

THREADS



Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists

July 2020
Issue # 54

Note From the Chairman

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Contents:

Note from the Chairman

ZOOM Invite!

Dear Fellowship members, August has arrived, along with the 'dog days of summer'. We're still in quarantine here due to the continued concern of the Covid-19 virus and the health of our families, friends, and communities. Lives have been changed dramatically and along with the pandemic concerns we also wonder how, when, or if our lives will return to some resemblance of whatever we would consider "normal". Last month the Fellowship board met via Zoom to discuss the future of Us ... We came up with several ideas and have also received some suggestions from members which we'd like to share with you.

Our yearly Fundraising event and once a year gathering has always been at the International Convention. Because of this year's cancellation, and now, with the ongoing concerns and travel restrictions, etc., we decided that we won't plan to have a booth at next years' convention (if it is held) in Taiwan. However, we looked optimistically to the following year (2022) and have come up with an exciting plan that we're hoping you'll help us with. 2022 will be our year to celebrate the 20th year of the Fellowship - so we want to have a birthday party! The convention will be held in Houston, Texas that year so for many of us travel won't be as much a concern. We're hopeful that we'll be able to celebrate with many of you with a party and Fellowship meeting. In the meantime we've planned to begin Zoom meetings on a monthly basis to give us all an opportunity to know what's happening in your communities, the projects you're working on - or perhaps need help with, your ideas for a Fellowship Project that we can all participate in and present at the convention. Other ideas???

We've set up a 1st Zoom meeting - Lynn has included all the details in this newsletter, along with contact information, etc. I look forward to "seeing" you very soon! Take care, be safe, stay healthy! Very sincerely, Cheryl

Join Zoom Membership Meeting! The board met by Zoom this month and discussed a number of ways to connect with the membership and work toward furthering our goals. We decided to have a Zoom meeting.

If you are new to zoom, it is easy. Just tap the link below and it will open the meeting. You will need to open the meeting, say if you want to link with video or audio only. We hope you do video. We want to see you!

August 22, 2020 1:00 P. M. Pacific Daylight Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82764850196>

Meeting ID: 827 6485 0196

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbwjtOpRPb>

For consideration during the Zoom meeting.

Online auction? Don't despair if you made items for the booth in Hawaii. The board is considering an online auction. They are looking at auction software options now. Other considerations are how to advertise to those outside the fellowship and how to deliver items to the highest bidder and how to deal with shipping and customs if needed.

Fellowship project:

Susie Jackson, LaGrange, Texas asked Have you considered doing a group project online for the Rotary Quilters, etc.? Maybe a shared quilting pattern or round robin where participants all make squares or lap quilts with this year's theme... Knitters and crocheters could have a Knit-Along project on the same theme-idea.

All to be donated where there is a need, maybe Christmas time or next spring or even, hopefully, for next year's convention.

More connections:

Janet Haas, Livonia, Michigan suggested having a list of ways to connect, such as perhaps providing web addresses for these opportunities. "I do not believe that zooming will go away. I especially like the dyers on virtual yarn crawls. Maryland's virtual show was wonderful. I am ready for the big Wool Show in Australia this weekend. In the Midwest, we have Up North dyers" Do you know of this type of opportunity? Can you share?

Your Stories

Rod Buffington, Springfield Illinois USA

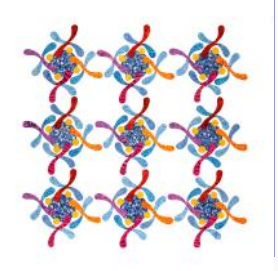
My watercolor quilt paintings are in many private collection and major museums. For the past, several years I have executed a representation of the sitting Rotary International President's theme and presented a copy to the RI President. The President signs the first 100 copies and the framed original then hangs outside of the President's office at Rotary International headquarters. One source described my work this way: "...painted watercolor on handmade paper with 100% inlaid cotton fabric collage - are geometrics where mathematics and whimsy intersect." The Rotary Foundation of Springfield, a 501[c]3 organization affiliated with The Rotary Club of Springfield, sponsors my work through the reproduction of the original painting as high-quality prints.

