LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

JENNY RAYMOND
She comes to us from Gothenburg, Nebraska, but wait until you see what she is going to show us about quilted clothing. She has twice had ensembles in the Fairfield Fashion Show. Jenny’s knowledge of clothing construction and the excitement of quilting come together as she teaches, lectures and presents her trunk shows! Her book Creative Techniques for Wearables and designs from her own line of patterns under the Pachwork label will be for sale.

MAY 2 - THURSDAY EVENING MEETING-7:00PM
Machinist Hall - Jenny Raymond Quilted Clothing Wearable Art...

This trunk show/lecture is filled with ideas and basic how-to’s of making garments. It includes my closet full of vests, jackets, dresses, and complete ensembles, also with slides and visuals. Slides include pictures of both Fairfield Fashion Show ensembles, “Starlight Rhapsody” and “Joseph’s Jubilation, Splendour of Galaxies.” The audience is welcome to take pictures, ask questions and touch the garments.

MAY 3 - FRIDAY DAYTIME MEETING-9:30AM
Machinist Hall - Jenny Raymond Creative Techniques for Wearables...

This lecture is based upon Jenny’s book by the same title. Selected techniques will be detailed through visuals and slides. The garments being analyzed will be shown. Jenny has a strong background in teaching and understanding of clothing construction and is anxious to share how she creates her one of a kind wearables, techniques that look difficult, but are easy. The entire trunk show of garments will be available for your viewing after the presentation.

LECTURE SERIES:
Members $1.00, Non-members $3.00

NOTES:
#1. Be sure to check the bulletin board at the monthly meeting for other notices of events, etc., that don’t make it into the newsletter.
#2. (I better get this right, Ida is watching.) Now is the time to sign up your quilt(s) for the 1996 Quilt Show Non-Judged Exhibit. Today! See page 9 for more information from David, he’s the chairperson for this grand event at the show (and our past president)!
#3. The June & July issue of “MQ News” will be combined again in 1996. Please plan accordingly. The deadline for that issue will be May 1, 1996.
#4. Mother’s Day is May 12th Memorial Day is May 27th

CALENDAR/BOARD
SEE PAGE 2.

PRESIDENT NOTES
SEE PAGE 3.

WHAT’S A...
SEE PAGE 3.

BOARD MEMBER...
SEE PAGE 4.

MARY LOU
SEE PAGE 5.

SHOW COMMITTEE
SEE PAGE 6 & 7.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH
SEE PAGE 8.

BULLETIN BOARD
SEE PAGE 9.

“QUILTING GROUP”
SEE PAGE 10.

“CONTESTS…”
SEE PAGE 11.

“DON’T MISS THIS-THE FALL GET-AWAY!”
SEE PAGE 12.

EDITOR ADDRESS CHANGE:
Please send all advertisements, articles, etc. to: MQ Editor/Joan Fleischhacker P.O. Box 161, Hutchinson, MN 55350.

MINNESOTA AREA CODE CHANGES
Please note that some phone numbers in out-state Minnesota are changing. Be sure that you check the area code. After September 1996, you may need to use the area code 320 for those areas affected by this change!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL
April 22  Board Meeting
Jane Shattuck’s, 6:45 PM

MAY
May 2  Lecture Series
Machinist Hall
Jenny Raymond, 7:00 PM
May 3  Lectures Series
Machinist Hall
Jenny Raymond, 9:30 AM
May 20  Board Meeting
Machinist Hall, 6:45 PM

JUNE
June 20, 21, & 22 1996
Rochester, Minnesota
MQ ANNUAL QUILT SHOW...
Sisters and Quilts—Connecting Threads

JULY
NO MEETING

AUGUST
August 1  Lecture Series, 7:00 PM
Machinist Hall
Sara Nephew
August 2  Lecture Series, 9:30 AM
Machinist Hall
Sara Nephew

EDITOR'S NOTE...

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
All Articles, Advertising, News, etc. are due the 1st of the month prior to publication.
(Example: June/July 1996 issue—
deadline is May 1, 1996.)

NOTE: The June & July issue will be combined again in 1996. Please plan accordingly. The deadline for that issue is May 1, 1996

EDITOR'S ADDRESS CHANGE
Send to: Joan Fleischacker
P.O. BOX 161, Hutchinson, MN 55350
(I've got it covered for a little while if you don't catch this change right away,
but make a note for any mail coming my way) thanks!!! - Joan

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED where some of this good quilting "stuff" comes from? Some of the tips I've gotten is from former editor of MQ News, Joy Eastman! Joy found so many good articles that I keep going back to those issues she worked on, to find information to update. My thanks to Joy for all the work she put into the "News"!

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BLOCK OF THE MONTH...
Glendia Fulkerson won 29 blocks “Corner & Patch” at the April Day Meeting.
Congratulations!

MORE WINNERS:
Jolene Graham, Ann Murray & Lynn Wytaske won packs of felt and a pattern in the incentive drawing for the small quilt auction.

MINNESOTA QUITTERS NEWS...
...is the monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Quilters, Inc., a non-profit organization formed to find and unite quilters and quilt enthusiasts throughout the state of Minnesota and elsewhere; and dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and enjoyment of quilting.

Membership Dues are $20.00 per year (U.S. funds only) and includes the following: monthly meetings tailored to suit the needs of beginners, advanced and professional quilters; the newsletter and workshop opportunities.

