BOM Winner!
15 luscious Heart Variation blocks were won by Sally Lajon.

FQ Winner!
Kathy Simon Frank was thrilled to win 25 eminently mixable neutral “fat quarters”!

March Meeting Notes
March 2, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
March 4, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

The February program speaker, Sheila Sinclair Snyder, says, “If you have a book in you, I encourage you to make a proposal – it’s a very manageable process.” Ms. Sinclair’s clever book Pieced To Fit: Instant Borders from Easy Blocks features border and sashing designs that are built as block units rather than as a long strip. Ms. Sinclair says that after long-arm quilting over 1500 customer quilts, she saw a definite problem for many people getting borders to fit the pieced blocks. As a result, she designed quilts with borders as part of the quilt blocks using color placement to give the quilt a finished look. Ms. Snyder’s unique perspective on quilt layout and design was dazzlingly illustrated by her trunk show and lecture. In Friday’s workshop featuring her Gemstone Mosaic design, students learned first-hand how the pieced setting triangles created a border when Mary Jane Heng delighted her fellow workshop attendees by completing her Gemstone Mosaic quilt top using a rich blend of Heather Mulder’s “Moonlit Garden” fabrics. Look for workshop attendees to show-and-tell their Gemstone Mosaic quilts at the April program meetings. Look for Ms. Snyder’s next book Pieced to Fit: Quilting with Friends, featuring even more instant border quilt designs contributed by quilters who became inspired by her first book.

MARCH PROGRAM
Members of the Minnesota Quilt Project Committee are pleased to host Laurel Horton, author of Mary Black’s Family Quilts: Memory & Meaning in Everyday Life, as the program speaker in March. Thursday’s lecture is titled “The Mary Black Family Quilts,” while the Saturday program is “Swedish Quilts: Old & New.” Ms. Horton is a folklorist and an internationally-known quilt researcher. In addition to her lectures, Ms. Horton will teach a workshop, “Flexible & Free String Patchwork” on Friday, March 3 at the Textile Center. Cost is $35.00. To learn more about the workshop see page 13. Space is still available, to register, complete the form on page 11, email programs@mnquilt.org, or call 952-471-0131. See the February newsletter to learn more about Laurel Horton and her book or visit her webpage at www.kalmiaresearch.net. Ms Horton’s book will be available for sale and signing at the program meetings.

APRIL PROGRAM
“100 Quilts” – Minnesota Quilters, Inc. celebrates its 28th year at the April program. Ten Minnesota quilters will show and talk about ten of their own favorite quilts. The cameo appearance line-up of prolific MQ member quilters includes David & Jane Shattuck, Sue Keimig, Sandy Irish, Lynette Wass, Holly Cain, Sharyn Resvick, Suzanne Zander, and Jean Loken. Attendees will celebrate MQ’s anniversary with birthday cake and quilts. What more could you ask for?

FUTURE PROGRAMS
Laura Murray & Peggy Martin
Charlette Pittman, Judy Lewis & Lori Allison
Happy spring!

It has felt like spring for much of this winter, much to my husband’s sorrow. He loves the snow and cross-country skiing. I’m happy to have good morning walking weather and dry sidewalks and indoor time for quilting.

But spring also means spring cleaning. MQ has been working on that these past months. Moving to the Textile Center was a big move for Minnesota Quilters. We finally had office space, meeting space and storage space under one roof. But it wasn’t perfect. Many members remember our early efforts to acquire comfortable seating and good acoustics. We are still working on parking and safe street crossing. And we were so eager to move in our boxes that, once that was accomplished, it was easy to leave unpacking those boxes to a future time, especially if those boxes were out of sight. Anyone who has ever moved knows the feeling.

Hiring an office manager has meant making our office space attractive and useable, which has meant moving our important files into accessible files, our financial files to secure storage, our show materials into manageable storage. We finally realized that moving heavy material up and down the stairs to the basement storage that we rent from the Textile Center was neither safe nor secure nor even financially responsible in terms of yearly moving costs.

So we have been busy. We’ve moved show files and organizational files into file drawers in the office that will be accessible to members. We’ve moved financial records for the past eight years into secure offsite storage. We have shredded material that is beyond it’s save date. After the 2006 show we will deposit reusable show material into offsite secure storage that is easily access-ible by our movers as well as by members when needed. Other material that is accessed on a monthly or periodic basis will still be kept in the basement storage. The hope is that with less material in basement storage, what is still there will be easier to find.

The other really big news is that the MQ board has approved moving forward with the process of contracting with a Show Coordinator, a staff support person to provide needed assistance to show chairs and committees, to do much of the routine but important work that is done year after year, to provide continuity across shows in changing venues. The plan is that show chairs and committees will still do the creative, personal work that makes each year’s show special. We are in the process of completing a job description, publicizing the position, and then interviewing candidates. You will be kept informed as this important step moves forward.

Happy Spring and Happy Quilting!

Gail Hanson
**IN MEMORIUM**

We wish to mark the passing of Sharon Deadrick Bobgan. Sharon was a founding member of Minnesota Quilters and the Minnesota Quilt Project. She was enthusiastic about quilts and their history. Sharon was an accomplished quilter and artist. She died on January 23, 2006. Her presence in the world will be sorely missed by her family and many friends.

**Minnesota Quilts: Finalist for Award**

We are very pleased to learn that our book, *Minnesota Quilts: Creating Connections with Our Past* has been selected as a finalist (one of four) in the “Anthology and Collections” category of the Minnesota Book Awards! This is an honor for all of the Minnesota Quilters whose quilts, stories, and volunteer time over several years made this book possible. Congratulate yourselves!