Help Eradicate Polio

Each 24 x 23 print is suitable for framing. I donate 50% of the proceeds to the Polio Plus Campaign. All payments are processed through the Rotary Foundation of Springfield, a 501[c]3 organization. Each print sells for \$ 100.00 with \$ 50.00 donated by Rod to the Rotary International Foundation for the Polio Plus Program. There is a \$ 20.00 fee for handling and shipping per order.

To place your order please contact Rod Buffington at rotaryrod@comcast.net.

NOTE: Rotary theme prints from Rotary years 2015 - 2016 through 2019 - 2020 are also available



**Marilyn Sanderson, La Mesa San Diego
CA USA**

I've used the extra time I would have spent at convention making quilts for my two new great- great nieces. Would much rather have been in Hawaii

Lu Sweeney Incline Village CA USA

Wondering if there were any sources for Rotary themed fabric in this fellowship group. Would anyone be interested in helping find some? I know that there are cotton batik shirts make for special occasions such as RI conventions. Planning to make raffle quilts and fabric masks if we can find the fabric. Russell Hampton does not carry any.

Katharine Wall, Monroe, Louisiana, USA

We had planned to attend the wedding of our former exchange student in Dresden, Germany but of course those plans fell by the wayside. I did however finish this Dresden Plate Table Runner for him. Maybe next year!!! It is a Sweet Pea Design.



Carol Kreul, Monticello Indiana USA

I do not have pictures for you but I can give a little story about my activities. A few months ago, I made a few masks for my son and grandchildren in Valparaiso, Indiana as well as for my daughter in Las Vegas. My daughter requested that I make some and send to her step-children in Nashville, to her friends in Atlanta and in Virginia. My son asked that I send some to his fiancé's parents in Austin, Texas and to her sister in Dallas. My ex-daughter-in-law asked if I would send some to her parents and to her sister in Marion, Ohio! And that is how it began. Once my daughter's hotel (Mandalay Bay) began to open, she asked if I would make masks for her and her employees - they had to be all black. The first batch (around 25) I followed the rules and made black on both sides but the second group I added a colorful side (I told her it was to carry them through to dinner - like a little black dress). Meanwhile, my son's fiancé, who owns a re-purpose store in Valparaiso, Indiana asked if I would make some for her to sell at her store and we agreed on a price. Apparently, they have become quite popular because I use odd pieces of left-over quilt fabric which is usually quite colorful (another reason to never throw out scraps). I am getting a real pleasure matching the various fabrics. The elastic I use has become thinner as I have been able to find it. Those "bolts" of elastic seem to go on forever.

So, that and reading has been keeping me sane. I hope you have been well and I look forward to hearing about other quilters' projects.

Bonnie Sirower, Patterson New Jersey USA

When the pandemic started, a fellow Rotarian sent me an article about people in England who were knitting or crocheting pairs of small hearts that were used for ICU patients who unfortunately passed away from COVID-19. I contacted our PDG Nikki Mederos (D 7490, Northern NJ), who is the VP of Communications for Hackensack Meridian Medical System at the Palisades in Edgewater, NJ. She shared the idea with her head nurse. The first time (while I was home recuperating from COVID myself), I crocheted 40 pairs consisting of tiny hearts and medium-sized hearts. I sent the hearts to her (see pictures) and she waited the mandatory 72 hours before using them. When a patient died, the attending nurse taped a small heart to the person's hand, took a picture, and send a note of consolation along with the larger heart to the patient's loved one. Sadly, Nikki received the hearts on Monday, and by Friday (in April), all of those hearts were gone. I did ask members of our fellowship to join me in this endeavor, and several e-mailed me that they had contacted their own local hospitals and were now knitting or crocheting the hearts. I made an additional 40 pairs of hearts, but, fortunately, the disease has ebbed here in Northern NJ.