Minnesota Quilters pins are available for sale.

New Membership/Renewals should be sent to Jane Shattuck, 1526 Sheldon St., St. Paul, MN 55108. Watch for the expiration notice on your label. It will say: Membership Expiring-Please Renew or Membership Expired-Please Renew Now. The number on the label indicates the month and year of expiration. Example: 0196 means that the membership ends January 1996. Send changes of address and phone number to: Jan Puckett, Box 252, St. Bonifacius, MN 55375.

Advertising Rates: Business card size ad is $10 per month. Classified ad is $4 for 3 lines. If ads must be compiled by editor, there will be an additional $10 charge. Make checks payable to Minnesota Quilters, Inc. PLEASE NOTE: No ads will be included in the newsletter unless they are accompanied by full payment with the order.

Deadline for Ads: All ads for the coming months must be received by the newsletter editor, Joan Fleischacker, P.O. Box 161, Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350; by the first of the preceding month (i.e. ads to be placed in the June/July issue must be received by May 1st.).

 (612) 338-4160
- LECTURE SERIES: Margaret Biwersi, 2938 Mary St. N., Maplewood, MN, 55109.
 (612) 779-6998.
*Always looking for new input.

General meetings are free for members. There is a $2.00 charge for non-members.
LECTURE SERIES:
Members $1.00, Non-members $3.00

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Editor: Joan Fleischacker
(320) 587-9599, P.O. Box 161, Hutchinson, 55350

Hist./Parliament.: Bonnie Weinandy
(612) 222-7846, 448 Bidwell St., St. Paul 55107

Special Events - 1996 Show
Co-Chairperson-Ann Murray
(607) 556-8215, Box 83 Pine Island 55963

Co-Chairperson-Lynn Wytaske
(612) 356-8471, RR 1, Box 25, Pine Island 55963

Special Events - 1997 Show
Co-Chairperson-Elect: Shirley Kirsch
(218) 724-3387 201 E. 6th St., Duluth 55812

Co-Chairperson-Elect: Claudia Myers
(218) 525-7764, 5715 Jean Duluth Rd., Duluth 55803

PAGE 2
NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Is it Spring Yet? There are 3 foot drifts of snow in my driveway today. It was a good day to sew. My daughter and I spent the day playing with our fabric.

I'm excited about the new MQ logo designed by Joni McPherson. It contains the unique and recognizable state of Minnesota but has an updated look.

Pat Cox donated an angel pattern design to MQ. This design is being made into a pin which can be earned by volunteering. There should be more specific details next month, as to how you can earn one of these special pins.

The Minnesota History Center had a wonderful facility for our MQ birthday meeting. We saw slides of all the quilts that MQ helped purchase last year and we also saw some real live quilts from the Historical Society collection.

MQ President
Audrey Mead

WHAT A NICE MQ BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

Here is the new MQ logo, it was designed by Joni McPherson.

WHAT'S AN ART QUILT ANYWAY?

by Laura Murray©

I used to ask questions about the role of quilts in the art world, like:
1. What is art?
2. What is the difference between art, fine craft, or just craft?
3. Who is the definitive authority who can answer #1 and #2?

My search for the answers to these questions led me to numerous conferences, lectures, workshops, books and articles. I discovered there is considerable debate among eminently qualified scholars and artists, and few consistent answers. Which led me to the conclusion that I needed to develop my own answers, based on personal beliefs and accumulated knowledge gained from others. So, here goes:

WHAT IS ART?

Art evokes emotional responses and challenges the viewer, in a manner which is above ordinary significance. Art is a language, which serves as a form of communication via the unique expression of the artist's creativity. I am sometimes (but not always) comfortable referring to myself as a "quilt artist" because my need for self-expression takes the form of innovative design. In this respect I am similar to women from ancient cultures, along with pictorial applications. The only difference is that it is my good fortune to live in an era of vastly improved tools, fabrics, dyes, paints, and accessible information.

WHERE'S THE LINE BETWEEN ART AND CRAFT?

It seems to me this is a continuum, and the line shifts depending on numerous factors, such as art experts, current public opinion and the willingness of advocates to challenge the status quo. I am a quilter, and part of the same circle begun centuries ago when needle and thread were used to sew textiles together. I choose to call my quilts "art" when they hang on the wall, are of my own design, and are clearly not intended for practical use on the bed. Others may place them in the category of "craft", but I suspect the passing of time, and retrospection best determines the answer for any particular work. All that really matters is that I continue to learn and improve my skills. It is the process of creating that brings me the most joy. A completed quilt is like finishing a good novel, satisfying and signaling the need to move on to a new adventure.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY ART QUILTS?

Again, this is a continuum. I made my mother-in-law a log cabin quilt in a barn raising pattern; it is not a contemporary art quilt because it follows a well-trod path of decades of traditional designs. I used an off-center pineapple block to create a unique setting and won a prize in a Contemporary Quilt contest. Is it art, maybe. It's certainly an innovation, based on tradition. I have quilts juried into art shows, which means that others agreed with my definition of art. Traditional designs may well qualify as art, and the original designer an artist. But those who replicate the designs of others are not artist, nor should the duplicated design be

(WHAT'S AN...CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)
ANOTHER MQ
CHAIRPERSON...
Margaret Biwersi

I am the MQ outgoing Lecture Series Chairperson. I would like to use this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and what I’ve done to the Lecture Series in the last year and a half.

