



Stitch 'n Times

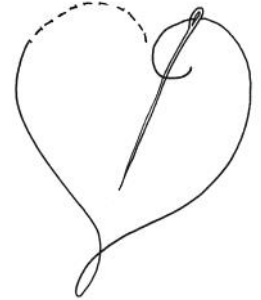
Santa Rosa Quilt Guild

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

May 2020 • Vol. 44 • No. 5

President's Message

HELLO...hello... hello! Do you hear an echo? After five weeks of being sequestered, it feels like that, more often than not. On the up side, I am hearing from many of you that your homes are being decluttered, quilts are being made AND completed, mask making is in "full steam ahead" mode for many, and we are keeping busy cooking and sanitizing. The Board agreed that we needed to cancel all meetings in May and we will determine as the time gets closer if we need to consider more cancellations. With that said, I encourage each of you to contact someone in the guild to see how they are doing, especially those who live alone. It is nice talking to someone other than yourself. I love our guild. It has provided a community of quilting friends, many who have become my very close friends through a shared love of sewing and quilting. It is more than just a quilt guild! It is an important community that helps me thrive. I believe that I have grown stronger because of your friendships and that we are all growing stronger together. Having been apart for several weeks has been difficult, but keeping in touch is important to each of us, perhaps more so for those who are not inclined to ask for help when needed. Please reach out to others in the guild and let me know if someone needs our help.



Genelle Voorhees

Special Alert: Not a surprise, but the Wine Country Quilt Show and Sonoma County Fair have both been cancelled.

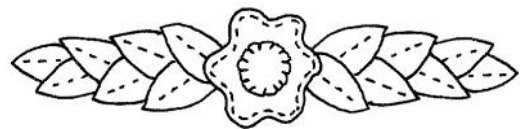
A poem by Kitty O'Meara (with a small editorial addition).

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced, (some quilted). Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

~ Kitty O'Meara (2020)



"I would invite people to pick an art form and go for it. People say, 'All my life, I wanted to do this, I wanted to do that.' That's another huge gift of this time. Play with those things. Might be a dancing thing. Might be a work out thing. Might be a knitting thing. Might be visual art. This is the time. Do it," O'Meara encourages.

To O'Meara, this is a time rife with frustration—as well as the potential for transformation, as her poem demonstrates. "We can wallow where we are or we can see the invitations. Anything that you can tap into that allows your feelings to be expressed creatively will do that for you. You will feel better on the other end of it. You will be changed."

~ Oprah Magazine

A Note from the Editor:

I will be grateful when I can once again create our regular newsletter with announcements of programs and workshops, library reports, special projects like placemats and challenge quilts, new members, sew-lutions, and a calendar full of fun events planned to share with our quilting friends. Hopefully we can ease into a return to gathering soon, but it may still be a while. You'll find a few committee reports starting on page 7. However, for now, enjoy this very abbreviated edition of "Stitch'n Times,"

~ Jim Jensen, Editor

Needle and Thread

by Jim Jensen

So how is everyone doing with the shelter-in-place? Seems like February was such a long time ago, March had 78 days, April is approaching 195, who knows what May will feel like.

I reached out to our members and to find out how they are coping, and what they are doing during this time of solitude. Here are some of their responses:



Alana Colburn ~

Dear quilting friends,

Hope everyone is well at this sad time for our community.

Living alone, it has been challenging and sometimes lonely.

I am lucky to have a daughter who has been doing all my food shopping and taking home my laundry. Living in an apartment, the laundry room is not a safe place for me.

Missing my granddaughters, we have FaceTime, text and phone, but I need hugs and kisses. I have taken rides in my car, just up and down the freeway just to get out. Lucky to say, I have a sewing machine and lots of fabric; doing all the projects I am so loving to do. That's what has kept me going. I have received calls, cards, and lots of well wishes from my quilting friends; that really helps. Missing you all, hoping we get together soon, keep in touch with everyone, and check on your friends.



