

**ACACIA QUILT GUILD – SMALL, BUT MIGHTY!****NEWSLETTER –APRIL 2020****President's Report**

Fellow Quilters,

The world has changed since our last meeting. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a different world. As quilters, we are probably better able to deal with the situation than most. It is unlikely that we will ever get bored by staying home and we can make our own surgical mask. When you run out of elastic for the mask there is always the pile of UFOs, organizing your stash, or going through the collection of quilting magazines. There are also those books you've been meaning to read, and the weeds that need to be pulled. Always something to do.

On the other hand, most of us are in the most vulnerable age group and are especially aware of avoiding physical contact with other people. Social distancing is good in this atmosphere, but social isolation can be a real problem. While all the new technologies, email, Facebook and other social media can help maintain contact with other people, phone calls are the best. Hearing someone's voice, speaking directly to you, is a far better contact than something generated from a computer screen. Call someone! Call a friend you haven't spoken to recently. Call someone you know that lives alone to check and see how they are coping. Keeping in touch will help us all.

We should also try to help each other with things like shopping. And it is not always a matter of the younger members helping out the older ones. As an "over 65" person and able to grocery shop at 7:00am, I recently found items that a younger friend could not find after 8:00. As the ads on TV keep saying, we are all in this together.

The Ehlers Event Center will be closed during the month of April. That means that the general meeting, workshops, Fabricators and the board meeting will be cancelled for April. Any additional information about the upcoming schedule will be announced in the Blast as we find out more. There are a lot of unknowns at the moment, so all we can do is go day by day.

Enjoy working on your UFOs, and stay safe.

Barbra Riley, President

Quilter of the Month

Mary Ann West



Mary Ann West has been a member of Acacia since August of 2010 and joined Off-Kilter Quilters when it started. Since 2010, she has held positions in the guild in Ways & Means, 2nd Vice President in charge of Programs and Workshops, and has donated unknown numbers of quilt tops to the Tea & Auction and to philanthropy.

Mary Ann grew up in Vaughn, New Mexico, an area that was, at one time, a part of the Republic of Texas, and a part of Mexico before that. Her ancestors were there and since the area belonged to Mexico, her first language was Spanish. She spoke no English until she started school at age 5. She was raised by her grandmother, who taught her to quilt, and did not move to California until 1963 when she moved here with her first husband and four children. The job opportunities in California were much better and Mary Ann and her husband purchased a house here. That marriage did not last, but in 1985 she married Bob West. **There wasn't much time for quilting with four kids and a job, but Bob encouraged her creativity and even gave her a sewing machine as a gift.** Since then she has been a piecing fiend! She estimates that she might have 300 quilt tops. (Probably a low estimate!)

Mary Ann loves the "puzzle" aspect of quilting. She does not need a pattern because figuring out how a pattern was done is part of the challenge of quilting for her. She sees an interesting quilt on Pinterest, prints a picture of it, and then diagrams the design.



(Quilter of the Month, continued)

Eleven years ago Mary Ann was diagnosed with cervical cancer, stage IV. During her chemo **her doctors told her to spend most of her time resting. She didn't. She spent most of her time at the sewing machine.** When she was tired, she put her head down on the machine for a while.

After she fought off the cancer, she started a cancer support group, which was active until about five months ago when she felt too tired to continue with it. Mary Ann has been diagnosed with cancer again and has started chemo again. She is currently at home, recovering from the first round of chemo and trying to decide how to continue, considering the current national health crisis. She is now under hospice care but actually feeling much better after recovering from the first round of chemo.

On March 4th, Mary Ann invited Off Kilter Quilters to go through her quilt tops and take some for Acacia. Patti, Sonia, and I, with the help of Mary's daughter Martha, went through 14 plastic bins of quilt tops and she donated a few to Acacia. A "few" in this case was about 75. In addition, she had some quilt tops and UFOs she wanted finished so she could give them away.



UFO #1 binding completed by Denise H.

The UFOs were three quilts that only needed hand stitching on the binding and a partially quilted black and tan quilt. A special thanks goes out to Phyllis Victor for completing the quilt with a black backing. Figuring out what was quilted, and what still needed quilting, was part of the challenge on this black on black quilt.