Seven years ago I returned to Minnesota, thanks to my husband, John’s 3M transfer. We left our first two children in Wisconsin, attending college, and moved Cate, as a high junior to Hill-Murray. I give you this information to explain my arrival on the MQ board in less than seven months. I picked up a membership form for MQ at the State Fair, and stuck it in a drawer. After the first of the year, when the family was re-established in Maplewood, I was in “that January slump” and decided to join MQ; after all it was my turn. Right? Well, I ventured off alone to the Friday meeting, maps in hand. I ventured alone not to be late to the meeting. Marge Harrington was president. (Isn’t she a wonderful person?) Well, it was announced that the Financial Planning position needed to be filled for the remaining 16 months of the term. I figured I could do that and it was bound to fill my other need of meeting some neat new people and I have. After that, I served two years as MQ Treasurer, and then I helped Patti Black with the St. Cloud Show’s teachers. Since then I have been Lecture Series Chair.

I was excited! The Lecture Series brought such wonderful teachers to our meetings, and I’d heard there were classes that were always FULL. Jackie Northrop, my predecessor, had such wonderful teachers lined up for most of my term, so it would be easy. However, I discovered the classes were not filling. I tried not to take it personally, but I couldn’t imagine where I went wrong or what I could do differently. I was sure I’d be fired, but I struggled on, always questioning what could be done differently. Then Sharon Hulgren came to speak at last May’s meeting. I sat in back and she was on stage with her quilts and a large drawing pad. As she spoke something magical was happening, we all were digging for paper and pen to take notes. We were excited about what we were learning, and wanted to take the ideas home.

It soon seemed evident that the teachers’ offerings were not meeting our MQ needs. After some thought, I approached the board with a letter to be sent to a large number of teachers and asked them not to entertain us during our meeting lectures, but to teach us. The response was interesting; many thought it was a wonderful new idea. They agreed that many groups were having the same problem filling classes...especially the “City Ladies,” who have so many shops and opportunities close to home. So, from now on, a Lecture Series will not have classes. Instead, the meetings will feature the teacher presenting a longer lecture-demonstration. Remember to bring pencil and paper, but leave your machine at home until the show.

Please welcome Nancy Bergstrom, of Little Canada as my replacement.

THANK YOU,
Margaret Biwersi

NOTE: Be sure to let Margaret know what a great job she has done for MQ while organizing the Lecture Series (LS). We all know that these programs don’t magically appear!

LIBRARY LINES

Some terrific books have come into the library from That Patchwork Place. There’s a new boon on rotary-cut quilts by Judy Hopkins, Down the Rotary Road. She also shows a new technique for half-and-quarter triangles that uses layered strips. Judy Martin has another book on scrap quilts, Simply Scrumptious Quilts, that looks as good as or better than her Fun with Fat Quarters.

Do you have your kids’ drawings stuck on the icebox? Now you have a way to preserve them as quilting blocks. Jennifer Paulson has just written a new book, Refrigerator Art Quilts - Preserving Your Child’s Art in Fabric, that looks easy enough for all of us to try.

Margaret Rolfe has Go Wild With Quilts - Again, with more pieced bird patterns and a few other animals. Check out the dolphin, puffin and a great loon. Her first book is one of our most popular in the library.

Do you like making quilts for the holidays? Many of us do and there is a great new book out, Quilts for Red-Letter Days, by Janet Kime. Not just the traditional holidays are here. How about a quilt to celebrate the day the buzzards return to Hinckley, Ohio (March 17)? Some are foundation pieced, some use templates and some are appliqued.

Where Love Resides, is also a book based on the movie, How to Make An American Quilt, illustrated with photos. It talks about the ties built within a quilt. Replicating The Past is a book from Sara Rhodes Dillow, showing new quilts using antique patterns.

Many new books have come into the library, be sure to ask, if you can’t find what you want.

Volunteer if you can. The morning meeting especially needs help.

Three books and four magazines may be checked out until the next meeting at Machinists’ Hall. They cannot be renewed. If you are unable to return them at the next meeting, please mail them Fourth Class Book Rate to Minnesota Quilters, 1399 Eustis Street, St. Paul, MN 55108. Fines for overdue material is $1.00 per item per month. Please return items promptly.

This is your library. If there is a book you want, please call me.

Please call Peggy Hall, MQ Librarian at 612-338-4360.

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5301 Forest Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345
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always set the mood for "quilt shop" shopping. This shop was also in an old farm house, and although it was small, it had everything a person wrapped into quilting could want. A family member was very ill. Business hadn't been going well enough to add extra help, and retirement and closing the shop was a real possibility. Where were quilters going to shop? Hopefully a buyer will be found so this small shop is not lost.

We all love to go to the quilt shops and look at & buy the beautiful fabrics that are coming out everyday. Sometimes we take these shops for granted. Why not tell your favorite place how much you like it and appreciate the fact it is there for you. The owners like to hear that once in awhile. You are very important. As a customer, as a friend, as a guild member, a committee member, etc.

