March Meeting  
Saturday, March 1, 10 am

Women's History Month Quilt Exhibit  
Eagan High School, 4185 Braddock Trail, Eagan, MN

Just as Minnesotans look forward to spring, Minnesota quilters look forward to the Women’s History Month Quilt Exhibit at Eagan High School, now in its 19th year. While there is only one membership meeting in March, on Saturday March 1, it is a big one. In addition to the exhibit of 70+ quilts and displays, there will be three vendors: Twin Cities Quilting, Quilts Remembered, and Nickel Quilts. The 2014 MQ Raffle Quilt will be on display. Raffle tickets and 2014 Show Merchandise will be available.

Our featured quilter this year is Pat Speth, known for her Nickel Quilt designs using 5” squares. Several of Pat’s quilts will be included in the exhibit, and she will bring many more to show you as part of her trunk show which will showcase the blocks and simple components that can be created using 5” squares (or charm packs). You will be amazed at the variety of combinations, and leave a believer in “Five Inch is a Cinch.”

March is also our annual membership month. All members are encouraged to bring a friend or fellow quilter to the meeting. Admission is free for all guests and their names will be entered into a drawing for a free membership.

The fun begins at 10 am with light refreshments in the library. View the exhibit, shop the vendors and be ready for the Lecture and Trunk Show at 11 in the auditorium. Following the lecture there will be time to return to the library and continue enjoying the exhibit and shopping. We look forward to seeing you.


April Meetings  
April 3, 7 pm and April 5, 10 am

Help celebrate Minnesota Quilters’ 36th Birthday and our Great Volunteers!
Upcoming Events

March 1, 10 am, Minnesota Quilters membership meeting at Eagan High School. Special presentation by Pat Speth, the “Nickel Quilt Lady”.

No Thursday meeting in March

March 1-20, Quilt Connections, Women’s History Month Quilt Exhibit at Eagan High School

March 6-8, Quilting in the City, Spring Retreat. Call the MQ office to see if there are still openings. This is a day retreat, a good opportunity to finish projects before the entry deadlines for the MQ Show.

April 3 & 5, MQ 36th Birthday Party Several past presidents will talk about the highlights of the years they were in office and show us a few of their favorite quilts. Past Presidents- are you working on your quilts? Come help us celebrate with birthday cake!

April 5, Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and Outstanding Volunteer Award, 8:30 am, at St. Lawrence Church.

May 1, Here Comes the Judge, a presentation by a certified quilt judge about what judges look for when judging quilt competitions and what it takes to make an award-winning quilt.

May 3, How to Prepare Your Quilt for a Longarm Quilter, a presentation by Sue Kleinschmidt from At the Heart of Quilting.

June 12 - 14, 36th Annual Quilt Show and Conference in St. Cloud
Respectfully submitted, Jill Schultz, Secretary

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

The next Board Meeting will be February 25 at 6 pm in Classroom A.

Board job descriptions have been updated and will be on the website and given to the nominating committee.

Education, Communications, Membership, Operations and President Elect.

A nominating committee has been formed and the members will be calling people for the open positions of Treasurer, 2020.

Results from RFP’s sent to St. Cloud, St. Paul, Rochester and Duluth were presented for years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The Show Director presented the registration count. Maple Grove Quilt Guild will be in charge of the Non-Judged quilts.

The auditors will be presenting the results of the financial review at the February 25, 2014 board meeting. The Board discussed the MQ Investment Policy and will make decisions on how to allocate funds.

January 2013 MQ Board Meetings Highlights

This meeting was held February 5 instead of January 28 due to the extreme cold weather.

The Show Director presented the registration count. Maple Grove Quilt Guild will be in charge of the Non-Judged quilts.

A nominating committee has been formed and the members will be calling people for the open positions of Treasurer, Education, Communications, Membership, Operations and President Elect.

Board job descriptions have been updated and will be on the website and given to the nominating committee.

The next Board Meeting will be February 25 at 6 pm in Classroom A.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Schultz, Secretary
February Meeting Highlights

Sixty-five members attended Thursday and 90 on Saturday to hear Sarah Spencer give her wonderful presentation, "From Bedding to Art: A Genealogy of Family Quilts".