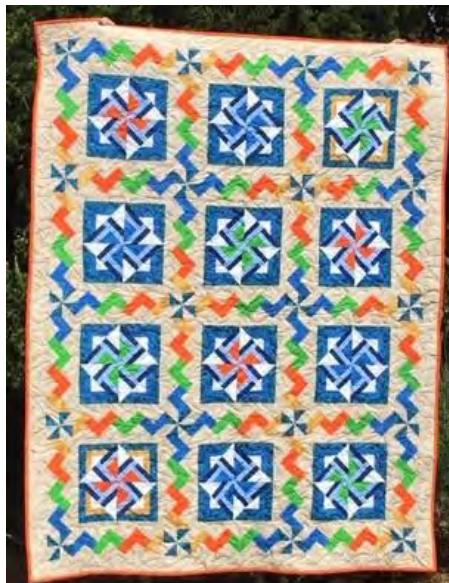


The black on black, Phyllis V. completed quilting and binding.

(Quilter of the Month, continued)

At the March General Meeting the three quilts needing bindings finished were all taken by volunteers as well as eleven quilt tops that needed quilting, a wall hanging, three table runners and a round centerpiece. I will be finishing the wall hanging and Nancy Toma finished the round centerpiece. With the help of several Acacia members, six of the quilts have now been completed and returned to Mary Ann. All the other quilts are currently being quilted but will need hand work to finish the binding. The three table runners have not been started. Any volunteers?

Barbra Riley, Off Kilter Quilters



Quilted by Cindy K., binding by Phyllis V.



Completed by Nancy T. for Mary Ann.



Binding completed by Anita C.

FACIAL MASK PATTERNS – STAY SAFE!

Warm greetings to my quilting friends!

Since we are all on the “safer at home” protocol, many of us are looking for projects to keep our idle hands busy and to feel like we’re doing something productive to fight this flu epidemic.

The CDC initially stated that only the N95 masks would prevent the spread of the covid-19 virus, but as shortages have become widespread, they have adopted a “something is better than nothing” approach. Many healthcare organizations are looking for homemade masks, and asking for donations from home sewists. Other organizations, such as retirement/nursing homes, are looking for masks as well for their “well” residents and workers. On a personal front, it’s making more and more sense to add a layer of protection if we foray out for groceries, etc., so I’ve started sewing them for my family. As I feel more comfortable with my work product, I may donate some in a few days. Here’s a summary of the information I’ve found. There are many, many articles and YouTube videos on the subject, but I’ve made a list of what I’ve found to be the most usable links.

If you’re wondering which materials are the best to use, I like this link. It’s got the science to back up its information: <https://smartairfilters.com/en/blog/best-materials-make-diy-face-mask-virus/>. This article does not include interfacing as a material. Interfacing is a nonwoven material so it seems like a good idea to include a layer of interfacing. However, some are made with somewhat toxic chemicals and might not be a good choice. It’s up to you to determine if the materials you’re using are safe. Pay attention to fusible interfacing, as the adhesives may (or may not) be irritating. Washability is also an issue with interfacing. Most of the hospitals are asking for 100% cotton materials, as they can withstand multiple high heat washings. You might be able to play with a pattern so that you could have a pocket for a replaceable interfacing “filter”.

As far as patterns go, most of the ones you’ll find are very similar. I can tell you from my experience, if you have a large face, increase the width size of the mask from 6 inches to a little larger (my husband is a 7). You can adjust the pleats to accommodate the larger width. Also, some patterns, like Jenny from Missouri Star’s, use two pleats. Three pleats are optimal, as they allow the air to transfer easier through the mask.

