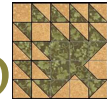




WILLOW WOODS QUILT GUILD



Newsletter June 2020



MEETS THE SECOND
SATURDAY OF EACH
MONTH
ELKS LODGE
26584 HIGHWAY 18
RIM FOREST, CA

President – Judy Green

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Hello Dear Quilt Guild Friends,

We are living in interesting times. While supposedly a blessing, the expression, “May you live in interesting times,” is definitely not. It’s time to look for all the good that we can while waiting for so many very serious problems to be resolved.

The Spring has been beautiful, and I’ve planted flowers and a tomato plant that has about 10 tiny tomatoes. Also, the Elephant Quilt is finished!! I’ve added tassels to the corners and put crystals here and there for sparkle. The quilting is always what brings your quilt to life, and Melanie Hermanson quilted mine wonderfully.

Month at a Glance

Upcoming events for June and beyond:

- ????

Special Items to Bring to the next meeting:

- Dues - \$30
- Cup of Comfort Blocks
- Comfort Quilts

Also Don’t Forget:

- Your name tag
- Refreshments (if it is your turn)



So glad Jen challenges us. I have three small quilts in mind that I hope to finish this June. I'm getting anxious to see all of your creations at our next meeting...maybe we should just have a giant Show and Share all day. Maybe July?

I heard from Carol that the Elks Lodge is going to open for dinner on Saturday night, but so far, nothing more.

Take care everyone. See you all, happy and healthy soon.

Love, Judy

Our guild is dedicated to promoting the art of quilting through education, sharing and learning, and using our efforts to benefit the community through annual contributions and in time of need.

Secretary – Yolanda Douglas

There are no minutes as our May meeting was cancelled.

Treasurer – Shelly Schliskey

Finances are great, checkbook is balanced.

Sherry Schliskey, Treasurer

New Officers

President – Judy Green

Co- Vice President – Jeanne Folta

Co- Vice President – Jennifer Lanak

Secretary – Yolanda Douglas

Treasurer – Sherry Schliskey

Superstars

Hostess –Pat Montgomery

Membership –Kim Everhart

Community Liaison/Publicity
– Yolanda Douglas

Fat Quarter Drawing – Sherry Schliskey

Hospitality – Cheryl Wood

Sunshine/Shadows – Melanie Hermanson

Quilt Challenges – Jen Lanak

Web Site – Trish Skalnik

Newsletter – Jen Lanak

Facebook – Jen Lanak

Clubs within the guild:

Mask info – via Yolanda Douglas



May 6, 2020

Yolanda Douglas
PO Box 2681,
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

Dear Yolanda,

Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

George Medak, President
Rob Roy, Past President
Charlie Harrison, MCH CEO
Kimberly McGuire, Secretary
Yvonne Waggener, Treasurer
Bob Beeman, Member
Bill Johnson, Member
Bob Malone, Member
Peter Venturini, Member
Andrea Willerth, Member

Members:

Tom Bachman
Dennis Brown
Kieth Burkart, O.D.
Ken Camarella
Steve Cerecedes
Pat Davis
Barbara Douth
Walter Maier, M.D.
Howard Miller
Grania Murray
Neale Perkins
Cecilia Ponce De Leon
Midge Reisman
Barry Robinson
Ronaly Walker
Gloria Wolen

501 (c) 3 33-0530904

On behalf of Mountains Community Hospital Foundation, I want to thank each of you for your generous donation of your time and your amazing talent to sew protective masks for our patients, staff and, ultimately our community members.

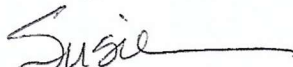
Not only did we provide masks for all incoming patients, as well as hospital staff members, but we extended our efforts to reach our community in the following ways: our mountain churches, Salvation Army, both our senior centers, DOVES (domestic violence survivors) Mountain Pregnancy Center and others...wow, what an outreach!

Each of you provided a valuable service by sewing masks, donating material and elastics. Without your enthusiastic and tireless efforts, this outreach would not have been possible.

