



Stitch'n Times

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild

P.O. Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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Since we will not be meeting in April, please accept this abbreviated version of Stitch'n Times. Kindness, patience, and care are certainly values that the world needs now more than ever. May we all have an overabundance of each, for they have not been needed more than now. The distance between us must not be of the heart. Looking forward to when we can be together. ~ Jim Jensen, Editor

Urgent Need for Face Masks

Well, here we are. Mostly confined to our homes. We have lots of fabrics and lots of ideas. And we have a community that needs us. The call went out for face masks for our health professionals and patients. Being the good cavalry we are, the troops are ready for the task! So many of us have started making face masks for those who need them. These masks will be used to cover and extend the life of masks already being used, and for patients who have symptoms and/or are being discharged from the hospital. They can be washed and the filters replaced.

I have sent out some email tips and patterns, and if you haven't started and would like to join in, here are some tips:

- ⇒ Use 100% good quality fabrics that are breathable (no batiks).
- ⇒ Wash fabrics before sewing.
- ⇒ Do not make any masks if you have any symptoms of any kind. Only make them if you are healthy.
- ⇒ Be sure your sewing space and tools are clean (no pet hair from your four-legged assistants - Keep them out). You might want to use some good cleaning wipes before starting.
- ⇒ Wash your hands before starting.
- ⇒ One public health site recommends making the first mask for yourself and wearing it while making others. We can't be too careful. Not sure if they will wash them before handing them out.
- ⇒ When finished put them in a clean plastic bag.
- ⇒ We do not need to put the filters in. Just be sure you make a mask that a filter can be inserted.

There are many websites with patterns and we are all running short of supplies, especially elastic and nose wires.

These pattern websites are pretty good:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCJcE-r7kcg&t=26s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL0h8AoXvcl&app=desktop>

I think the first one is the easiest, and if you do not have elastic you can make 20" long ties across the sides of the mask. Use a narrow bias tape or make you own from the fabric. The top ties can go across the top of the head and the bottom around the neck, like the ones that are used in hospitals.

Both of these models have a pocket for a filter.



Face Masks continued →

Face Masks continued

Today, Sunday, I made some rounds collecting materials and masks. Our quilters are working hard so keep them coming. Pictured are a few I collected today. We are all running short of supplies, especially elastic and nose wires. I found that the ties used in the produce department. and bulk foods work well for the nose wire. You might overlap the shorter ones or double the longer ones. Oliver's (bless them) gave me a whole box today, so if you are short, let me know.

What to do when you have made a few of these? Let me know and I will arrange a pick, up or direct you to a drop-off. The original request came from Village Sewing from a nurse at Memorial, but in the meantime there have been other facilities that have said they would like some. John at Village Sewing is still the best drop-off site for us. If it changes, I will email. If you have received any requests, please let me know.

As a retired nurse, I am happy to coordinate this project and help my fellow health care workers. Sharon Fry has been wonderful in sending information out and being the "hub" for this project. In the interest of not wearing her out, you can email me with specific questions. If you have something we all need to hear about, going through Sharon is best. niftynj@pacbell.net

The call has gone out all over the US and thousands of us are working on this project. Hundreds of thousands of masks are needed. Possibly millions. We can do our part. Who has more fabrics and machines than quilters? We can't go to our meeting, so let's make masks as long as there is a need.

Thanks to all of you who are working on this project.

SEW ON!!



Jan Nilsen

President's Message

We have cancelled ALL Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Meetings at the Veterans Memorial building through April. That includes Business Meetings, Speaker Meetings, and Board Meetings. We have also cancelled the Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center (LBAGC) workshops. The only date we have not yet cancelled is the April 30 Fifth Thursday Retreat at the LBAGC. That will be cancelled if the "Stay-in-Place" order is still in effect. Only time will tell! We will not put any of our members in harm's way.

Buddy System – The "Stay-in-Place" directive will be a hardship for many of us, especially those who live alone. If you live alone, please contact another member of the guild and create a "**Buddy System**" so you can call them at any time and they can contact you at any time. If you have a computer, learn how to use FaceTime so you can talk Face-to-Face with that person and show them what you are working on. It may not be the same as having them there with you, but it is the next best thing.

Several of you have asked about the **Opportunity Quilt Drawing**. The drawing will not take place until our first official meeting after the "Stay-in-Place" directive has been lifted. We do not know when that will be, but we will definitely let you know ahead of time so you can plan to attend. We will not show you the new Opportunity Quilt for 2021 until the day we draw the winning ticket for the 2020 Opportunity Quilt. I am looking forward to that day and think we should turn that meeting into a HUGE PARTY! I can already hear many of you yelling "YES!"