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**MQ Calendar of Events**

Evening meetings begin at 7:00 pm and Day meetings begin at 10:00 am, except as noted.

March 2 & 4: General Meetings  
March 3: Laurel Horton Workshop  
March 20: Board Meeting  

April 6 & 8: General Meetings  
April 27: Board Meeting  

May 4 & 6: General Meetings  
May 15: Board Meeting  

June 15-17: Sew Many Northern Lights. Annual Quilt Show and Conference, St. Cloud, MN (Classes start on June 14).  
June 16: Annual Meeting  

July 6 & 8: General Meetings  
July 17: Board Meeting  

August 3 & 5: General Meetings  
August 21: Board Meeting  

September 7 & 9: General Meetings  
September 15-17: Board Retreat  

General Meetings are free for MQ Members and $3.00 for nonmembers. Workshops require an additional fee for all attendees.

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**MQ News**

. . . is the monthly newsletter for members of Minnesota Quilters, Inc., a nonprofit organization formed to find and unite quilters and quilt enthusiasts throughout the state of Minnesota and elsewhere. MQ News is published eleven times a year by Minnesota Quilters, Inc.

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**-- Advertising Rates --**

Effective March 1, 2004

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Call for other sizes.

The next issue is April, 2006.

The deadline for submitting ads and articles for consideration is March 5, 2006.

All advertising fees must be included with any submitted advertising. Please contact the Editor to place an ad or submit an article or item. All items for publication are subject to review. MQ charges for ad space; at MQ’s discretion, announcements and other information of interest to guild members may be published at no charge. All ads (except classified ads) must be submitted in camera-ready format. Ads must be paid in advance. Ads will be accepted on a space-available basis in the order payment is received.

All ads and articles may be sent by email to editor@mnquilt.org or sent by mail to:

Karen O’Brien
MQ News Editor  
3000 University Ave SE # 120  
Minneapolis MN 55414  
612-436-0449
Block of the Month for the APRIL 2006 MEETING

Road to Chocolate Heaven 8” block (8 ½” unfinished)

By Joanne Holznecht

Make your own candy (for the eyes) in case the Easter Bunny misses your house.

The drawing for these blocks will take place at the Saturday meeting in April.

Please use 100% cotton fabrics. PLEASE PREWASH THE FABRIC. Note: when making a Block of the Month, please read the instructions carefully, particularly regarding the fabric choices. The pictures may not always be representative of the fabric selection.

FABRIC: Background is light cream print.

Use a pink print and a brown print (think yummy chocolate).

CUT: Background (LIGHT CREAM PRINT):
- 2 2-1/2” x 2-1/2” squares
- Use Easy Angle cutting tool to cut 10 triangles from a 2-1/2” strip

PINK: Use Easy Angle cutting tool to cut 10 triangles from a 2-1/2” strip

BROWN: 4 - 2 1/2” x 2 1/2” squares

SEW together as shown. Now treat yourself to a piece of chocolate!

Make one or more blocks. Print your name and address on a slip of paper and attach it to the back of each block. Bring as many versions of the block to the April meeting as you like. Your name will be entered in the monthly drawing. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may send your name and block(s) to:

Joanne Holznecht
2618 65th Ave N
Brooklyn Center MN  55430
e-mail: sewsewjo@spacestar.net
I’ve got lots of good news for you this month!

First, online access to the Textile Center catalog is here! Now you can see what materials are available at anytime, from any place. If you know your library card number, you can also check to see what materials you may have checked out, and when those materials are due.

Note: your library number is NOT the same as your MQ membership number. Call the library (612/436-0464, ext. 108) during open hours to find out what your number is. There is now some talk of giving out library cards with patron numbers printed on them (just like a “real” library!), but that probably won’t happen for a while.

The system is very easy to use, and seems to be very quick. To use it, go to the Textile Center Web site, www.textilecentermn.org; then select “Library”; then select “Go to the Online Catalog.” Have fun!

Book Reviews. Please see two great book reviews elsewhere in this newsletter, *Kokoro no te*, and *Mariner’s Compass Quilts: Charting a New Direction*.

Coming Soon! Total Request Live II Book Reviews! Thank you to all of you who have recommended books for purchase by MQ. I keep track of all of the recommendations and have located several of them. Coming up for review and placement in the library are books such as: Marti Michell’s *Machine Quilting in Sections*, Ann Moscicki’s *Time to Quilt, Fons and Porter Present Quilts from the Henry Ford*, Lois Hallock’s *Creating Your Perfect Quilting Space*, and more. I think you’ll really like these books. Be looking for reviews of these books.

New (kind of) Textile Center Librarian. If you remember, Anne True, our librarian last year, was out on maternity leave but planning to be back in February. Well, she decided she didn’t want to leave her baby, so we have a new permanent librarian. Nancy Mambi, who had been one of the interim librarians during Anne’s leave, has signed on to be permanent. Nancy was a public librarian before retiring, and has tons of experience, knowledge, and ideas for making the library even better. Stop in and say “hi” to her!

Library Hours: Monday, 9am–1pm; Tuesday 9am–7pm; Thursday, 9am–1pm and 5pm–7pm; Friday, 9am–1pm; Saturday, 12pm–4pm. The Library is NOT open on Wednesdays or Sundays.

To volunteer to work at the library, please see the sign-up sheets outside the library door. If you need training, please contact librarian@textilecentermn.org.