This word processor works quixt xxll, xxxpt for onx kxy. I wish it worked pxrxxyxcty. It is trux that thrxr arx forty-onx kxyys that do function wxll enough, but just onx kxy not working doxx makxx a diffxrxnxn. Somxtimxxs an organization is somewhat likxx this machinx... not all thx pxoplx arx working pxrpxly. You may txxl yoursxl, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrxxon. I won't makxx or brxak this organization." but, it doxx makxx a diffxrxnxn bxxcauxx any organizaxxxn to bx xxfxctivxxn nxds thx participation of xxvrxr mxxmbxr. Txlll yoursxl if you arx in this organization and you arx Nxxxxdxx vxrry much! (Parts for Omaha Needle Chapter)

Remember! The body of a society has four kinds of bones:
1. The WISHBONES, those who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWBONES, Those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEBONES, Those who knock everything everybody else tries to do.
4. The BACKBONES. Those who get under the load and do the work.

(from the Green Valley Art League)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone would take their turn being 'BACKBONES'? It would be great!

The worst of the winter is just about over, spring is here, and a fresh new outlook is upon us. Whether it be at home with the family or at work, or in your guild, let us go forward with a positive outlook. (And don't lose your 'e'.)

Happy Stitching!
Sincerely,
Mary Lou Lembcke

Dear Quilters,

Greetings from Switzerland! For those who do not know my situation, I find myself in the French speaking part of Switzerland, in the town of Pully, a small suburb of Lausanne. My husband and I, and our two sons, ages 11 & 12, are here because of my husband's sabbatical from the University of Minnesota, and his having won a Guggenheim fellowship. I am loving almost every minute of it. The countryside is beautiful, our town is small and quaint, and we have been able to do quite a bit of traveling from our central location. We have been taking advantage of the train system, and have gone to Lisbon, Milan, and traveled around Switzerland, including a fantastic trip to the Matterhorn. Next week we are going to Venice, Florence, Rome and Pisa, because the children have two weeks off school.

I was excited to see the many quilt patterns in the tile work of Lisbon, where tile decorates everything, walls, floors, fountains, stairs, etc. This was about as close to quilting that I got in Portugal. I haven't found much quilting activity here locally, or where I have traveled. The fabric is mostly fashion or decorator fabrics, and very expensive. What they do have for quilting reminds me of the mini prints we had 15 years ago, at nearly $15 per meter. But I have brought along plenty to keep me busy, and of course there are plenty of other diversions here also. I do miss the interaction with MQ, and my quilt group, and getting the Newsletter is like a little oasis in the desert!

Day to day living is a challenge, because we do not have a car here, and are living about a half mile uphill from the nearest store. I go to the store almost daily to keep the family going. Nothing is open on Sunday, or in the evenings, and many of the small shops close from 12:00-2 for lunch. The food and every thing else is very expensive, 2 to 3 times as much as in the U.S., with meat being the most expensive. The selection is also limited. On the brighter side, the chocolate is fantastic, and selection is almost unlimited! The section of chocolate is larger than the area for cereal, the grocery store, and half of the cereal is variations of muesli. One of my favorite things is the chocolate chips that are actually little cubies of chocolate. These work well for cookies, which my kids want me to make all the time, since they have to take their lunch to school.

We are living in a small fully furnished apartment, which is about as opposite from my style of living as it possibly could be, but as my husband keeps reminding me, it is only for a few more months, and it does have most of the conveniences. The laundry is a joke however, one small washer for the building of 8 apartments, and about 120 people. This washer is about half the size of mine in Mn., and takes twice as long to run. Factor in that we are not supposed to use it after 8 o'clock, and you can image how difficult it is to get the laundry done. The kids have learned a new meaning of "recycling".

With all our traveling, adapting to the language, hiking up and down the hill, dealing with the children and their school (they attend an International School, taught in English, but take French every day), and having company, I am not getting as much quilting done as I thought I would, but all in all, it has been a great experience. Hope to see you all at the quilt show in June.

My best to everyone,
Ellen Carter/MQ Member

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SISTERS AND QUILTS—CONNECTING THREADS

1996 Minnesota Quilters Annual Show & Conference

Today is March 30th and the calendar says that Spring has arrived. Someone should tell Mother Nature! Since this article is for the May newsletter, that means that you have already sent in your entry forms for everything that you plan to exhibit at the show (if not, you have until May 15th). The rumor is going around again that people are worried about security at the show because of the Civic Center construction. The construction affects us only in the fact that we will not be able to use the Theater for lectures as planned. The Civic Center is set-up to handle the type of show that we are putting on and, therefore, the security of the quilts is much greater than it would be if the show is held in a building that is not normally used for functions such as this. Each door exiting the Civic Center is locked or guarded by a Civic Center employee. At this date, David only has one entry—I can probably guarantee you that there will be a big “traffic jam” at that one quilt if that is the only one he gets. At least that person will be sure to win Viewer’s Choice!!!

There is still time to donate a door prize. Judy and Jan, the sisters who co-chair this, have had a wonderful response to the Sister’s Choice Blocks. Ann and I will have patterns available for this block at the MQ May meetings. The blocks will be divided into groups of six and given away as door prizes at the show.

