November Meeting Notes

Thursday, November 6, 2008, 7:00 pm
Saturday, November 8, 2008, 10:00 am

Thursday, November 6: Find out how to take miscellaneous elements like screen prints, sun prints, lace, rubber stamped fabrics, special fabrics like those precious marbled pieces you have in your stash, ribbons, trims, beads, and buttons to make a wall hanging that is all your own. You can use elements of what you collected at the shows you attend and you can even include photo transfers in a new way as part of your composition. It’s a fun way to work and will allow you to express your own voice in fabric or translate a vacation or event into a permanent art piece.

Saturday, November 8: Four of the staff from Colorful Quilts will talk about how to do their special surface design techniques and then we will assemble fabric parts they’ve made to create a one-of-a-kind wall hanging on stage. It could get pretty funny, as these ladies are NOT shrinking violets!

Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 6, 2008
10 a.m. -12 p.m.
$22 members $27 non-members
University of St. Thomas
Binz Hall, St. Paul Campus

Join your MQ Friends for a delicious Holiday Brunch. Your brunch ticket will include a “make-it-take-it” project. Bring lots of items to show and tell, especially any holiday quilts, holiday gifts and any holiday block exchange quilts.

The block and ornament exchanges are a treasured activity at the MQ holiday gathering.

The Brunch committee is organizing a service project and has decided on donating homemade Christmas stockings to St. Joseph’s Home for Children. Anyone interested in donating items to fill the stockings can contact Patty at ed@mnquilt.org.

See pages 6 and 7 for more information and sign-up form.

One of the benefits of belonging to MQ is getting to see the Show & Tell at the beginning of the program. Here are some of the folks who shared during Saturday's meeting.
Notes From the President

Greetings again. Can you believe how fast time flies? My grandchildren want time to pass quickly; they are often waiting for something and want time to fly so whatever it is gets here faster. Now you and I are just the opposite; we want time to slow down so we can complete all the projects we want to do. Maybe Cindy could post a question on the survey page that would ask us how many UFOs we have, in different stages of completion. Maybe some of those we started a while ago and then decided we didn’t want to finish could get finished and donated to a good cause. You may have decided you didn’t like the color but some soldier or their family would find it a treasure. Think about it, maybe get some quilting friends together and finish up some of those projects.

Another idea that has been brought up recently is donating to MQ over and above your membership. There was a little article last month about the possibility of designating some of your United Way dollars to MQ. Many of our members are still in the “working” world, as opposed to being retired, and the United Way is usually making their pitch about now. Many companies will also match monies donated to a 501(c)(3) public charity and this would be a wonderful way to make your dollar go further and benefit an organization that is near and dear to your heart. And it’s tax deductible! There are even some that will match money to volunteer hours served at a 501(c)(3) public charity. Over the next few months there will be articles informing you how the money MQ gets from its members and the show is spent. Some will be here in my monthly letter and some will be in the form of finance information. The Board hopes you will read this information, ask questions if you have some and possibly think about making an additional contribution to MQ in a different form.

Have a safe and happy Halloween, enjoy your chocolate, and have a Blessed Day. - Mary Brandt

President’s Block

MQ has a tradition of presenting our president with “thank you” blocks for their year in term. Mary has defined her block: Stars made with batiks, with the star being dark and then a light background. The size can vary, 6”, 9” or 12” finished.

Past president, Linda Wines, is fond of cows and is looking for cow blocks for her quilt.
October Survey results

Q 1: How many working sewing machines do you have?
   0: none
   1: 2.5%,
   2: 23.2%
   3: 20.5%
   4 or more: 53.8% (one person answered 14!)

Q 2: How many places around your house do you store fabric?
   0: none
   1: 28.2%
   2: 20.5%
   3: 25.6%
   4 or more: 25.7%

DOCUMENT YOUR QUILTS!

Volunteer members of MQP will be available at every MQ monthly meeting held at the Textile Center to assist you in documenting your finished quilt, no matter when the quilt was completed. We’ll even provide the camera for the photograph.

This documentation will be performed during the coffee break and immediately following the meetings. It takes about 10 minutes per quilt to complete. The data from this documentation will be entered into the MQP data base for eventual inclusion in the national quilt database.

We urge you to take advantage of this service, or go to www.mnquilt.org/mqp to do your own documentation.
September 2008 Board Meeting Highlights by Kathie Simon Frank, Secretary

The September meeting of the Board of Directors, traditionally a day-long retreat away from the usual distractions of everyday life, gives the Board time to reflect on the activities and achievements of the previous year, to plan for the year ahead and to envision the future direction of Minnesota Quilters.

The purpose of this new column is to keep MQ members aware of what your Board does month-to-month and what it’s planning for the future. Your Board of Directors exists to keep the organization healthy and pertinent to your interests and needs. We welcome feedback from all MQ members. E-mail your feedback to your Communications Directors, Cindy Wilson and Yvonne Curran, at comm@mnquilt.org or mail a letter to us at the Minnesota Quilters office, 3000 University Ave. SE, Suite 120, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

In September 2008, Board of Directors members focused on ways to reach members effectively. The membership has decreased somewhat in numbers over the past several years. To determine whether this is primarily due to a difficult parking situation at the Textile Center where meetings are held, the Board initiated a survey about parking.

