Minnesota Quilt Project Presents:

Letter Quilts ~ Thursday, February 5, 7 pm

Thursday evening, February 5th, Gail Bakkom will explore the use of letters and words that serve as a design element, with a power point presentation as well as examples brought by MQ members. Included are words that identify a name, place, or date, words and letters used as educational tools, words that record public and political events or sentiments, words that invoke family connections, words that create the only design patterns, and words that provide text, both created and printed. These illustrations are gleaned from the 14th century quilts to quilts being made today. This flag quilt illustrates the record of Joseph W Britton, a member of the 3rd Minnesota Infantry, Company E., during the Civil War.

Log Cabin Quilts, Saturday, February 7, 10 am

Patricia Cox has been fascinated by the design possibilities and techniques for making the Log Cabin pattern since she began quilting in the late 1960’s. In 1979 she self-published the Log Cabin Workbook and in 2004 she and Maggie Gordon wrote The Ultimate Log Cabin Quilt Book. Pat designed and made samples for the book. During the intervening years Pat has collected examples of antique Log Cabin quilts and has taught and lectured on Log Cabin quilts.

Minnesota Quilters 2015 Show Faculty

Paula Nadelstern
Wendy Butler Berns
Susan Cleveland *
Mary Elizabeth Kinch
Karen McTavish*
Amanda Jean Nyberg *
Laura Heine
Nina McVeigh
Sue Heinz *
Laura Murray *
Lori Allison *
Mike Ellingsen *
Carol Butzke
Lorraine Covington
Kate Eelkema *
Sue Pelland

* denotes Minnesota faculty

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Upcoming Events

February 5, MQ Meeting, Letter Quilts presentation by Gail Bakkom
February 7, MQ Meeting, Log Cabin Quilts by Pat Cox
March 7, Women’s History Month Meeting at Eagan High School, The Last Stitch
March 12-14, MQ Day Retreat in Anoka, sign-up begins January 27
April 9 & 11, MQ Meetings, Volunteer Appreciation
April 12-15, Overnight Retreat at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI, sign-up begins Feb 25
May 7 & 9, MQ Meetings
June 11-13, Annual Minnesota Quilt Show and Conference in Duluth
Classes begin on June 10.

MQ Board of Directors meetings: Finance Committee Meeting– February 17, Board Meeting– February 24. All meetings are at 6 pm. Please notify Bonnie, president@mnquilt.org if you have an agenda item and/or wish to attend.
Deadline for February Newsletter: Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Please send newsletter articles to editor@mnquilt.org.

Facebook!
Join the fun with over 1,900 others on our Facebook page (that’s more than twice our membership). www.facebook.com/MinnesotaQuilters

Bring Guests!
Each time you bring a guest to a monthly meeting, your name will be entered in the annual March drawing for a free membership renewal. Spread the word!

Highlights from the November MQ Board Meeting

The Show Director presented her report. Show website is in progress. The January MQ meeting plans are in progress. There was a DECC walkthrough for people chairing Special Exhibits, Judged and Non-Judged. We still need Show Coordinators for the 2016 quilt show. We need to be sending out Faculty Letters of Intent.

Linda Wines will be attending and participating in the “Road to California” quilt show in January. She will be volunteering and meeting with their show director.

The scholarship person has been selected and is very excited. Communications reported that the Fine Arts Award and Creative Activities Awards at the State Fair will be the same as in the past.

The Show and Tell sign-in sheet needs to be modified so people can decide if they want their quilts to be shown on the MQ Facebook page. The MQ Facebook page is positive outreach for MQ.

The next Board meeting is January 27, 2015.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.
Respectfully submitted,
Jill Schultz, Secretary
January Meeting Highlights

Thanks go to Sharon Peterson, Education Co-Director, for making a wise call to cancel the Thursday evening meeting. Braving the snow, ice and frigid temperatures would not have been in our members’ best interests. So it was no surprise that we welcomed a record number of members and guests to our Saturday morning meeting and 2015 Show Preview. The tables around the perimeter of the room featured the class samples from 13 of our 16 faculty members. In addition, Lori Allison, Susan Cleveland, Kate Eelkema and Mike Ellingsen were on hand to answer questions about their classes. It was a delight to visit with them.

The 2015 Show Committee opened the meeting with introductions and then informed members of any additions or changes to the printed Registration Booklet. All changes and updates, including which classes will have sewing machines available, are listed on the show website at http://www.mnquilts.org. They also encouraged everyone to participate in the special events, Banquet, Canal Park Charming Stroll, Meet the Teachers and Sneak Preview, visit the special exhibits, register early for classes, contribute quilts to the Small Quilt Auction, enter in the Judged and Non-Judged exhibits, purchase Raffle Quilt tickets, and volunteer, volunteer, volunteer. Long-sleeved denim shirts with the show logo were on sale, and thousands of show booklets were carried off to be delivered to surrounding quilt shops.

A PowerPoint presentation introduced the faculty and highlighted their classes and lectures. Projects and techniques were explained and questions were answered during the break. It’s one thing to read a class description and see a thumbnail photo online, and quite another to see the actual quilts and wall hangings up close and personal. Following the program, four Priority Registration vouchers were drawn for Door Prizes.