We did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Mountains Community Hospital Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) and, therefore, your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines. Please consult your tax advisor.

Again, thank you so much for your trust and support—and for making our community a better place.

Sincerely,


Susan Stuart

Assistant Foundation Director

Your masks were beautiful!

Have you considered creating a legacy at MCH Foundation by leaving a bequest in your will or trust?

Website – Trisha Skalnik

Dearest Quilters:

What a strange time this is. Who knew that there would be shortage on elastic, and that sewing machines would be a sought-after tool for the new age we are in? I would have never dreamed that one of the first projects on my new Baby Lock Destiny sewing machine would be a face mask. I know what the next project should be...

However, this time also helps us slow down and realize what is important in life. Family, relationships, and of course, our quilting sisters. We have so much more in common with our love of quilting and sewing.

The spring (May/June 2020) McCall's Quilting magazine published some interesting statistics of Quilting Daily by the numbers. They reported (p.8):

- 4,168 Patterns (and counting)
- 5,248 Blogs
- 286 Combined years of experience
- 24 Podcast Episodes (now named Quilt & Tell)
- 16 Social Communities
- 100 Free Books
- 4 Major Brands (Love of Quilting, McCall's Quilting, Quiltmaker and Quilting Arts)
- 596 Issues (between the above)
- 4,000+ Videos (including free and paid video series as well as workshops).

I wonder what Willow Woods Quilt Guild would report if we were to add up the number of quilts we have made throughout the years, the combined years of experience, the yards of material and spools of thread we have sewn. What is more important, though, is the inspiration we share and the friendships we create together. What great thoughts...

Happy Quilting! Looking forward to seeing everyone soon with pictures of the artful masterpieces!

--Trisha Skalnik

Challenges – Jen Lanak

Time is almost up for our second quarterly challenge:

I hope you have all been working on your **Flying Geese Quilt Block Challenge**. If you haven't, there is still time! To recap, the only real rule is that your project must feature the Flying Geese Block as a main focus. You can make your project any size, any color. Your flying geese can be any size, using any technique to make them. You can incorporate other blocks, as long as Flying Geese are the main feature. Go crazy!

If you are looking for inspiration, ages ago I created a Pinterest board with flying geese quilts. <https://www.pinterest.com/newbiejen/flying-geese-quilts/> Take a look and maybe something will jump out at you.

The end of the 2nd quarter is June 30th. I'm not sure yet when we will be able to share our projects. My fingers are crossed that we will be able to see each other in July. Especially since.....

For the 3rd quarterly challenge, I am determined to do a **Brown Bag Challenge**. Of course, that will require a meeting to exchange our brown bags. Until we have a definite plan for such meeting, please go through your stash and put aside 4 Fat Quarters (sized 18 by 22) to exchange in a bag the next time we meet. They can be any color, any style, print or solid. If you want to make it extra challenging for someone, you could put 4 fabrics that have no business being together – but beware! You may end up with a bag like that yourself!

Once the bags are swapped, you will be tasked with creating “something” from the bag contents. You can add fabric as needed, but you need to use a least scrap of each FQ in your bag. What is a scrap? Let's say a 5 inch square – which you can cut into smaller pieces, but you have to use at least a total of a 5 inch square of each fabric.

If it sounds scary or hard, please relax. It is supposed to be fun. Susan Wade claims this was one of her favorite challenges of the past.

The UFO Challenge:

June's new number is #11, which is ironic since I had just pulled my #11 out of the box on May 27th to assess and see what the next steps were. It is like I had a premonition or something.