Results of the survey were published in the October 2008 newsletter. The MQ Board is hopeful that ongoing conversations with our landlord will find good solutions. Dozens of additional parking spaces have become available to MQ members, all without the need to cross University Avenue.

In addition, many of our members live outside the Twin Cities Metro area. The Board is exploring the possibilities for holding some meetings nearer our northern and southern Greater Minnesota members, as well as doing more to partner with guilds all over the state.

The Board is concerned that members don’t know their elected leaders. To make us more visible and accessible at meetings, Board members could wear an identifying tag, sit near the check-in table to greet people and answer questions, and share the highlights of Board meetings. In addition, all members will be encouraged to reach out to our newest members and visitors to make everyone feel welcome as part of this great organization.

The Board discussed ways to make future MQ Annual Shows and Conferences more attractive to those who attend. The Board discussed the possible change of future St. Paul area shows to a less-expensive venue, brainstormed a theme and logo for the 2010 St. Cloud show, discussed the best way to market raffle tickets to attain the best earnings, how to choose a raffle quilt designer and maker, and how to choose merchandise that would earn MQ the best return on its investment.

MemberClicks continues to be a good way to manage registration for shows and other events, as well as a very easy way for many to join MQ and renew their memberships. Overseeing this internet service is crucial to our organization. Currently it is managed by a Board member who has many other responsibilities within MQ. One or two other MQ volunteers are being sought to keep this system current and working. Another volunteer is being sought to contact guilds around the state and establish initial contact with new ones to explore whether and how MQ might interface and support smaller local guilds. (continued next page)

WHAT QUILTERS REALLY DO AT QUILTING RETREATS
(according to Cindy Thury Smith, 2008)

They STAY UP ALL NIGHT CAROUSING cutting fabric and sewing and chatting.
They RUTHLESSLY PUT DOWN each other's "biggest stash" claims.
They COMPARE EACH OTHER'S binding and finishing techniques.
They SQUASH any fiscal responsibility on the quilt shop field trip.
They BARTER and swap their UFOs to a new good home.
They ANALYZE who writes the best books and patterns.
They EAT anything even remotely resembling chocolate.
They CRITICIZE their own work and get suggestions.
They GOSSIP about who are the best teachers.
They LUST after each other's stash.
They DRINK in each other's ideas.

They ABANDON EVERYDAY CARES for a little relaxation and inspiration.
October Program Recap

Bonnie Bosma: Teaching Quilting In Africa

Bonnie relied on some divine intervention to coordinate the many details of a trip to Kenya to teach long arm quilting. Bonnie is a long arm quilter from Zumbro Falls, Minnesota, who along with Rosemary Wissink, June Vogelstance and Sandi Stoltus went for two and 1/2 weeks to Niarobi, Kenya as a part of the Amani Ya Juu mission, to teach long arm quilting and other quilting skills to women who will be earning money in the quilting and textile trades. They raided funds to take the quilting machine to leave there for the women to use.

Navigating the cultural differences was challenging. Bonnie said the women were very warm and receptive, grateful and eager to learn. She also found them to be somewhat shy and unsure and many that she worked with had no experience with any textile trade. The role of sewing, tailoring and other textile skills, such as quilting, has helped to bring some women out of poverty.

During the program, Bonnie read a story of tremendous suffering and loss experienced by the women she met in Africa.

Bonnie showed slides of women who were picked to work with her. She showed slides of a typical home of an African family and of the buildings with their characteristic concrete barriers with barbed wire atop them. Bonnie showed slides of typical African foods and that they are mostly eaten without utensils.

Bonnie described a harrowing trip to the airport by a driver with no gasoline. Apparently, if they are carjacked, they do not also want to lose a full tank of gas! It was a trip of a lifetime that they hope to take again.

Many African crafts that had been brought back by Bonnie and her group were available for members to purchase.

(September BOD Highlights continued from prior page)

A prime MQ activity is giving grants to organizations that perform quilt-related education and/or service within Minnesota. In the past year, MQ has awarded $8600 in grants. This month, MQ awarded grants to Bundles of Love for their projects that include making small quilts for preemies and newborns, and to a guild outside the metro area to invite a special workshop speaker/demonstrator. We also support public television.

Another important service MQ provides is to highlight and promote excellence in quilting by selecting a Quilter of the Year who is announced and featured at MQ’s annual show and conference. At the fall retreat, the Board selects that person.

Other matters of interest include: lobbying the State Fair to include entrants' names on displayed items; donating toward the Quilters Hall of Fame as a memorial for Helen Kelley; considering a revision of the definitions for the Judged Quilt category as recommended by the Judged Quilt Committee for the 2008 and 2009 shows; and the commitment of the 2008-9 Board to revisit the organization's goals in the upcoming year.