Elizabeth Anderson ~

In early March I was very busy (for a retired person, that is). I was taking art classes at SRJC, tutoring first graders, and leading a yoga class. In the midst of this I injured my back, so I was almost relieved to shelter in place and give myself time to heal. I spent the rest of March recovering. By April I was raring to go, and sewed every day. Face masks, a wall hanging, a table runner and finishing a large quilt I started last summer. The other day, as I was sitting on my deck, I was listening to the silence. I realized that this time at home is a blessing. Being able to turn inward while being creative is like being on a retreat. I am filled with gratitude—for my health, my family, my art, and all that I have. I am blessed.



Lien Souza ~

I'd always wondered what house arrest was like, until we were confined to this shelter-in-place lifestyle - quite inconvenient, at times granted, yet so very crucial during this heartbreaking global pandemic. Nowadays, you have all this time on your hands to tackle all those UFOs and those UFPs (unfinished projects). I've also had that rare chance to pause and reflect and to spend time reconnecting with family and friends in a more unhurried mode. For a month now, my husband and I enjoy here in Windsor with us the company of our son from Los Angeles, as he's now working from home. And, besides turning into an avid gardener, a not-so avid Zoom work-outer, and a dedicated face mask maker for our front line and health care workers, I mass-produced children face masks for our daughter's two little children and their friends in Hawaii, as well as for my neighbors' and friends' grandchildren. Now that children face masks are needed in hospital pediatrics departments, I've been hard at work making more of those cute, mini-sized garments. So, till we meet again, my friends, stay safe; we'll soon be happily ever quilting together again.



Michelle Marcotte ~

Keeping me 'grounded' during the pandemic.

In addition to quilting, face-mask making, miscellaneous sewing, bread baking and connecting electronically with family and friends during the 'sequester,' gardening has kept me sane and focused! I am new to this area and moved from the warmer climate in Southern California, so please forgive my ignorance of the local gardening rules. My Sonoma County

Needle and Thread continued →

Needle and Thread continued

home came with a mature yard and a giant redwood that supplies a lot of shade, and fills the area with roots, large and small, so it was a challenge to find a sunny spot with workable soil for flowers and veggies. Fortunately, 'Santa' came to the rescue and surprised me with a 4' x 12' raised-bed box, which was quickly assembled and filled with Home Depot soil. I was ready to roll by mid-January!

Thirty-two years of living in Southern California instilled in me the bad habit of seeding and transplanting veggies right after the Christmas lights had been put away, so it was difficult to abide by the friendly advice to "wait till April." Thankfully, there was no frost in our area, and the raised-bed is already filled with plants at various levels of maturity. I am keeping busy weeding and harvesting salad greens, chard and herbs, cheering on sturdy peas, beans, tomato, and pepper plants, and watching for the emergence of parsnips and purslane. I might need to sew a scarecrow (scare-cat?) to keep the neighborhood felines out of what they consider to be a "new, big litter box." Our very generous Italian neighbors surprised me with a bottle of their homemade wine and two large eggplants because, they said: "No one can survive a quarantine without a glass of wine and eggplant parmigiana," so I drank the wine and cooked the veggies, reserving some of their seeds, and I now have eggplant and basil seedlings sharing the windowsill, waiting for the "really warm weather" that everyone has promised will come soon!



Lois Hunter ~

I talk to my dogs ... I think one of them answered me!!!



Carole Behlke ~

I must say that it has been a very calm time for Mike and me, and I think that is why I'm calm, because I'm not alone. I didn't start making masks in the first week or so as so many places were "poo-pooing" them as not being useful and I had no elastic – I'm really surprised how many folks did have stashes of elastic. Jan Westerman shared the missing elastic element, and I was able to make up about fifteen masks from what she shared.

Mike heard me saying that I had none and I had used up the small stash of ribbon and packaged bias tape for my trial and error masks. Mike went online and two days later, I had a huge spool of elastic. No more excuses. I've shared several times with Village

Sewing Center. Thanks to Jan Nilsen for a pick up and drop off and then me. What have I discovered?? My stash is BORING when it comes to mask making materials. I see a shopping opportunity.