1. The most popular link floating around is this one. It’s very easy and has a video:
<https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask?fbclid=IwAR1ZANIg2ffeG69ghVGYRLwxSx3esm8LZHetzHQlZFr3yrahU3vgNX2PUA8>
2. If you’d like to try a more form fitting style, here’s an easy pattern with a video:
<https://freesewing.org/blog/facemask-frenzy/>
3. I like this pattern a lot, because it uses a fat quarter and doesn’t require elastic. It was drafted by a nurse who quilts - what could be better? https://www.instructables.com/id/AB-Mask-for-a-Nurse-by-a-Nurse/?fbclid=IwAR22mbigmjO3T4w0i85POxy07vtQdF6OzNRKgXTcFg8_WpsTay-Q3WpDrRg It has a template, but you can use it just as easily with your rotary cutter and ruler.

(Facial Mask Patterns, continued)

4. This is the pattern that JoAnn put on its website. It includes interfacing:

<https://www.joann.com/make-to-give-response/?icn=hpzhero&ici=make-to-give-response>

There are many choices, and most of you are more experienced sewists than I am. These patterns are guidelines, and I'm sure you'll find ways to change them to fit your individual styles. I've been tweaking them to find a way to add a small wire across the bridge of the nose to close any gap at the top.

Here are my first two prototypes. I used the first link to make them:



The first is two layers of batik with a piece of template plastic sewn in at the bridge of the nose. The second is a tea towel with a batik liner with wire across the top. I actually forgot I was wearing mine! To insert wire, you can make the mask as the pattern asks, then add an extra seam across the top. Snip the lining so you can slide a 3" section of wire in, across the top of the mask (you can even use a straightened paper clip). It's removable for washing.

Everyone try to stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all once we can get together again.

Happy sewing!
Chris Mattison

SUNSHINE, SHADOWS, & SHOUT-OUTS

Sonia Das handles **Sunshine & Shadows** connections for Acacia. If she has omitted anyone or anything, corrections and updates will be made in future newsletters. Please contact her with news about guild members at 562-607-2384 or soniadas@yahoo.com.

2nd Vice President—Programs & Workshops *(Subject to change. Please see website for current schedule & links)* Chair—Phyllis Campbell

Programs and Workshops Canceled

As most of you know by now, Lenie Bosman's lecture and workshop have been canceled for April due to Covid-19. I have let her know we will reschedule her as soon as we are able to do so. While you are all at home, now would be a good time to cut out some placemat sized pieces of fabric and batting and practice your free-motion quilting. You could even make a set to sell at our Tea a year from now.

Our May speaker, Elizabeth Eastmond, is hoping to be able to come to our May 7 meeting and present "Abecedary of Quilts," a series of stories about quilts, the people who quilt, and how quilting touches our lives. More than just an 'I sewed this square-to-this-triangle,' she tells about how quilting reflects our lives, how quilts carry stories and memories and years of our lives.

At the May 9 workshop, she will be teaching modern English Paper Piecing; projects that can be taken with you when you travel and sewn by hand, or at home on your machine. If we have to cancel our May meeting, we will also reschedule her as soon as we are able.

Link to May Workshop Supply List: <https://www.acaciaquiltguild.org/files/Workshops/2020/05-May/EnglishPP.pdf>

Fabricators Barbra Riley, Fabricators

The next scheduled meeting of Fabricators will be on May 2nd. This will not be a "meeting" as much as a drop-off/pick-up kits event. Assuming the Ehlers Event Center is open by May, I will be in the Picasso Room with various kits from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm to receive finished items or give out kits. If we can find the elastic, I will have kits for surgical masks.

Things seem to change daily, so watch for the next newsletter or the Blast for updates.

NOTICE TO THOSE MAKING FACIAL MASKS:

Bev Tyler has ordered 500 yards of quarter inch elastic and is willing to share. She is offering to donate up to 10 yards to anyone making surgical masks in need of elastic. Just call her or text at: 714 914-1445 and she will mail whatever you request.

NOTE: this elastic is the $\frac{1}{4}$ " clear elastic used to make swim suits.

EQUIPMENT

By Lori Ramsay, Equipment Chair

Sew, and sew, and sew – that is what I have been doing this past week - with some ripping and resewing.

Watching the news and looking at the statistics can be depressing, then I look at the colors of my fabrics, and all the neat designs and patterns possible, and get busy cutting or sewing.