In future newsletters, the Board of Directors will continue to provide updates of the major discussions held at our meetings. They may be more bullet-item lists than this full discussion which was intended to bring you more detail about our kick-off for the year. In addition, we'll run articles each month that highlight the person or people that hold different Board positions.
Join your MQ Friends for a delicious Holiday Brunch. It will again be at Binz Hall at the University of St. Thomas (see map). Your brunch ticket will include a “make-it-take-it” project. You may be able to finish it completely at the brunch while you are visiting with friends. Bring your scissors, a needle that will hold three strands of embroidery floss and your favorite thimble and you may go home with a completed project. Bring lots of items to show and tell, especially any holiday quilts, holiday gifts and any holiday block exchange quilts.

**Holiday Brunch Details**
- **Cost:** $22 members  $27 non-members
- **Form and payment must be received by Monday, Nov. 24 and is nonrefundable**
- **Date:** Saturday, December 6, 2008
- **Time:** 10-12 Doors will open at 9:30 a.m.
- Brunch served at 10:30
- **Where:** University of St. Thomas, Binz Hall, St. Paul Campus.

**East I-94 (from Minneapolis)** Take I-94 east to the Cretin/Vandalia exit. Go right (south) on Cretin Avenue.

**West I-94 (from St. Paul)** Take I-94 west to the Cretin/Vandalia exit. Go left (south) on Cretin Avenue. Stay on Cretin for about one mile; cross Summit Ave. Turn right into Parking Lot. The Refectory is at the south end of the parking lot.

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**Sign up for the 2008 Holiday Brunch!**
Fill out the following form and bring to the October or November meetings. You can also mail your registration form to: Minnesota Quilters 3000 University Ave SE, Suite 120, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Name _______________________________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

Phone # __________________________________________________________________

Email __________________________________________________________________

MQ member # __________________

Cash payment_______ Check________ (Make check payable to Minnesota Quilters.)

Visa____ Mastercard____ Discover____ CC # ___________________________ exp. _______

Signature as it appears on card___________________________________________
Homemade Stockings for a Cause

The Brunch committee is organizing a service project and has decided on donating homemade Christmas stockings to St. Joseph’s Home for Children. We, the brunch committee, will provide a pattern of a stocking and some simple instructions. You, the generous sewer, will supply the fabric and design of the stocking. We are in need of approximately 60 stockings and anyone can participate. We will have a drawing for a $25 gift certificate for all people that donate a completed stocking. The stockings will be displayed at the brunch and the attendees will vote for a viewer’s choice and a prize will be awarded.

If you were unable to pick up a pattern at the October meeting there is still time to whip one up. Contact Patty Von Arx at pva13@comcast.net and she will mail you a pattern.

The children at St. Joseph’s gave us the following wish list of items to stuff the stockings: Socks, yo-yo’s, chapstick, hair ties, barrettes, candy, activity books, gloves – stretch kind, cards, match box cars, small lego sets, action figures, stickers. If you would like to donate any items please bring them to the November meeting or to the brunch. You can also drop off or mail them to the MQ office, Attention: the brunch committee.

The block and ornament exchanges are a treasured activity at the MQ holiday gathering. Long-time participants have gathered many blocks, and the goal of many is to gather enough blocks to make a special quilt, full of memories of MQ friends and happy holiday parties.

**Block Exchange.** To participate, bring a 12-1/2” (12” finished size) block in holiday colors/fabrics, or with a holiday theme. Use either a (1) white (or white-on-white), or (2) cream/tan background fabric for the block background. This exchange is sort of a “mystery” exchange because the blocks will be put into paper bags, the participant will receive a ticket for each block submitted (maximum of three per participant), and she/he will receive, in turn, one bagged block for each ticket.

A few guidelines for blocks:

§ As with the MQ Fat Quarter Drawing, a good rule of thumb is to only submit a block that you wouldn’t mind getting back yourself. Use good quality cottons, probably avoiding novelty prints.

§ Please submit blocks that are more complex than not, with multiple pieces.

§ Measure and piece carefully, so that the block ends up 12-1/2” square.

§ If you need ideas for a block pattern, please visit the Textile Center Pat O’Connor Library and take a look at the many holiday magazine issues or books that the library has. One possibility might be a star block.

§ Appliqué blocks are also, of course, welcome, but please know that you might not (probably won’t) receive an appliqué block in return. Bless your heart for spending appliqué-time on an exchange block!

**Ornament Exchange.** Bring a handmade quilted or quilt-related ornament to exchange. You can bring up to three ornaments to exchange. As with the block exchange, you will get a ticket for each ornament that you bring and ornaments will be placed in paper bags so the ornament you receive will be a surprise.

After the exchanges are made, Doris and Karen will find a way to let you share and display the blocks and ornaments so that everyone can get a good look (this is almost as much fun as actually getting them for yourself!) Our exchanges will certainly help to get our holiday creativity flowing early in the holiday season.
Are you a beginning quilter? Do you know someone who is a beginning quilter?

