

May Newsletter RCQG

 mailchi.mp/f726babf4f08/may2020-newsletter-4294041

Royal City Quilters' Guild

RCQG WILL HOLD VIRTUAL GUILD MEETINGS UNTIL IT IS SAFE TO MEET AGAIN IN PERSON.

Read below for more information
about the May meeting online

Guild Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 7:00pm (online via Zoom)

Reminder to bring:

Attend from home.
Do some stitching or enjoy a snack while you watch.

President's Message: Guild Meetings Until June 2021

During the most recent Executive meeting it was decided that the Royal City Quilters' Guild will keep our online format for Guild meetings until June, 2021.

We made this decision for a few reasons.

First, we don't know how long the recommended isolation will last and we believe it is prudent to plan for the worst-case-scenario and anticipate not being able to meet in person during the coming Guild year. We need to start planning and booking programmes and workshops for next year, and decided that looking for speakers who are comfortable presenting online is best so that we don't end up having to scramble to find speakers if live programs can't happen. We recognize that meeting in person is preferable. However, the online format seems to be the next-best alternative to allow the Guild to continue to operate.

Second, even once the isolation requirements are lifted, larger meetings might continue to be restricted, and we wanted to be prepared for that possibility.

Third, many Guild members who are in a higher risk group may not feel comfortable attending meetings in-person even once larger meetings are allowed. So even if we can meet in-person in the future, we are going to continue to broadcast the meetings simultaneously online to ensure access for all members.

Fourth, the online format will allow us to invite speakers from around the world! If there is a quilter whom you'd like to see as a speaker at our Guild, and who would have been beyond our geographic/financial reach in the past, let us know. The new online format will open up possibilities for us to invite speakers from anywhere.

The Executive recognizes that these changes may not be welcomed by all members. We understand that many people are feeling grief and loss around not being able to connect socially with friends and family. We know that an online meeting does not build the same kinds of connection as meeting in person and we will miss being able to visit and mingle with others.

Our hope is that these changes will allow the Guild to continue to operate, and to build a strong community of quilters in Guelph. We also hope that you'll continue to find inspiration from the guest speakers and workshops, and to find fellowship among Guild members. We hope to see you online in the coming year.

Monica Bell, RCQG President

May Program - TBA

Our April online meeting was a great success with 70 Guild members in attendance.

Join Royal City Quilters Guild for our second virtual Guild meeting. We're still working on the program since our original speaker didn't feel comfortable doing an online trunk show.

In order to keep our meetings secure, the Zoom link and the phone-in number will be sent to everyone via the mailing list on Monday, May 11.

Show and Share

If you would like to participate in the show and share at the May online meeting, please email a photo of your quilt (preferably with you in the photo too!) to Becky Fiedler. Include the name of the quilt, the pattern, and the quilter.

During the meeting Becky will project the photo for all to see and you will be asked to speak about it.

Video of Guild Meeting

The guild meetings will be recorded. If you can't make the meeting during the scheduled time, you can watch it later. The video link will be emailed after each meeting.

How to Zoom

If you need instructions on how to use Zoom on a computer, watch the video here:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

If you plan to use a tablet or smartphone, you'll need to download the app called "ZOOM Cloud Meetings" from the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Google Play (Android).

Alleviating Your Zoom Concerns

Over the course of a few months, Zoom's number of daily users rocketed from 10 million to 300 million. With this huge increase, people have started asking questions about the product's security and privacy. In response, Zoom CEO Eric Yuan has outlined a 90-day plan to address critics' concerns. You can read regular updates on their efforts at <http://blog.zoom.us>

or participate in a weekly "Ask Eric Anything" webinar.

Some of Zoom's features were developed to make the product easy to use. Unfortunately, those same features have been abused by mischief makers. Most of the complaints about Zoom have to do with new users doing things they didn't realize are unsafe. These kinds of mistakes are easy to avoid with a little knowledge.

You may have heard of Zoombombing which is to have one's meeting interrupted by unwanted guests doing truly inappropriate things. It's unlikely anyone will be able to zoombomb one of our Guild meetings. RCQG does not post our meeting invitations online so zoom bombers won't find our meetings. In addition, everyone attending our meetings is automatically put in an online waiting room and must be admitted by a meeting host. It's a lot like the way you live in your home. When someone knocks at your door, you look out the peephole to decide, on a case-by-case basis, who you will invite inside. The Zoom waiting room performs the same function. If the meeting host doesn't recognize a person in the waiting room, they don't get to come in to the meeting. And, if we accidentally admit someone who doesn't know how to act, the meeting host can remove them from the meeting with a few clicks of the mouse.

