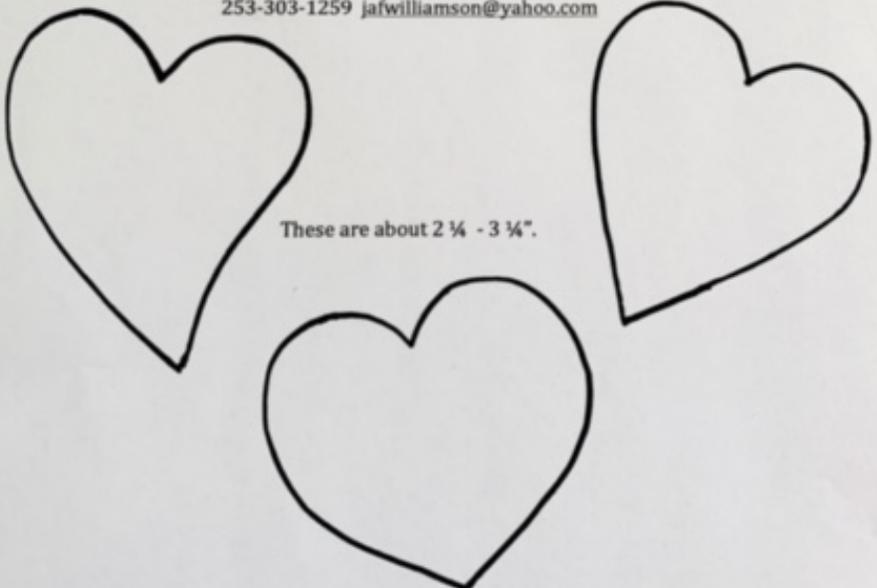
Palm-Sized Hearts
(March 2020)

Alta Vista (formerly named "A Place Called Hope") is once again in need of tiny, palm-sized hearts. Our guild provides quilts for children being placed in foster or adoptive homes, but they have also requested tiny, palm-sized hearts to give out at other times such as counseling sessions. They are delighting lots of kidlets and bringing them a bit of comfort. So if you'd like to help (plus use up some of your small scraps), here are the directions. Any kind of heart is fine: knit, crochet, felt, quilt cottons, etc.

- * Trace a small heart on wrong side of fabric.
- * Place on top (rt. sides tog.) of a 2nd fabric
- * Rough cut around both.
- * Sew on the line, leaving a finger-width opening on one side.
- * Trim seam (less than a ¼") & clip curves.
- * Turn rt. sides out & finger press.
- * Stuff & sew opening closed.

Here are just some ideas of shapes and sizes but feel free to "do your own thing".

Contact Jean-Ann Williamson with any question at
253-303-1259 jafwilliamson@yahoo.com



These are about 2 ¼ - 3 ¼".

Thanks for helping out!