If you are a beginning quilter or know of a beginning quilter who could use some encouragement, please consider sending in an application for the Minnesota Quilters, Inc. Doreen Speckmann Scholarship. MQ believes, as did Doreen Speckmann, that the best way to encourage and inspire new quilters is to give them a chance to participate in a great quilt show and conference.

The person chosen to receive the scholarship will receive the following:
• Registration fee
• Registration for two 3-hour classes or one 6-hour class
• Registration for three lectures
• Banquet and Award Ceremony ticket
• Single hotel room for two nights.

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:
• Have quilted less than two years
• Have started fewer than three large quilts or four wall hangings

Bring your donations for the door prize committee to Thursday or Saturday meetings between now and May 2009, or mail them to:

Vicci Mattsfield
21300 Furman St NE
Wyoming MN 55092

Note: please make sure that each donation is clearly labeled with your name and address, dollar value of the item, and “2009 Show Door Prizes.”

We deeply appreciate all contributions. Each donation will be acknowledged when it is received. We also ask each door prize recipient to send their thanks after the show.

We look forward to your contributions!

2009 Scholarship for Beginning Quilters in Honor of Doreen Speckmann

The scholarship application consists of the following:
• An essay containing between 300-500 words. The essay should explain what quilting means to you and what you would like to learn during the quilt show and conference.
• Photos of two of your quilts and/or wall hangings, with a description of each. The quilts do not have to be finished.
• Completed scholarship entry form (will be in the registration book and available online).

Please watch for more information in the registration booklet and online.

Application deadline is February 15, 2009.

Please contact Char Wenger, President-Elect, at preselect@mnquilt.org if you have any questions.
2009 Special Exhibits

by Rose Allen and Martha Eaves, Special Exhibit Co-Chairs

MQ Special Exhibit---Calling all winners and/or those who use Joanne Holtzknecht’s Block of the Month (BOM) patterns for a quilt.

Each month Joanne Holtzknecht has been designing and distributing her BOM to a lucky person—and some of us who contribute are wondering: Do those quilts ever get done? Rose Allen and Martha Eaves, Special Exhibit Co-Chairs for the 2009 Duluth show decided to find out.

As one of the 2009 Special Exhibits, we are asking that those of you who were lucky enough to win the Block of the Month blocks, or who did not win but used the Block of the Month in a quilt creation, to submit your quilts for an exhibit.

Here are the rules:

1. You can use any blocks that were in the Block of the Month columns since Joanne started designing the blocks. They do not have to be blocks you won, just blocks you made using BOM as inspiration. But if you actually won the blocks, we want to see your quilts!

2. The regular show criteria for size, sleeves, etc. apply for this exhibit.

3. Quilts must be finished. No submission of just the blocks you won.

4. At least one-third of the quilt must be composed of the BOM.

5. Check the Show Registration booklet for other details.

6. If you never won the blocks but want to make a submission, the old BOM’s are now archived on the MQ website at www.mnquilt.org so you still have time to make your favorite.

2009 Small Quilt Auction

by Jan Walstrom, 2009 Small Quilt Auction

Now is the time to think about what you can donate to the Small Quilt Auction for the June, 2009 Show. The money raised is used to support quilt education through public television and grants for special products/programs.

We accept small quilts and many other fabric items. Where can your imagination take you? Some examples are: Fabric Bowls, Aprons, Purses, Dolls and Wearable Arts.

Donations will be accepted starting in January, 2009. Each item should have the makers name, address, phone number and title of the item safely pinned to it.

Donating between January and May will enter the donor’s name into a monthly prize drawing. A free lecture ticket will be given to the donor of each item.

Items may be brought to MQ meetings or mailed to the MQ office, care of Small Quilt Auction Committee.

Please mail to:

Minnesota Quilters, Inc.
C/O: Small Quilt Auction Committee
3000 University Ave SE, #120
Minneapolis MN 55414

(Please note: This year donations should not be sent to the committee members homes.)
Minnesota Quilters has implemented a Members Only website that has many wonderful features. In each newsletter, we'll highlight a tip here for how you can make use of this member's only website. This month, we walk you through:

**HOW TO RENEW YOUR MQ MEMBERSHIP ONLINE.**

Did you know that it’s very fast and easy to renew your MQ membership online? If you’ve provided an e-mail address in your profile, you’ll receive a reminder notice prior to your expiration date. Otherwise, you can check the mailing label of your newsletter for the renewal date.

If you’re not already a member of Minnesota Quilters, becoming one is also fast and easy! Just fill out a form, select a payment method (sending a check is an option), and with a click you’re a member!

Simply go to www.mnquilt.org and click the Member Login button. If you’re still unsure, you can be walked through the process on the “Members Only Help” pages on the website, so that you’ll become familiar with the process before you try it.

As always, if you’ve forgotten your Username and/or Password, it’s quite easy to get them. Simply send an e-mail to comm@mnquilt.org and you’ll hear back from us soon, usually within a few hours, but potentially within a day or two (remember that we’re all volunteers and not always near a computer).
Fat Quarter Drawing

Cats, wonderful cats . . . we had many cats in October.