Sarah was very fortunate to have inherited a number of quilts from her ancestors. As she began researching who made them, she learned a great deal about the women in her family and where and when they made all the beautiful quilts she now owns. She brought the quilts to Pat Cox to be appraised. When Pat realized what a treasure trove of quilts Sarah had in her possession, she encouraged Sarah to have them documented and to share them with MQ members.

Many of us wished we, too, owned some of the beautiful quilts Sarah showed. We were also reminded of how important it is to sign and document the quilts we make.

February Winners!

Winners of the volunteer drawings were Carol Premack and Yvonne Curran.

Elise Frederick won the Block of the Month heart blocks, and Arlene Albrecht and Arly Fuhr won the Fat Quarter drawings.

A special drawing was held for a scholarship to attend the QIC-Spring Retreat, given by someone who wanted to "Pay Forward" the similar gift she received for a previous retreat. Charlette Pittman was the winner of that drawing.

Woodland Ridge Retreat

Create ■ Relax ■ Rejuvenate
www.woodlandridgeretreat.com

Eight deluxe guest rooms sleeping three in individual full size beds
En-suite bathrooms with whirlpool tubs and separate showers featuring hand made tiles
Light, bright workrooms - Room for 24 guests
Individual adjustable height tables - Hiking trails
ADA accessible - Individual rates - Weekend meals

Winter Special:
Book a two night weekend package in January, February or March 2014 and receive a free weeknight.

Located on the former Creamery property one hour east of the Twin Cities
E4620 County Road C, Downsville, WI
Contact Chris Daly at 715.664.8220 or visit our website for more details.

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February Show and Tell

Pam Plocek
Audrey Weinand
Betty Streich
Dee Legvold

Debbie Tonkin
Kate Eelkema
Loretta Stone
Gail Hanson

Glendia Fulkerson

Chris Daly

Carla Kilkelly
Rose Allen

Melissa Nellis
Micki Peine
Linda Taylor
February Show and Tell (cont.)

Charlette Pittman and Judy Leshovsky - Seven of 13 quilts for Quilt Dreamers Guild for kids in crisis

Tina Hollerman

Peggy Stockwell

Peggy Stockwell

Kay Genelin

Carrie D’Andrea

Molly O’Dea

Items for Small Quilt Auction

Carol Mayala
Hello to all our wonderful MQ members. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered this past month. We need and appreciate all of you. All volunteers need to record their hours on the white slips at the meetings. Keep up the good work! If any of you are interested in the following positions or have questions about them please send us an email volunteer@mnquilt.org or talk to us at the meetings. If you would like to volunteer for any position that is not listed, please let us know.

Current available positions:

**Business Membership Coordinator** – This position reports to the Membership Directors. This person is to keep track of business members, get information to them about meetings and to contact shops about becoming business members.

**Public Relations Coordinator** – This position reports to the Communications Directors, and works with them to promote MQ. It would help to have some public relations and computer experience. This person will prepare and have available packets of information about MQ for members to take to local guild meetings. They will put notices of meetings in newspapers when a program is of interest to the general public, at the direction of the board.

Nancy Hall and Cathy Goset

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**Fat Quarter Drawing**  
fatquarter@mnquilt.org

Themes for coming months in 2014:

- March - no drawing
- April- Pastels
- May- Flowers
- June - no drawing - See you at the Show!
- July- Water, Swimming, Fish, Rivers; in honor of the meeting in Hastings!
- August- Farms, Fields, Farm Animals
- September - Angels - because we need a lot of time to get ready for winter holidays
- October- Orange and/or Blue -Complementary colors in honor of meeting in Blue Earth!
- November- Mini prints, those tiny motifs filling all the space, good for mini quilts

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 drawing for that month (one entry for each fat quarter, up to a maximum of 3). Attach your complete name, address, and phone number to each fat quarter. Bring fat quarters to meetings or mail them to Minnesota Quilters, 1203 5th St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-2030. Fat quarters should arrive before the Saturday meeting. Label the envelope “FQ Drawing.” We draw one name at the start of the Saturday meetings. You need not be present to win.