I have attached what the hearts looked like, the packaged hearts ready to go, and a copy of the thank-you letter from the

head nurse at the hospital.



Mrs. Bonnie Sirower
69 Godfrey Terrace
Cliff Rock, NJ 07402

May 6, 2020

Dear Mrs. Sirower,

Thank you so very much for the hand made crocheted hearts you generously donated to Palisades Medical Center. We have implemented a program that includes placing the small heart in the hand of our patients who have passed, we take a photo of that moment and then tape the heart to their palm. We send the photo of their loved one's hand with the heart and the second heart to our patients' family as a token of our condolences for their loss.

This tradition is very powerful program not only for our patients' families, but for the health care team as well. We understand how painful this must be to lose someone you love and not be able to be with them, please know your hearts are giving them that moment.

We appreciate that you have provided us the opportunity to connect with our community in a very valuable and loving way. Thank you for thinking of us and this beautiful gift of compassion.

Sincerely,

Heather A. Vetter

Heather A. Vetter MS, RN, MBA-BC
Vice President of Nursing, Chief Nursing Officer
Palisades Medical Center
7000 River Road
North Bergen, NJ 07047

Elsie Whisenant, Valdese NC USA

The Corona Virus has kept me in a LOT this year so I have been really busy at my machines! I have made four quilts and almost finished with the fifth! I include a picture of the wedding quilt I made for my granddaughter who was married on July 11th. Having purchased a long arm quilter in March, I have been trying to master it, but as of today it is mastering me!!! I shall keep working at it. I pray all will stay well and look forward to a time when I can meet you.



Sheryl Bryant, Feilding, New Zealand

During our lockdown in New Zealand I made these quilts for our booth at the next Rotary convention. It was a kit given to me from a stash of one of our quilting friends that had passed away. A large quilt but I felt it would bring more money in as two.

I send my love to all of you who are surrounded by Covid 19 infections , be safe and stay well. We are fortunate in New Zeland to have reduced our numbers , but I am aware that we could so easily have second wave .

Take care all happy stitching



Esther Arlan Nashua NH USA

This quilted lady was a 40th Anniversary gift done by our daughter-in-law's mother. She experimented with different stitches. That was 25 years ago. This August we will celebrate 65 years of being together. We shared joys and sorrow, laughter and tears, stay at home and exotic travel trips. Rotary plus other volunteering. So on the 15th I will have to decide, as does he, should we aim for 66.



I changed the color of the hat and did small embroidery stitches in the flower.



On her lapel are heart buttons. Felt she needed something else and gave her a pearl necklace. The clasp is a pearl button.

Sitting home during the corona virus meant taking each day as it came. I started this afghan for a new born to grow into 🌐 🌐 his parents loved it



Jane Woolnough, Vancouver BC Canada Greetings from the west coast of Canada and I'm hoping this finds everyone well and safe. I loved reading about members' activities during the early days of the pandemic lockdown. Those who had been productive I found most inspiring and those who were not being so creative I found very reassuring. (I was one of the latter group). Then, over the last month or two, I have got out my needle and thread and also paid a tentative visit (my first in months), to my favourite quilting store in Vancouver where I discovered they had re-introduced a kit for a queen sized quilt, called Blue Moon and which I thought would be perfect to take to Taiwan next year. Here it is, in the early stages, on my 'design floor' at the cottage: I am keeping fingers crossed that not only will I get it finished but also that the Taiwan RI convention will take place....

In between times, I'm attempting to make another tea cosy or two. (I'm thinking of calling them my Covid co-sies). I find they are quite time consuming -which is good for these unusual times - and great fun to put together!



Kay Kitto North Rocks, Sydney NSW Australia

Since the world stopped spinning and Australia went into serious lockdown, I have been as busy as ever. My Rotary Club meets via Zoom, and the President also rang everybody at least every second week, to make sure we were doing OK. A big task!

