



The Riverside DesPlaines River Corridor is a natural migratory stopover for a variety of bird species. This simple watercolor transfer represents the Village of Riverside as an important bird area where sweet birdsong can be enjoyed by all.

—Deb Pike



I used the quarantine to begin a landscaping project. It was a good distraction and forced me to spend time outside everyday. At a low point, overwhelmed with uncertainty and despair, “trust nature” came to mind and has since become a source of solace and strength.

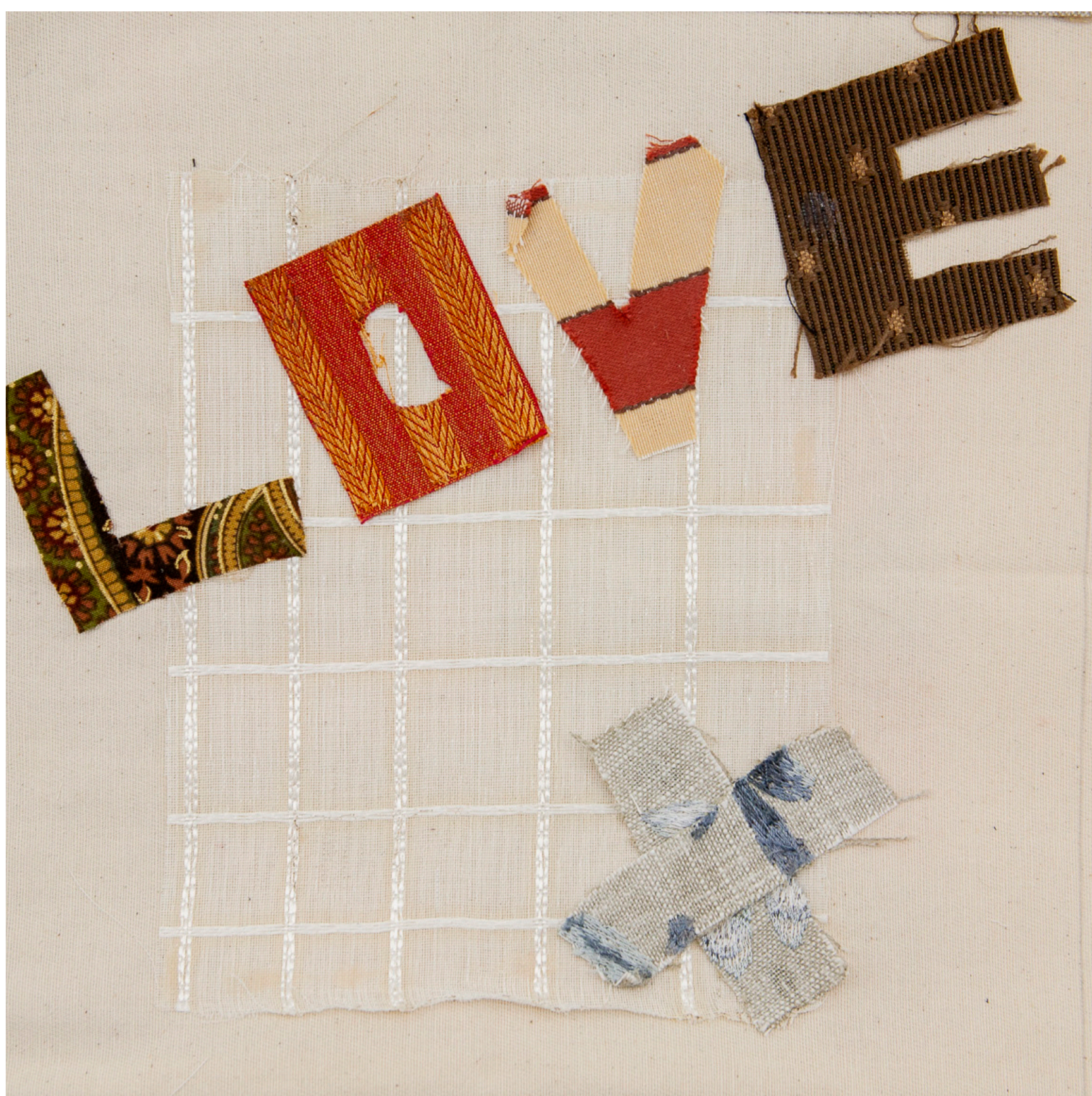
—Bridget Juister





During the pandemic, we have spent a lot of time together in our home. For our family quilt square, we each made a representation of a house.

—Deb Faletti



Gratitude – a powerful thing. Admire and be grateful for your continued strength and give thanks for the continuing fortitude of others. Be a good neighbor and actively search for ways to serve others.

—Trish Smithing





For 150 years—despite world wars and natural disasters—P.E.O. has helped women “reach for the stars” through their education programs. Local P.E.O. members added an additional program, an R-B scholarship honoring the late Gerry Hejna, and remain steadfast and supportive through the pandemic.