Molly O’Dea and Becca Brackett
**2014 Show Committee**

- Show Coordinators: Lou Roos (Elk River), Laura Nagel (Apple Valley) [mq2014@mnquilt.org](mailto:mq2014@mnquilt.org)
- Admissions: Jean Carr (Hugo), Rita Culshaw (Ham Lake)
- Bus Tours: Sharon Peterson (Minneapolis)
- Challenge: Yvonne Curran (Ramsey)
- Charming City Stroll: Sandi Irish (Inver Grove Heights)
- Door Prizes: Nancy Broshat (Minneapolis), Carla Kilkelly (Richfield)
- Faculty: Annemarie Yohnk (Burnsville), Mary Pozzini (Stillwater)
- Information Desk: Vicci Mattsfield (Wyoming), Karen O’Brien (Roseville)
- Judged Quilts: Carol Schwankl (Lakeville), Miki Peine (St. Paul)
- Merchandise: Louise Somers (Jordan), Marcy Huggins (Plymouth), Lia Peterson (Minneapolis)
- Non-Judged Quilts: Maple Grove Quilters
- PowerPoint: Sue Rutford (White Bear Lake)
- Photography: Peggy Stockwell (Taylors Falls)
- Printing & Publishing: Janet Watt (Maplewood), Karen Knoll (Lino Lakes)
- Publicity: Mary Drabnik (Shoreview)
- Raffle Quilt: Deb Burk (Eagan)
- Raffle Quilt Tickets: Nancy Hall (Nisswa), Loretta Stone (St. Paul Park)
- Registration: Jan Wolfgam (Fairmont), Audrey Weinand (Blaine)
- Secretary: Char Wenger (Coon Rapids)
- Signage: Rose Allen (St. Paul)
- Small Quilt Auction: Anne McCandless (Minneapolis), Shirley Arendt (Minneapolis)
- Special Events: Opportunity
  - Special Exhibits: Patty Von Arx (Burnsville), Suzanne Fisher (Hastings)
  - Vendors: Sue Rutford (White Bear Lake)
  - Volunteers: Virginia Gleason (St. Cloud), Jean Hoff (St. Cloud)
  - Website: Pat Curtner (St. Paul), Karen Kopitzke (Afton)
- Show Director: Linda Wines, [showdirector@mnquilt.org](mailto:showdirector@mnquilt.org)

### Important Dates

**Advance Registration:**

- **Members Only:** Began January 16, 2014
- **General:** Began February 1, 2014
- **Deadlines:**
  - May 1, 2014 (mail in)
  - May 15, 2014 (online)

**Non-Judged Children’s/Teens’ Exhibit:**

- **Entry Form Submission Deadline:** April 19, 2014

**Judged Exhibit:**

- **Entry Form Submission Deadline:** April 18, 2014

**2014 Challenge:**

- **Entry Form Submission Deadline:** April 30, 2014

*Look for hotel listings on the MQ Show website and in the show registration book.*
**Registration for the Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 36th Annual Quilt Show and Conference**

Tick Tock…..The Clock is Running

Spread the word, registration is now open to the public for the MQ show in June. Although June seems like a long way away, it will be here before you know it. It is important to register early in order to get the classes you want. Some classes are beginning to fill up. We also don't want to cancel classes due to low registration.

Online registration at www.mnquilt.org/mq2014 is in real time so you will know immediately whether or not you are registered for the class. Class sessions, lectures, events and merchandise will calculate automatically as you add items, and you will be able to see the total before you pay.

You can make changes to your registration yourself any time before May 20, 2014. After that you will need to email your changes in writing to reg2014@mnquilt.org or mail them to the MQ office. We are unable to accept verbal changes simply because it is too easy to mishear the instructions. If it is written we will know what to do.

We know that life does happen so remember you have the opportunity to purchase registration insurance. If you purchase this insurance for $20 when you register, you will receive a 100% refund for classes, lectures and special events as long as you cancel before June 1. This insurance will not cover the registration fee, the insurance itself, box lunches or merchandise.

If you don't have access to the internet, don't worry, you can still register by sending your completed form and payment into the MQ office. Just be sure to select a 2nd class choice in case your first choice is filled. Mail-in registrations must be received by May 1. If you have chosen this method a confirmation will be mailed back to you.

