

Mountain Top Quilters Guild Grapevine Message, March 24, 2020

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE MESSAGE

As you are aware, there are many guidelines that have been issued by governmental agencies regarding citizen gatherings, in an attempt to reduce the likelihood of spreading the coronavirus among our population, especially those most vulnerable. Our membership falls right into this category, so our decisions will always take into consideration the health and safety of each and every member of our quilting community. In some cases, the decision to gather together is being made for us, as we know from the request from the First Lutheran Church that we stop gathering at their facility until further notice. This caused us to cancel our planned April meeting. The status of our May 18th meeting is still unknown, as the Board of Advisors for the church will meet again in a few weeks to make their recommendations regarding outside groups utilizing their facilities. We must be flexible, so I intend to send Grapevine messages as we have new and vital information useful to our membership, hopefully on a weekly basis. This will be in lieu of the monthly Newsletter, and posted on the guild website.

Today, I conducted an emergency Board meeting to discuss our most pressing issue, the biennial Quilt Show. Most important from this discussion is our decision to negotiate the postponement of the show until the fall timeframe. Right now, this seems to be the most beneficial to the guild, and minimizes our financial impact to members. We are negotiating with the show venue (Findlay Toyota Center, Prescott Valley) to identify the best dates, and will continue with our planning accordingly. If you are currently part of the planning committee for the Quilt Show, expect to see email from the Co-Chairs, Susan Perry and Kristi McHugh, detailing the changes and other planning events associated with the show. We look forward to conducting this show, and encourage all members to continue with their entries, and submitting your entry forms to ensure there's a place for your quilt. Entry forms and instructions for completing the form are still on our website, available for downloading. This delay also gives everyone more time to finish your submissions for the Small Quilt Auction and your 19th Amendment Suffrage quilt! Please continue working on your boutique items.

Spring Camp was cancelled by UCYC, at the last minute. Refunds have been sent out to campers. Also refunded were payments made for the April Program (Catherine Redford, Walking Foot Quilting).

Community Quilts – Las Fuentes has asked us to NOT utilize their facility for our monthly workshops until further notice. I've had discussions with Deb Mulcahy, and we have come up with a flexible plan to continue our efforts in this area. Since much of our supplies are currently not available from Las Fuentes, we did an inventory of available kits for members to continue working. As of today, there are 72 kits of precuts available to make up quilt tops. Also, there are 19 packages of tops matched with backing fabric, binding and batting. Right now, these items are in my garage, awaiting members to volunteer to make them up. So here's what we'll do: We will establish drop off points in both Prescott and Prescott Valley. Dona Speights volunteered to be the PV point of contact, and I will be the Prescott POC. We will each set plastic bins outside our front doors to be used for distribution of kits. If you need something to do to give back to the community, please feel free to drop by either of our homes (addresses can be found in the guild Directory, and not published here), and take what you need to keep sane. As you finish projects, you can return them to the same plastic bin, and Dona and I will make sure they get to the next correct place.

There has been much discussion of late regarding making face masks. Dona has been in touch with Marley House, and they are willing to take whatever we give them. The face masks we make are simple and quick to make, not medically qualified, following a pattern available from the Turban Project website. There are also good videos on YouTube for reference. Distribution of completed face masks needs to be coordinated with Marley House staff, so please, if you decide to make these for donation, leave them in the drop off points plastic bins mentioned above, and we'll arrange a coordinated deliver to Marley House. If you need flannel to be used on the back of the mask, please let me know, there is a stash ready for use in my garage.

Programs: Since we needed to cancel the April Catherine Redford's Program and workshop, we will attempt to reschedule her for a future date. Additionally, we are re-evaluating tentative Program speakers for July, August and September, in the event reschedule is needed for these. More information will become available as time passes, and we have more clarity into the current health crisis.

Housecleaning – If during this time of self-isolation you take on the task of cleaning out your workspace and supplies, please know that the guild will gladly accept your donation of no-longer needed items. Any donations received will become part of our Community Quilts 'remote' effort. Once we resume our regular schedule, you can consider hanging onto your excess materials until we conduct our rummage sale.

For our Committee Chairs (other than the Quilt Show), please gather up any reimbursement requests still outstanding and submit them for processing. And then, **this is important**, please stop spending any budgeted amounts until further notice.

During these turbulent times, the board agreed to pause other non-essential guild activities until we know more. This includes the board election for the coming year. The current board agreed to remain in place until the election occurs, and the new board takes over. There is still an opportunity for you to be involved in managing guild activities, as we have an opening for President-elect. Please contact either me or Diana Ramsey if you want to help out. We very much appreciate our volunteers who work so hard to keep us afloat.

Be safe, and take care of one another. I'll be in touch soon.

Diane Stockhaus