Textile Center Library
Checkout Policies

Minnesota Quilts is a Participating Member Guild and its members can check out items from the library. Please have your guild card or a picture ID available when checking out books, magazines, or videos.

The librarian will attempt to contact library borrowers by phone or email when their materials become overdue. We’re hopeful that this will avoid large overdue fines. And now you can check your own record to see what materials you have out (see above).

Checkout period: 35 days

Maximum number of items that may be checked out per member: 10

Number of times you may renew an item (in person or by phone): Once

Fine for overdue items: $1 per day per item

Textile Center Library
3000 University Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612/436-0464, ext. 108

http://www.textilecentermn.org/library.asp
Home of the Brave Quilt Project
To comfort and honor

This project is a nationwide effort initiated by Donald Beld, quilter and historian, who lives in Los Angeles, CA. The project is being done in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is an effort to make a commemorative quilt for every family who has lost a military family member in Iraq or Afghanistan. News of this quilt-making project, now a national one, has spread from state to state via Internet lists, word of mouth, and an article in The Quilter magazine, January 2005 issue. I have become the Minnesota coordinator for this project.

The block chosen for our quilts has a central square where the quilt maker can sign his or her name. The fabrics we are using are Civil War reproduction prints or similar fabrics. These quilts are intended to provide a link to a similar effort during the Civil War when Union ladies made 250,000 quilts for Union soldiers. They were distributed through the Sanitary Commission, which was formed to raise supplies and funds for the North and the overseeing of sanitary conditions of military hospitals. Of these 250,000 quilts, only four are known to exist today; primarily because of wear and tear and also because soldiers were often buried in their quilts. Of the four surviving quilts, one is on public display at the Lincoln Shrine in Redlands, CA, and is the model for the quilts we are reproducing.

I am asking help in finishing the many quilts needed for Minnesota families. Dakota Star Quilters has undertaken this project as their annual community service project, but it will take a wider quilt community effort. I would like quilt guilds to adopt a family, perhaps from their own town, who has lost a soldier. I will supply patterns as needed. Members can make one or more blocks, donate sashing backing or batting, assemble tops, and/or quilt them. Each quilt will also have a muslin patch added indicating that it is a U. S. Sanitary Commission Reproduction.

I know that with the help of our generous members, this will happen for the families of our soldiers. I have read the letters from parents who feel the comfort of wrapping themselves in a quilt which was made for them by supportive strangers, and know this is a worthwhile effort.

The block pattern can be found at http://www.quiltersmuse.com/home_of_the_brave_quilt_project.htm along with finishing information. I will be at MQ meetings with copies of the pattern as well. I also hope to have a table at the June show.

Sincerely,

Jean Loken, MQ member
Minnesota coordinator of HOTBQP

Soldier’s Prayer Square Project

We have received information from a fellow quilter from California about a project to make 5" x 5" quilted “prayer squares” for soldiers serving in our armed forces. It’s a pretty neat project. I have an explanation of the project, a pattern, and a sample square for anyone interested in coordinating such a project or for anyone interested in making such a square. Please contact me and I will email you the information.

Gail Hanson
president@mnquilt.org
MQ 2007 committee

We’ve had an organizational meeting, are working on our raffle quilt, have a good list of potential teachers, and are mulling over possible titles. We need a few more folks to join our merry band and help with planning this St. Paul show.

Contact Sue Rutford at suerutford@usfamily.net or call 651-426-3539 if you are interested in joining the committee.

Find a friend and co-chair or work on your own. Feel free to call or email with questions about a particular position you may be interested in. MQ is a volunteer-run organization—jump in and help us out!

MQ Financial Reports Available
Minnesota Quilter members who wish to view the quarterly financial statements of MQ may do so by stopping by the MQ office during office hours and requesting this from Becky, the office manager.
News from the MQ 2006 Show Co-Chairs

Greetings from the 2006 Co-Chairs of the Sew Many Northern Lights Quilt Show!

As you might guess, there are a few things to do in preparation for this year’s show. We are eternally grateful to all of our wonderful committee chairs and the many volunteers assisting them. They are all working hard to make this year’s show experience the best! Please take the time to express your appreciation to them.

One thing about the show that has changed, and you may have noticed by now, is the Judged categories and the way the prize monies are awarded. This is where we’d like to put our membership to work.

The categories were changed as a result of recent show entries and comments from participants. We know that they are not perfect but we hope they better suit the needs of today’s quilter. We would appreciate your comments and feedback after the show. What do you think went well and where did we perhaps miss the mark? We see this as a dynamic process that continues to change and evolve, as we as quilters do the same. Everyone has a different perspective and we realize that the needs of all cannot be met—but our goal is to be more right than wrong in the way the categories are structured and the way prize monies are given out. This will be a learning process with changes made as the need suggests.

Do know that your opinion counts and your comments will be considered for future changes! In the meantime, come enjoy the show and appreciate all the efforts of the volunteers who make this extravaganza possible. Quilts are wonderful things! Made for a variety of reasons and all beautiful in their own right. I know mine are all stitched with love and prayers for the recipients.

Come enjoy the show and allow the joy of the quilt-makers to brighten your day!

Mary Brandt and Sue Keimig

2006 Raffle Quilt

Nominee: Helen Kelley
For: The Quilters Hall of Fame of Marion, Indiana

It is with great pleasure that Minnesota Quilters, Inc. begins the process of nominating one of our founders, Helen Kelley, to The Quilters Hall of Fame. You may participate in this process by submitting a letter of recommendation in her praise. Please send to Gail Hanson, in care of Minnesota Quilters. Thank you!

