

April 2020 Mini Newsletter

Hello everyone

As we finish week 5 of social isolation, our thanks must go out to all those quilters who are designated as essential workers and our hope that all of you – essential workers, stay at home workers and stay at home quilters – are safe and healthy. We hope everyone is able to spend time quilting to help you relieve stress and keep your creative juices flowing.

Covid-19 Challenge - Make Me Laugh Quilt

Speaking of creative juices, we have a challenge project for you. At some point in the future, we will be able to look back at this time and see some humour in these exceptional circumstances. We want you to put your quilting skills to use by making a quilt that makes us laugh. Here are the parameters:

- Make a humorous quilt that has 3 layers.
- The quilt can be any shape but the circumference should be no smaller than 48" and no larger than 144".
- Use any technique, any design and any colour you want. Use your stash, your scraps, trade with a friend (keeping in mind physical distance requirements) or order something new from an online shop.
- The outside edge of the quilt must be integral to the design so it might have a binding or facing or some other unique technique that supports the design. It's all about creativity.
- Use any embellishment that strikes your fancy and contributes to the humour and design.

The reveal of all of the COVID-19 creations will be at the meeting on December 3. The quilt (or maybe quilts) that elicit the loudest laughs from the audience will be the winner! There will be really great prizes and of course a ribbon!

I do have to admit that this idea was totally stolen from the Brant Heritage Quilt Guild (big round of applause to BHQG). In case you need some ideas to get your creative juices flowing, here are some suggestions:

- A portrait of your kid's face trying to explaining to you how to use Zoom
- What does a birthday cake look like during a pandemic
- What is the most absurd colour combination you can come up with
- Your interpretation of what the floor of your sewing space looks like
- What PPE did the Easter Bunny wear this year

Need to Connect with Members? Join our Google Groups

Attached to this email are instructions on how to join MQG's google groups. This is great way to share ideas, ask questions and communicate with members. Watch for an invite email from Patrick Chan.

Connie Clinton Obituary

Connie's obituary was published in the [Toronto Star](#) on April 15 and there is a post on [Skinner and Middlebrook](#) website where you can leave condolences (under Noreen Clinton). Thanks to everyone who shared your memories of Connie's quilting skills and love of Kaffe Fassett. Thanks to Anna Sirota for sending a photo of one of Connie's quilts that hung in the 2013 quilt show (attached).

Quilting/Sewing Trivia

Did you know that Magna Carta is responsible for setting the standard for the measurement of fabric? Section 35 reads: *There shall be one measure of wine, of ale and of corn (namely, "the London quarter") throughout our whole realm. There shall also be one width of cloth (whether dyed, russet, or halberget): that is, two ells within the selvages. Let weights also be standardised similarly.* Halberget is defined as a kind of cloth and an Ell is a measure of length. You can thank Virginia Rothwell (well really her husband David) in case this question ever come up when you are on Jeopardy or just trying to impress friends at a dinner party.

Tip of the Week

One of my “post covid-19 bucket list” activities is to get to a glass shop. I have a broken ruler and I recently read this [tip from Hamels Thread](#) (a BC quilt shop). Take your broken ruler to your local glass shop (eg. Flintstone Glass in Port Credit, Speedy Auto Glass) and ask them to cut and reshape the ruler so that you can continue to use it.

Fun Stuff

With thanks to Missouri Star, here is a [fun quiz](#) to take to figure out what type of quilter you are. I am an Irish Chain block (duh my grandparents were from Cork).

Fun Stuff Not Related to Quilting

I have really enjoyed listening to interviews with Chris Hadfield and how astronauts deal with isolation. His advice is practical and helpful. But I really loved the message of this song that he sang on CBC the other day that was written by his brother. [Click here to listen.](#)