—Sally Kowalewski



We kept our quilt square centered around home and family, as it seems many did. I am a nurse and my husband is a high school teacher. Like most people during shutdown, our family spent lots of time walking around our nature-friendly town. Also, our son graduated from RBHS! The pandemic has helped us slow down, be more diligent and thoughtful with our actions, and realize all the opportunities we’ve been enjoying and be more mindful of people/families with less. Also, I think towns and businesses have mustered creative ways to safely celebrate traditions and maybe create new ones. While it has certainly been devastating to peoples’ health, many businesses and jobs, I hope the pandemic has taught us selflessness and a deeper appreciation for friends and family - we are definitely looking forward to get-togethers and dinners out!

—Margaret & Kevin Dowling





Shifting to Zoom classes was a learning experience both for RPC Preschool teachers and children. We enjoyed seeing each other, singing, learning together as well as just being able to see our friends.

—Susan Lisle



My inspiration was from the worst thing taken away from us, not being able to hug and kiss our family, friends and just someone that could have used a hug at any given time.

This beautiful quilt shows that creativity shown in each square proves that the pandemic didn't suppress our ability to express our feelings through art.

The pandemic reinforced my faith in my family that they are strong and resilient and will thrive no matter what. In that respect, it makes me calmer and proud. The new normal I would like to see is a new respect for each other and the environment around us. I would like to see schools, churches and businesses, small and big, open up with a new awareness of how we can protect each other from any form of virus. And, of course, hugs and kisses come back to our natural way of greeting each other.

—Kathy Stegemann





My quilt square was crafted with the teachers of Riverside School District 96, and Riverside Brookfield High School District 208, in mind. As a substitute and aspiring teacher myself, I know a bit about what goes into teaching... a whole lot of passion, and an even greater amount of hard work! This school year, more so than any other, has put teachers everywhere to the test. They have risen to the occasion for the sake of educating our children, and my family and I could not be more proud of, and grateful for, their tireless, ingenious effort!

—Marisa Kirsch



Our quilt square was a heart made out of the heart suit of playing cards! During quarantine we supported each other in many loving ways. Our quilt square will remind us of the fun we had together just the four of us!

—Christina, Bryan,  
James, and Avery Long





To make this block, I cut up a previous experiment with improv quilting and then made stripes of it, alternating with the black and white fabric. It's unlike anything I might have made, had I set out to design a quilt block. It's chaotic, and crazy, but I made the best of it using the materials I had available to me, which is kind of an apt metaphor for living through the pandemic.

—Elaine Luther



My motivation was to simply use the fabric swatches sent to me and found objects I had here at home. Those “found” items were aluminum lids and bottoms from frozen orange juice containers and plastic lids. I covered them and hand sewed them in.

—Renee McGinnis





I've never seen so many blue jays as I've seen in the spring of 2020 in Riverside. Symbolic meanings of blue jays include community, determination, and confidence in planning for the future.

—Debra Myers



We hope for integration to be the new normal. We want less of “exclusive, members only, private,” and more of “together, open, unified.”

—Bogaz family,  
Roselle Badrina, Emma, & Maya





The year we needed to cover our faces to finally open our eyes.

—Angela Bursua



My square was inspired by spring in my garden. Typically I'm not at home as much and miss many of the joys of spring in my garden, but with quarantine and stay at home orders in place, I enjoyed my garden every single day, sometimes even working outside.

—Kristy Cubas





*Trees, birds, footsteps*

Each scrap a remnant of a mask sewn...  
to protect, comfort, support...  
perhaps a reminder to slow down.

—Virginia Lattner



After receiving the selection of fabrics, I worked intuitively to create a composition similar to how I construct my paintings by stacking shapes and building connections with lines. I am drawn to polychromatic, saturated color palettes involving high contrast and texture. My imagery connects to the experience of the beginning days spent in strict quarantine, when little was known about the virus transmission. The center spiral reflects the cycle of one day merging into the next, sharing time and space with my immediate family while embracing the present moment at every turn.

The pandemic changed the way I think about my relationships with others and deepened my appreciation for how regular life is agile and fluid. We established ways to see and talk with everyone virtually in this time, which continues to keep us connected and also emphasizes our deep human need to be in direct fellowship with one another. When I think of life beyond social distancing, my hope is for the flexibility of this time to be embraced and that our developments in virtual technology will continue to support diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives for teaching and learning.

—Jordan Acker Anderson





Our tiny garden was a place of refuge, distraction, and surprising joy as we watched life grow from our seeds, despite the truncated days we encountered during the pandemic. The garden also has some squares of emptiness where seeds never grew, upon infiltration of ants and simply life that never sustained itself. It is a reflection of expectations lost, projects abandoned, and family we so longed to see but couldn't. A butterfly was stitched for my husband and daughters, as well as a cicada to commemorate the season in our village. Each cut and stitch was a labor, but a memory for me as we try to move ahead in a new direction.