MQ 2006 Volunteers

Soon you will be learning of your class and lecture schedules for the show. You’ll be much more aware of which times you have available to volunteer.

Please remember to sign up to volunteer to work at the show. We need to have every volunteer fill out a form. The volunteer form is on the show Web site (www.mnquilt.org/mq2006), along with directions for returning the form.

HOT QUILTER (OR READER) TIP

This ingenious (and very practical) tip comes from February’s program speaker, Sheila Sinclair Snyder, submitted by Lori Allison. If you have a soft-cover book which will be seeing some frequent use, take it to an office supply store or printer and have it spiral bound. It will lay flat while you page back and forth for instructions while quilting.
Need a room for MQ 2006?

As a standard policy, MQ does not get involved with providing accommodations, but we are aware that hotels in St. Cloud may become booked for this occasion. So, the St. Cloud Visitors & Convention Bureau has found an alternative to booking a hotel room. The Visitors Bureau has made arrangements with the College of St. Benedict to rent their dorm rooms. Our quilter representative toured the facility to get a realistic evaluation of the accommodations and says “they are wonderful.”

Please see the MQ 2006 Web site for further information.

Resolution Form for College of St. Benedict
MQ2006 Quilt Show & Conference – St. Cloud

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| Single - $31.95/night       |
| Double - $26.63/per night/per person |
| Apartment - $42.60/per night/per person (Sleeps 4) |

Roommate:

Roommates:

Please indicate which nights you want to reserve:

Tuesday, June 13
Wednesday, June 14
Thursday, June 15
Friday, June 16
Saturday, June 17

Enclose check for appropriate amount made payable to College of St. Benedict and mail to: Barb Rose, 4561 182nd St. South Haven, MN 55382

To make a reservation, please send the Reservation Form (below) with the appropriate funds. We must receive this reservation by June 1, 2006. However, the rooms will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis until they are full, so we advise you to reserve as soon as possible. We will NOT make a reservation without payment.

Checks must be made payable to College of St. Benedict (CSB). Check in time begins at 8:00 AM until 10:00 PM (very flexible). Any cancellations received the week of the reservation are NON-REFUNDABLE. Any questions, call Barb at 1-320-251-3425 or send an email to labr@qwest.net.
2006 Challenge

If you still haven’t acquired a Challenge packet, you can still get them by mail if you contact the MQ office. The cost is $15.00 per packet.

The two remaining colorways are: the Sew Many Northern Lights logo colors (purple, lime green, orange and medium green) and the pastels (sky blue, pink, lavender and yellow). Each packet contains a 1/2 yard piece and 3 fat quarters. There are also a few batik fat quarters available for $2.25 each by mail.

Important dates:

April 6: The drawing for the two Diane Phalen prints (both signed and dated) will take place at the morning MQ meeting.

April 30: Final date for registration of your entry. (Remember, it doesn’t have to be done yet!)

June 9: Your entry MUST be with either the Challenge co-chairs or at one of the non-judged quilt drop-off sites.

We’ve seen a couple of interpretations of the theme so far and it promises to be an amazing Challenge display at the show!

Another way to the Show

If you are familiar with the Saint Cloud area, and can follow directions that are a little more complex, you might want to read this note.

The directions for getting to Saint Cloud from I-94 (on page 3 of the registration booklet) are a bit out of the way for drivers coming from the Twin Cities.

From a Saint Cloud resident, here’s a quicker, although a little more complicated, way to get to the Show:

From I-94, take exit 171; turn right (North) on County 75/Roosevelt Road. At the fifth stoplight, Washington Memorial Drive, turn right. At the second stoplight (MN 23 - there is a Wendy’s on the corner) turn right. Go 14 blocks to 4th Avenue S. Turn left, and you are at the event.

MQ 2006 Door Prizes

We have all heard that it is better to give than to receive. But it’s so much fun to receive door prizes! If you give a door prize for the Sew Many Northern Lights Quilt Show, you’ll get that warm fuzzy feeling you get when you do a good thing, plus you will increase everyone’s chance of receiving a prize. It’s a win-win situation!

Door Prize Committee Co-Chairs Joann Murphy and Kathy Brevig will be at MQ meetings, ready and willing to collect donations that have an included paper marked with your name, address, and “Door Prizes, 2006 Show.” All contributions are appreciated, and contributors will be acknowledged. Door prizes may also be mailed to

Joann Murphy
10595 Alison Way
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077.

Joann may be contacted at dp06@mnquilt.org, and Kathy may be called at 763-441-5134.

Small Quilt Auction

Have you donated a small quilt yet? It’s not too late! Debbie and Patty will be at the Textile Center March 2 and 4 to collect your donations.

Remember quilts should be crib-size or smaller and all items should have the maker’s name, address and telephone number pinned to it so that person’s name can be entered into the monthly drawing for a $30 gift certificate.

Also for each donation you will receive a free lecture ticket for the June show. If it is more convenient please mail your donations to one of the addresses below. The sooner you donate, the more chances you have to win.

January’s drawing winner was Arloine Fuhr of Stillwater! Congratulations to Arloine and “Thanks!” to all who have already donated!