An inspiring morning, to say the least!

January Show and Tell
January Show and Tell (cont.)

Show and Tell Quilters

Spring 2015 Retreats and a New Spring Getaway!

The Spring Quilting in the City Day Retreat will be on March 12-14 at Pearl & Myrtle's Retreat Center in Anoka MN. The change in venue is due to services during Lenten season at Saint Lawrence. We will offer the options of a 1, 2, or 3 day retreat.

An email invitation will go out to members on January 27, and to non-members on February 3. If you do not want to sign up online, simply call the MQ office, 612-436-0449 and staff will get you signed up! You can pay by check or credit card. One day for members is $15, non members $20, two days is $30 for members and $35 for non-members, three days $40 for members and $50 for non members.

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate this retreat. If you are interested please send an email to ed@mnquilt.org, or talk with Charlette Pittman, coordinator for this event.

The new Spring Get-Away Quilt Retreat will be held at Camp Wapo in Amery WI, Sunday April 12 - Wednesday April 15. Registration for the Spring Get-Away will be coming in an email in February 2015. The cost for the retreat is $165 for members and $175 for non members. We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate this easy-breezy retreat. If you are interested send an email to ed@mnquilt.org or talk with Sharon Peterson, coordinator for this event.

Minnesota Quilters Needs You!

Here are the Board positions that need to be filled and will begin on October 1, 2015:

President-Elect – three-year commitment - 1st year president-elect, 2nd year president, 3rd year past president (this can be a shared position). The President-Elect assists the President and oversees the Scholarship and Grant programs. This position is also a member of the finance committee.

Secretary – 2-year term. The Secretary takes the minutes at the Board meetings and supplies a newsletter article summarizing the board meetings.

Co-Education Director – 2-year term – shared position with continuing director Charlette Pittman. The Education Directors organize monthly meetings and arranges for lectures/workshops. They oversee the Holiday Brunch committee, Fall Getaway committee, and in-town retreats. They write newsletter articles to keep membership informed of upcoming programs.

Co-Communications Director – 2-year term - shared position with continuing director Karen O'Brien. The Communications Directors oversee the newsletter, State fair, website and other means of communication and technology.

Co-Operations Director – 2-year term – shared position with continuing director Suzanne Fisher. The Operations Directors oversee insurance, MQ equipment, volunteers and building/office management. The Operations Director is also a member of the Finance Committee.

Co-Membership Director – 2-year term – shared position with continuing director Mary Ann Baraibar. The Membership Directors oversee all aspects of our membership, including planning activities to recruit new members and working with the Membership Coordinators at the monthly meetings.

For the complete job description please click the following link. http://www.mnquilt.org/mqboard/index.html

If you are interested in any of these Board positions please send your name, phone number and email to nomcom@mnquilt.org and a member of the nominating committee will call you.
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, especially Rebecca Finch for taking the Gallery Exhibit Coordinator position. Thanks Rebecca!

All volunteers need to record their hours on the white slips at the meetings. Since our fiscal year started on October 1, 2014 you have turned in 322 volunteer hours on the white slips for the first quarter of this year. This does not include the Board or Show Committee. Keep up the good work!

If any of you are interested in the following positions or have questions about them, please send an email to 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. Our fiscal year started on Oct. 1 and there are still some positions open. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering for a position this year.

Current available positions:

**Historian:** The historian keeps a scrapbook of newsletters and any interesting articles or information about our organization. If you like to scrapbook this might be the position for you. For more information see Martha Eaves, President Elect, at our next meeting.

**Membership Co-Coordinator, Evening:** We need two people for this. The membership coordinators work with the board membership directors to set up the membership table on Thursday night and help check in people. For more information see Anne McCandless at keelkema@comcast.net, or call the MQ office. Tours take place from 1:00 to 5:30 pm. Saturday afternoon, after the morning MQ meeting on August 8. If your studio is on the tour, you still get to see all of the other studios, as we have a private tour for studio owners and assistants before the public tour on Saturday.

**Meeting Co-Coordinator, Evening:** This person helps the other meeting coordinator run meetings and hand out door prizes. For more information talk to Sue Sandager at the meeting.

**Message From Our President**

Happy Valentine’s Day quilters. I love holidays and I love heart quilts. Bring yours for show and tell at the meeting. Our weather has been perfect for quilting. Get those quilts ready for the show in June. (How come that seems so far away?) Happy Quilting!

Bonnie

**Needed: Studios for the 2015 Minnesota Quilters Studio Tours Event on August 8, 2015**

The first year the studios on the tour were in the center of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Last year we toured studios in the southeast section of the metro area: Apple Valley, Eagan, Lakeville, etc. This year it is time to take the studio tours to the southwest metro region, which is the area west of 35 W and south (or close to) 394/12.

If you live in the area around south Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Wayzata, Eden Prairie, etc., and would be willing to let us tour your personal quilting space for our annual fund-raiser, please contact Kate Eelkema at keelkema@comcast.net, or call the MQ office. Tours take place from 1:00 to 5:30 pm. Saturday afternoon, after the morning MQ meeting on August 8. If your studio is on the tour, you still get to see all of the other studios, as we have a private tour for studio owners and assistants before the public tour on Saturday.