This quilt is called the Technicolor Galaxy. It is a pattern/skillbuilder class from Alyssa at Pile of Fabric. Ya'all, it is from 2015! I got as far as finishing up the center and most of the first ring before I

called it quits. Now that I've looked at it again, it seems I've already done most of the hard parts. 6 of the 12 blocks in the next ring are paper pieced, a skill I am very comfortable with and should be easy to complete. I started them this week. The hardest part is choosing fabrics. I keep trying to keep Pamela's color theory class in mind when doing so, but it is hard!!! I'm having an especially hard time with the reds. It turns out that everything my eye sees as red is actually orange-red (as are most of my fabrics). I also want to incorporate some pinks into the red slice, but they look VERY out of place. I think I might have to skip the red pinks and only use appropriate pinks in the magenta section where they seem more at home. It is a process! I am having to remind myself that if I want to finish this project, I need to not overthink every little scrap.

As a reminder, May's number was #12 and I finished it! Yay!



This was from a class I took at least two years ago at QuiltCon. The class was about the fabric folding technique Tara Faughnan used in her Pine Burr Quilt (see May's newsletter for picture). Well, like so many projects begun in a class, I brought home my nearly complete mini and put it aside. The folded fabric ends up making this project very heavy – too heavy to hang on a wall without some significant support – so I decided the only logical solution was to turn this into a pillow. I am a little embarrassed to admit that I had to review some tutorials about how to install a zipper back for a pillow. It has just been so long since I've had to do one. The zipper actually went in pretty easy but sewing the binding on pillow was challenging as I left very little room for myself. Ah well, it is not perfect but it is done!

I'm also still working on my April UFO. I made quite a lot of progress in May, especially when I had to spend a week sitting with a child who had managed to get 3 weeks behind in her remote learning studies!! Here is where it stands today.



You can almost see the flag coming together now! I decided this morning to take a little break on this project. My problem is that the cardstock hexagon pieces that I am using are getting a little tired and not holding their shape particularly well. I don't understand what happened – I started with 100 paper pieces, but I must have lost some along the way because I am reusing the same 45 or so. As I do each section, I remove the paper from the back and start a new section. Well, those little hexies have been bent and twisted, etc. and are starting to go soft. Generally, the paper is good for 3-5 projects depending on how often they are handled. This project is just a little too rough. I've ordered another set of 100 to get me through the rest of the flag. They should arrive this weekend and I can start up again.

How have you been doing on all your UFOs??

Share Section - What has everyone been doing?

Sherry Schliskey – I have participated in several on-line quilting challenges, joined numerous quilting sites, finished 5 quilt tops, and have started 3 new projects. I visited my daughter in Chico recently. Totally different situation there...I got my hair cut at the GearHead Barber Shop, spent a wad of cash at Joannes, and shopped like a mad woman in the Honey Run Quilting Shop.

I would love to have lunch at Bill's and catch up on what's going on if anyone is interested.

Susan Wade - Being in quarantine mode for my husband and me, has not been unlike the 8 months we spent in Arcadia while I was being treated at City of Hope. Being “of a certain age” and immuno-compromised, we have observed all of the CDC prescribed measures for Covid 19 and been heartbroken by its impact across our nation and the world.

Now, as our nation cries out for justice and reform following George Floyd's death, we all reel under the wide spectrum of righteous protest versus criminal violence...we have so much work to be done.

Like many of you, I have been mask making! Planned to do so for family and donation to our local hospital. So far, I am keeping up with requests that keep coming in as well.

Precious to us are our weekly family Zoom events, keeping us connected and engaged with kids in Minneapolis (living 1 mile from where George Floyd died), Seattle, bi-coastal son between Studio City (there now) and NYC, and daughter and Family in Riverside.