Toni Anderson has planned **Five Special Challenges** to keep you excited about sewing/quilting, and to keep your creativity alive. With every good challenge, there is a reward in the form of a gift certificate to a local quilt shop for the winning entries. Although no "quilt police" allowed, you will be judged by your peers!

Let's have a contest! or two, or three or four or five!

There are five categories:

- ⇒ Best Poem about this novel experience, and how it is manifesting itself in your life.
- ⇒ Best 20" x 20" two-colored wonky quilt of an original design.
- ⇒ Best creative photo of you in your sequestered quilt room or sewing space.

President's Message continued →

President's Message continued

- ⇒ Best photo of a collage, made from arranging your sewing items on a table or flat surface.
- ⇒ Best fabric accessory (scarf, bracelet, vest, etc.) that features a one word expression of this experience.

We will award the winners of each category with a \$40 gift certificate to the quilt shop of your choice (in the USA).

If you would like to participate, please let me know which contest you will be entering so that we can make sure we have a good mix of people for each contest. If we have one participant for a category, lucky you! Winner, winner, chicken dinner! One entry per category, but you can certainly enter in more than one category. Have your entry ready for our first meeting once we get an all clear that we can meet. Prizes will be awarded based on the highest applause (no horns or noise makers please!).

I am excited to see what we come up with while we are trying to stay creative and engaged! Be well and take good care.

 Toni Anderson

Technique Sharing Workshops (TSW) – Bonnie Butler-Sibbald has cancelled all the TSW's during our "Stay in Place" but has come up with some FREE Quilting Videos that are very informative and interesting. She will take your suggestions for TSW's in the future, Check out these FREE videos:

Missouri Start Quilt Company has a wide range of free videos.

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

The Quilt Show with Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims now has FREE mini-class videos to view. <https://thequiltshow.com/>

Village Sewing Center has FREE videos on "How to's" with various sewing machines.

<https://villagesewing.com/>

Quilting Daily has many free Block-of-the-Month videos.

<https://www.quiltingdaily.com/video/>.

National Quilter's Circle offers lots of tips, tricks, and projects.

<https://www.nationalquilterscircle.com/videos/all/#>

Of course, no list would be complete without Eleanor Burns. She offers many videos on patterns and techniques at <https://www.youtube.com/user/quiltinaday>

Remember to keep working on your **Block-of-the-Month**. Carolle LeMonnier and Joanie Bellinghausen have next month's block online with photos and instructions. You can make the blocks and save them for our drawings when we have our first meeting after the "Stay-in-Place" order is lifted. Click on <http://www.santarosaquiltguild.org/block.php>.

Don't forget the **Placemat Project!** Barbara Cortelyou is managing it and this is the perfect time to blast that stash.

Miss Sunshine – If you know of anyone who needs a boost during this down time let Janice Westerman, our Miss Sunshine, know and she will send a note to them.

If you want to make **Kitty Hammocks**, the instructions are on our blog.

<http://www.santarosaquiltguild.org/weblog/>

This is a good time to work on the Craft Items you want to sell at the **Craft Fair** in November.

You can also finish up those **Sew-A-Rows** and send a photo to Linda Hooper before the second round due date of April 2. Linda will display them on the Sew-A-Row page on our [SRQG.org](http://www.srqg.org) website so we can all view them. Contact Ann Nolen if you see one you would like to work on and she can put your name on the list for the next round.

President's Message continued →

President's Message continued

Community Quilts – Time to find those half-finished quilt tops or stack of blocks you don't know what to do with and finish sewing them together so you can donate them to Community Quilts. A finished top is a head start to a finished Community Quilt. You can even make up your own pattern and then create a quilt using that pattern. Go to the Community Quilts page on our website for the sizes or tops that are needed. If you are making the NICU size (32" x 40"), please make it gender neutral colors, or boy colors.

Challenge Quilt – "Make something quilted but NOT a quilt," says Debbie Faris-Cole. Think about items for the home, clothing, baby gear, pet equipment, holiday decorations, or sewing aids. It will be fun to see what you create.

Even though we're keeping our distance for everyone's protection, we are **all** in this **together** and we can remain in contact with our phones, email, Facebook, or other means – even snail mail. Remember when all we had was snail mail, radio, and phone, and sometimes that was a "party line" with no expectation of a private conversation? We have a lot to be thankful for with all these modern communication tools. Consider limiting your time watching the news; let's face it, there's little uplifting in it! Instead, watch some of the wonderful YouTube and other videos available on quilting and crafts to keep you inspired. Set a goal for how much stash you want to use and get into one of the many projects listed in this Newsletter. Please keep in touch! If you need help or you know someone who does, let me know. We'll all be back together in the near future! Until then, **QUILT ON!**



Genelle Voorhees



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