**Arly Fuhr** won 21 great “cat” Fat Quarters. Congratulations!

We all love Fat Quarters so plan ahead for the next months’ themes as you are out shopping.

- November: Earthtones - wonderful, warm fall colors. Don’t you just “love” them!
- NO Drawing in December
- Think ahead to next year: January: Blue and White prints

Our drawings are a wonderful way to add to our stash. Contribute up to three fat quarters (approximately 18” x 22”) of quilt-shop quality 100% cotton fabric in the theme of the month and we’ll enter your name in the Fat Quarter Drawing for that month (one entry for each fat quarter contributed, up to a maximum of three). Please be sure to attach your name, address, and phone number to each fat quarter.

Bring your fat quarters to the Thursday evening or Saturday morning meeting or mail them to the MQ office, 3000 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 so that it arrives before the Saturday meeting. Please label the envelope “FQ Drawing.”

We draw one name at the beginning of the Thursday night and Saturday morning meetings (Saturday only drawing if we have fewer than 10 FQs on Thursday). You need not be present to win.

The Fat Quarter Committee members are: Carolyn Minor, Arly Fuhr, Jill Schultz, Patty Von Arx, and Janet Watt. If you have questions or theme suggestions, please contact Carolyn Minor at 651-439-7139 or cminor@winternet.com

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November Survey

**Cindy Wilson and Yvonne Curran, Communications CoChairs**

Each month, we’ll ask a few survey questions, and publish the results in the next newsletter. You can take the survey by going to www.mnquilt.org, clicking on the Member Login button, then selecting Community/Polls (you don’t need to log on to do this). Or, you can email your response to Cindy at comm@mnquilt.org or fill in the survey below and mail it to Cindy Wilson, 17868 Impala Path, Lakeville, MN 55044. We hope you will have fun with the surveys! If you have ideas for future surveys, contact Cindy at comm@mnquilt.org.

**How many quilt groups/quilts do you belong to?**
- None
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- more than 4

**Have you ever participated in making quilts for service project type organizations?**
- Yes, regularly
- Yes, several times
- Yes, occasionally
- Yes, Once
- No

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Please take the survey before November 6!

The survey becomes active on October 17 and expires November 6 so that we can get the results into the December MQ News.
Block of the Month

by Joanne Holzknecht

Any Questions or Comments Contact:
Joanne Holzknecht
2618 65th Ave N.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
sewsewjo@iphouse.com

October BOM winner: Glendia Fulkerson
won 33 of the Leaf Variation Blocks

* For JANUARY meeting *

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH 8” (8 ½” unfinished)

Fabrics: Background use 4 different cream to light tan prints
Center is black solid or tone on tone print

Cut: 4- backgrounds 4 ½” X 4 ½”
     4- black 2 ½” X 2 ½”

Place small black squares in the corner of larger square and sew at an angle as shown in diagram. Trim off excess fabric and press.

Boy, wasn’t that block fast and easy to make? Do you have time to make another one?

34th Annual Sale

Friday, Nov. 14: 12pm - 9pm
Saturday, Nov. 15: 10am - 5pm
Sunday, Nov. 16: 12pm - 4pm

Handmade items from over 50 local artists. Perfect for gifts!
Located in the Textile Center
3000 University Ave SE, Minneapolis
www.weaversguildmn.org  612-436-0463

Free Admission  Free Parking
All proceeds support local artists and the Weavers Guild

Quilt Binding Services - - - 25¢ per inch
You provide your quilt ready for binding, washed binding fabric for straight or bias cut binding and thread to match.

My services:
· Trim edges of quilt to ¼” seam allowance
· Cut, sew and prepare binding
· Machine sew binding onto front of quilt w/ ¼” seam and mitered corners
· Hand stitch binding to back of quilt
Debra Svedberg  519 7th Ave SE Minneapolis
612-331-5182 - or - 612-270-9907
There is nothing quilters like better than a challenge, especially when there is a chance of free fabric as part of the deal. The Ikea challenge is what brought out a group of women, including myself, lined up as if there were a music concert taking place at the Textile Center at 7:30 Tuesday morning. While we lounged in our deck chairs watching the traffic on University Avenue speed by, I got a chance to interview Wanda Shelton, a long time member of both Minnesota Quilters and also the MN Contemporary Quilters.

Wanda started quilting in the spring of 1970 while still attending college in Minnesota. She had been making clothing for herself since 7th or 8th grade, and just decided to make a quilt for her bed. There were no classes for her to take, few books, and she did not have anyone to show her so she just improvised based on her general knowledge of sewing.

She did have a fabric stash but it was fabric from clothing she made, and included everything from corduroy, wool, polyester and of course, cotton. All of this fabric went into the quilt! She pieced using one-half inch seams, pressed open. She hand quilted it in a one inch grid because that is what the directions on the batting said to do.