Another feature of Zoom lets you give control of your computer to another person. If someone you trust is trying to help you solve a problem, that's a nice feature to have. However, naive Zoom users have handed over control to someone they didn't know and been shocked when the stranger caused trouble! RCQG Zoom hosts will NOT be handing control of their computers to strangers and neither should you!!

If you are using Zoom to meet with friends and family, be sure to keep up with the latest updates just as you do with your computer. Updating your Zoom software ensures your device has the latest security improvements as soon as they are ready for the general public.

Members of the RCQG Executive have looked at alternatives to Zoom. No product is perfect but for now we think Zoom is the best available option. If we find something better or safer, we will make a switch. No matter the product, we will use it in responsible ways to keep our members (and ourselves) safe online.

Membership Renewal

RCQG has the most amazing members!

On March 17, Ontario issued an emergency order requiring Ontarians to limit social gatherings. A mere four days later, 40 of our members participated in our Inaugural Virtual Sew-In for Worldwide Quilting Day. Our first-ever Virtual Guild Meeting had 70 attendees in April. At this point our politicians and medical experts don't know when we will be able to resume gathering in groups and our Prime Minister warns us that Seniors (we have more than a few in our Guild) may be safer at home for some time yet. Fortunately, stay-at-home orders don't prevent us from gathering online. As Monica shared in her President's message, the RCQG Executive is making plans to have virtual meetings, workshops, and events until June, 2021.

What does this change mean for membership renewals? In early May RCQG will email an invoice for your membership renewal which remains unchanged at \$40. You will be able to pay your invoice online using a credit card, or you can mail a cheque made out to RCQG (the mailing address will be included on the invoice). This year, we will be offering two free memberships as early bird prizes. If we receive your payment for membership renewal before the June 9 meeting, you will be eligible to win one of the free memberships. In September, we will send a reminder invoice to anyone who has not renewed and will remove non-renewing members from our online activities after the October meeting.

The RCQG Executive hopes every member will renew. We also understand that some of our members have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic. For those newly unemployed members who feel they cannot afford to renew in full or in part, please get in touch with Becky Fiedler. The Executive has set aside money to cover your renewal. Of course, any requests for financial assistance will be treated confidentially. We want to see everyone's smiling face - in-person or virtually - for another year!

RCQG In The News!

Take a look at [this great write-up](#) about all the work our Guild has been doing for the community in Guelph Today.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a news article on the Guelph Today website. The header is blue with the logo 'GUELPH TODAY .com' and the tagline 'Support local news'. A navigation menu includes links for Home, News, Features, Obits, Venture, Shop, Flyers, Classifieds, Jobs, Auto, and Food. The article title is 'Royal City Quilters's Guild goes outside its comfort zone to maintain important connections'. A sub-headline reads: 'Members said that this is just what they needed because they were feeling lonely' says member as the group contributes masks to local frontline staff'. The author is Barbara Geernaert, and the article was published 21 minutes ago.

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HOME > HELPERS

Royal City Quilters's Guild goes outside its comfort zone to maintain important connections

'Members said that this is just what they needed because they were feeling lonely' says member as the group contributes masks to local frontline staff

21 minutes ago By: Barbara Geernaert

Member Spotlight

Guild Member: Mariette Denis



Mariette learned to quilt in 2007 when she took a course with Sandra Thomas through the Continuing Education program. It was a "Quilting for Beginners" course and Mariette says that Sandra sparked a love of quilting by sharing her own love of quilting. Sandra was an excellent teacher who encouraged everyone to go at their own pace. Mariette then took another course in the fall of that year at Triangle Sewing, again with Sandra.

In 2009 Mariette joined the RCQG but found it intimidating and felt that everyone else was beyond her own skill level, so she didn't return. In 2016 Mariette re-joined the Guild, and even though she still felt overwhelmed by it, she developed a strategy to keep coming back. She would force herself to take a book out of the library so that she would have to attend the meeting in order to return it the following month. In 2017 Marjorie Mansell offered the first Fireside Chat for new Guild members, and that opportunity to meet a group of other members from the Guild made all the difference for Mariette. She finally felt that she knew some people, and it helped break the ice.