—Shari Klyber



I was inspired by the rainbows that appeared all over houses at the beginning of quarantine. My kids and I would go for walks and count how many we could find and it brought a sense of community and filled us with optimism. Like quilting bees of the past, I love that this quilt brought people together for a common purpose in a difficult time.

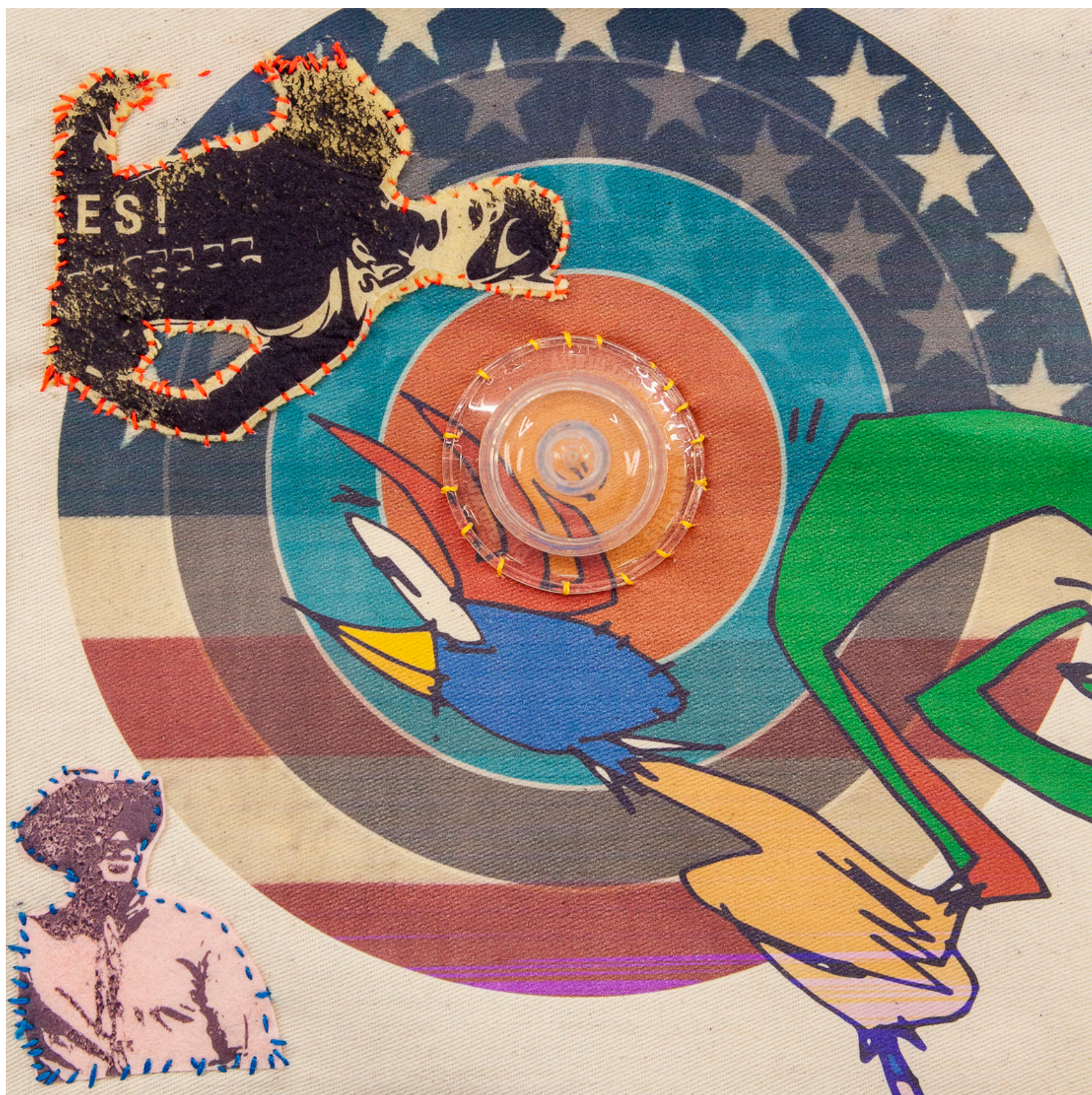
—Mandi Altepeter





Seeing our wonderful Village work together as a community inspired my square.

—Riia O'Donnell



I thought about the virus and the lack of leadership and lies coming from the White House.

I thought about the energy and tenacity it would take to beat the virus.

I thought about Art history.

I thought about American history and our future.

I thought about all the good people and was inspired by their positive actions.

I wanted a new day.

My contribution to this beautiful quilt project represents these thoughts.

I remain positive

—Paul Gerard Somers





—Will & Susanne Vogel



—Gwendolyn Adelman



—Caroline Bittorf



—Amy, Talia and Tegan Sheridan



—Julie Melidis



—Julie Avina