Small Quilt Auction Chairs

Patty Von Arx
355 Upper Wood Way
Burnsville, MN 55337
(612) 865-4471

Debbie Craig
1418 Kentucky Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
(952) 544-6341
Laurel Horton  
March 3, 2006 Workshop

Minnesota Quilters, Inc. is proud to offer this opportunity for MQ Members

“Flexible and Free String Patchwork”

Workshop Description
Are you intimidated by technical classes or imperious quilting teachers? Are you afraid of putting colors together wrong? Are you stymied by “the rules”? Do you have a scrap bag of uglies – or just a scrap bag that you’d like to use up? For twenty years Ms. Horton has taught this “Flexible and Free String Patchwork” technique, based on late 19th century tradition, to novice quilters and old hands alike. Ms. Horton weaves her intimate knowledge of quilting history with modern life and pleasing quilt design. She teaches participants to blend hard-to-use fabrics and says, “Everyone’s quilt looks very different.”

Supply List:
Lots of leftover fabric strips, small irregular remnants and other odd fabrics. No need to match colors. Sewing machine, walking foot, rotary cutter, mat, straight-edge ruler, square plastic templates (optional), several sections of 2- or 3-week-old newspaper (or plain newsprint if you’re a sissy!), and basic sewing supplies.

What: Laurel Horton “Flexible and Free String Patchwork Workshop
Cost: $35
Where: Textile Center
When: Friday, March 3, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
(½ hour lunch break; lunch will be on your own)

Because class size is limited to 25 people, registration is “first come, first served.”

To register, you may email LBA0718@hotmail.com, OR call 952-471-0131, OR complete and mail the form below (attaching check for payment of workshop fee) to:

Lori Allison (March Workshop)
3705 North Shore Drive
Wayzata, MN 55391

Registration Form – Flexible & Free String Patchwork, March 3, 2006 $35.00

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Membership News

New membership, renewal and change of address should be sent to:

Membership
Minnesota Quilters, Inc.
3000 University Ave, SE, #120
Minneapolis, MN 55414
membership@mnquilt.org

When renewing or changing address (or name), please include your MQ Membership Number (MQNo). This can be found to the right above your address on your latest newsletter. Watch for the expiration notice on your label. It will read: “Please Renew.” The number to the left above your address indicates the month and year of membership expiration. Example: “9/1/06” means you need to renew your membership before the September meeting in 2006.

Membership Dues: $30.00/year (USD)
Student Dues: $15.00/year (USD)

Please make checks payable to: Minnesota Quilters, Inc. Minnesota Quilters, Inc. accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover. A portion of the dues is allocated to postage at U.S. Postal rates.

Meeting Admission Reminder
The meeting admission for nonmembers is $3.

The meeting directors remind you to bring your membership card to any and all meetings. This is something that most of you manage just wonderfully. When you have your current membership card in hand, it makes entry into the meeting room a snap! If you’ve searched high and low and just can not find your membership card, please ask Gayle at the Membership table for a replacement card to be made. Badge holders are available at the admission table.

We are the Minnesota Quilters.

Defining us is like defining a many-thousand-piece charm quilt by each piece of fabric making up its surface.

We are young and old; we are ageless. We are processors of words and of data. We are homemakers, lawyers, machinery operators, teachers, secretaries, doctors, and librarians. We are children, parents, grandparents, and companions. We are women and men. We are survivors. We live in the country; we live in the city; we live in the suburbs. We enjoy a great variety of heritages, political thought, and religious beliefs.

We share a love of quilting. For some of us, quilting is our living, as well. We are traditional quilters; we are contemporary quilters; we invent ways and means of creation that are not yet labeled.

Our quilts connect the generations. Our quilts warm hearts and bodies; they teach, SHOUT, and comfort.

Our physical proximity might define us as a group, but not completely, for our members live throughout the United States of America and, indeed, the world.

We have a great pride in our guild.

We are the Minnesota Quilters.
Laurel Horton, internationally-known quilt historian, folklorist, and author of *Mary Black’s Family Quilts: Memory and Meaning in Everyday Life* will be the featured speaker for the March 2 and 4 program meetings of the Minnesota Quilters.

Laurel Horton is a native of Kentucky. Her 1979 Masters thesis was one of the earliest studies of regional variations in American quilting traditions. Ms. Horton participated with one of the first quilt documentation surveys between 1983 and 1985. The result was a traveling exhibition and a book, *Social Fabric: South Carolina’s Traditional Quilts*.

Ms. Horton has been an active member of the American Quilt Study Group since 1983, served on the board, edited *Uncoverings*, the annual volume of research papers, edited *Quiltmaking in America: Beyond the Myths*, and has written some thirty scholarly and popular articles.

Her most current book is *Mary Black’s Family Quilts* (see below).

Book For Sale and Signing at March MQ Programs

“*Mary Black’s Family Quilts* represents an intriguing blend of South Carolina history, social history, material culture, and women’s studies for academics and general readers alike. Laurel Horton’s thorough research into the Black family history spans generations and her engaging narrative gives us an incredibly personal portrait of the ordinary women who made these delightful quilts.”—Jan Hiester, Curator of Textiles, Charleston Museum.

At the heart of this story is a collection of sixteen quilts made by Mary Black and other women in her family. Mary Louisa Snoddy Black was born in 1860 and lived her whole life in the vicinity of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Shortly before her death in 1927, Mary and her daughters sewed onto each quilt a small handwritten label containing information about the maker and the quilt itself. The quilts were then stored in trunks, where they remained until 1996, when they were removed and framed for display in the offices of the Mary Black Foundation.

This book brings together the author’s meticulous research, thoughtful interpretation, and stylish writing to set a new standard for the study of quilts and quiltmaking as material behavior within the everyday lives of ordinary people.
I’d like to invite you to take part in some of the programs at the Textile Center. When you are here for a meeting be sure to plan time to see the exhibits in the Joan Mondale Gallery, central corridor, and library. Stop into the Textile Center shop and see the great gift ideas made by local artists. Also take a minute to go to the library to look at the books for sale or check out a new title. Don’t forget to stop by the bulletin boards in the hallways to pick up notices about shows, sales, and events in and around the Twin Cities area. And when you’re home go to the Web site for complete details on classes and events, and please consider becoming a member. Hope you enjoy the events the Textile Center has to offer.