If you still would like to register for a workshop, see the listing of workshops that are still open. When the teachers were chosen, we thought that many people were interested in computer workshops and workshops on miniature quilts. Maybe we missed the mark as these classes do not seem to be filling. We worked hard to find the best teachers in these areas and think that we did just that with Jan Cabral and Tina Gravatt. Jan is knowledgeable in all of the quilting computer programs and will share this knowledge with you in her sessions. And Tina is anxious to share her knowledge with you on making miniature quilts. Take a chance and try something new.

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!!

Lynn Wytkoske, Co-chair

CHILDREN’S QUILT EXHIBIT

Not much time left - finish up those projects before the weather gets too nice and you can’t corral the little ones to do something indoors. You can’t always count on a rainy day to finish up. I hope we can have more than the 40 or so quilts we had last year. Don’t let us down. Remember, call if you have any questions.

Darlene Dols
P.O. Box 44
Chaska, MN 55318
612-448-5762 (weekdays after 6 or leave message - or on weekends and Monday)

QUILTS WANTED:

Now is the time to sign up your quilt(s) for the 1996 Quilt Show Non-Judged Exhibit. Today! Not tomorrow. If you have never exhibited a quilt in a Minnesota Quilters show, now is the time to start entering. If you have entered before enter again this year. Even if the quilt is not yet finished, take a picture of it, fill out the form (in your registration packet), and send it to David Shattuck, at the address on the form. The categories are:

First Quilt (must have been finished in the last 2 years), Amateur Quilt, Amateur Wall hanging, Professional Quilt, Professional Wallhanging, Garment, and the Sister Exhibit. I look forward to receiving your entry and seeing your quilt hanging in Rochester!

REMEMBER: It’s not a quilt show without Quilts!

See the next page for REGISTRATION INFO.

CHALLENGING NEWS!!!

As I write this article I am very excited because I have already received entry forms for the challenge portion of “Sisters and Quilts—Connecting Threads,” and it is only mid-March!!! I feel that we are off to a very good start, and I am looking forward to receiving many more entry forms as the May 13th deadline approaches. Please keep that date in mind. It is important that I receive your entry blank so that I am able to plan the display area in the most attractive way possible. I want to be sure that show viewers are able to get a good look at each entry.

Please refer to your entry rules sheet that was included in the challenge packet for the information necessary for entering and shipping your entry to me. It is very important that you follow the rules carefully.

Arrangements are being made to pick up your entry at the June 6th and 7th MQ meetings if you prefer not to mail it to me. All entries must be packaged as the instructions state, particularly if I am to mail the entry back to you. If you cannot pick up your entry at the close of the show, I will be mailing it back to you. Entries are insured from June 10th - June 27th only.

INCENTIVE PRIZE! All entry forms will be placed in a container, and one name will be drawn to receive 25 fat quarters of the latest fabrics that I can find at the time of the show. The winner will be announced at the lecture on Friday evening. So, come on, quilters, and get those entry forms to me! Your stash might be greatly increased, and then you can start a new project!

HAPPY CHALLENGING,

PAT WALTER
SISTERS AND QUILTS—CONNECTING THREADS
1996 Minnesota Quilters Annual Show & Conference

REGISTRATION

Everywhere we go, quilters ask Ann and I, “When is my registration letter coming?” As stated in the registration brochure, all letters this year would be sent by April 15th. When we told people this, many could not understand why it would take so long to get their letter. There is an enormous amount of time and paperwork involved in registering everyone. Just opening the envelopes from the first batch received took three of us approximately eight hours. The whole process can be slowed down if the registration form has been cut up into different pieces or there are requests to take workshops with other friends. We then have to wait for the mail from all of our wonderful Minnesota Quilters members that live outside of Minnesota so that we are sure we have received all mail postmarked February 1st.

Like many of our Show Committee members, Brenda works full-time outside of the home and has a family. Entering all of the needed information into the computer is time-consuming and involves many hours at the computer. Brenda’s daughter asked her one night if she was going to be on the computer every night. Brenda told her that yes, she would be. Her daughter then asked her if she was going to do this again next year. When Brenda told her no, Sam answered, “Good. Let someone else do it next year.” This process is hampered by the fact that Minnesota Quilters does not own a registration software program, so each year, the Registration Chairman has had to come up with their own. If any member out there does know of such a software program, please let a Board member know so that we might look into purchasing one.

Once all of the confirmation letters, mailing labels, tickets, name badges, etc. were printed off, Brenda held a “stuff it” party at her house. Eight of us worked steadily from noon until 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 30th to stuff all of the confirmation letters and registration packets (those little envelopes you pick up at the show with all of your tickets in). As I write this, it is the day after the party and I am pretty stiff and sore. We will take them to the Ability Building Center in Rochester on Tuesday to have them sort the envelopes and put postage on them for us. That means your registration packet should have gone out in the mail approximately April 3rd—almost two weeks ahead of the date that they were promised to you. I think that is pretty wonderful and we are thankful to Brenda and her computer for all of their hard work. Also to our stuffers, Randa Van Kirk, Sharon Sandberg, Audrey Mead, Claudia Myers (Co-chair for the Duluth Show), Joanne Line (Registration Co-Chair for Duluth) and Sharon Kunkel, we say a heartfelt thank you.

Perhaps the next time you are complaining about how long it takes to get your registration letter, you will stop and say thank you, instead, to the registration chairpersons who have given up so much of their free time to help make your quilt show a success.

THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS WERE STILL AVAILABLE AS OF 4/1/96:

THURSDAY

102 Quilter’s Wearable Workshop
     Botsford
103 Tulip Tree
     Campbell
104 Happy Endings
     Dietrich
105 Trailblazers
     Halpern
107 Through the Lattice Window
     Kelley
109 Tahitian Appliqué
     McElroy
124 Japanese Hexagon Quilt
     Pippin
125 Tesselated Stars
     Porter
126 Victorian Crazy Quilting
     Roberts
128 Personalize Your Art to Wear
     Stori
129 Anatomy of a Whole Cloth
     Turnbow
130 Sessions I High Tech Quilting
     Cabral
132 Yes, You Can Write on Quilts
     McKelvey
136 Reduction in Scale
     Gravatt
137 Magic Blocks
     Seely/Stewart
138 Victorian Log Cabin
     Gravatt
140 Improve Your Quilting
     Stori

FRIDAY

201 Remember Daddy’s Ties
     Botsford
203 Wildflowers
     Campbell
204 Miniature Violets
     Dietrich
205 Making an Heirloom Quilt
     Gravatt
210 Japanese Gingko
     McElroy
213 Write and Draw
     McKelvey
214 Last Dance Vests
     Murrah
216 Japanese Wall Quilt
     Pippin
218 Memory Curve
     Robertson
219 Colorplay
     Seely/Stewart
230 Session III High Tech
     Cabral
235 Session IV High Tech
     Cabral
236 Fine Feather
     Porter
     Banquet at the Mayo Civic Center

SATURDAY

301 New from Old
     Botsford
302 Tree of Life
     Campbell
304 Miniature Charm Quilt
     Gravatt
305 Architectural Forms
     Halpern
307 Children’s Summer Whimsy
     Kieper
308 Shapes & Landscapes
     Lawler
312 Free-Motion Appliqué
     Roberts
315 Creating Mixed Media
     Stori
316 Session II High Tech
     Cabral
317 Gathered Flowers
     Dietrich
320 Color for Quilters
     McKelvey
321 Japanese Sashiko
     Pippin
324 Making Stencils
     Turnbow
325 Session I High Tech
     Cabral
326 Channel Appliqué
     McElroy
327 Draw on Quilts
     McKelvey
328 Marking & Designing
     Turnbow

If you decide that you would like to sign up for one of these workshops, please give Brenda a call at 507-356-4488 to be sure that the workshop has not been canceled or still has openings. Take a chance and try something new this year!

Lynn Wytaske, Co-chair
YOUR QUILTING GROUP...
There are many local quilting groups in Minnesota Quilters. Sometimes new groups wonder how other groups are structured and what new and different activities they may be doing. Your local quilt group stories and pictures are welcome to be submitted to the newsletter editor.

Dear MQ,

I know the MQ News asked to hear from local quilting groups in Minnesota, but I thought you might also like to hear from one in your neighboring state of Wisconsin. I have been a member of the Minnesota Quilters, Inc. since last fall (1995), when I attended the Wisconsin Quilters, Inc. Symposium in Oshkosh and met several of your members from the Rochester area. Two fellow quilters and I immediately joined your group because it sounded like such fun, and we are eagerly anticipating coming to your show in Rochester this summer.

I am president of our local group, A Patch of Lakeshore Quilters Guild (for those of you unfamiliar with Wisc., we are located midway between Green Bay and Milwaukee, right on Lake Michigan). Our guild is a new group. We organized only a year ago, but already have nearly 70 members. Manitowoc is considered rural, but we have many enthusiastic quilters in the area.

Our group has done so many fun quilting activities this year. We have sponsored several workshops. We’ve gone on tours. We also made and donated baby quilts to our local domestic violence center. In February, we rented a local 4H camp for a long weekend, and for less than $50 each, we quilted all weekend, while the camp staff cooked and cleaned up for us. One of our members volunteered to teach a mystery quilt workshop at the camp, and many participated in that. Everyone had a great time! In fact, it was so much fun that we have already booked our weekend for next year. We opened it to other area groups, and made many quilting friends. We also have a challenge underway. Last month at our meeting, we had a “Crazy Quilters Auction”, which proved to be a lot of fun. Everyone brought at least a half yard of fabric they bought sometime in the past that they now wonder why they ever bought it. We piled them all in a heap and drew numbers to see who could select first. When your number came up, you could select from what was left in the pile or a piece of fabric someone to your right had already selected. The object here was to get the high number. At the end, we had five minutes to barter for a piece we may have really wanted.

Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, 6:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. We meet in the summer and would welcome any visitors from Minnesota Quilters. If you plan to be in the area or are traveling to Door County, consider working our meeting into your schedule! In June, we are planning to hand dye fabrics, and in August, we are having a pot luck. Give me a call or write if you need more information.

I especially like the feature in the MQ news which describes quilting groups, as I have picked up several ideas from it. I find the entire newsletter enjoyable and hope to get to an occasional meeting in the future.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen Beebe
1669 Skyline Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54220

NOTE: Thanks for writing, Mary Ellen. Members, wherever they are really make the difference in the newsletter, sharing & caring about quilting is what MQ is all about! Thank you for the invitation also, I wouldn’t be surprised if you received some letters about your group. (I know two Door county residents myself!! Your county is known as having a group of very creative individuals!!) We will look forward to seeing your group at the Rochester show in June this year.