After that Fireside Chat Mariette met Lisa Jones who was running Community Outreach at the time. That was a fortuitous meeting, because it helped Mariette find her place in the Guild. Mariette says that Lisa and everyone in Community Outreach were so welcoming, open, and easygoing, it was fun to be part of the group.

Over the years Mariette made quilts for her family, but once everyone had received quilts, she didn't have an "export market" for her quilting until she joined Community Outreach. Mariette loves to challenge herself and learn new skills. Through Community Outreach she has learned new blocks, she has made tops, and now she is developing her quilting skills on her domestic machine. She finds it is fun to work on so many different types of quilts for Community Outreach. She enjoys planning the quilting pattern, and researching ideas. She has fun, and just loves it.

Mariette loves Community Outreach not only for the community it has given her, but also because it feels good to help the community and to know you're making a difference for someone who is having a hard time. She said that whoever started to call them 'comfort quilts' was really onto something. They're not only a comfort to those who receive the quilts, but making, and giving is also good for us.

The quilt in the photo with Mariette was made in 2018 and is called Kaleidescope. It is Mariette's favourite quilt.

Summer Guild Meetings - New!

In a typical Guild year we meet from September until June since many members travel during the summer and don't do much quilting during the warm months.

It seems that we will all be isolated close to home this summer, and so the Executive is going to try to have at least one (and maybe two) Guild meetings during the summer.

Stay tuned for dates and program information as it becomes available. We hope this gives you something to look forward to.



Summer Flip-Flops by Carol Burniston

Workshop Updates

The May workshop with Kerri Burke has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.

We need you!

Do you have a skill, or an idea for a quilt-themed get together that could bring members of our Guild together during isolation? We are looking for ideas and volunteers to organize and run online events for our Guild members.

Examples of community events you could run for the Guild are: a demonstration, a block-of-the-month, a sew-in, a themed show-and-share, a book club, a hand-stitching gathering, a workshop, or anything else you might want to try.

The feedback we received after our March sew-in and again after our April meeting is that these quilting events are good for the soul, and that members are looking for ways to stay connected from home. So, if you have an idea for something you could offer the Guild membership in an online format, please give it a try. The Executive is willing to help with technology, so don't let that stop you.

Executive Updates

Thank you to the members of the RCQG Executive who have finished their terms. Executive members who will be leaving in June are Joan Hett, Pat Donovan, and Kathy MacKinnon. Monica Bell will be moving from President to Past President. They have each done an amazing job for our guild.

This will be an interesting, challenging, and innovative year with everyone learning how to put our meetings online. We have a great executive lined up to be able to do this!

The new executive for the 2020-2021 year includes:

President - Scott Schau
Vice President - Becky Fiedler
Past President - Monica Bell
Secretary - Denise Couroux
Treasurer - Ally Anker
Membership - Helen Kocmarek
Program - Leslie Buck
Newsletter and Website - Lindsay Core
Community Outreach - Katrina Baklarz
Historian - Susan Thompson
Librarian - Colleen Hunter
Publicity - Jane Londerville
Special Projects - Michelle Kurtz
Workshops - Committee of Kathy MacKinnon, Jackie James, and Marjorie Mansell.

There is one special position to be filled. Community Outreach needs a co-chair to work with Katrina for one year, then take over the position in the following year. This is a great way to meet fellow quilters and there is a large committee to help you!

A workshop committee has been struck until October in order to figure out how workshops will continue. One or more volunteers are needed to take over the position after October.

PLEASE consider volunteering for Community Outreach or the Workshops position by calling Marjorie Mansell.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach is working on continuing our comfort quilt program while we're social distancing and meeting virtually. Our BOM has finished for this year. If you have any blocks you'd like to drop off, please contact Katrina Baklarz for drop-off information.

We have quilt tops with backings ready to be quilted. If you have time and would like a quilt to work on, please get in touch. Trish Pequegnat has kindly offered her porch as a pick up spot. Trish has also offered to collect any completed quilts. If you have a completed quilt or quilt top you would like to drop off, please email Trish to let her know when you'll be leaving it on her porch so she knows to look out for it. Thank you to everyone who has picked up quilts, we truly appreciate your help!

Please use the RCQG Directory to find email addresses for Katrina and Trish.
Email Katrina Baklarz for quilt pick-up and BOM drop-off
Email Trish Pequegnat for quilt drop-off

Many of us have been sewing gowns, masks, and caps for various organizations in our community. If you donate any of these items to the Guelph General Hospital please add "Royal City Quilter's Guild" to your label. The GGH Foundation generously donates money to our Community Outreach program every year and it would be nice to show we're supporting them too.