**Fat Quarter Drawing**

The January MQ meeting was absolutely packed with everyone excited to see examples of classes available for our annual quilt show. We had some beautiful batik fat quarters entered for our drawing. The winner was Hannah Johnson. She was not present at the meeting so we will save her winning fabric until February. For February please submit any red fabric, whether mottled, with tiny prints, or other motifs. Can’t wait to see what is in your stash.

Contribute up to three fat quarters (approximately 18”x22”) of quilt shop quality 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 three). 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.

**Volunteer Corner**

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, especially Rebecca Finch for taking the Gallery Exhibit Coordinator position. Thanks Rebecca!

All volunteers need to record their hours on the white slips at the meetings. Since our fiscal year started on October 1, 2014 you have turned in 322 volunteer hours on the white slips for the first quarter of this year. This does not include the Board or Show Committee. Keep up the good work!

If any of you are interested in the following positions or have questions about them, please send an email to 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. Our fiscal year started on Oct. 1 and there are still some positions open. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering for a position this year.

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**Meeting Co-Coordinator, Evening:** This person helps the other meeting coordinator run meetings and hand out door prizes. For more information talk to Sue Sandager at the meeting.

**Block of the Month**

Block of the Month for February is “From the Heart” (directions are in the January newsletter).

Due to the special meeting at Eagan High School, there will be no block of the month for March.

Markey Dwyer won the “Buttoned Up” blocks at the January meeting.
Thank you to Sandi Irish of the Irish Chain who donated her skills and time to design, piece and quilt “Stars on the Water”. She did a phenomenal job. The fabric is by Cherrywood.

Raffle tickets are $2.00. We can only take checks or cash. Tickets will be available for purchase at the MQ monthly meetings and during the 2015 MQ Quilt Show and Conference in Duluth. You may also request tickets by calling the MQ office at 612-436-0449 or by e-mail at quilter@mnquilt.org. Tickets can be picked up at the office or mailed to you.

We encourage you to contact the office to check out the quilt and take it to your local guild. This helps promote the June show and sell raffle tickets. Mary Pozzini says, “My personal plan is to buy tickets every month and then win the quilt. I really want it!”

Minnesota Quilters, Inc. uses the proceeds from the raffle quilt to support its mission to celebrate the art of quilting. The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, June 13th, 2015 at 4 pm at the DECC in Duluth. YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

If you have any questions, please contact rafflequilt2015@mnquilt.org. Thank you for your generosity in making this fundraiser a success.
Minnesota Quilters 2015 Show ~ Duluth ~ June 11-13

2015 Show Committee

Show Coordinator ~ Laura Nagel (Apple Valley)
Admissions ~ Jean Carr (Hugo), Rita Culshaw (Ham Lake)
Banquet ~ Kathie Simon Frank (Minneapolis)
Bus Tours ~ Gail Kieper (Eagan), Mary Tague (Mahtomedi)
Challenge ~ Lori Allison (Prior Lake)
Charming City Stroll ~ Wynn Martin (Marine on St. Croix)
Door Prizes ~ Nancy Broshat (Minneapolis), Carla Kilkelly (Richfield)
Information Desk ~ Nancy Hall (Nisswa), Loretta Stone (St. Paul Park)
Judged Quilts ~ Miki Peine (St. Paul), Karen Kopitzke (Afton)
Merchandise ~ Wanda Shelton (Roseville)
Non-Judged Quilts ~ Ellen Carter (Eden Prairie), Lynette Disrud (Eden Prairie), Mary Lueders (Wayzata)
Powerpoint ~ Sue Rutford (White Bear Lake)
Photography ~ Peggy Stockwell (Taylors Falls)
Printing & Publishing ~ Janet Watt (Maplewood), Karen Knoll (Lino Lakes)
Raffle Quilt ~ Sandi Irish (Inver Grove Heights)
Raffle Quilt Tickets ~ Open!
Registration ~ Jan Wolgram (Denver, CO), Audrey Weinand (Blaine), Jan Schmidt (Coon Rapids), Sharon Johnson (Blaine)
Secretary ~ Rebecca Finch (Minneapolis)
Signage ~ Vickie Perschbacher (Coon Rapids), Pat Solfest (Lino Lakes), Rose Allen (St. Paul)
Small Quilt Auction ~ Martha Eaves (St. Paul), Doris Kraemer (Eagan)
Special Exhibits ~ Paulette Marini (Minnetonka), Lisa Stene (Eden Prairie)
Vendors ~ Sue Rutford (White Bear Lake), Doug 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

IMPORTANT DATES FROM THE 2015 SHOW REGISTRATION BOOK

Advance Registration (See pages 33-35 for more information *)
Members Only: Began January 16, 2015
General: Begins February 1, 2015
Deadline: May 1, 2015 (mail-in); May 15, 2015 (online)

Non-Judged/Youth Exhibit/President’s Challenge (see pages 7, 11-12 for more information *)
Entry Form Submission Deadline: April 18, 2015

Judged Exhibit (See pages 13-17 for more information *)
Entry Form Submission Deadline: April 18, 2015

2015 Challenge Quilt (See page 7 for more information *)
Entry Form Submission Deadline: April 25, 2015

Scrap Quilt Challenge (See page 7 for more information *)
Entry Form Submission Deadline: April 15, 2015

* Page numbers listed refer to the 2015 Show Registration Book
Registration for the 37th Annual Quilt Show and Conference
NOW OPEN FOR MEMBERS

Registration for current members of Minnesota Quilters started on January 15th and for non-members begins February 1st. Early registration is important because class sizes are limited. Be sure to read all the details about registration in your registration booklet. Here’s an overview to get you started.