Kelly Willis, Textile Center Liaison

In the Joan Mondale Gallery:

A Common Thread 2006  The Textile Center’s Annual Members Show January 13 to March 4, 2006: A two-part non-juried exhibition of work by Textile Center Members

Voices of Hope: Quilts made by mothers and children, sponsored by Free Arts MN: March 7 – April 17

Events for your calendar:

6th Annual “Probably the World’s Largest” Textile Garage Sale
April 14 Drop off donations (priced, please) 9am–6pm
April 14 Preview Sale 6–8pm ($25 donation at the door)
April 15 The BIG Sale 9 am–3 pm
April 15 The Bag Sale 3 pm–4 pm, just $1 for a bag full

Textile Center Global Market and Annual Meeting
Saturday May 13, 2006

Classes:  The Textile Center continues to offer some great classes for beginner and advanced techniques. Class information and registration can be found online at www.textilecentermn.org. Here’s just a few of the spring classes coming up:

Shibori Techniques for Quiltmakers with Jan Myers Newbury
Experimental Screenprinting
Luscious Laundry: The Dirty Secrets of Surface Design
Complete Fabrication: Creating Image-Based Story Cloth
Painting and Printing with Procion H Dyes
Twisted Surface: Shibori for Beginners
Fancy Footwork: Specialty Presser Feet
Small Wearable Production Overview
Casual Shirt Making
Miniature Spring Flower Bouquet

Would you like to receive MQ News without waiting for “snail mail”?

Let us send it to you by email. Send a note to quilter@mnquilt.org and say: Please send me my MQ News by email! Here is my name and email address. This service is available only to current MQ members, of course. And, just so you know, your email address is kept in MQ files for internal MQ use only. It is not to be given to other organizations or even included in the MQ Membership Directory without your permission.

MINNESOTA QUILT PROJECT

The Minnesota Quilt Project members are very excited about the speaker for the March meetings, Laurel Horton. Please see information elsewhere in this issue regarding her lectures, a Friday workshop, and her book.

The urge to spring clean may be infecting us soon. If you’re cleaning out your book shelves, MQP has an opportunity for you. We have set a goal of acquiring as many of the state quilt project books as possible for the Minnesota Quilters permanent collection. Many of these have been out of print for quite some time. If you have a copy of a state book that you would like to donate to the collection, please put your name on it, label it “for MQP” and drop it off in the MQ office (NOT the library).

Last but not least, we want to invite anyone who is interested in the history of quilts and the people who made them to join us at our meetings. These are from 8:30-9:30 at the Textile Center on the same day as the Saturday morning MQ meetings. The next meeting is March 4, 2006.

Call for Entries

Artwear in Motion 2006

Announcing a very special opportunity for fashion designers and artists who create wearable art to participate in “Artwear in Motion 2006,” annual runway show, October 21–22, 2006, at the Textile Center, Minneapolis. Cash prizes, purchase awards, sales boutique, and festive reception are all part of this gala event.

Artwear artists and fashion designers are invited to submit up to five images of representative work to the jury. The deadline for entries is Friday, April 1, 2006. The entry fee is $25.

For further information and application form, call 612-436-0464, email to info@textilecentermn.org, or visit our website: www.textilecentermn.org.

I’d be lying to you if I wrote that I read this book and wrote this review. What actually happened was I received the book in the mail, I flipped through it, I went to my computer and immediately ordered a copy for myself (plus another of the author’s books), then I read the book and wrote the review.

Should you borrow this book from the Textile Center Library or perhaps buy it for yourself? Only if you have any of the following in your stash: silk, wool, cotton, felt, buttons, beads, or thread. And, only if you like to make unique, lovely, useful objects for yourself and to give as gifts to deserving, appreciative friends and relatives.

Beginning the book is a chapter on technique: fabric origami, bead application, and embellishment stitches to personalize your project.

The collection of treasures (the title does not deceive) is divided into four categories. First is a selection of purses and totes, but not merely rectangles of fabric. Who could resist a CD case shaped like a blossoming lily pad? Or a bird-of-paradise evening bag? Pouches, pockets, and wristlets with luscious touches complete this section.

The second chapter is Fashion Pins, replete with whimsical flowers, leaves, and windmills to be used as brooches, but also adaptable to shoe decoration, book closures, and more.

“I want to make this for myself” should be the title of section three, which is devoted to “smalls” for the needle-worker. Start with the Tidy Tote and fill it with the Ivy Pocket scissors keeper, Persimmon Pincushion, Pin-Pin sewing case, personalized thimbles, Mallow Rose button box, and the Cherry needle-book. Yum!

The final treat . . . oops . . . chapter is a delightful cache of toys and decorations. Silk balls and origami juggling balls could actually be used, or heaped in baskets and admired. And if you start now, mini kimonos and fabric fish, dragonflies, and cicadas (quiet ones!) could populate your 2006 holiday decor.

Even if you choose to make none of the above, Ms. Sudo’s book is a visual treat and source of embellishment inspiration.


Long before GPS (Global Positioning System) devices were available to everyone from aircraft pilots to drivers lost in suburbia, marine navigation was accomplished using a mariner’s many-pointed compass.