The Community Outreach team will be holding a zoom meeting shortly to plan for our virtual year. We'll keep you posted on our plans for Block of the Month, Bee Day, and for showing the completed quilts to everyone. Stay tuned, stay safe, and stay well.

[COMMUNITY OUTREACH WEBSITE](#)

April Program Highlights

Sarah Yetmen bravely ventured into the world of virtual trunk shows during our April meeting. She was excited to join our Guild and to talk about her journey into quilting that started less than a decade ago.

<https://www.spooledrottenquilts.com/>



Gown and Mask Sewing

We have received many "heart-full" thanks from the community organizations who received masks and gowns from our generous membership.

Homewood will be making a donation to our Community Outreach programme in thanks for the many masks they received. We also received a few lovely cards:



Hospice Wellington:

"How wonderful it is that no one need
 wait a single moment before starting
 to improve the world"
 Anne Frank.

To Lindsey and the wonderful
 team in the Guelph Quilters Guild.
 On behalf of everyone at Hospice
 Wellington I want to say a heartfelt
 THANKYOU ♡. For providing our staff
 with a donation of gowns which are
 worn when providing care to our
 Residents. Your kindness and help
 makes such a difference to us and
 knowing we have your support means
 so much. Thankyou. Pat Hickman.

The two midwifery clinics posted on Facebook:



Guelph Midwives

April 2 at 11:16 PM · 🌐



To those who have already donated, THANK YOU!

If you or your workplace have gloves or surgical (paper) masks you're not using, we appreciate any and all help to keep our clients and midwives safe!

**To the Guelph Quilters Guild,
Shared Value Solutions, and
community members who
have donated gloves and
gowns to our clinic....**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US STAY SAFE!**



Family Midwifery Care of Guelph

Yesterday at 2:13 PM · 🌐



Midwives are essential frontline workers continuing to care for pregnant people, because pregnancy won't wait until the pandemic is over.

We are constantly adapting to COVID-19 changes by integrating virtual... [More](#)



Library Updates

Colleen sent an email to members indicating that if you want to return any library books to her home, you are welcome to do so. She mentioned that people who are moving, or who are just worried about losing their books over the coming months are welcome to get in touch with Colleen and arrange for the books to be dropped off at her house (which is near Three Willows Church).

If you would like to keep the books you signed out, we will enjoy seeing the quilt(s) you have made from one of the books at our Show and Shares. There will be no late fees charged for books that were signed out in March (due in April) and late fees for previously overdue books will be charged only until April (as you would have been able to return them at the April meeting under normal circumstances). If you have any questions or concerns, please give Colleen a call or send me an email.

[RCQG Library Catalogue](#)

Special Interest Groups - Virtual Meetings

The guild has now purchased a couple of Zoom accounts that can be used to schedule meetings.

If you have a group that used to meet regularly please contact Scott Schau

for access to these meetings. He can assist you to get meetings setup and scheduled. If you are looking to set up a Special Interest Group, have a meet-and-sew with a few other Guild members, or any other zoom-socials we can work with you as well.

We hope that these accounts will help us maintain and strengthen our quilting community.

RCQG Quilt Show - Postponed to 2022

The decision has been made to postpone the 2021 RCQG Quilt Show to 2022. Many shows that were scheduled for 2020 have been postponed until 2021. Because of these postponements, and because much of the work to prepare can't happen online, the RCQG Show will not happen until 2022.

Thank you!

Thank you to the Guelph-Wellington Seniors' Association for enabling the use of their Zoom platform for our meeting until we were able to get our own account. Thanks too to Becky Fiedler for all her support to help people introduced to the platform.

<https://gwsa-guelph.ca/>

Calendar of Events - RCQG

Royal City EQ8 Users Group Virtual Meeting

The Royal City EQ8 Users Group is looking for other EQ enthusiasts to join us. Our group is intended for those who own EQ8 software and want to become more proficient users of the program features. Group study and group challenges are a regular feature of this friendly group. If you'd like to join us, please send an email to Becky Fiedler. Our next meeting will be on Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 28.

Home Again Stitch Along

Becky Fiedler would like to invite you to join her for a virtual stitchalong that focuses on appliqué tips and techniques. A community of stitchers might be a welcome addition to your week now that you're spending more time at home. See the April newsletter for details and email Becky to join.