Audrey Weinand and Jan Wolfgram – 2014 Registration Co-Chairs

**Win a Sewing Machine!!**

Registering for classes at the 2014 Show & Conference can be even more rewarding now. Gratz Sewing has donated a Janome sewing machine that will be used as the prize for a lucky person who registers for classes. For each class you are registered in, your name will be entered into the drawing (so if you register for 4 classes, you will be entered 4 times). The last day you can register online for classes is May 15, 2014. Mail-in registrations deadline is May 1. The drawing will be held after online registrations have closed.

**Non-Judged Exhibit**

Hello, Quilters! Let us introduce ourselves as the Non-Judged Exhibit co-chairs- Kathleen Winters and Wanda Shelton, along with the rest of the Maple Grove Quilt Guild. We got a late start in volunteering to head up this committee, but we hope you haven’t gotten a late start in making quilts to enter.

This year’s show will be in the bigger, better, new and expanded River’s Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. You’ll like the venue, and you’ll love seeing your quilt hanging in all its glory in the exhibit. The quilt that seems ordinary as it drapes across your lap while you stitch the binding will look stunning when you see it hanging full-on, flanked by two other wonderful quilts.

Never entered a quilt in the MQ show? Check that off your bucket list. Worried about the glaring imperfections you didn’t fix? You will not notice the cut-off triangle tip on the third star from the left. You will see how the colors float across the quilt and how the stitching adds depth and dimension to flat fabric. Invite your family and friends to attend the show – justify your stash and all the time you spend sewing! Linger by your quilt; listen to the viewer comments – the oohs and aahs. Notice how many people want to take a photo of your ordinary spectacular quilt.

See page 11 in the registration booklet for details. The entry deadline is April 19th. Keep quilting and send in that registration. Your quilt wants to show itself off! Oh, and there are two viewer’s choice monetary awards.

Kathleen Winters and Wanda Shelton

**Significant Change in Judged Quilts Categories**

This year a significant change has been made in the Judged Quilts categories. If a quilt has previously won a monetary award and ribbon in a national show it MUST be entered in the new Blue Diamond category. The entrant may enter only one quilt in that category. That entrant may enter another quilt in another category if it has not previously won in a national show. This change hopes to encourage our quilters to enter and learn from the judges' comments. The judges have been asked to make positive comments which are intended to help entrants become better quilters.

On-line Judged Quilt registrations are now on the show website.
Small Quilt Auction 2014

We are now happily taking your donations for the 2014 Quilt Show in St. Cloud. In the past, members have donated small wall hangings, pillows, purses, pin cushions, table runners, wearable art, and many more types of items.

This year at the quilt show, we will be offering a new option for shoppers. We will be doing a same-day boutique of the smaller items that are donated. A price will be listed on the item, and the buyer will be able to pay for the item and take it with them right then.

Please let us know if you have a minimum amount you’d like to see listed for your items. If you are donating a quilt wider than 18”, please add a 4” sleeve. For each donated item, please attach your name, address, phone number, email address and name and/or description of your donation. Your donation can be brought to either the Thursday or Saturday monthly meetings, or mailed to the Minnesota Quilter’s office at:

Small Quilt Auction Minnesota Quilters, 1203-5th St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

There will be a monthly drawing for all donors for a $25 gift certificate to the quilt shop of your choice. Earn one drawing entry for each item you donate. The January winner was Pat Curtner.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne McCandless or Shirley Arendt, or email us at smallquiltauction2014@mnquilt.org.

Volunteers Wanted!

As you look over your Minnesota Quilters 2014 Show booklet, along with thinking about classes and events, please think about volunteering to help at the Show! One of the special features of our nationally known show is that it is volunteer run. That means YOU are one of the most important parts of the show. There are many different types of volunteer roles - from the fun of Set-up, to roving as a White Glove or staffing the Small Quilt Auction table in the display area, to acting as Classroom Helper for the teacher in a class you are taking. So many jobs to choose from!

Volunteer shifts are available in 1 to 4 hour blocks and can start on the hour or half hour. After two hours as a volunteer you will receive the Show Volunteer pin in appreciation. Also for every two hours of service, you get your name entered into the daily drawings and a chance to win the sewing machine that is our volunteer Grand Prize! You will find the Volunteer Form on page 32 of the show booklet. You can also find the form online at www.mnquilt.org/mq/2014, or email us at volunteers2014@mnquilt.org.