**Online Registration by May 15th**

Go to [www.mnquilt.org/mq2015](http://www.mnquilt.org/mq2015). Fast and easy and real time, so you know immediately whether or not you are registered for your desired class. Class sessions, lectures, events, and merchandise fees will calculate automatically as you add items, so you will see the total before you finalize and pay. You may purchase as many tickets as you like for lectures and special events so you can register others and buy tickets for guests. Class supply lists are available online.

The check-out process is easy and secure. Once you complete your order and payment information, simply click the “Finish” button and wait. It may take several seconds, but when the gears on the screen have disappeared, you will know that all has gone properly. You will receive an email confirmation almost immediately. Print this confirmation and bring it to the registration area at the show to get your show packet, badge, and tickets.

You can make changes online any time before May 25, 2015. After that you will need to send your changes in writing either via email to registration2015@mnquilt.org or via snail mail to the MQ office. We cannot accept verbal changes because they can be misheard or misunderstood.

**Mail-in Registration by May 1st**

If you prefer or do not have access to the internet, you can register by sending your completed form and payment to the MQ office. Mail-in registrations must be received by May 1, 2015. Be sure you select a second class choice in case your first choice is filled. Keep a copy of your registration form. Mail-in registrations will be confirmed by mail along with supply lists for your classes. Bring your confirmation letter to the registration area at the show to get your show packet, badge, and tickets.

Changes to mail-in registrations can be made in writing via email at registration2015@mnquilt.org or via USPS to the MQ office.

**Cancellation Insurance**

As they say, life happens. You can get ahead of unexpected events by purchasing cancellation insurance. If you purchase this insurance ($20) when you register, you will receive a 100 percent refund for classes, lectures, and special events as long as you cancel before May 25, 2015. The insurance does not cover your registration fee, pre-ordered box lunches and merchandise, and the insurance cost itself.

Registration Committee: Audrey Weinand, Jan Wolfgram, Jan Schmidt, and Sharon Johnson.

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**Small Quilt Auction**

As usual, we can hardly wait for the Duluth show. The north woods and lakeshore environment, the welcoming town, and the wonderful facility all make the MQ show in Duluth a favorite outing.

The cold winter days and nights are a great time to make items for the Small Quilt Auction. As you know, all the money earned from these sales goes to expanding the many things that MQ is about, from paying for public TV shows for our out state quilters, supporting special charity projects and paying costs of speakers for the meetings. Please be productive and generous. We are accepting donations until the opening of the show, but if you want your name in the drawing for a $50 certificate to the store of your choice, you must submit your donated item by May 1. Just a little incentive to get moving on this!

Doris Kraemer and Martha Eaves

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**Duluth Hotel Change!**

The phone number and website of the Comfort Suites – Canal Park hotel that we published in the Registration Book was incorrect. If you make a reservation using the phone number or website published in the paper Registration Book, you will be at Comfort Inn – West, not Comfort Suites at Canal Park.

Comfort Inn – West is still a good hotel, but it is 3 miles away from the DECC. The correct phone number and website have been updated in the online version of the Registration Book (found on the Forms and Documents tab of the show website and in the Updates section of the show website.)
**Judged Exhibit Entries**

**Why would you bother to enter online?**

- Your information will be just as you want it to appear in the show book.
- You only need to have one photograph and you get to keep it to use again if needed. You simply copy it as a pdf document and attach it in the online form.
- Immediate feedback. When you click the finish button, Cvent immediately shows you a recap of what you have written and you will receive an email confirmation with a confirmation number immediately.
- You can update the information about your quilt right up until it is sent to be printed in the show book.
- If you have address or email changes, you can update them instantly in the registration form.

So now you are asking, “How do I do this?” There are three ways—
- Google 2015 MQ Show Website. In the list on the left, click Quilt Entries, and then click Judged.
- Go to the MQ website, www.mnquilt.org, click on Annual Show and select 2015 Show. Then click on Quilt Entries and Judged.
- Go directly to the judged entry form at Judged Quilt Exhibit Entry Form.

Finally, just for those who don’t like to click things, you can always use the paper form in the registration book and mail it to the MQ office. The Judged Co-Chairs will pick up the paper forms on a weekly basis and enter the information for you.

We are looking forward to having your absolutely wonderful quilt on display in June!

Karen Kopitzke and Miki Peine

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**WE NEED YOUR QUILTS!**

As quilters we are good at New Year Resolutions. Normally one of our resolutions is to complete a UFO. For one reason or another we put a project away to work on it later. Sometimes I run into a snag and that’s why it is now lying idle in my sewing room. This year I am going to go to plan B. I have found that once I have solved my problem and gotten over the snag, I am very happy with myself and the fact that I did not let that UFO get the best of me. You can do it too. Now is the time since winter has a hold on us and there is no gardening to be done. Don’t let the guilt get you down.