When not in the sewing area, I took the time to empty closets, dresser drawers, and kitchen cupboards. One a day and each reorganized – again, a feeling of accomplishment.

I have not quilted anything at all; just haven't gotten into it. I do stitch in the evenings and that is where my comfort comes from ... and my garden/yard needs attention, so we work there, which keeps us up and moving.

I do look forward to seeing everyone again, even at a distance. I expect it will be a while before we are comfortable around others – and omg – if someone sneezes!! Run for cover!!

See you all soon



Janet Shore ~

I can't believe I am living alone and not seeing anyone all this time.

My son, Jim, who lives in Henderson, NV, calls daily. I also hear from my nieces in Berkeley. Pam McVey and Pat Marabella check in on me too.

I am very lucky that I can be in my own home in Oakmont and take care of myself. It is so beautiful to be able to look out the windows at Annadel and Hood Mountains. I was told to drive my car a little so I went to Sonoma and back a couple of times. Saw pretty poppies along the way. I am also lucky to have my food delivered from the Oakmont Store.

I really miss "all my quilters" and I will miss them all singing "Happy Birthday" to me since I will celebrate my 96 Birthday on April 24. Hope everyone is fine and will be seeing each other soon.



Betty Upchurch ~

Wow! It has been a long time since I have done this – seems even longer since we had a meeting. I do hope all of you are well and reducing your fabric stash. Mine is smaller as I donated for masks and hats.

Gave up making masks after 130 with the help of my sister; I got back to quilting for others. I can't get too far behind as there is apt to be an over-

Needle and Thread continued →

Needle and Thread continued

abundance once this shelter at home comes to an end. Hopefully, that will be soon.

I checked and found that we are getting short of the favorite colors of thread. If you would like to add a color you need, please let me know as I do need to place an order before our meetings are resumed

On April 17 at 7:32, I received the sad news of Mitzi Dowling's passing. I will miss my dear friend of twenty years. We have shared a lot of information and experiences with so much pleasure. Mitzi and her perfection in her quilting will be greatly missed. Hopefully she is enjoying a reunion with family and friends in heaven; maybe she is teaching the angels how to get the perfect quarter-inch straight seam.

Stay well, happy, and healthy.



Judith Clarke ~

Hey my quilting friends. I want to share one of my favorite "healing the spirit" activities. A couple of days ago, it was sunny on our deck and my husband and I separately made our way out there. He picked up a small basket that was on a chair and put it on the table in front of us. As we talked, we noticed the tiniest movement in a fine web which filled a part of the basket. Watching closely, we found a tiny ant-sized creature. Then, a very small spider with long legs appeared and headed toward his web catch. We spent over half an hour watching the story of life play out in miniature. Amazing!

My suggestion: focus on some small thing, something natural and tiny, and meditate on it, study it. Think about its components and where it came from, whatever comes to mind. Keep your focus there and let the miracle of it become real to you. I find those moments very healing. Some I remember for many years. I wish you joy.



Anonymous ~

While being busy in my sewing room making masks, I heard my husband making noise and found he had done the dishes and was putting together a load of laundry. Surprise! I did not know he knew how!



Kay Hartman ~

I've manage to keep myself very busy during this shelter-in-place situation. I cook, bake and clean; grocery shop and read; and phone family and friends. I also enjoy my two passions; sewing and planting my annual vegetable garden.

My cloth mask related story began yesterday when a former neighbor texted to ask if I was sewing masks and did I need any 1/4" elastic. I immediately said yes, because I've used up all I can find! She said she ordered 100 yards in early February, and her order just arrived. She mentioned it was black, which I said was fine, so she said she'd deliver 10 yards to me. When she refused my offer of a cash reimbursement, I asked would she like to trade it for a large bag of chicken manure (I bought too many last week).

She delivered the elastic this morning, and she included two freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. I also included three large, freshly picked, Meyer lemons from our tree.

