

President's Report June 2020

It certainly has been an interesting year, and not without its challenges. For a good part of the year we enjoyed top-notch speakers, fun workshops, and a beautiful block-of-the-month project. Our social committee knocked it out of the park each and every month with their creative and fun decorations. The library culled old books and magazines, and brought in new and refreshing additions, and we excitedly prepared for our Quilt Show. CORE continued to do us proud, with many donations going out into the community. We had another very successful retreat weekend. Our newsletter kept us all up to date, and entertained us with fun info and contests.

And then, our world changed; the likes of which we've never experienced before. With the Covid-19 pandemic, everything shifted into a different gear.

And so, your guild executive wasted no time in providing as much stability and continuance as we could. Without knowing from one week to the next what the status of our meetings and functions would be, we've been continually discussing and reforming ideas on how to keep in touch, and provide as much "normal" activity as we could.

At this point, we are starting to see cautious and careful steps for returning to business-as-usual in our community. At present, we know that facilities in the City of Mississauga will remain closed until September 7, 2020, and, even at that point, will most likely only partially reopen for small group gatherings.

What will the guild look like when we start up again in the fall? We are hoping by that time to be able to safely meet in small groups, which will allow us to hold workshops and CORE gatherings. However, it looks like our general meetings will probably continue to be held on Zoom, as meeting in large groups will still be too risky. We have a great lineup on speakers set for next year, and we are looking into having them present their programs virtually joining us on our zoom format.

As you know, we decided to postpone our AGM from June to a date to be determined, hopefully in the fall. We felt this would give members more time to get comfortable using Zoom as a meeting format, and we can then ensure we will have a necessary quorum for the meeting.

It was with much disappointment that we postponed the 2020 Quilt Show. The committee worked so hard and was excited to bring fresh ideas to the show. Much work was done, some of which is on hold, some of which may have to be updated. We've tentatively rescheduled for May 2021. It goes without saying that we will not even consider hosting our show until it is completely safe for all the community to gather.

We are facing challenging times which have required us all to be innovative and creative. Your executive has certainly come through this year keeping our guild moving forward.

I'd like to thank each and every member of the executive for their extraordinary work in providing us with a most successful year despite all of its challenges. We worked well together, bringing so much fun and energy to all aspects of the guild.

We sadly say good-bye to a few executive members who are completing their terms:

- Darlene Harvey has been our diligent secretary, taking minutes at every meeting for us.
- Michelle Reddy provided us with a beautiful block-of-the-month and showed us different variations and ideas
- Susannah MacRae and Teresa Mackie kept our library running smoothly, they cleared old material and brought in lots of new and fresh books for us.
- Jane Sanders brought us a fun, colourful and relevant newsletter each month, and stepped up to a weekly format once we were unable to meet, making sure we all stayed in touch and informed.
- Our Social Committee, Barb Kemp, Janet Michaud, and Heather Porritt worked had a blast bringing us a themed social table every month. You made it look so easy, but we know it was a lot of work.
- And, Janice Telfer was our Retreat Coordinator, and made sure everything ran smoothly so the attendees could enjoy a wonderful weekend away.

Thanks to each of you, for everything you brought to the guild.

And, we happily welcome our new executive members, who have stepped up and volunteered for the following:

- Secretary – Kim Baumgart
- Block of the Month – Mary Dodd and Linda Ward
- Library-- Jane Crockford and Diane McCullough
- Retreat – Pam Sawyer

Two positions remain open. Three people are needed for the social committee, which will be necessary once we begin our general meetings in public again. We are also in critical need of a newsletter convenor. This is a very important part of the guild, especially now when we cannot meet publicly, and rely on our newsletter to stay connected and informed of the ever-changing new circumstances. If you would be interested in this position, Jane Sanders is more than happy to help you get set up and answer questions.

The one positive side of our imposed isolation is that many of us now have more free time for our sewing. Let's use that time to be productive and creative. I encourage everyone to consider making quilts for CORE and Quilts of Valour, placemats for Meals

on Wheels, and pillow cases for Cases for Smiles. This is a great way to burn through some of your stash and help those in our community.

This is the last “report” that I am writing as President and as I hand over the baton to Darlene Jenah, our incoming President. Darlene has proven to be one of the most capable people I know, proving her leadership skills as coordinator for our 40th anniversary dinner, and as our show coordinator. I am looking forward to more creative ideas and innovations as she takes the reins!

In closing, I wish everyone a safe, healthy summer, with lots of sewing time, and hopefully we can get together again as soon as possible.

Marlene Weaver
President