Pick just ONE project that is waiting for you. Make a resolution to finish it, AND MAKE A RESOLUTION TO PUT IT IN THE SHOW! What a great way to celebrate quilting, your problem solving skills and THE BEST SHOW AND TELL OF ALL!

Ellen Carter, Lynette Disrud and Mary Lueders

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**Roses are red,**
**Violets are blue,**
Could you donate a door prize,
Or even a few?
You could go and shop
And cull out your stash.
Share some of your treasure,
Or even some cash!
We all love to win
A prize big or small,
So please help us out
And give it your all.

Please be our Valentine and make a door prize contribution.
You can drop off your donation at the MQ office or at a monthly meeting!

-- Thank you from the Door Prize Committee

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**Minnesota Quilters Future Show Dates & Locations - Save the Dates!**

- 2015 Duluth - June 11-13
- 2016 St Cloud - June 9-11
- 2017 Duluth - June 8-10
- 2018 St Cloud - June 14-16
- 2019 Rochester - June 13-15*
- 2020 St Cloud - June 11-13
- 2021 Rochester - June 10-12*

* Tentative
**SPECIAL EXHIBIT - 2015 DULUTH QUILT SHOW**

Here is another introduction to a wonderfully diverse group of textile artists who will be included in our Special Exhibit at the 2015 Duluth Quilt Show in June. Also, as a side note, Wil Opio Oguta from the Netherlands will be visiting Minnesota in February. We have invited her to come to our February meeting to tell us a little about their group and get us excited about their upcoming exhibit at our show.

### Voyage Art Textiles -- International

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dijanne Cevaal</td>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Hendrickson</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wil Opio Oguta</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Pat Archibald</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>Margie Letts</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Shoshi Rimer</td>
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<td>Gretchen Sanders</td>
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<td>Frances Murphy</td>
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<td>Jean Marshall</td>
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<td>Gillian Travis</td>
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<td>Magie Relph</td>
<td>England</td>
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<td>Alison Farmer</td>
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Exhibit Title: **Mother earth speaks to us…**

Website: [http://voyagearttextiles.blogspot.nl/2014/10/mother-earth-speaks-to-us.html](http://voyagearttextiles.blogspot.nl/2014/10/mother-earth-speaks-to-us.html)

We have the most recent collection from a group of 13 textile artists who come from all parts of the globe. They express their art through their individual approaches in textiles manipulation. As a collective these artists vary in both their experience and in the nature of expression. Their art is from surface design and mixed media to stitching in its widest interpretation. I guarantee that this work is the loosest form of quilting that you will ever see.

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**MQ Gallery Exhibits Planned for Textile Center, Eagan Community Center, Minneapolis Public Library, American Swedish Institute and Hennepin County Government Center**

MQ has begun a new Gallery Exhibits Program that Rebecca Finch and others have been working on for several months. There are currently 3 challenges that we’re planning to turn into exhibits after the June 2015 show.

The first is for those who purchased the 2015 “Dueling Dahlias” challenge using Kaffe Fassett focus fabrics. After the 2015 Show these entrants will have the option to be exhibited at either the Eagan Community Center/Eagan Public Library or in the Minneapolis Public Library's Cargill Room. Both facilities will display books about quilting and at Eagan there will be the opportunity to do hands-on demonstrations if quilters are interested. The public library will publish a poster about the exhibit and will post it up and down Nicollet Mall. If you are able to get your 2015 entry completed early and are willing to let us use it for publicity purposes, please let us know. It will be much appreciated.

The second challenge is the ScrapMania Challenge. MQ members are asked to make a scrap quilt composed of at least 80% fabrics from previous projects and at least twenty different fabrics. We request that these quilts be donated so that they can be sold at a silent auction to benefit MQ's Quilting for Others program, which provides quilts or placemats to organizations like the Harriet Tubman shelters, the Visiting Nurses Association and Meals on Wheels. Selected quilts from the donated items will be exhibited at the Textile Center in July and August 2015. Entry forms for the ScrapMania Challenge are located on the mnquilt.org website; click on the link to the bulletin board.

Finally those who purchase the 2016 “Hail to Thee” MQ challenge packets at the show in June 2015 may participate in the “Things We Like About Minnesota” Challenge. After the 2016 Show the entrants will have the option to have their pieces exhibited again at the American Swedish Institute as part of its summer 2016 “Art and Nature” theme and at the Hennepin Gallery, located in the Hennepin County Government Center. The packets of Cherrywood Fabrics will be available in red/orange or blue/green/gold color-ways and can be picked up or purchased at the 2015 MQ Conference. From these packets and additional fabrics you choose, make a quilt, clothing item or three dimensional piece depicting something you like about Minnesota. Rules and entry forms are in the packet.

Once entry forms are submitted to the MQ office for the two challenges, we will contact participants to find out if they are interested in exhibiting their quilts. Sales services for entrants will be available for some of the exhibits. Quilts available for sale will be marked as such and potential buyers will be directed to contact the MQ office, which will provide the seller's email address to the potential buyer. An administrative fee of $15.00 to cover MQ costs will be charged to quilters for each quilt sold.