That first quilt took several years to finish and was quilted on from MN to Texas to Nebraska before it was completed. Oh, one more amazing thing—the backing was a twin size bed sheet! [If you have never tried to hand quilt through a bed sheet, consider yourself lucky!]

Wanda took her first quilting classes in 1979 or 1980 while she was living in Nebraska. The class was taught by Virginia Avery—who was also one of the early teachers at the first MQ shows. Wanda belonged to MQ even though she lived in Nebraska because she wanted to get priority classes at the MQ shows.

She recalls being totally amazed that people could make a quilt to fit a specific criteria of the show in just one year. Usually it took her up to four years to get a large quilt done—like the one she made for her sister of square in square browns with the centers embroidered in sea shell designs and of course, hand quilted.

In the late 1980s, Wanda moved to Texas and lived fairly close to Houston so was exposed to the many beautiful quilts being shown at the Houston festival. This opened her eyes to the joys of machine quilting.

Because she is skilled in math, she especially likes the design aspect of quilting . . . and even though she machine quilts, she still thinks like a hand quilter and tries to avoid seems that are too thick. As a member of her Omaha quilt guild, she used her math degree to help people figure out how to draft and resize their blocks.

Wanda has no particular favorite color and no particular favorite block, but she does have 14 sewing machines! She usually uses either her Elna Quilters Dream Pro or her Featherweight to do most of her work. She is active in several quilting groups, including MQ, the Contemporary Quilters, and the Roseville quilters.

Any advice for the new quilter? Just get started . . . don’t worry about all the rules until later on. You can always use the rules!
This month, we finally got a box of new library books from the list of items that you have been suggesting. At the top of list is Helen Kelly’s new book, Loose Threads. Helen had a wonderful way of expressing the love of quilting that we all have.

But here are some of the others, which will be ready for you to check out by the next meeting:

Mother Earth and Her Children by Sibylle Von Olfers
Skinny Quilts and Table Runners by Eleanor Levie
Quilts of a Different Color by Irene Blume
Hooked on Feathers by Sally Terry
Sewflakes by Kathy Wylie
Simply Stunning Woven Quilts by Anna Faustino
Love to Machine Applique by Caroline Price
Sawtooth: New Quilts from Old Favorites by AQS
Mosaic Picture Quilts by Pat Durkin
Design Workshop with Ruth McDowell by Ruth McDowell

One-Block Wonder Encore! by Maxine Rosenthal
Thread Painting by Terry White
Think Pink [we have 2 copies]

I could not resist taking one of these new books home so I could review it for you. I selected Mosaic Picture Quilts by Pat Durbin. She presents another way to use your love of landscapes, and your own photos, as a basis for a quilt.

The book’s subtitle tells it all: she uses a transparency that is gridded to divide your favorite photo into small squares. By using the grid over the photo as your guide, you basically construct a puzzle piece into the landscape. Her grids use very small squares [1 ¼ by 1 ¼” but the book starts with a simple project and walks you through the process.

Once you have learned the basic grid technique, she shows you how to add details on top of the grid to complete the fabric picture.

The book has many pictures and takes you through the entire process, including how to quilt your piece to add to its uniqueness and of course, making a tag!

As you know, these new books and others in our collection may be checked out of the Textile Center Library for one month, and also renewed by email or telephone.
Textile Center Liaison News

by Karen O’Brien, Textile Center Liaison

September 13 was “Family Day” at the Textile Center, and what a great time it was! Children were the guests of honor, and there was a lot of evidence that they were having fun. Member guilds set up tables with displays, flyers, and gave demonstrations. The Minnesota Quilters table provided the materials for artists of all ages to paint muslin blocks (with fabric paint markers) and made some beautiful art to be used for quilts for Project Linus. We were one of the few guilds to offer a “hands on” activity for participants, and we heard lots of words of thanks.

I believe that “Family Day” will occur next year as well. Keep this in mind, if you have an idea for an activity, or would like to help in some way. It was great fun, and is a great way for us to get together with other Textile Center guilds and to spread the word about Minnesota Quilters!

In the Galleries…
- In the Joan Mondale gallery, see FREEDOM: THE FIBER OF OUR NATION (August 29–October 18), a membership exhibition.
- In the Community Gallery (the hallway), other artists exhibit on the theme.
- Throughout the Textile Center, look for children’s art inspired by the concept of Freedom.
- In the Library, the Upper Midwest Bead Society is showing all kinds of beautiful beaded items, and librarian Nancy Mambi has pulled out all sorts of bead books for your perusal.

Opportunities…

Hours - The Textile Center Gallery and Shop hours are Monday-Thursday, 10am-7pm; Friday and Saturday, 10am-5pm.

Classes and Workshops - visit http://textilecentermn.org/education.asp to see the exciting line up of fall classes. New open studio times in the dye lab, lace making, pattern drafting and sweater design and much more!

News - see http://textilecentermn.org/newsblog.asp.