One of our Rotarians is a beautiful knitter, and she has been hard at work making wraps, for a local charity. 'Wrap with Love' is an Australian charitable organisation, founded in 1992. The wraps are knitted, transported and assembled by volunteers. Over 30,000 volunteers around Australia have been involved in the project and more than a quarter of a million woollen wraps have been produced. The wraps are created by knitting 28 equally sized squares in garter stitch, sewn together into blankets of 4 x 7 squares. I am a quilter and the quilt pictured was made using a jelly roll called 'The Rocky Mountains', made for a Canadian friend who planned to visit before the Convention this year - sadly all her plans are on hold, but I am pleased with the way the quilt turned out.

I have a couple more quilts in various stages of making, using jelly rolls that I have bought on my travels.

In between quilting, I have been working hard with my Days for Girls team. While we were not able to physically meet, we have a 'work swap', taking in work completed and collecting more work to do.

I have been cutting the draw string bags, which then go to an overlocker, and from there to a bag maker. Since the lockdown restrictions have eased slightly, we have also packed kits for Vanuatu, where they had an horrific cyclone just as the lockdown started.

Days for Girls kits ready for shipping



Helena Daniels Cheam Rotary, Carshalton Beeches Surrey UK

What strange times we live in as I have been on the 'vulnerable shield' list in the UK I have not been able to venture out at all since March but fortunately we do have a large garden so I have been able to do my exercises out there and hope fully my neighbours have not watched me!!

I have turned our dining room into my sewing room which has been wonderful. Our quilting group were asked to make Scrubs bags for our local hospital which enabled the staff when they came off duty to just pop their uniforms straight into the bags and then when they got home to put the whole thing in the washing machine. We have also been making quilts for the Linus Project which is our usual line of quilting, supplying the hospitals and also the local Woman's refuge who have been inundated with extra work

Which is a very sad state of affairs. Our Rotary club have also been busy supplying food parcels for them as well.

We have been knitting the octopuses for the prem baby unit, they are very popular as the babies like to 'twiddle' with the tentacles instead of the tubes! We also have been making incubator covers, they cover the whole incubator to enable them to be moved without the baby to be seen by everyone!

I have also been doing lots of gardening with Ron and our garden has never looked so good, we have quite enjoyed our isolation but I am sure lots have found it really difficult and do hope and pray that we will all get back to some sort of normality soon.

Thank goodness we have our various crafts to turn to and I wish you all well and hope we will all be able to meet soon either by Zoom or even at one of the Conventions.



Karen Bertrand, Wakefield RI USA

I bought a new sewing machine, cabinet and a workbook to learn all the features.



My first project after face coverings; curtains for the music room. Hard to believe how much fabric and measur-

ing involved in these curtains. Hopefully we can gather at the sewing room soon.



Ariane Carriere, Cornwall, ON Canada

The only thing that I have been working on is masks. I've attached a few of the ones that I have done. I'm trying to be very creative as far as using up scraps of fabric because I don't want to start cutting in quilting fabric that I might use some day.

I've even used some old ties that someone gave me one time. I decided they were too ugly for a quilt, but for a mask they might work. Another thing that I did is use wrappers for a kind of soap that is sold here. The batik is very colourful and tightly woven. The last picture has a mask from that fabric in the middle. The other two are made from men's ties.



Issue 53

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Share ideas on facebook at [Rotarian Fellowship of Quilters and Fiber Artists](#). Or send ideas for articles to:

liraymer@hotmail.com

Fiber festivals 2020
<https://midwestfiberartstrails.org/fiber-festivals-2020/>

Knitting Patterns <https://www.knitting-bee.com>

Quilt Patterns
<https://www.accuquilt.com/patterns/free-quilt-patterns>

Quilt Shows
<https://www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk/>

Dues are due for yearly memberships. \$15US. Or you can get a lifetime membership for \$100US. You can pay online at our website, www.rotariansquilt.org, or mail checks to:

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