For further information, please contact Rebecca Finch at mggalleryexhibits@mnquilt.org
The 2015 Minnesota Quilter Of The Year is Sue Poser of Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Sue is the woman behind Gruber's Quilt Shop in Waite Park, Minnesota.

After graduating from the College of Saint Catherine in 1981, Sue worked in a family owned general store in Genola, Minnesota. If you purchased fabric at the general store, your credit card receipt would say you purchased gasoline.

Sue was taught to quilt by her grandmother when she was six years old. Within ten years of the general store starting to offer fabric, she was offering free quilting classes four times a week, and regularly traveling to national quilting conferences. 1998 marked the year she opened Gruber's in downtown Saint Cloud. The shop quickly grew and expanded to a larger shop in Waite Park.

For 30 plus years Gruber's has been a mainstay in the quilt fabric business, and a quilting destination for many quilters from the US and around the world.

Sue's contributions to the quilting community in Minnesota are numerous. She participates in the Minnesota Shop Hop each August. The Shop Hop features and showcases signature fabrics that celebrate life in Minnesota. Sue has been a mentor for quilters on their journey to become national teachers and pattern designers. She coordinated the Quilt Pink Event at the Mall Of America in September 2006. Sue promotes the Quilting Programs on TPT/PBS and she hosts numerous quilt celebrities to present lectures and classes at Gruber's.

For Sue, the quilting experience is all about sharing. Congratulations, Sue, from the Minnesota Quilting Community!

MQP Corner

The Minnesota Quilt Project is reproducing a tattered donated quilt that was made between 1878 and 1895 in Wisconsin. Each chimney sweep block contains a different print, and many MQ members have donated fabric and helped with block construction. It has been a challenge to find prints with the gray with red color combination, below on left. We were delighted to find a reproduction fabric with a similar motif in a black with red combination, below on right. Progress on the project will be displayed in the MQP booth at the MQ show in Duluth.

Quilt Documentation at February MQ meeting

Would you like to have one or two of your quilts documented? Members of the Minnesota Quilt Project will be available immediately after the MQ Saturday meeting for documentation. We photograph the quilt and gather physical information that will be entered on The Quilt Index. You will be able to see an image of your quilt on-line! Please send a message to mqp@mnquilt.org if you would like to schedule a documentation session.

Carolyn Silflow
Kristina Taylor Wins Scholarship to Attend 2015 MQ Show

Every year the MQ Board of Directors picks a New Quilter Scholarship Winner from essays submitted by Minnesota residents. The scholarship provides for a free one year membership to all MQ meetings, as well as free entry into the annual MQ show, a free class, 3 lectures, and two nights of free stay so that she can attend the show. It is a wonderful opportunity for new quilters to engage in the depths that quilting has to offer.

Kristina comes with a history of loving quilts but not making them. She grew up in Mississippi where her grandmother was a quilter, and she spent time in grandma's sewing room. But her grandmother died before she was taught to make a quilt for herself. Kristina's mother has always liked needle arts but never learned to quilt herself.

One of her most cherished possessions is a quilt made by her "neighborhood" grandma in Mississippi when she graduated from high school, and it is that quilt that led her to trying to learn again. As she noted in her essay, she has used that special "Hole in the Barn Door" patterned quilt her whole adult life, and as might be expected, it is wearing out in places.

Kristina is married and the mother of three boys, ages 21, 19, and 15, and all of her sons are active student athletes. The family moved to Minnesota some years ago. She and her husband Felix Sr. both work full time.

During a Central High School football game, she learned that I was a quilter so she asked if I would look at her old quilt about possibly repairing it. We ultimately decided that making a replica quilt might be a better option. In talking about quilts and attending some of the smaller groups I belong to, Kristina decided to make her oldest son a quilt for his 21st birthday before taking on a quilt for herself. She looked at quilt books, drew her own design ideas up, picked blocks, and was able to complete that quilt in time for the birthday party, with a little help from her quilting friends. When she showed it at MQ's Show and Tell last fall, many of you encouraged her to apply for the scholarship and she did so.

She really has the quilting bug now! She has made a lap quilt for Felix, and is working on one for her mom [this one is a secret]. She is working on a borrowed sewing machine but is saving for her own. Her other boys now want quilts of their own, and her youngest son commented to her, "Mom, you seem so happy when you are in your sewing room!" which is the best sort of support ever from a teenage boy who had to help her move things in the house to set up a space to sew!!

Please welcome her at our meetings and at the show.  

Martha Eaves
Lori Allison

As a Family & Consumer Science teacher in middle and high school, Lori Allison has taught hundreds of students to sew. She brings those same “teacher skills” to her classes and quilt patterns. Lori features contemporary quilt designs that marry big, bright, beautiful — sometimes hard to use — prints with updated, traditional quilting designs. In 2013, Lori became the owner of the Sampler-online quilt shop specializing in Kaffe Fassett fabrics and all things colorful. She had been a primary designer of quilts and accessories for the sampler.com so it was a natural fit for her to carry on the business and major quilt show presence that former owner Karol Plocher had successfully built. She will soon be adding online classes through Craftsy to her long list of accomplishments. Her quilts, made from her original patterns, have won many national ribbons. In addition to teaching at our show, Lori also organized the 2015 Challenge – Dueling Dahlias.