Now I ask you, who got the best deal today?



Janet Tonkin ~

I don't think I have done anything unusual during this social distancing time. I am thankful to be a quilter. I have made a bunch of community quilts and a couple for myself. I was able to deliver the 100 quilts to Valley of the Moon and sixty masks for their staff. I have made some simple masks that have been going to VOM, family, friends and neighbors. I try to go for a walk most days. Besides sewing, I work on a puzzle, read and watch TV. I have kept in touch with friends by phone, email and texting. I planted a couple of tomato plants in hopes of having good tomatoes this summer. I am thankful to have a lovely home and neighborhood to walk in. I enjoy our virtual connection with the quilt guild.



Bonnie Butler-Sibbald ~

Well hello all! I'm doing what I can to help with the masks requests. My family, friends and neighbors know I will help them when asked. Unfortunately I've run out of elastic twice, just like the rest of you! I now have two clean closets and one makeup drawer that has been purged. Who needs makeup if you are not working? Now my greatest challenge is the reorganization (more likely the initial organization) of my sewing room. Who knew that I could make even a bigger mess than I started with trying to make it better? I hope you are well and stay safe!



Marguerite Li ~

Hi everyone, Staying in Place. Strict advice was sent from both our county and my church, but it took me a few days to process the new regimen. You mean I

Needle and Thread continued →



can't have my grandchildren up for the week-end, and no more volunteering at the Harvest for the Hungry Garden for the foreseeable future? So in addition to more home cooking, mask-making, and trying to keep informed without being overwhelmed by the news, I have been finding ways to keep in touch with my grandchildren, sending packages of books and educational materials that my husband and I devise, and reading stories to them on FaceTime. My grandson, Dimitri, who just turned 8 on Monday, is super athletic. He lives in a small space in San Rafael. The best parts of school for him are recess and PE. When we are together, we play basketball, softball, and go bicycling or hiking at the park. If you have any ideas that I could give to him about ways to use his abundant energy while at home all the time, I'd love to learn your ideas. Take care, everyone. What a wonderful reunion it will be when we can all be together again.



Toni Anderson ~

These SIP days have been dreamlike in so many ways. Never before imagined, calendar and obligation free. One day has been blending into the next in such a way that many times I forget if it is Tuesday or Sunday. But today was a special day. One that had me excited to actually apply a little makeup and put a decorative scarf in my hair and get dressed in street clothes. Behind the scenes, Pam McVey and I have been cooking up a Honk-a-thon drive by Birthday Parade for our own Janet Shore, who turned 96 today, April 24!

I called Janet a week or so before her big day, told her I had an errand to run in Kenwood, and asked if I could sing "Happy Birthday" to her from my car on my way home. I actually had no errand, but with my ruse I knew she would be home and dressed and expected to step outside to her front lawn. The turnout was fun to see, especially well represented from Oakmont, where I saw a lot of our members and other Oakmont residents lined up to wish Janet a happy birthday. We drove by, parade style, honked and sang happy birthday to her. Pam McVey delivered a cake, and Linda Hooper found a hiding place right next to Janet's house to capture the whole thing for all posterity. Thank you Pam and Linda for helping us make this day a special celebration. I have to also thank Janet, because today was the highlight of my sequestering experience, with a date to remember, a reason to get dressed and a fabulous excuse to see Janet and some other very missed faces.



Laura Barrett ~

Here are some simple things that have helped me during this shelter-in-place: I begin and end each day with the word 'positive' and a list of at least five things that I am grateful for. This helps me have a brighter outlook and really helps me see the gifts in my life and in my day. Wow, I was so grateful when I found the chicken I wanted at the grocery store! I walk almost every day which gets me out of the house and seeing the wonderful people and plants outside. I try to keep to a schedule, though this a challenge for me. All in all, I am hanging in there and feel fortunate to have such a supportive guild and a room filled with fabric.



