

## **NORTHAMPTON MODERN QUILT GUILD**

Minutes – April 5, 2020

Via Zoom due to Covid-19

**Attendance:** 24 members and one guest

Many thanks to Julie Bermant for arranging this meeting using Zoom technology, and to Diane Wespiser for adapting her wonderful EQ8 program to Zoom presentation as well!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The [Vermont Quilt Festival is cancelled for this year](#), but save the dates for next year: Wednesday, June 23 – Saturday, June 26, 2021.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Currently on hand: \$4,572.62.

### **CHECK-IN**

After getting everyone settled into Zoom, we each took 1-2 minutes to relate how we are coping with the social distancing currently required in an attempt to curb the spread of the Coronavirus. Some of us were still able to work remotely, but most of us were taking advantage of the extra time at home to spend more time quilting! Members also reported:

- Keeping in touch with extended family through the use of Zoom and other technologies
- Taking long walks and relishing the Spring awakening of the natural world
- Listening to podcasts like [Elizabeth Gilbert's TED talk](#) – for more Elizabeth Gilbert try the free meditation app Insight Timer:  
[https://insighttimer.com/elizabeth\\_gilbert\\_writer/guided-meditations/facing-fear-with-a-compassionate-heart](https://insighttimer.com/elizabeth_gilbert_writer/guided-meditations/facing-fear-with-a-compassionate-heart)
- Listening to audiobooks via various platforms including the [Libby App](#) that makes it possible to check out and listen to audiobooks from the library
- Re-reading and re-discovering the pleasures of old favorite mysteries and other novels
- Adapting to physical distancing from off-residence quilting studios by setting up make-shift studios at home or turning to other arts like collaging with paper
- Watching online virtual museum tours – the [International Quilt Museum](#) was especially mentioned – see also their [YouTube channel](#)
- Creating an online course – check out Timna's online [Stitched Mosaic Workshop!](#)
- Making Coronavirus masks

Here is a list of the links shared by members currently making masks and shields:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNX0cRrYj6U> Leah Day face mask with filter pocket
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBR98YKAr7w> Craft Passion face mask
- <https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask> Deaconess face mask
- [https://www.facebook.com/stacia.potter/videos/10221843380662312/?comment\\_id=850389168770446&reply\\_comment\\_id=850389982103698&notif\\_id=1585965408529515&notif\\_t=group\\_comment\\_mention](https://www.facebook.com/stacia.potter/videos/10221843380662312/?comment_id=850389168770446&reply_comment_id=850389982103698&notif_id=1585965408529515&notif_t=group_comment_mention) Making quicker ties for masks
- <https://www.providence.org/lp/100m-masks> Face shield instructions - you have to page down to find them. Adele ([adele.franks@gmail.com](mailto:adele.franks@gmail.com)) says, "I have a LOT of the clear vinyl and am happy to share."

## **PROGRAM**

Diane utilized screen sharing to take us on a tour through Electric Quilt's still relatively new EQ8 version of its quilt design software. Because of system updates, those of us with Mac computers can no longer open earlier EQ versions, so Diane's presentation was of special interest as we consider whether or not to purchase the new version.

The EQ8 quilt block libraries are still full of variations of traditional pieced and applied quilt block designs, but Diane demonstrated how its newer tools can be used to design stunning modern quilts. She presented designs from her own EQ8 sketchbooks, and then photos of the gorgeous - and very modern - quilts she has made from those designs.

Electric Quilt is a small company and Diane has found them very responsive to her queries, but she is looking forward to sharing EQ8 ideas and challenges with other guild members using this software.

## **SHOW AND TELL**

We ended, as usual, with a sharing of current and past projects.

NOTE: All are welcome to post "show and tell" photos on our Facebook page at any time, but they would be especially welcome during this time of social distancing.

## **MAY 3rd MEETING**

Julie would love to have feedback on what worked and what didn't with this first-ever guild meeting via Zoom.

Shannon Baltazar's scheduled May 3rd program on grid quilting designs won't easily lend itself to the Zoom format, so Julie would love to hear your suggestions for good Zoom-able topics for the May and possibly June meetings.

One suggestion so far: to have members who are interested take us on a virtual tour of their studios/workspaces.

Please email your suggestions to [julie@jbermant.com](mailto:julie@jbermant.com).

Barbara Haugen  
Secretary