CLASSIFIEDS...

VISIT QUILTERS IN AUSTRIA & GERMANY. Join Sara King’s Tour, October 5-16, 1996. Call 507-356-8839 or 800-677-9412.

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**BULLETIN BOARD RAVELINGS...**

March 17 to May 12, 1996 Goldstein Gallery, Contemporary Irish Textile Art: The Women of Annagmacregg
University of MN, Goldstein Gallery, 241 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul 612-624-7434, M-F 10 to 4 p.m., Thurs. 10 to 8 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.,
May 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
May 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cable Car Quilts Guild - Threads of Spring At Holy Ghost School, 30th & Central Avenue, (Hwy. 52 North) Dubuque, Iowa. For information on show or judged category send large business SASE to Cyndy Billmeyer, 18751 Breezy Ridge, Dubuque, Iowa.

June 14 & 15, Pinetree Patchworks 8th Biennial Quilt Show, Brainerd High School Cafeteria, No Admission charge. For more info: SASE Judy Shaw, RR1, Box 393, Pillager, MN 56473

**July 12-14, Quilts of the Prairie, Walnut Grove Community Quilters, Elementary School, 601 Washington St., 10-7 p.m., admission $1. Old fashion quilt show featuring demonstrations, quilting activities for children, raffle quilt, door prizes, a nd quilts from Plum Creek Patchwork. More info: SASE Ruth Hewitt, Rt. 2, Box 135, Walnut Grove, MN 56180.

**July 19-21, Friendship Quilters, Heritage Days Quilt Show, Waverly Civic Center, 200 1st St. NE, Waverly, Iowa, admission $1, no strokers. For more information please send a #10 - SASE to: Donna Olmstead, 522 Second St. NW, Waverly, IA 50677.

**July 20, 1996, Alexandria, Minnesota Annual Quilt Show and Auction at Luther Crest Bible Camp, 8321 County Road Northeast. Kathry Norum, 346 Birchwood Road Northwest, Alexandria, MN 56308; 612-846-1325. Over 120 quilts plus quilted craft items will be sold.

**July 29-Aug. 2-Visual & Textile Arts, Indianhead Arts and Education Center Classes (credits available)
Featuring, Carol Wagner, Joni Prescott, Barbara Otto, Mary Ann Beckwith, Bonnie Brotzman, & Karlyn Holman's, offering a variety of mediums & design techniques. More info: U-W-Indianhead Arts & Education Center, Box 315, Shell Lake, WI 54871, (715) 468-2414

August 1, 10-5 p.m., Aug. 2, 10-8 p.m., Aug. 3, 10-1 p.m., Annual Hands All Around Small Quilt Show Park Cafe Party Room, Braham, MN. For information: L-SASE, to Rosemary's Quilts & Baskets, P.O. Box 329, Braham, MN 55006, 320-396-3818.

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**I Shall Wear Silver Lame'**

Because it is the ultimate in glamour.
Because I will feel sexy.
Because it will highlight my greying hair.
Because my weight finally will be 'lame light'.
Because my family will be shocked.
Because my husband will be taking me dancing.
Because I can enjoy the dress hanging in my closet.
Because I will love the feel of the metallic fabric.
Because I will feel outrageous and not so 'proper'.
Because I can change before I leave the house.

By: Jan Bowersmith
BLOCK OF THE MONTH - "SISTER'S STAR" 10" Block (10-1/2" unfinished)

Use 100% Cotton Fabric

- This is a fast & EASY ANGLE cutting: cut from 2-1/2" strips.
- Background-White on Muslin Print

[Illustration of star block pattern]

Submitted by Joanne Holzknecht, Brooklyn Center, MN

Drawing for the “Rosebud” block (April 1996 issue) will be held at the May daytime meeting.

- Add seam allowance to templates.
- Occasionally, printing distorts pattern pieces
- Please check for accuracy before marking!
- Print Name/Address-Attach to backside of block
- To participate, make one or more blocks. Your name will be entered in the monthly drawing.
- You need not be present to win.
- If you are unable to attend the meeting, please mail blocks before meeting date to:

Joanne Holzknecht – 2618 65th Ave N
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

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This isn't new but is very special.

AS A THANK YOU,

Minnesota Quilters has a wonderful tradition of presenting special quilt blocks to each MG President.

We would like to gather a beautiful bouquet of flowers to present to Audrey Macd, for her busy year as President.

Pieced or appliqued Flower blocks in an assortment of sizes 3", 6", 9", or 12" (multiples of 3) on a solid WHITE background.

Green leaves, and Antique Primary Colored Flowers (Red, Yellow, Blue, Purple) would make a lovely quilt. If you have trouble locating an achievable pattern, contact Pam Botten.

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Winning Isn’t Everything
by Patricia Cox®

Often I hear beginning quilters say they can’t or won’t enter a contest because they have no chance to win. The prizes always go to certain people. In a small contest I judged several time, it was true that one quilt maker always did seem to do that. The smart ones found out which category she was entering and tailored their quilt ideas for other areas. If you wish to win at a quilt show, your emphasis needs to be different. A traditional pattern will have a difficult time attracting the judges’ eyes unless you have used an unusual treatment of both the design and color and/or quilting.