Parking - Thanks to our cooperative neighbor to the east, parking is available in the small lot immediately to the east of the Textile Center parking lot, after 5pm and on weekends. This parking is only available after 5pm on weekdays. Do not park in the NanoSystems’ lot, two doors to the east.
Girl Scouts of the River Valleys, Crystal, Saturday, November 15  Spend a day with Girl Scouts of the River Valleys and spread your love of quilting. You will work with a group of girls and leaders teaching them all about quilting with a simple quilt pattern. All the basics are covered – rotary cutting, strip piecing, sewing and pressing. Share the joy as these girls take their projects from stacks of strips to a tied quilt that they can then give to the charity of their choice. Our next Quilting for Others event is November 15, 8:30-3:00 at Brunswick United Methodist Church, 6122 42nd Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55422. Join us and do something a little different before the hustle and bustle of the holidays take over! For more information, call Cissy Holland at 763-767-8812.

Theater Unbound Needs Quilters Theatre Unbound is looking for volunteers to help make several quilts for our April 2009 production of the ever-popular musical *Quilters*. Volunteers can help with everything from organizing sewers, actual quilt making to teaching cast and crew about quilting. No amount of help is too small and all volunteers will receive free show tickets to see your handiwork on stage. If interested, please contact Stacey Poirier at 612-207-3659.

Do You Sudoku? Are you addicted to sudoku puzzles? Have you seen the quilt book “Sudoku Quilts” by Cyndi Hershey? Cyndi’s book substitutes colors for numbers in making the nine x nine patch quilts in her book, but a friend and I are interested in going one better--making quilts in which not only the colors/fabrics follow the sudoku rules but also each quilt block contains a representation of a number (i.e., a block with a one piece center, a block with a two piece center, etc.) and a border with one of nine different colors/fabrics. It is not as difficult as it seems, we even have a solved sudoku puzzle pattern to follow. If you are interested in being a part of this sudoku challenge group, perhaps to make some quilts for a future MQ show, let me know! Gail Hanson, stugahanson@msn.com or 612-676-1591.

2008 Treasures of Tomorrow Quilt Show, Marshfield, WI, Friday, Oct. 31 through Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Marshfield Middle School. We would like to invite quilters from the 5 upper Midwest states (Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin) to enter our show with $4000 in prize money. Entry forms may be found at www.piecemakers.org You may email questions to treasures.quilt.show@gmail.com We are anticipating over 250 entries; we have a kids division and a rookie division as well. There will be $10 one-hour classes complete with kits, vendors, food, free demonstrations, etc. For more information call Debbie 715-305-3948 or Pam 715-615-4244.

2008 WinterFest Quilt & Craft Show, Columbia, Maryland, Sat, November 8 Quilts now being accepted for the 2008 WinterFest Quilt and Craft Show “From the Heart” quilt contest. Quilters of all levels are encouraged to enter their quilts. Quilt contest entries must be received by October 31. The quilt contest will be held November 8 at the Hilton Columbia in Columbia Maryland. Prizes include; Best in Show - $300, 1st Place - $200, 2nd Place - $125, 3rd Place - $75. Large Quilts -280” perimeter or larger; Small Quilts - 280” perimeter to 126” perimeter; Minature Quilts - 125” or less perimeter. Please visit www.locustquiltandcraft.com/Events/Quilts/08QuiltContest.html to find and download entry forms and the complete contest rules. You can give us a call at 410-964-4811. Supporting the Howard County Cold Weather Shelter.

MQ Calendar of Events

Evening general meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 7:00 pm
Saturday meetings begin at 10:00 am.
Board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month, starting at 6:30 pm.

November 6 & 8:  Sue Stein
December 6:  Holiday Brunch – University of St. Thomas
January 8 & 10:  2009 Quilt Show Highlights
February 5 & 7:  Celine Perkins

General Meetings are free for MQ Members and $3 for non-members.
Workshops require an additional fee for all attendees.
Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are winners in many ways! Last month’s winner of the Thursday night volunteer drawing, Karen Whalen-Max, was presented with a book by Eleanor Burns. This was a pleasant surprise, but equally pleasing was the volunteer time spent at the MQ booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Because Karen enjoyed this task at three previous state fairs, she agreed to bring her hand quilting project to the booth in the Creative Activities Building again this year. The tradition of the fair itself, interacting with fairgoers, and promoting MQ were sources of her motivation. She has discovered that stories about quilting link people of different ages and communities together in shared enjoyment. She mentioned being aware of children’s interest, which greatly pleased her. To promote Minnesota Quilters, Karen and other volunteers gave out free magnets printed with information about MQ and future show dates. Karen enthusiastically recalled her volunteer experience which provided her with inspiration as well as a prize at the September meeting. Thank you, Karen!

MQ welcomes Wynn Martin as our Marketing Coordinator. Wynn will work with the Board of Directors to review MQ’s printed “look”, help us review and respond to the results of the summer survey, and other tasks related to freshening up how the organization and membership interact. We’re excited to have Wynn’s expertise!