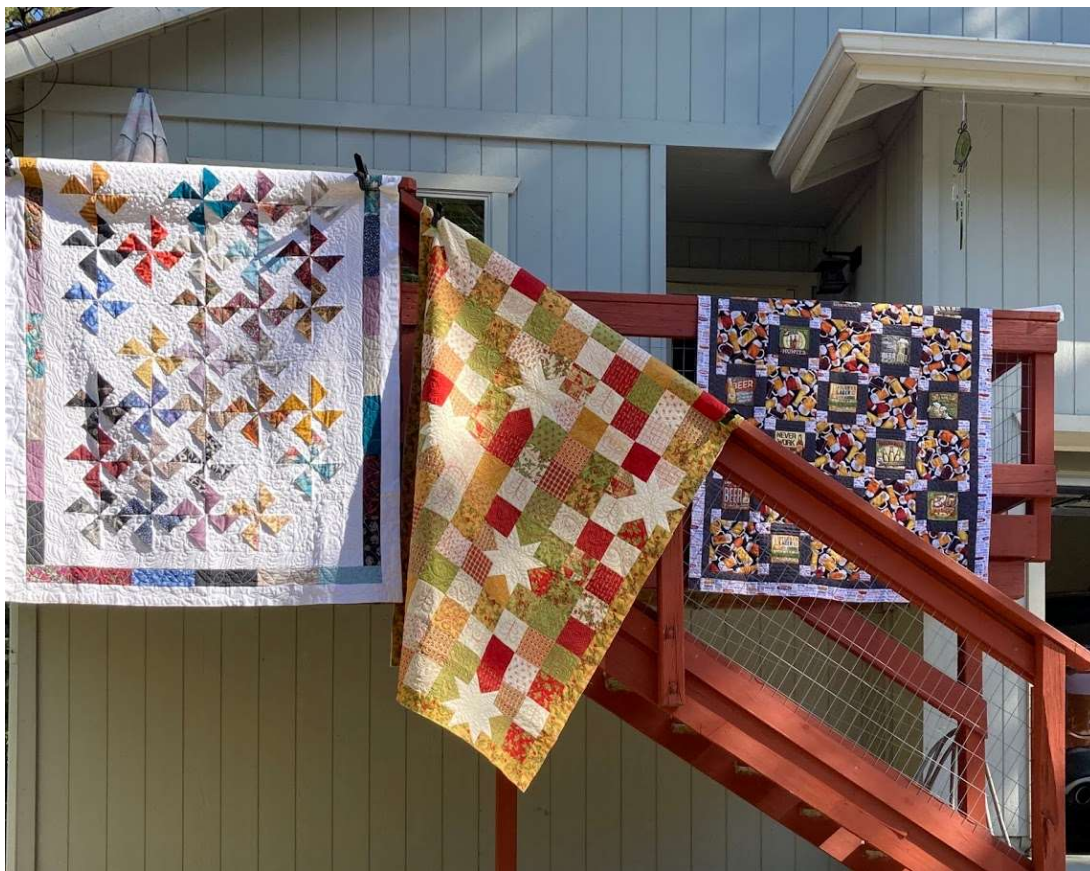
I hope all of you are safe and well, and look forward to a time to gather down-the-road!

Susan Wade

Nancy Novak –

Melanie quilted a few of my quilts this past month and I decided to hang them from my front deck and take some pictures. My own mini quilt show.

Nancy



Melanie Hermanson – I have done 6 quilts on the long arm in the past couple weeks. I would LOVE to do more if anyone from the group needs some done. My offer still stands of doing your first quilt for half price, as long as it is not bigger than 80 inches on any side. Here are photos. The beer quilt used variegated thread which looked neat on the grey sashing.



This is pinwheel quilt for Nancy Novak. I love this border design!



This is Christmas quilt for Nancy Novak. The stars turned out very pretty



This was Underground Railroad Quilt done for Debbie Kell



Yolanda Douglas -

What I've Been Doing (Recently) During This Quilter's Quarantine

I don't feel like I have been quite as productive recently. The isolation has been a bit more difficult. My husband, Keith, and other residents of his Memory Facility have been isolated to their apartments due to positive COVID tests of some residents and some staff. So I am missing my daily conversations with him . . . and worrying more about him.

I have made a few more masks. I gave some to friends who insisted on paying me. I refused and suggested that they make a donation to the hospital, as the masks would have gone to MCH otherwise. They made a very nice donation. (Please see above the thank you letter sent to the Guild for the masks that our members and friends have donated.)