Pam McVey ~

Until today things were pretty boring here. But today it all changed and I'm having a wonderful day. It started off with a great parade of about twenty cars to sing "Happy Birthday" to Janet Shore outside her home in Oakmont. There were balloons, cards, signs, and horns honking. Neighbors came out to witness it all and give Janet good wishes. I gave her a carrot cake and she was very surprised and happy. We all wished we could have given her a hug. On my way home from her house, my brother called me to tell me my niece, who lives in Manhattan, gave birth to a baby girl. She went into a hospital last night at 1:00 a.m. and her labor was induced. All is well and she can go home today. YEA!!

I had been working on a quilt for her and all it needs is the binding and a label. In the next hour I will be in a Zoom meeting with my other nieces in Massachusetts. We do this every Friday at Happy Hour. Of course, 3:00 p.m. is a little early for me, but hey, it's for the family!!! We'll have lots to celebrate with the new baby in the family. So now it'll be back to making masks and walking the dog and doing jigsaw puzzles. I hope everyone stays healthy and safe.



Debby Bainbridge ~

Hello Santa Rosa Quilt Guild,

I must admit that I am enjoying being sheltered in place. Although I miss getting together with my quilting buds and taking my line-dancing and exercise classes, it is nice taking life at a slower pace. I ordered a croquet set and a bocce ball set through Amazon. We have been having fun playing those games in our backyard. Unfortunately, our grass

Needle and Thread continued

grows very quickly, so we had to buy a lawnmower to keep it trimmed between the periods when our gardener comes. Those two games wound up costing us a lot of money, but it was worth it!

Of course I've been doing a lot of quilting as well as making face masks. I had planned to go to a retreat the beginning of June, but that has been canceled. However, I had already cut out three quilts to make at the retreats, so they are in the queue to get sewn.

I really appreciate the fact that I have this wonderful hobby called quilting. My husband likes to golf and play billiards. With the golf course closed and the clubhouse closed, he is rather bored. It will be good when we can get back to socializing!



Heidi Mitarai ~

This is probably going to sound selfish and horrible but I am loving this shelter in place stuff. I have had a major project in my house that I put off for too many years and am working on it little by little. I do really well on my own; so does my sister. That is why it is hard for me to write something up about this experience because everything I write sounds like I'm on the best vacation ever.



Rhonda Denny ~

I think I'm becoming lazy. Sometime in February, I whispered a wee prayer, "Lord, I could use some down time." Within days we were rudely interrupted with a shelter in place order. This is the prayer that gets answered, Covid-19. It's ok. There is no place like home and I am a homebody. Maybe this will be ok. With no deadlines and no to-dos, I can choose any project I want, and I do have many projects on deck. I encourage myself, "Focus girl. Get those UFOs off the table." Then things start to get serious.

The actual SIP was issued on March 16. I made a note on the calendar. We've already been sequestered for a month. Time has no meaning any more. Sometimes I'm not even sure of the actual date or day at any given time. I've been going to bed later and rising later. I did have a personal goal to get into a new opportunity quilt for SNAP Cats ASAP (<http://www.snapcats.org/>). Now seems like the perfect time. I get a good, solid few days of quilting and then the mask situation gets serious. My grown children begin requesting masks. Then others ask. SNAP has 40-some volunteers. I'd better get busy. I haven't touched the quilt in weeks. I've made 75 masks, so far, and imagine this will be going on for some time to come.

I asked a friend who owns and operates one of the finest wineries in all the land (Amphora in Healdsburg), "Rick do you have wine for shut-in's?" We laugh...but I'm serious. Is anyone else drinking copious amounts of this splendid elixir?

I have a garden now and it is gorgeous. Three raised beds, two troughs, and another larger box on deck. There is a salad and Brussels sprouts box, a salsa box, kale and celery box, garlic in one trough, and strawberries and sunflowers in another. Loni and Tina helped quite a bit. I have a beautiful, big bouquet of potatoes in a grow bag. The yet-to-be-constructed box will be for cukes and zukes and a few tomatoes.