If you are interested in making a spectacular, colorful quilt, take a look at Lori’s classes: Candy Sticks, Color My World, and Beginning Bargello. www.quilterswarehouse.com

Susan Cleveland

Susan is a quilt designer/author/teacher/inventor and admirer of all things quilterly! She is best known for her handy tools, patterns, books, national teaching credentials, and award winning quilts. Her quilts are loosely based on traditional designs with a fair bit of unexpected surprises and details. They showcase precision piecing, thread embellishments and bold color. Piping is used in her quilts to accent curves and special binding techniques. She enjoys sharing her quilts and passing along her techniques to others.

Susan’s enthusiasm for quilting is said to be contagious! Students enjoy her upbeat attitude, well-written instructions, and one-on-one attention included in every workshop. Her quilts have received many awards in international competitions since 1997 where judges comment on her fine workmanship and appreciate her original style. In her unique designs she includes many charming, unexpected elements such as specialty threads, prairie points, piping, and great binding techniques. Susan is the inventor of the Groovin’ Piping Trimming Tool used to trim piping seam allowances, and inventor of the Prairie Pointer pressing tool. She is proud to have been named 2010 Minnesota Quilter of the Year!

Students who enjoy an enthusiastic teacher who will share all of her trade secrets for successful quilts will be signing up for Piping Hot Binding, Double-Pointed Dresden, Happy Daisy, Attic Windows, and Piping Hot Curves – Macaroni. https://www.piecesbewithyou.com/

Mike Ellingsen

Many of our members have already met Mike, either at the October membership meeting, or in Blue Earth, when MQ took their meeting on the road and visited the Blue Earth Valley Quilters. Mike is the founder of that guild and has organized the Upper Midwest Woodcarvers and Quilt EXPO for many years. Although retired from Blue Earth Area Schools where he was the Choral and Drama Director, Mike continues to find satisfaction in teaching. Quilting is, as Ellingsen points out, a tangible art. He’s been a quilter for more than 20 years, and has made over 100 quilts. “Music just exists in the time and space it’s being made. With quilting there’s actually a product, something made with one’s hands.”

His personable demeanor enables him to meet the needs of any student, from beginner to advanced, as he teaches his original designs and patterns. His latest pattern, the Equality Quilt, was recently featured on the Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims Quilt Show. http://thequiltshow.com/see-quilts/quilt-gallery/item/32013-equality

Don’t miss this opportunity to spend a thoroughly enjoyable day and go home with a great quilt project, too. You may choose Equality, Disappearing Pinwheel, or Crazy Cats. If you want to see an incredible trunk show of his personal work, attend “Quilts from the Valley of the Jolly Green Giant” lecture.

Mary Elizabeth Kinch

Mary Elizabeth began sewing at the age of ten on her mother’s turquoise Singer. She continued sewing clothing and costumes in high school, and pursued a degree in fashion design. Collecting antique quilts is a recent thing for her and it is all about studying and appreciating the art of quilt making. She loves how quilts divulge their history and the stories of their makers’ ingenuity: the ah-ha moments when studying a quilt and discovering how the quilter put a block together or did a certain technique. But her true passion lies in designing and making quilts.

Intrigued by small antique blocks and pieced quilts, she partnered with Biz Storm to write Small Blocks, Stunning Quilts and Small Pieces, Spectacular Quilts. Her fantastic classes have been selected from these books: String Piecing Tell-All, Small Quilts, Small Pieces, Pumpkin Peel, and Addictive English Paper Piecing. Anyone who saw her samples at the January meeting will have a hard time deciding which class to take.

www.maryelizabethkinch.com
A Challenging Challenge

I was going through my closet looking for something warmer to wear and thought about some advice I received as a new quilter: if you are having a hard time choosing colors or combining colors in a quilt, take a break and go to your closet and look at your favorite clothes. What color are most of your clothes? If you have patterned or multi-colored clothes, what colors do they have in common, or which colors are most prominent? It's a quick exercise in seeing what you know you already like, and previewing what colors/fabrics might make good choices for your quilt.

This came to mind as I was contemplating which of the 2015 Quilt Show challenges I was going to pursue. MQ's Scrap Challenge would be no problem. I save everything, and even check the wastebaskets at retreats for useable pieces. But would it be challenging enough? I already make mostly scrap projects now, and I know it wouldn't even make a dent in my bins.

Then I considered the President's Challenge - Duluth, the Best Outdoor City. I love Lake Superior and can think of several ideas from kayaking, to hiking, to the Tall Ships that have sailed into the harbor. After the show, I could even 'gift' the quilt to my daughter and son-in-law who live in the city. But are my skills up to transforming my vision into a successful quilt - and completing it before the deadline...probably not, on both counts.

Did I buy the Official Challenge packet? Indeed I did, in fact I bought one of each, not knowing which color-way would inspire me the most. Now I think Kaffe Fasset fabrics are beautiful and exciting, but I don't really have any in my stash and don't usually work with bright, bold colors. If you looked at my closet you wouldn't see anything that even comes close to bright. Instead, there is a monotonous array of Midwestern medium-hued clothing clinging to wire hangers. One of my friends once told me if I bought any more beige clothes she would stop shopping with me. Of course she was an art teacher and could put anything together and look like a fashion plate. I was just looking for items that would go with what I already had. Just as it's hard to wear a color you haven't worn before or some new fashion trend that you know will not be particularly flattering or to your taste - think pencil leggings (what under 20s call pants!) - and you will know how equally hard it is to sew with fabrics that are a color range or style out of your typical comfort zone.