HELP WANTED

MemberClicks Membership Forms Coordinator
This position would help to maintain the membership database on MemberClicks. You will need some basic understanding of databases, but mostly the detail-orientation to be able to make sure that member records are up to date. You’ll work with Cindy Wilson to learn how to maintain the records. Time commitment: Approximately 1 hour per month, with a few months a year where that time may be more like 5 hours for a month. Contact Cindy Wilson at comm@mnquilt.org for more information.

MemberClicks Show Registration Forms Coordinator
This position will take the 2008 online registration forms and update them for 2009 to reflect the correct classes, prices, food options, merchandise, etc. Detail orientation is required as well as a good understanding of the concept of computer applications that segment tasks. Once forms are up and running, help to develop an improved process to get information out of the MemberClicks database to the Registration committee for creation of badges, class tickets, class rosters, etc. You’ll work with Cindy Wilson this year to get the 2009 form ready and then do the work for the 2010 show next year, and/or be able to train a new person in the position. Time commitment: Significant but with low periods. Oct-Jan is highest for preparing the forms and again the two months prior to the show. Hoping to start work in mid-October. Contact Cindy Wilson at comm@mnquilt.org for more information.

DO YOU KNOW?
If you donate to the United Way, you can specify that some or all of your donation goes to Minnesota Quilters.
Cheryl Lee from Thief River Falls was very excited about winning the 2008 raffle quilt. She plans to redecorate her spare bedroom just for this quilt.

“Thank you so much for the quilt! I’m so excited to be the winner and receive such a beautiful quilt!” exclaimed Cheryl.

The Thief River Falls Quilt Guild, of which Cheryl is a member, was formed in the 80’s. They now have 80 members from Thief River Falls and the surrounding communities. Their projects include Quilts of Valor, kids quilting classes, Project Linus quilts, and lap quilts and walker bags for the nursing homes in the area. They also created and have hosted the Thief River Falls Quilt College for the past 3 years. It is their way of bringing new ideas and beginning quilting to the community and Northwestern Minnesota.

The guild also tries to bring in a professional teacher each year for the guild meetings, and they hold a quilt retreat each year in Crookston at Mt. St. Benedict. They have a booth at the county fair to promote the guild. The guild makes a new year’s baby quilt and a raffle quilt each year, too.

Cheryl’s quilting experience goes back to the 80’s when her sister got her started in quilting. It has now become a passion for her. She likes to try new things so she attends the Minnesota Show and Conference to take classes on new techniques.

Cheryl has been president of the guild twice and has been on the planning committee of their Quilt College every year.

Currently, Cheryl’s emphasis is designing and sewing quilts for her five, and soon to be, six grandchildren.

Cheryl Lee and her husband, Larry, holding the 2008 raffle quilt.
Welcome to the following quilters who joined Minnesota Quilters during September, 2008.
Susan Beelman Bloomington
Nancy Blanck Eden Prairie

Thank you to the following Minnesota Quilters who renewed their memberships during September, 2008.
Rebecca Abright Alexandria
Teri Anderson Maple Grove
JoAnn Belling Des Moines IA
Kathy Berger Stillwater
Irene Bjorklund Minneapolis
Robert Boll Shoreview
Debbie Bowles Burnsville
Pat Casper Oakdale
Carol Christianson Windom
Sharon Coulter Forest Lake
Kay Derner Mound
Elizabeth Doyle White Bear Lake
Julie Ekholm Inver Grove Heights
Jane Gibson Golden Valley
Ellie Hall Marshfield WI
Janet Harvey Elk River
Tina Hollerman Edina
Kay Hudson Calgary AB

Judy Johnson Hugo
Jill Johnson Hugo
Dianne Kile Littleton CO
Carolyn King Burnsville
Elaine Klenert Hill City
Joyce Kraft Ramsey
Jeanne Lufkin Mendota Heights
Janice MacGibbon Edina
Susan MacLennan Minneapolis
Cindy Madison Savage
Janet Malinowski St Louis Park
Nancy Miller Maple Grove
Linda Moskalik Rochester
Kathryn Nelson Arden Hills
Gail Nida Golden Valley
Karen Ohlson Richfield
Suzanne Myers Otto Madison WI

This membership is New Renewing Gift
I would like to make an addition donation of $

Check   Cash    Visa   Mastercard   Discover

Credit Card No:

Expire date:

Name on credit card (please print):

Phone:

Signature:

Thank you for becoming a Minnesota Quilter member!

Mail application to: Minnesota Quilters, 3000 University Ave. SE, #120, Minneapolis, MN 55414
DIRECTIONS: Minnesota Quilters is located at
the Textile Center, 3000 University Avenue SE, Mpls. From WEST (On I94, exit at Univ./280, take the right-hand fork. Turn left onto Univ. Ave. and continue west for 0.7 miles. Textile Center is on the left. From EAST (On I94, exit at Huron Blvd. and merge onto Huron Blvd. SE. Turn right onto Washington SE/MN 122. Turn right again onto Univ. Ave. SE and continue east for 0.5 miles. Textile Center is on the right.

MQ is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the celebration of quilting. Our activities and events are structured to honor the past, celebrate the present, and nurture the future of this time-honored, traditional craft in all its forms.

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