Please register for your classes, make your plans, and fit some time as a volunteer into your 2014 Minnesota Quilt Show experience!
Raffle Quilt

“Blooming Northern Star”


The 2014 raffle quilt incorporates piecing, appliqué and embroidery. The quilt was designed to represent our “North Star State”. The flowers surrounding the center lone star are flowers that grow in our northern gardens.

Minnesota Quilters, Inc. uses the proceeds from the raffle quilt to support its mission to celebrate the art of quilting. Raffle tickets are $1 each and are available from the MQ office, at MQ meetings, and during the MQ Quilt Show and Conference in St. Cloud. Please pay for the raffle tickets with cash and checks; we are unable to accept credit card payment for them. To request raffle tickets, please contact the MQ Office at 1203 5th Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414, by phone 612-436-0449 or email, quilter@mnquilt.org. If you are unable pick up raffle tickets in person, you may have tickets mailed to you. Call the office or specify quantity on your registration form.

You may check out the raffle quilt to take to your guild or quilt show. This provides extra opportunities to share the quilt and sell raffle tickets. Please contact Loretta Stone at raffletickets2014@mnquilt.org to let her know when you would like to reserve the quilt.

The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, June 14 at 4 pm at the River’s Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, MN. You need not be present to win. Thank you for your help in making this fundraiser a success! Good luck!!

Hey Minnesota Quilters...

Gwen Marston, a faculty member of our 2014 quilt show, is exhibiting a selection of her quilts at the Dennos Museum Center in Traverse City, MI. To learn more about her exhibit please visit the museum site at http://www.dennosmuseum.org/exhibitions/future/gwen-martson-quilts.html.

There is a wonderful photographic display of her exhibit at: http://lomeranger.zenfolio.com/gwenmarston. Also, in conjunction with the exhibit she gave a lecture, Abstract Quilts in Solids, this lecture can be viewed at: http://thelittleredhen.typepad.com/my_weblog/2014/01/index.html

As members of Minnesota Quilters you are able to take Gwen’s classes without having to travel to Michigan. Please check out your 2014 Quilt Show Registration booklet to see the four interesting and exciting full day classes Gwen will be teaching in June. Don’t delay, her classes are filling quickly! Enjoy!

Annemarie Yohnk and Mary Pozzini, 2014 Minnesota Quilt Show Faculty

President’s Block Request

Wynn Martin

We have a tradition at MQ of giving a quilt block to our board president as a thank you for service given to our quilting community. This year we decided that February is the perfect month to announce the type or style of block that our current president (or co-presidents) would like to receive.

I spoke with Kathie Simon Frank and Patty Von Arx and I’m delighted to report their uniquely personal and thoughtful requests. Patty told me that she loves the color purple and would like to receive a 6 ½” block, and that the block design should be a favorite design that reflects what the maker (that’s you) likes most about quilting. Appliqué, traditional, paper-pieced or modern, simply make a 6½” purple block that you would enjoy.

Kathie’s request is equally special. Her quilts often reflect the nature we see around us, so it’s no surprise that she is asking for quilt blocks that have elements of nature in the design. It can be any applique, pieced, paper-pieced, traditional, contemporary or abstract block of any size, but nothing larger than 12 1/2”.

As past president, Laura Nagel is asking for red schoolhouse blocks in 6” or 12” size.
Minnesota Quilt Project (MQP)

Minnesota Quilt Project is a standing committee of Minnesota Quilters, Inc. The mission of MQP is to identify and document quilts, both privately and publicly held, that have a Minnesota connection. MQP participants are quilt lovers who are interested in one, some, or all of the following: preserving quilts and their histories; historical significance of quilts; historical significance of quilters; vintage quilts; vintage fabrics.

Any MQ member can take part in MQP meetings and activities. MQP meets at 8:30 am before the Saturday MQ monthly meetings in Classroom A at St. Lawrence Church, unless the regular meeting is not held at the church.

MQP has photographed and documented approximately 4,000 quilts in Minnesota!