But once in a while you have to throw caution to the wind, take a walk on the wild side, and live on the edge. After all, I have the Challenge packets, and I won't mind going shopping for some coordinating fabrics. There is no size requirement, and if I don't show anyone the pattern, no one will know if I did it 'right' or not. I think I've made up my mind, and I'm feeling brave enough to venture out into new quilting territory. As for those trendy fashions, maybe I'll try a scarf - I promise no skinny pants!
Business Member Focus

Introducing Margo Krager of Reproduction Fabrics, Northfield, Minnesota

~ Rebecca Finch

Like many other quilters who run small businesses, Margo Krager started out in a different occupation. She has a BS degree in Medical Technology and worked in the field for fifteen years. She says she “changed needles” and opened a small fabric store in Newcastle, WY in 1983. On her 40th birthday early in 1987, she purchased Patchworks, an established quilt shop in Bozeman, MT. I asked her how she started her reproduction fabrics business.

“At that time Judie Rothermel was doing some reproduction fabrics, mainly turn of the 20th century monochromatic blacks, navys, reds in small foulard style prints,” she says. “At Quilt Market in 1991, I found a small line of 1930s prints (Grandmother’s Flower Garden by VIP) and bought them all, including some ‘slightly odd’ colorations of dull gold and minty green. I took out an ad in Quilter’s Newsletter and mentioned I had the entire line. WOW! Many shop owners had purchased mainly the standard ‘sweet’ pinks, blues and lilacs, so I got inquiries from around the United States. That experience started my mail order company. We were on the web with a static site in 1995.”

She sold the brick and mortar operation in 1995 in order to concentrate on mail order reproductions. “I ship around the world daily to quilters and costumers in TV, movies, opera, living history museums and re-enactors.”

I asked her if her site is open to visiting shoppers. “Open to the public hours in Northfield are 10-3 pm W-F and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. I also do appointments. I have begun a year long In-Store Textile History Program for 2015. The third week of the month-Wednesday thru Saturday I will feature quilt and textile displays, samples, textile history handouts and discounted pricing on the featured topic. January is Double Pinks.”

If you want to visit and shop, the location is second floor (elevator just inside 4th street entrance) of the First National Bank of Northfield building (actually 5 buildings ‘glued’ together!), 105 E Fourth Street, Suite 205, Northfield, MN 55057. Phone 507-664-1447/Toll free 800-380-3520 and email address is staff@reproductionfabrics.com.

She offers 175 years of cotton printed reproductions plus appropriate solids (19th and 20th century) and yarn dyes from 1775-1950. “Most of my goods are purchased in the quilt market place but also directly from Europe, Africa and Asia if I think my customers would be interested in the fabric.” Often manufacturers will offer a line dated 1850-1870 or Depression Era; other times she spots an early 19th century Double Pink correct for design/color amidst a basic line. She has broken down time periods by approximately 20/30-50 years starting in 1775. The web site and the store are set up on this time line.

Recently she signed with Andover Fabrics as a designer. “My first line with them (actually my 15th repro line) will be out this spring, and it is called Dargate Treasury c.1830.” She writes and lectures about textile history. Her blog www.cottonopia.net is mainly about various aspects of textile history. There is a sales area on the website and she runs 2-4 promotions per year. Be sure to sign up for her electronic newsletter, Repro News and Notes, to be informed of these. There is a direct request link on the home page or you can call or email to the store.

Margo and her husband went to numerous MQ quilt shows over the years, but he became ill eight years ago and they have not done any shows since. However, she will be at the April Northfield Quilters Show April 18-19.

Bulletin Board

February 7-8, Quilt Show Presented by Plum Creek Quilters at Sargent’s Nursery, 3352 N. Service Drive, Red Wing, MN. Pieced, appliqué and vintage quilts, quilters’ rummage sale, door prizes, challenges, vendors. Sat. & Sun. 9 am-4 pm. $3 admission.

April 14-May 8, Dakota County Star Quilters 20th Annual Quilt Show, Dakota County Historical Society Museum, 130 3rd Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN. www.dakotahistory.org, April 14, Lecture, “Capering with Creativity and Our Quilts” by Wendy Butler Burns, 1 pm and 7 pm. Tickets are $10 and includes entry to the museum. Class with Wendy Butler Burns, April 15, $35. Contact Trisha at trisha2041@yahoo.com about tickets to the lecture or the class.


The January 10th, 2015, meeting was a packed house! We used every chair in the building!
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Sponsors are critical partners with Minnesota Quilters, enabling us to provide judged quilts prize money and special show features. Please pass on your appreciation and please patronize them whenever possible. Thank you for supporting Minnesota Quilters!

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The mission of Minnesota Quilters, Inc. is to further the preservation of quilting, to educate and to document the art and craft of quilting in Minnesota.

Established April 1978.

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February 2015