Remember, however, that many “big names” if they are working in the business may no longer have enough time to make quits to enter contest. A show chairperson can work around this fear so that the number of entries to the show remains high, by having an Invitational Section so that the public can see what the “big names” are doing, but not have them in the competition. Or, if there are persons who “always” seem to win, after five blue ribbons, add them to the Invitational list or have a category that only blue ribbon winners can enter and they can compete against each other.

Quilt shows would not be able to continue if people do not enter their work. If the ordinary quilter is intimidated, she/he will not send in a quilt. If you like having quilt shows, you have to develop other reasons for entering, than “just to win”. As I walk along the rows of quits I am always looking for those in which the maker has put a significant part of her/himself. The quits that catch my eye may or may not have taken ribbons. I like well-made traditional quits; the ones that look good on a bed, and scrap quits are fascinating. A well-made scrap quilt can be a work of art. Handling all the various patterns and colors is indeed challenging.

If you enter your quilt to win, it is not a good idea to use a piece you have done in the particular style of a workshop teacher unless you have worked out an original variation of that style. Judges are familiar with the prevalent styles being taught and will not give you credit for originality if you turn out a strictly derivative piece. These teachers have worked hard to develop a distinctive style but this style may suit them, not you. You can learn from them but you need to develop your own personality and do the best work you can. Each quilt is a learning experience. Each time you will do a little better. Discouragement is the killer of creativity. Having faith in yourself is the key and it is not always easy to do if there is no one you respect who values what you do. Having someone who believes in you is a great spur to creativity. If you do not, then somehow you must find this place in yourself and that believes in you, regardless of what others say, and this will keep you going. If you enjoy creating a quilt, concentrate on this enjoyment. Then, no matter what others say or whether you win recognition or not, you will have the satisfaction of doing something which brings you joy.

Let’s examine why we enter a quilt show. Ask yourself, “why am I putting this quilt in the show?” Is it just for a chance at a ribbon, or do you want to learn? Will you be discouraged if you see other quits that are so much better made than yours? Did you want to see your quilt hung with all the others? And, is it a thrill to see it there. Or did you enter because the deadline would make you finish? These are all good reason, especially learning. Generally, I see several quits that will give me ideas to try out, perhaps some exceptional quilting or an unusual use of fabric or color. Every show has quits that offer ideas to the viewers.

Remember, if you want your quilt to gain any recognition, it must be well-made. Many a good idea has fallen down because it was badly handled technically. So look at the quits that win. Are they well-made? Can you do as well? Are you going to try harder the next time? I look at some of first quits and shudder that I could have thought these were well-made! You do improve with each one. I sure would all secretly like to win, but the percentage of winners to those entered is small. And you may win in one contest and never even get a ribbon at all in another. The competition you face in each contest is so different and judges are not the same. If you have great faith in a piece of your work, enter it in several shows. It may win in one, but not in the rest. Or it may win in all of them. Entering the same quilt in several shows will, at least, give you an idea of its worth as a winner. If the quilt does win in several contests, you know your quilt is special. There are some quits that are extraordinary and will win wherever they are entered. Zena Thorpe (To Britain with Love, Pageantry) is a quilter who produces quits that are very well-made and very original in concept and design. They are “show stoppers”. However, she cannot enter every category nor win every prize.

If you are serious about winning, look at the categories that have the smallest number of quits entered and tailor your entry to one of those. Many good quits are not noticed in a section that has so many entries only an unusual quilt catches the judge’s eye. This may seem calculating, and each one of us wants to think our design idea of a quilt we want to make will be good enough to capture everyone’s admiration. Most of us will not attain this level and may have to be content with other reasons to attain satisfaction for entering a quilt contest: 1. If your work is good enough, you will gain the applause of those who are interested in workmanship. 2. Your idea for a quilt may inspire someone else to give them an idea they can build on. 3. Your quilt will be photographed and recorded. 4. You finished it. There it is hanging for everyone to see and many people will see it. 5. Recognition may come to you even though your quits do not win the prizes. They may attract attention for other reasons than those that catch the judges’ eye. You can always hope it will win, but if it does not and you are disappointed, you need to ask yourself why you made the quilt. If making it is not enough satisfaction for you then you need to analyze the winners. Find out what made them winners:

- Interesting design/unusual
- Use of fabric
- Use of color
- Workmanship
- Competition in a category
- Who are the judges, do they favor traditional or art designs

Remember that the winning and working to win have a “down” side as well as the “good or up” side. You can be bitterly disappointed if you pin all your dreams on winning, and you can let your disappointment sour your pleasure in making a quilt.

A friend of mine who used to enter quits in shows to gain recognition, finally felt she had attained that, and told me she was so glad she did not have to make them for that reason anymore. Now she could make just those she wanted to make.

“Winning is not everything!” It is fun to win, but if that is your only objective, you may find it colors your thinking to the point where winning or losing takes over and the work may become arduous rather than enjoyable. Making quits should be something you want to do rather than just have to do to win.
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Carolyn Peters
Chair of the Judged Category

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS.

We’re glad you have joined us for all of the quilting excitement. There are a lot of activities that are coming up. Be sure to check out the newsletter for specifics, or call a board member on how to get involved, meet new quilters and get a close-up of some of the quilts that our membership brings to our meetings for show & tell. Our annual show is June 20-22, in Rochester this year, don’t miss it. This is really a quilters dream!

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