Now, in the 21st century, Judy Mathieson has written a technical manual to point quilters in the right direction when making “Mariner’s Compass” patterns. Her new book, Mariner’s Compass Quilts: Setting a New Course, is a workbook and photo essay to aid the artist hoping to make a compass quilt of any complexity.

Interspersed with photos of new and antique quilts, the author leads quilters through ever more complicated drafting exercises to develop circular star patterns. From 8-point to 64-point compasses, all the instructions are here to enable one to find just the right level of technical proficiency. Also included are directions for drafting spinning, oval, off-center, and cartwheel stars.

Construction directions use freezer paper foundations and Ms. Mathieson also includes directions if one prefers to use traditional paper-foundation methods.

Not quite comfortable drafting your own patterns? The mid-section of the book contains thirteen ready-to-go compass patterns with fabric requirements and cutting plans.

Finishing instructions (or, in nautical terms, “boxing the compass”?!?) include patterns for checkerboard, flying geese, circling geese, and extended point borders.

A novel but obvious addition to a Mariner’s Compass quilt is found in pattern seven which uses appliqué calligraphy letters and three variations on the fleur-de-lis to demarcate the four cardinal points.

The Mariner’s Compass: Setting a New Course is Ms. Mathieson’s favorite quilt pattern and this is her third book on the topic.

Both reviews by Karen Cyson, MQ member, St. Cloud MN
January 29 - April 9, 2006 Goldstein Museum  Show commemorating the history and future of the College of Human Ecology at the University of Minnesota.

Through February - Itchin’ to Stitch Redwork Show. Four Seasons Quilt Shop (Four Seasons Mall, southwest corner of Rockford Road and Highway 169 in Plymouth). For further information, call 763-557-5899.


February 8 - March 3, 2006  “A Perfect Ten” Tenth annual quilt show of Dakota County Star Quilters at the Dakota County Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul. For directions, call 651-552-7548; for show information, call 952-736-9586.

Saturday, March 18, 2006 - Quilt Dreamers’ Guild would like you to share National Quilting Day with us at our 13th Annual Bag Lady Quilt Show at the Galaxie Library in Apple Valley (County Rd 42 and Galaxie Avenue - about 2 blocks east of Cedar Ave). Admission is FREE; Hours: Noon - 4pm. Members’ quilts, special projects and quilts to be donated to children’s organizations are on display. There is a small quilt auction (Noon - 3:30) where proceeds go to purchase supplies to make more quilts to donate to people in crisis situations, especially to children. Questions, etc., Call Carol at 952-435-6674.

March 24 - 25, 2006 - Quilt Show sponsored by Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild of New Ulm, Minnesota, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 201 North State Street, New Ulm; Friday 9am - 6pm and Saturday 9am - 4pm; Admission $4.00. Raffle, vendors, and demonstrations. For further information, call Val Besser, 507-359-7158.

March 2006 (details TBA)  “Passing on the Comfort” Exhibit is touring the nation and coming to Minnesota. For more information, please see article at www.mcc.org, or call 952-835-6915.

April 2, 2006 - Quilt of Dreams Garden Party & Tea to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital will be held on April 2, 2006, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, at The International Market Square in Minneapolis MN, sponsored by MN Epsilon Sigma Alpha. Admission is $20.00. There will be a silent auction of 50 quilts that have won a quilting contest that was sponsored by Hancock Fabrics. Our special guest speaker will be Bobbie Jensen from KARE 11 television. There will be wonderful desserts, tea & coffee from D’Amico Catering, as well as many other silent auction items to bid on. For more information, please call Kathy at 763-742-9737 or 763-682-5138. To learn more about Epsilon Sigma Alpha, please contact:  ESA International Headquarters 970-223-2824, or go to www.ESAINTL.com.  St. Jude contact information:  www.stjude.org.

April 7, 2006  “Celebrate! College of Human Ecology” an event, in concert with the Goldstein show (see above), that will honor the College and highlight its contributions to each of us and the world.

April 28 - 29, 2006  Spring Fanfare Quilt Show presented by Pieceful Hearts Quilt Club and Peace By Piece Quilt Guild. Hundreds of quilts and quilted items, two raffle quilts, door prizes, small quilt silent auction, service project quilts, vendors, challenge exhibit and Viewers Choice awards. Located in a beautiful facility with high ceilings, lots of natural light, and a snack bar! Fri. April 28, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Sat. April 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission: under 18 - free; adults - $2.00. Monticello Community Center, 505 Walnut St., Monticello, MN. I-94 west to Hwy. 25 north, turn left on 6th St. Questions? Call Helen, 763-295-4979.

May 19 - 21, 2006 - Spring Quilt Market is in Minneapolis!

The Split Rock Arts Program is the University of Minnesota’s summer series of workshops in creative writing, visual art, and design. Held on the Twin Cities’ campus and at the University’s Cloquet Forestry Center in northern Minnesota. Miriam Nathan-Roberts will be teaching “The Art Quilt: Twelve New Compositions” July 23 - 29. Web registration begins February 25, 2006: srap@cce.umn.edu; www.cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts/; 612-625-8100

Be sure to send in your information to the editor as soon as finalize your event dates; the deadline for this newsletter is the first day of the month before the newsletter is printed e.g., February 1 for the March newsletter. Your quilt show or exhibit does NOT have to be MQ sponsored. The only requirement is that it be quilt related and not for profit. MQ News reserves the right to reformat and edit the content for length.
“Threads That Bind: Vintage Quilts of the ’30s and Beyond”:
Women’s History Month Quilt Exhibit 2006

EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY is planning its 11th annual quilt exhibit for the month of March. This year we will be featuring the work of Minnesota Quilt Artist Darlene Zimmerman.