My 91-year-old Mom asked me if I had enough fabric to keep me busy for the next couple of months. I just smiled and reassured her that I did.

Quilting is such a fun skill to have and do, especially now. Fortunately, I have a lot of fabric on hand – and projects that need to be finished. Soooo I will be digging them out. This is an opportunity for all of us to do the same. As our President Barbra wrote in a previous newsletter, *This is a year she will be working on her UFOs too.*

We will get through this! Let's all be safe.

Yours in quilting (and washing hands 20+ times daily),
Lori

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Link to Block of the Month Instructions on website:
<http://www.acaciaquiltguild.org/BlockOfTheMonth.html>

We always need Block of the Months blocks for philanthropy quilts. Please visit the website for instructions for the latest BOM.

Membership

Twenty-four members and ten guests attended our February General Meeting.

Thank You, members, for always being gracious and encouraging to new members and guests.

Membership applications are welcome any time. If you have questions, please contact Membership Chair, Mary, at maryjedgar6612@gmail.com or by phone at 714 232 3806.

Link to current Membership Application:

https://www.acaciaquiltguild.org/files/Membership/AQG_Renewal_2020_2021.pdf

NEWSLETTER

Please submit newsletter articles and photos to Mary at maryjedgar6612@gmail.com by the Sunday after the Board meeting which meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday.

Door Prizes



Congratulations to our March Door Prize Winners

Anne K. – Gift Certificate to Mel's
Anne K. – Yo-yo Makers
Daryl T. – 2 Charm Packs
Daryl T. – Embroidery Book
Nancy T. – 2 Charm Packs
Shar T. – 2 Pot Holders

SHOW & TELL

**FRONT**

Phyllis V's completed sweatshirt from the February "Sew A Jacket" workshop. Modeled by Barbra.

**BACK**

Denise H's beautiful 'Stack and Whack' (above), and quilted red and white with curved borders



Show and Tell, continued

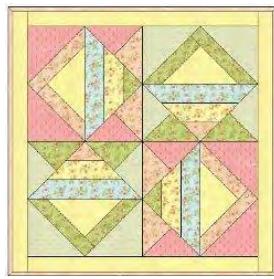
Thank You to Kathy C. for visiting the Guild and bringing along her beautiful stained-glass quilt (ABOVE) and her scrappy 'Quilt as You Go', Cathedral-Window-style red/white/blue (OPPOSITE).

Easter Celebration – Door Prizes and Opportunity Baskets

Bev Tyler, Door Prizes & Opportunity Basket

The April Door Prizes and Opportunity Basket were to have an Easter theme. When the General Meetings resume, those door prizes will be added to the list of prizes intended for that month, making the Door Prizes and Opportunity Basket DOUBLE!!

We will still celebrate Easter in fabric, just a little later.



2006 BOM Table Topper Quilt designed by TK Harrison for BOMquilts.com

Calendar at a Glance



2nd	6:30 PM	GENERAL MTG – Cancelled
4th	10:00 AM	WORKSHOP – Cancelled
11th	9:00 AM	FABRICATORS Sew Day – Cancelled
16th	7:00 AM	BOARD MEETING - Cancelled
28th	6:00 PM	PHYL'S PLACE (Philanthropy Meeting) - Cancelled



(ALL activities PENDING re-opening of the Senior Center and safety of members)

2nd	9:00 AM	FABRICATORS Sew Day – ALL are welcome
7th	6:30 PM	GENERAL MTG
9th	10:00 AM	WORKSHOP
21th	7:00 PM	BOARD MEETING
26th	6:00 PM	PHYL'S PLACE (Philanthropy Meeting)

May Newsletter – What are you working on????

Barbra Riley, President

Since the May newsletter will be out before our next General Meeting, there will be a special article about the “stay at home” break in guild activities. What are you doing to keep yourself occupied? How many UFOs have you completed? Do you find yourself making more phone calls? More emails? Are you spending more time on Facebook? Do you watch more news or are you depressed by every new change?

Let me know by phone or email what you are doing to keep sane and I will let you know what everyone else is doing! (Please note: I am not on Facebook or any other social media.)