I am so grateful for my friends and neighbors. One friend shops for me when she goes to Trader Joe's. She often makes extra food and brings me treats. This is "L.B." (for the tasty lobster bisque that she made for me). The background is "made fabric" from Victoria Findlay Wolfe's "Fifteen Minutes of Play" using scraps to make new squares of fabric. L.B. is based on Susan Wade's collage technique. It was fun to make and I have found that friends really appreciate these little gifts of gratitude. (And they keep calling to ask me for my grocery lists!)



This is "Celebration Sam", based on Overall Sam or Suspender Sam, alleged boyfriends of Sunbonnet Sue. We have a Celebration quilt at home that we put out on special occasions – birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because". I made this quilt for Keith to put up in his bedroom on special days.



A couple of weeks ago, I came across a cute little house block pattern. Later the same day I read about a quilter who began making a house block each day beginning with Day One of the distancing. To keep busy. To keep track. And she wonders just how big her neighborhood will become by the end of this situation.



I wish that I had thought of this at the beginning, but I didn't and, about 11 weeks into my own quarantine, there was no way that I could catch up. So every couple of days, I make a house. Mine will be a small neighborhood. I think. I hope.

I try to avoid the non-stop bad/sad news, especially since the death of George Floyd and the looting and terrorism that is detracting and causing damage to those peacefully protesting. So I look for other viewing options.

Alex Anderson Live is a wonderful and educational break, "chatting" with fellow quilters. She presents something new on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10AM with occasional deviation in schedule. It

is free and airs on YouTube. Go to “The Quilt Show.com” and scroll down to “Alex and Ricky Live”, click and it will take you to the most recent program.

And if you like to travel, cook, eat, be entertained, I suggest that you watch “Somebody Feed Phil” on Netflix. Phil is Phillip Rosenthal, the creator of Everybody Loves Raymond. Phil is happily eating his way around the world, eating, visiting and absorbing the culture and calories of diverse and interesting communities.

I miss you all so very much. Can’t wait for our next meeting and a major group hug.

Yolanda

Pamela Abell –

*Day after day the pattern grew;
Each block was deftly set in place,
And rows of tiny stitches tell
A tale that time cannot efface.
Of patience, skill, housewifely pride,
Of women’s love for pretty things,
Of fingers trained such work to do
By those who know the joy it brings,
Of time within the home well spent,
The heart with homely tasks content.*

From the *Patchwork Coverlet*

My quilt making - or rather quilt finishing - has been sporadic since working from home. I always try a new skill, tool, or technique with each quilt I make. Using the guild challenge as inspiration, I got to work – Done is Better than Perfect!

- **DARK GREEN QUILT:** I dug out lots of 4-patches I made early on, centers for square-in-a-square to alternate with 4-patch framed squares featuring black/brown cornerstones as a unifying feature.
 - New technique: piecing the backing out of coordinating scraps, all with different blocks. I used whatever I had on hand since I could not go shopping. I placed coping strips around the patches or blocks to standardize the sizes. I used up all sorts of binding strips and cut the rest to 2.5 inches as vertical strips to get it wide enough.

Melanie quilted this one, which I thought would end up looking like what it was, a hodgepodge of oddments and leftovers. I didn’t ever think it would ever fall into the “beautiful” category. What she did to it with her creativity and care catapulted it from Ugly Duckling into beautiful Swan. It is actually beautiful and interesting to look at. Well done to Melanie, our machine quilter!!!!

- **UGLY FABRICS.** I had purchased the “Creative Grids Scrap Crazier 8”, 5-piece scrap template set and wanted to try it out. Instead of using real fat quarters in lovely colors, I went to my ugly fabric bag and pulled out everything I could find. Those scraps had large, gaudy designs in a mix of harsh colors and loud designs, way too big to use in a patchwork style.