Just for Fun

Missouri Star posted the following quiz about Quilting Lingo on their blog. Do you remember being a new quilter and having no idea what a "charm pack" or "HST" was? This is a fun way to test your knowledge.

<https://blog.missouriquiltco.com/how-well-do-you-know-your-quilt-lingo/>

Show and Share from April



**Kathryn
Douglas**

Take Right
Missouri Star Quilt
Company
Quilting by Joan Hug
Valeriate



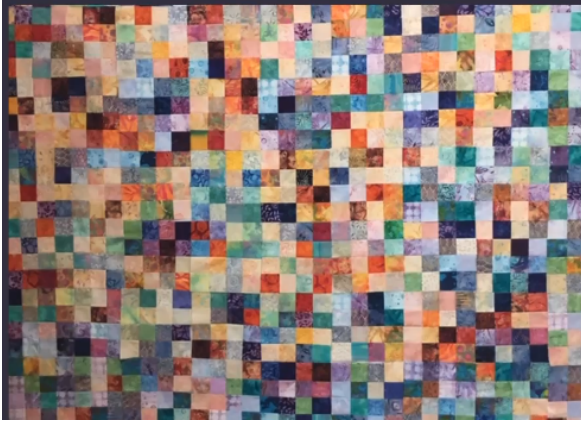
**Pat
Donovan**

Jungle Walk for a Cause
Harebrained Happenings



**Susan
Thompson**

A work in progress. A
bag? A pillow?
Purchased embroidery
design with FMQ on
domestic machine
around it



Heather
Arlen

Over 1200 2.5" batik
squares



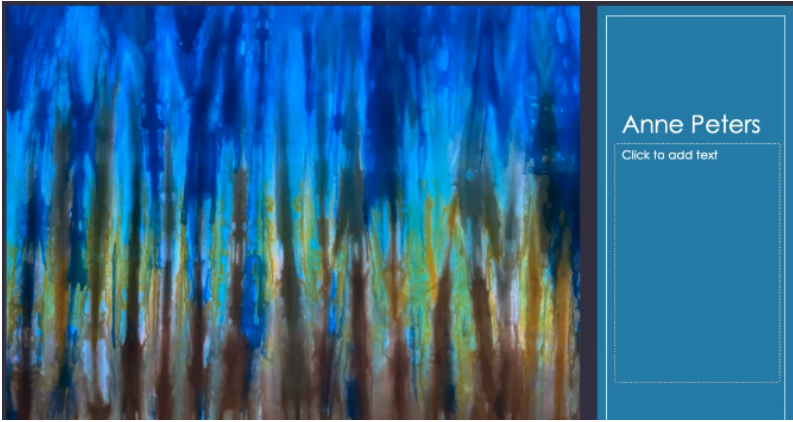
Joan Hug-
Valeriotte

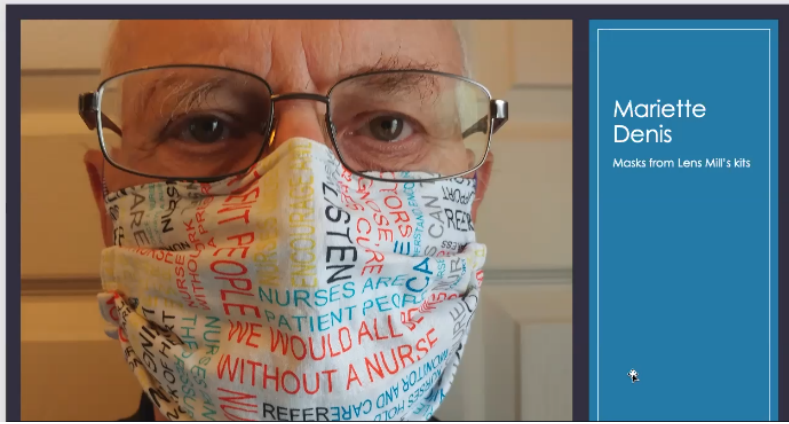
Masks donated to
Homewood



Mary
Hopkins

Winter Solstice
(from a while back)





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Questions or comments about the newsletter?

Email: newsletter@royalcityquiltersguild.ca

Any member of the Guild may submit content for the newsletter by sending it to the email address above.

Please note that submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

Newsletters are published on the first Tuesday of the month, one week before the RCQG meeting.

All content must be received on the Sunday nine days before publication.

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