Oh yeah, Loni taught me how to make kefir and I make it fresh every other day. I'm also making Kefir cheese and fermenting veggies with the whey leftover from the cheese. Next? Kombucha bread. I'm pretty sure I am sporting a bread baby in my belly, so eating is going ok. I did fixate on toilet tissue. I put three feelers out, and within a few short days, several friends filled the void. We are totally flush in the tp department now. I need to fixate on the SNAP quilt. In short, for me, mostly things are just the same as before Covid-19. I'm a little more relaxed. I can make an array of masks. I handpick salads and herbs (herb pots abound) for dinner. Life is good.



Friendship Block

I have a wonderful announcement! Janice Juul has requested a Friendship Block that is a cute gnome pattern. She has named the block "You 'Gnome' I Love You."



She asks that we work on these while we are sheltered-in-place and mail the finished block to her home.

You will soon find all the information and the pattern on our website. If you are interested in working on a block please send me an email and let me know so I can sign you up.

 Heidi Mitarai

Sequester Challenge

Since it looks like we are in for an indoor adventure for the time being, I thought of a good way to stay connected and spice things up a little with something different.

LET'S HAVE A CONTEST!

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

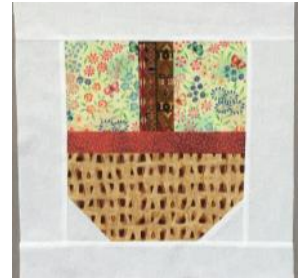
We will award the winners of each category with a nice \$40.00 gift certificate to one of our local quilt shops. This is also a way to support them during this difficult time. If you would like to participate, please let Toni Anderson (tonilanderson@gmail.com) know which contest you will be competing in so that we can get a feel for how many are participating. If we have one participant for a category, lucky you! Winner winner chicken dinner! And YES, you can certainly enter in more than one category. Prizes will be awarded at our first meeting once we get an all clear to come back to our meetings. I am excited to see what we come up with while we are trying to stay creative and engaged!


 Toni Anderson

Block-of-the-Month

A Basket of Hope

May is about to bloom and despite the lockdown, we are filled with laughter, joy, and hope. Yes, our May BOM is aptly named "A Basket of Hope." It's an easy block to make, so lay down your mask-making chores and make these beautiful little baskets and fill them with what gives you joy! You can fill them with flowers, fruits and vegetables, little kittens or puppies or anything else that brings a smile to your heart. One day we will all be together and we'll see if perhaps you will win what someone else's basket of hope meant to them. Remember the more you make the better chances you have of winning!



 Carolle LeMonnier
Joanie Bellinghausen

Sewing Room Sale

Quilters are generous, always sewing for others.

Now that you have organized and reorganized your sewing rooms while sewing your latest projects and the COVID 19 masks, you have may have discovered notions, rulers, trims, beads, yarns, storage bins you have emptied, lamps, or sewing room furniture you no longer wish to keep.



Think about reserving a table and selling your unneeded item at the Sewing Room Sale scheduled for July 2.

The sign up form is available through the guild website under "Downloads" or you can use this link:

[http://www.santarosaquiltguild.org/userfiles/file/sewingroom Sale 2020.pdf](http://www.santarosaquiltguild.org/userfiles/file/sewingroom%20Sale%202020.pdf)

Looking forward to hearing from you.

 Joy McGoran

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild



www.santarosaquiltguild.org

PRESIDENT

Genelle Voorhees
president@santarosaquiltguild.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Jan Nilsen

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Jensen

MEMBERSHIP

Jan Andrews, Vicki David, Sue Gragg

PROGRAMS

Janice Rodgers

MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

BY ORDER OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ALL SRQG MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The Santa Rosa Quilt Guild meets the first and third Thursdays of each month (in December only one meeting is held on the first Thursday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, California, across Highway 12 from the Fairgrounds.

Membership dues are \$35 per year. The calendar year is January to December; new members' dues are prorated. Regular meetings, special programs, use of the extensive library, and special discounts from some affiliates are just some of the many benefits of membership.



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

May 2020 Newsletter