- New technique: Color Shuffle. I ironed and cut 10” squares out of the scraps, then layered them 5 deep, one layer for each template shape. I cut through all 5 fabrics at once. Then I color-shuffled each template shape: #1 pile take top piece and move to bottom, #2 move 2 pieces to bottom, #3 move 3 pieces to bottom, #4 move 4 pieces to bottom #5 no change. I sewed each of the 5 blocks together in their new color order so that the colors were evenly mixed with no repeats. Sewed enough for a smaller quilt and added a border to contain the energy and calm it all down.

I gave the quilt top to Melanie as a practice item. I can't wait to see what she does with it.

- **Guild Quilt Kit**: I sewed the top, backing and binding for a guild quilt kit. Boy's design of robots and cars with Skylander writing all over it. Melanie will team with me to quilt it, I will sew on the binding and it will go back to the guild.

I have 4 more quilt top-starts waiting in the wings for more design ideas.

Jen Lanak –

I am very haphazardly working on several projects at the moment. Most of which are up in the UFO challenge section but I have a few more in process too:

On my design wall, I've got my fox One Block Wonder.



I have it up there to hopefully give me some inspiration on what, if anything, to do for borders. I did something a little funky in the corners so that I could use up a few more hexies, which leaves me with a 5 inch partial span of grey solid in the opposite corners. I could just slap a bigger grey border around the whole thing and call it done, or I could add a little skinny border and then more grey, or ??? something else. Why, oh why do I want to add a flying geese border around the whole thing?? I don't think I even have fabric for that, yet it is what my brain is telling me to do! As you can tell, I haven't decided yet, so it sits there pinned to the wall. He is nice to look at, and I dare say I feel a little cooler contemplating his winter seen.

I haven't found another swap that I want to do yet but I did sign up for a Quilt-a-long. I decided to join the Tattoo Quilt sew along. The designer is Berene from Happy Sew Lucky. It is a paper pieced pattern, shown below left. It doesn't particularly look like tattoos to me but what do I know? As part of the quilt-a-long, Berene sent out a few practice blocks to get us warmed up. The "Hug" below was one of those blocks. I turned mine into a new pencil case for Lizzy since she needed a new one. I will probably do the other two blocks next week. The quilt-a-long officially starts in July.



I also been busy in the garden. This is a picture of my harvest from a few days ago.



Lizzy and I have been making peach jam for the last several days and we still have peaches. We have made blueberry peach jam, a low-sugar peach jam, regular peach jam, peach butter, and even made a peach cobbler for dessert one night. I think we might have enough energy left to do some blackberry peach jam today. It was last year's favorite flavor. Hopefully, that will use up the last of the peaches and we will have a couple of weeks until the apricots are ripe. Lord, help me!

Last, but not least, I have a finish!!



Remember last year when I boldly stated that I was only going to complete 2 quilts that year (and I didn't do either of them)? Yes, well, this quilt was one of the two. See our king-sized bed is ridiculously high and any bedding we buy is too short on the sides and shows the box springs – which is not attractive. So, given my status as a maker of quilts, the obvious solution was to make a custom sized quilt for myself, right? Well, it has taken me forever to get it started.

I have no excuse either. As you can see, I picked a pretty easy strip design. I even purchased most of the strips over 7 years ago! This project just always got put on the back burner, until now.

It used up every inch of my 12 foot frame. I actually had to fold the backing on the edges to fit because I had made it the typical 4 inches extra on all sides.



The quilting was simple. Lizzy even took a turn doing the wavy lines.

Finally, I can say it is done. It measures approximately 127 x 112 and is the biggest quilt I have ever seen.

Jen

Pat Montgomery –

Hi everyone,

Hope you are all well. There was a break in hospital procedure and I had TAVR(Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement) surgery one week ago. Almost immediately, it was easier to breathe. Four years

ago, this surgery was open heart. It is now done through the groin. St. Bernadine is one of a few hospitals in CA that do this surgery. I can't begin to tell you what great care I received there. Hopefully, soon, we can return to our lives.

Love to you all

Pat

Humor – Yolanda Douglas

