



# Los Alamos Piecemakers Quilt Guild

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[www.losalamos.com/lap](http://www.losalamos.com/lap)

MAY, 2021

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## LOS ALAMOS PIECEMAKERS

### OFFICER REPORTS

#### **VICE PRESIDENTS –**

From Melodie Gustavsen –

It hasn't surprised anyone who knows me – the biggest way I've dealt with the last year's pandemic and time at home has been by quilting! With nothing else going on, having a project (or two) to work on every day has kept me feeling productive and happy. I've tried a couple of new techniques – wool applique and English paper piecing (EPP). You-tube is a great way to learn new skills. I love working with wool, but after hours and hours (and hours and hours) of EPP, I've decided to avoid it. I did finish a mid-size EPP quilt which I like, but hated the whole process by the end. It's just so slow.

Another fun thing two friends and I did was to make the same quilt at the same time – with texts and pictures and zoom consultations. We now each have a chili quilt – each a little different. It helped us connect and have fun.

The Piecemakers' Board would love to hear about what you've been doing and get your opinions about when/how we should begin meeting again. Please email and let us know how you've coped the last year, what's new in your quilting interests, and what challenges you've faced in quilting and general life. Have you tried any new techniques or reaffirmed your enjoyment of favorite old techniques?

We'd also like to know your opinions about when and how Piecemakers should begin holding meetings again. Masked or unmasked? Inside or outside? Social distance or not?

Send your comments to [melodie.gustavsen@gmail.com](mailto:melodie.gustavsen@gmail.com). I'll summarize and the next newsletter can include your comments and ideas.

As life begins to return to "normal" (or at least a new normal), we look forward getting together with our quilting community again!

### **LAP SECRETARY:**

My pencils have been sharpened for a long time ready and willing to scribble notes of Guild meetings and Board items to share with members. Melodie asked us to share stories of what we have been doing and learning during the last 16 months. It started out as a welcome relief from the daily appointments, meetings and volunteer work. I was able to clean out the sewing room (twice) as I made the mistake of walking back in after the first clean out. This time I took all of the fabric out to the living room and made kits out there and boxed them up before I could get distracted by that shiny piece in the stack! In the early months I made two baby quilts that welcomed the safe arrival of newborns. No easy feat back then. I also completed a Jason Yenter Dragon Panel full size quilt for my grandson's 8th grade graduation. As the holiday's approached I was able to make the usual pillow cases and small gifts I make everyone but I had to admit that those lost holidays were the worst and scary too. Three family members came down with Covid and the youngest nephew ended up in the hospital on Christmas Eve, (his birthday). He remained 17 days and lost 43 pounds and stayed on oxygen for six weeks. His parents became quite ill but refused the hospital's kind offer of a room with a view. After what their son endured they felt safer at home. During the winter I got busy with a Sue Spargo wool appliqué BOM. I followed Nicole Dunn on her Facebook page as she gave a tutorial on making a rug out of 1 1/2 inch strips of fabric doing a double crochet. I made a bathmat and it only took six yards of fabric! Made good headway until February when we lost a family friend to Covid. Ruth was older and wiser and a good friend to my husband. He liked going over to help her change light bulbs and vacuum cleaner belts. I sent over fresh veggies and cookies for the grandkids. She will be missed by many. That loss of a local friend was about my undoing. Fortunately I have a very good Primary Care Doctor that recognized my symptoms and was able to prescribe a mild antidepressant. It only took a small nudge to get those serotonin levels back up so I now am ambitiously readying the garden space, running fabric through the machine, and waiting for the temperatures to rise so I can start dyeing fabric again. I am grateful and happy to have a restart. --- Deb McLin

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Enterprise Bank Checking account balance on April 30, 2021 was \$8,581.38. The storage unit bill was paid for \$990, which is our largest single expense.

Donna

## **LAP MEMBERSHIP:**

I hope 2021 finds us able to meet again once logistics can be worked out that keep us safe!!

Fortunately, I have two passions that have kept me sane during the pandemic: horses and quilting!

I go to a barn outside SF, where my horse Boomer is currently boarded, several times a week. It was a welcome haven when everything was closed. He was in his first Western Dressage show a couple weeks ago, and did very well!

With respect to quilting, I discovered a hand piecing technique known as Manx Quilting from the Isle of Mann. I'm not necessarily a fan of hand piecing, but I find the technique ingenious!! I recently gave a demo in Old Town at the Blue Portal, and it was the first time I wore a face shield. More comfortable than I thought!!

I was pleasantly surprised to find the technique featured in the May issue of American Quilter!! There is also an on-line tutorial (which is how I learned), and I am willing to teach anyone that is interested - just give me a shout.

Hope to see you soon!! Brenda

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Having our round robin challenge to work on helped me stay upbeat and busy during the first part of the pandemic. I even found making masks an interesting task and challenge at first. But after a while the masks became a chore and not so much fun anymore. Unfortunately, I felt guilty about wanting to do other projects instead of masks, and it became a bit of a block in my mind. A long way of saying I haven't used all the time we had to good advantage. Reading a lot and watching tons of old tv series on dvd are shared activities with my family that have vied with sewing, to the disadvantage of my quilt stash. I do feel that I've been somewhat "suspended in time" for the past year.

I have finished some smaller projects, and continue to try to work on them as I'm able. I did finally learn to use my embroidery feature on my sewing machine, (a big step for me!) sewing the names of all the cats who've shared our lives in the past 56 years onto my round robin quilt. I also made 10 squares for the Violet Protest project on 6 of which I embroidered words of positivity.

I'm grateful to have had the Community Service position over the past year. It's been an additional way to stay in touch with some of you, and lovely to be able to see all your wonderful quilts! We weren't able to distribute many for a long time as most of our usual outlets were unsure of the safety of receiving or giving quilts. But I was able to give 8 quilts out recently to help give some comfort to those who really needed a quilt hug. A number of those were to children, so quilts for kids are very welcome!

I did enjoy attending some of the Santa Fe quilting group's Zoom meetings. And have especially enjoyed the emails sent out by Santa Fe Quilting!

We lost one family member to Covid, and also several others this past year. All were out of state, so we've experienced memorials via Zoom.

I hope soon we'll have a majority of people fully vaccinated and someday we'll be able to meet again in person! Stay safe!

Flo