This exhibit coincides with the curriculum and quilting taught in the “Women in Literature” class. In addition to the quilts from this collection, we invite you to contribute to the display with any size quilt or quilted object of your own. (We suggest that no heirloom quilts be contributed. If you are concerned about insurance, contact the provider of your personal homeowner policy.) Other contributors will be the local quilt groups in Dakota County including the Scrapbaggers and District 196 quilters.

The opening reception will be Thursday, March 9, in the Eagan High School Library, from 6–7 p.m. Darlene Zimmerman will be signing her books and answering questions about her quilts. Eagle Creek Quilt Shop will be on hand to sell Helen’s books along with other tempting quilt merchandise.

Following the reception, Darlene Zimmerman will present her lecture, “Treasures from the Trunk.” This free lecture will begin at 7 p.m. in Eagan High School Lecture Room C. The display will be open from 6–7 p.m. that evening (March 9) only.

The display will run from March 6–31. The exhibit is open to the public weekdays from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. except March 10. Quilts may be dropped off at the EHS Library from 8 a.m.–3 p.m. beginning February 21 and no later than February 28. Quilts may be claimed at EHS on April 4.

Please fill out the entry form and return it with your item so we can provide our viewers with information about your needlework.

Questions?? Please call:  Laura Nagel
Eagan High School Library
651-683-6933; Voice mail 651-683-6969, Extension 6933

QLT   DOCUMENTATION – “THREADS THAT BIND” EAGAN HIGH SCHOOL 2006

Made by/Quilted by/Owned by_______________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________Phone ____________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Type of pattern _________________________________________  Era of quilt ______________________

Dimensions of quilt ___________________________  Replacement value (estimated) ______________

More about this quilt:______________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

We are planning to take digital pictures of the quilt exhibit and display them on the Eagan High School Library Web site. May we include your quilt?  Yes    No
“FAT QUARTER” DRAWING

What a great way to build your stash and have fun doing it!

Anyone wishing to participate should bring up to THREE fat quarters (FQs) of quilt-shop-quality fabric to the evening or day meeting.

(1) Please contribute fabric you would use yourself, you might actually win! Remember, a Fat Quarter measures approximately 18" by 22" (1/2 yard of fabric, cut in half along the fold).

(2) Put your name, address, and phone number on each. You’ll get one chance for each FQ you contribute to the drawing.

(3) Then one name will be drawn at the Saturday morning meeting. That lucky person will get all of the FQs contributed for that month.

If you are unable to attend an MQ meeting, you can still participate by mailing your FQs to Minnesota Quilters, 3000 University Ave. SE #120, Minneapolis, MN 55414-3360. Please be sure to mail in time to reach MQ by the Saturday morning meeting. You need not be present to win: if you are not at the meeting, you will be contacted, and the FQs will be held for the next meeting or mailed to you.

Get involved, have fun, and maybe take home a bundle of fat quarters!

March: FLORALS  Spring is coming! Hasten its return with some florals!
April: April showers make me BLUE (any shade or tone)
May: KID STUFF Any bright, stripey, dotty, pictorial, fun, colorful fabrics suitable for kid quilts
June: See you at the show! (No FQ Drawing)
July: PURPLE!

Great news! Starting with the October MQ News, the MQ FQ Drawing will have new organizers. Kathy Simon Frank and Karen Lazewski (both frequent participants and recent winners) have stepped up to run the show. I know they’ll have just as much fun as I have had!

Remember, you can’t win if you don’t enter. Actually, everybody wins with this drawing, because it’s so much fun to play!

ON THE AVENUE

This is a column meant for our outstate visitors, local folks who don’t get to University Avenue very often, or even those who are on University Avenue often but want to know about different things going on in the neighborhood. From time to time we’ll include this column as a way to let you know about interesting places along the major thoroughfare that the Textile Center calls home—University Avenue. As a writer, I have no affiliation with the places I’ll write about, so this isn’t a sales pitch. This column is not specifically a quilting-related article, but we know that all quilters eat, and probably all quilters shop. So, what is happening on University?

Chocolat Céleste is a candy store of the highest order. Chocolat Céleste specializes in large “European fresh cream truffles, individually handmade every day. No preservatives—just Europe’s best chocolate of 65-75 percent cocoa liquor, America’s freshest dairy, and the craft of our premiere chocolate artisans.” On my visit I was quickly offered a sample, and it was delicious. I received great service, and felt very welcome.

The shop was recently named one of the Top Ten Emerging Chocolatiers in America. The boutique does a lot of corporate business, and can create custom items for special events. They have supported Textile Center events, and seem to be as conscientious artisans of chocolate as we are of cloth and thread. The boutique’s advertising stresses that their creations are for the connoisseur of chocolate, but also mention the recent findings that dark chocolate may also be of health benefit (I like that thinking!)

Their truffles are really grand-sized, and a box of four beautifully-crafted, large truffles can be purchased for $17.95. The store also carries English toffee (1/2 pound, $15.00), white chocolate almond bark (1/2 pound, $12), and chocolate for baking (various).

Chocolat Céleste is a good place to visit; it is a pleasure for the sight, the smell, and the taste. It is a good neighbor on University Avenue. The shop is located at 2506 University Ave West, on the Saint Paul end of University Avenue, a few blocks on the other side of Highway 280 from the Textile Center. Their Web site is www.chocolatceleste.com, their phone number, 651-644-3823.