MQP Quilt Reproduction Project

mqp@mnquilt.org

The Minnesota Quilt Project committee is leading a project to reproduce a tattered quilt that dates from between 1878 and 1895, shown below. Also shown is the 8.5” x 8.5” finished size signature block signed "Lavinia Fedderly - Kilbourn City," in very faded script. To the right of it is a reproduction block pieced by Pat Cox. We are inviting MQ members to be a part of the project by sewing Chimney Sweep blocks using reproduction fabrics from that time period. Background fabric will be provided, and we’re asking for donations for the reproduction print fabric. Would you like to help with block construction? Just let us know by sending a message to mqp@mnquilt.org. We were pleased that quite a few people signed up at the February meeting.

Check the Minnesota Quilters, Inc. website, www.mnquilt.org and then click on the tab at the top right labeled MN Quilt Project. Eventually we will have the individual blocks from the quilt posted there to give you a better idea of the colors/prints and photos of the individual blocks. Please contact mqp@mnquilt.com to get a pattern for the block.

We will be showing the finished quilt in the MQP booth at the 2015 Minnesota Quilters Show.

MQP members not pictured are Mary Hinz, Sandy Johnson, Karen Kopitzke, Sharon Peterson and Kelly Willis
Volunteer Thank You

Page Johnson is a long time Minnesota Quilter who is a “Minnesota Nice” volunteer. She has spent more than 10 years working with Quilts of Valor as the Southern Minnesota Regional Coordinator. She remains actively involved with the organization.

Fabric has been in Page’s life for a long time. She has been around quilts all of her life starting with her great-great grandmother and all of her aunts who quilted. Page starting sewing Barbie doll clothes at age 7. She agrees that making clothes for the American Girl dolls is much easier, which is what she lovingly sewed for her daughter.

Page has three children, two in college and one a high school senior. Her household is a busy place.

Page’s longarm quilting career is impressive. She is currently a Longarm Statler Certified Trainer and has been honored with 85 national awards. She travels to as many as 15 events per year, teaching and lecturing. She will be teaching 6 longarm classes at the Minnesota Quilters, Inc. Annual Show and Conference next June.

This past year, Page did a fabulous job quilting the 2014 Minnesota Quilter’s raffle quilt. We thank her for the generosity of time and talent creating this beautiful quilt. If you see Page at the June show in St. Cloud, please greet and thank her for her contributions.

Page also has a longarm business and will quilt most anything. [Website URL]

Minnesota Quilter’s Inc. Board of Directors

MQ On the Road

Minnesota Quilters plans to travel in 2014 for two of our Saturday meetings. On July 12 we will meet at the Le Duc Mansion in Hastings, and on October 4 we will meet in Blue Earth. Since this is a statewide guild, we want to “spread our wings” outside the metro area. There will be bus transportation, we’ll stop to shop, and have good times. Watch future newsletters for more details.

August Studio Tours

We will again offer a day of quilt studio tours on Saturday, August 9. We have three studios in Apple Valley already on our list, but we would like a few more studios on the tour. If your studio is somewhere between our meeting location and Apple Valley (like south Minneapolis, St. Paul, West St. Paul, Eagan, Bloomington, etc.) and you are willing to let others see how you organize your sewing space, please contact the Education Directors at ed@mnquilt.org.

Block of the Month – April Showers

Wynn Martin and Jeanne LaMoore

Directions and photos for the April Block of the Month were in the February newsletter.

There will be no BOM for the March meeting.

Blow Your Horn!

MQ member, Peggy Wright, authored a 3 page article in the March American Quilter (AQ) magazine titled, "Are Your Colors Playing Well Together?"

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. So besides being our MQ birthday, we will be honoring our Outstanding MQ Volunteer and inviting all of our volunteers for a breakfast before the Saturday, April 5th meeting, at 8:30. Look for an invitation soon or call in your R.S.V.P to Debra in the office.
Picking Up The Pieces
Laura Nagel, pastpres@mnquilt.org © 2014

Once upon a time there was a very perplexed quilter who had been dreaming about making her legacy quilt – the one that would be admired by all who saw it, and treasured for many generations to come – but she was at a loss as to how to get started. One day, while sorting through her stash, the quilter was visited by the Quilt Fairy who had also been anxiously awaiting the beginning of this monumental undertaking, and knowing how prone to procrastination the quilter was, the Quilt Fairy offered to grant her one wish for someone who could help with this task. The only stipulation was that who the quilter wished for had to possess the kind of magic only found in fairy tales.