ACACIA BOARD 2019-2020

President: Barbra Riley

1ST VP. At Large: Denise Howard

2ND VP, Programs & Workshops: Phyllis Campbell

Secretary: Mary Edgar

Treasurer: Frannie Donoghue

STANDING COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

Birthdays: Membership

Door Prizes: Bev Tyler

Equipment: Lori Ramsey

Historian: Susan Wei

Hospitality: Anita Catano & Ernestine Caro

Membership: Mary Edgar & Brenda Howard

Newsletter: Mary Edgar

Opportunity Basket: Bev Tyler

Opportunity Quilt: Barbra Riley

Parliamentarian: Open

Past President: Shar Taira

Philanthropy Team: Phyllis Victor & Team

Photographer: Anne Kilian

Publicity: Phyllis Campbell & Barbra Riley

Secret Pal: No program this year.

SCCQG Representative: Barbra Riley

Social Media Coordinator: Jodi Gill

Special Events (Tea & Quilt Auction) Marianne Mahoney

Sunshine & Shadows: Sonia Das

Ways & Means: Phyllis Victor & Sonia Das

Website: Patti Paschall

GENERAL MEETINGS are held on the 1st THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. If this is a holiday, the meeting will be moved to the 2nd Thursday. Doors open at 5:15 pm; meeting begins at 6:45 pm

Ehlers Event Center
8150 Knott Avenue
Buena Park, CA 90620

BOARD MEETINGS are at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the same location.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE SUNDAY AFTER THE BOARD MEETING.

Please email articles to: **Mary Edgar** at maryedgar6612@gmail.com

The purpose of this guild shall be to promote cooperation and exchange of ideas among those persons interested in or engaged in quilting; to further the education and skill levels of the members of this guild; to preserve the heritage of quilt making and to educate the public as to the significance and history of quilting as an art form as well as an ongoing craft; to utilize the skills of members to make items for those in need and to assist other philanthropic organizations.

Dues are \$25.00 per year, June 1 through May 31st. Dues for members joining after 11/30 will be \$15. Due for members joining after the last day of February will be \$10.00. Guests will be asked for a donation of \$3.00 at General Meetings.



4/1 Kristy Chillington

4/14 Mary Ann West

4/14 Daryl Thomas

4/22 Marianne Mahoney

4/28 Betty Pepek



MEMBERSHIP

Mary Edgar & Brenda Howard

At the March 2020 Meeting we welcomed 24 members, and 10 guests; Keep up the good work, introducing yourself to new members and visitors at all events, and inviting friends to our programs and workshops.

Applications for membership are available at the Welcome Table at each General Meeting, via the website (use "Membership" tab), or through the Newsletter. If you have any questions, please call Mary at 714-232-3806.

ACACIA QUILT GUILD of ORANGE COUNTY**Membership Year: June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021**

Date: _____ New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Can you help Acacia Quilt Guild with any of the following:

- Assist Hospitality with set-up at meetings
 Assist with clean-up after meetings
 Teach a class / mini-demo

What can you teach? _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$25.00* (with EMAILED newsletter); \$43.00** (with MAILED newsletter)*dues after November 30th will be \$15.00; dues after February 28th will be \$10.00.****OPTIONAL NEWSLETTER MAILING FEE: \$18.00 (for 12 months)**

The Acacia newsletter is sent to the membership via email and is available for free on the Acacia Quilt Guild website. If you wish to have a newsletter mailed to you, please add \$18.00 to Membership Dues for a total of \$43.00 to cover postage and mailing materials.

Amount: _____

Cash: _____

Check #: _____ (Payable to Acacia Quilt Guild)

Dues can be paid at the Membership Desk at General Meetings.

If mailing your application, please send your form and fee to:

Acacia Membership
 Attn: Membership Chair
 P. O. Box 6853
 Buena Park, CA 90620

If you have questions, please call or email:

Maryjo Edgar - 714-232-3806 - maryjedgar6612@gmail.com
 OR
 Brenda Howard - 714-952-4798