The quilter thanked the Quilt Fairy, and immediately began to search her memory for her favorite fairy tales. There were so many to choose from, and each one had its own distinct magical power. How could she ever decide?

So one by one, the quilter commenced to mentally audition her favorite storybook characters. The first one who came to mind was Cinderella’s Fairy Godmother. Why not? After all, she was jovial, generous, and had that excellent magic wand that could probably put pieces of fabric together with a perfect ¼ inch, every intersection would match, and the quilting would imitate the swirls of her charmed baton. But with all that assistance, would she really be able to take credit for such a creation?

Maybe a simpler solution was needed, like the Mother Bear from The Three Bears. She must have been a good cook if Goldilocks was any judge. And the Father and Baby Bear were always coming and going on walks. The whole Bear family could be enlisted to cook and deliver meals so she wouldn’t have to stop quilting just because her family was hungry. Now that would be quite helpful. But if she was going to consider help with the housework, she might as well wish for Snow White, who could do it all – cook, clean, do laundry, and sing! And if Snow White couldn’t get it all done, well, everyone knows she had those seven little men who were more than willing to lend a helping hand.

Speaking of little men, how about the Shoemaker and His Elves? Now there’s a group of troopers – and they already know how to sew. And the best part is that they came at night, while everyone was asleep and completed all the unfinished shoes. The quilter could just imagine leaving out the pieces for her blocks and waking up to finished designs, or assembling the quilt sandwich, only to find it beautifully quilted together the next morning. What a miracle!

The more the quilter imagined the magic these characters could generate, the more she felt that maybe she should wish for something that would be longer lasting than just finishing one quilt. Why not wish for a quilt studio where she could plan and accomplish countless quilting tasks? And she knew just who to call on – The Three Little Pigs! It is well known that they were master builders. They could build a brick addition on the back of the house, insulate it with straw bales (so environmentally friendly), and then build all the wooden shelving for fabric, books and notions. Oh, she could hardly wait to get started drawing up the plans.

But alas, it was all just a dream. Upon awaking, the quilter realized that while each of her imagined characters would have been welcome, there was really only one creature whose example she could truly hope to follow, and that would be the inspirational Little Red Hen, who got to work, accomplished her tasks, received no help, and in the end could proudly proclaim, “I did it all by myself!” And she did.

Quilting for Others

Quilting for Others held a “Sew In” on January 4 following the Saturday morning meeting. Participants made string blocks and quilts to be donated to the Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter.

Mary Johnson has granted us permission to print her heartstrings pattern, page 15-16, and on the MQ website. The link to the heartstrings website is: http://heartstringsquiltproject.com.
Do you have a bunch of unfinished projects? Do you need a little push to finish some of them? Would you like to have gifts already made for the coming year? Then this may be the plan for you! I'm going to start. How about you?

I was talking to my friend and fellow Scrap Tamer member Georgia about one of her own personal quilting challenges for 2014. She read on a blog about the idea of "finish it up Fridays" and came up with her personal challenge. She was happy to share. She calls it "52 finishes" and it sounds like fun. 52 weeks in the year - 52 finished projects. So how would this work?

This is a personal challenge so you could make your own rules and your own definition of finishing. Finishing any project would count as a “finish”. A quilt could count as either 1 finish or 3 finishes, depending on how you want to divide it. The top as #1, quilting as #2, binding as #3? Finishing a pillowcase or tote bag you started would count as a finish. I would add sewing a loose button back on (something I'm really good at avoiding) or shortening that pair of pants. Or how about knitting projects? You could finish 3 things one week and have a couple weeks off. Get behind? Catch up with some easy ones.

How would this work?

List 52 weeks on a chart with space to add the projects you complete. Keep track of what and when they are done. Would it be fun to include photos? I started with the first full week of January, Sunday January 5 - Saturday January 11. You could start your challenge now or start at the beginning of the month like I did. If I finish more than one project in any week, I plan to add the extra “finish” to a different week and thus give myself a break.

Start a list of projects that you would like to finish or start. This will give you a place to start without having to rethink each week. I spent a couple days going through my sewing room and listing UFOs. It was sort of scary and I'm not done yet! I included a list of any materials I needed to finish the project. When I purchase materials for a new project, I plan to add it to the list.

Questions ~ Questions

editor@mnquilt.org

Nearly all of us have some unfinished projects (let's face it, most of us have a lot). Have you developed a system for yourself to make progress on getting them done?

“Fifty-two finishes in 52 weeks” has been embraced by quilters and crafters all over the world.

Wanda Shelton wrote about her system in the January newsletter. She lists categories and subdivides them into projects already begun, and ideas. She makes specific goals for each year, such as making 12 charity projects per year. For 2014, she is planning to finish an old project before starting a new one.

My granddaughter is using a special planning program to organize everything for her wedding in October. I looked at the site and decided it would work for quilt projects too.

Have you developed a system that works for you? If so, please let us know!

Mary Manns, Editor
HeartStrings Quilt Project ~ Red Centers

Quilt size 54 x 72
Block Size is 9 inches (9.5 inches with seam allowances)

Cutting Instructions
Cut 48 muslin foundations 10 inches square
Cut center RED strips 2 inches wide
Cut or use a variety of strips and strings up to 3 inches wide

Mary Johnson has generously allowed us to put her pattern in our newsletter this month. As part of one of the many Quilting For Others Committee projects, we hope that you will make some blocks, or many blocks. At the last Sew-In the group made quilts for the Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter. Please see Mary’s websites:  http://heartstringsquiltproject.com and http://www.maryquilts.com for more interesting information about the project.
Block Guidelines

- Blocks should be pieced on a muslin foundation cut 10 inches square and trimmed to 9.5 inches after strings are pieced.
- Any cotton fabric can be used in place of the muslin but should not shadow through the strings.
- Center strings should be cut 2 inches but additional strings may vary in width up to 3 inches; wedge shaped strings can be used and add interest to the blocks.

Piecing Blocks

Place RED center strip on foundation diagonally, right side up. Your strings will overlap the edges of the block and be trimmed after the block is pieced.

Sew additional strings on either side of the center string until foundation is completely covered. I make groups of blocks at one time and iron between each round. Keeping in mind the block will be trimmed; wider strings or leftover triangles can be used on the block corners.

Aligning the diagonal line on your square ruler with the center string, trim block to 9.5 inches.

Quilt Assembly

Blocks are set 6 blocks across and 8 blocks down using the diagram on page 1.

Using a walking foot during assembly of the top may help with piecing accuracy due to the extra thickness of the block with the foundation.

Seams can be ironed open to decrease bulk.

Quilting

Save the fancy quilting for another project, simple meandering or straight line quilting is great for these quilts.

Take the opportunity to practice those meandering quilting designs – try some hearts, loops, or stars.

Tying is also an option but check with the organization you will be donating the quilt to first to make sure it’s appropriate.

Instructions by Mary Johnson for HeartStrings Quilt Project
© Heartstringsquiltproject.com
Bulletin Board
March 1, Quilt Connections, the 19th annual Women’s History Quilt Exhibit at Eagan High School, March 1-20, 9-3. No weekends except for MQ membership meeting on March 1, 10 am-1 pm. Free lecture on March 1 featuring quilts by Pat Speth, designer and author of Nickel Quilts books and techniques. Contact Laura Nagel at pastpres@mnquilt.org, or visit http://www.eagan.k12.mn.us/librarynew/quilts/index.html for more information.


March 21, Quilt Dreamers 21st Annual “Bag Lady” Quilt Show, Galaxie Library, Apple Valley, 12-5. Please join us on National Quilting Day for our 21st annual show. There will be a small quilt auction, and a display of quilts the group donates to kids, along with special project quilts and other quilts the members have made. Admission is FREE. If you would like to join our quilt group or have any questions, please call Liz at 651-322-5016

March 21-22, Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild Quilt Show, New Ulm Event Center, 301 20th Street South. Judy Martin Book signing and lecture each day. Friday 9-6 and Saturday 9-4. $6.


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March 1, 10 am
Quilt Connections
Eagan High School
Featuring Quilts by Pat Speth

April 3 & 5
Help celebrate Minnesota Quilters 36th Birthday

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