OCTOBER MEETINGS

Thursday, October 6, 7 pm and Saturday, October 8, 10 am, and Friday Workshop

Kandace Kelderman and Kim Schissel, Owners of Cotton Fans Quilting of Wadena, MN

Kandace on the left and Kim on the right are two Minnesota grandmas who love bright fabrics, mixing prints, meeting quilters, travelling and teaching various techniques.

Kandace and Kim have authored a book called Hot Flashes Of Inspiration with 12 fun projects. The Thursday and Saturday meetings will include a trunk show with an interactive pattern and color mixing activity, along with demonstrations of techniques, and door prizes.

The class on Friday will include a dye clinic and improvisational piecing of pumpkins for a fall quilt or table runner.

Kandace and Kim don't believe in the quilt police and love finding new techniques. They also like to rescue old blocks from flea markets and auctions. Kandi has been sewing since 1979, Kim shortly after. They are looking forward to their visit with Minnesota Quilters.

Welcome Incoming Board Members

October is the time when the new people who were elected at the annual meeting in June join the Board. There is a turnover meeting at the end of September when the outgoing members pass along their duties to their successors. Thank you to all who have served, we appreciate all you have done for Minnesota Quilters.

Best wishes and good luck to our new Board:

Co-Presidents: Rose Allen and Pat Curtner
Past President: Martha Eaves
President Elect: Adrianne Lemberg
Secretary: Karen Knoll
Treasurer: Vicci Mattsfield
Communications Directors: Rebecca Finch and Kay Genelin
Education Directors: Sharon Peterson and Merle Pratt
Membership Directors: Barbara Jackson and Lynette Wass
Operations Directors: Suzanne Fisher and Kathie Simon Frank

Board member contact information is on page two of this newsletter.

Minnesota Quilters New Location, The Recovery Church, 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER - 651-224-3572

Office Hours - Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 - 4:30 pm. Visitors should call first to verify staff will be present. The building is locked at times for security reasons.

OPEN HOUSE, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5th, 1-4 PM

Open to all who have an interest in quilting. Light refreshments will be served, door prizes awarded and quilts will be on display. Please reserve the date and bring your friends.
Upcoming Events

June 18 - October 23, Quilting Art Today at the American Swedish Institute

October 6th and 8th, MQ Meetings, Speakers will be Kandace Kelderman and Kim Schissel from Cotton Fans Quilting in Wadena, MN

October 7th, Workshop with Kandace and Kim, Dye Clinic and wallhanging workshop

October 13-16, Fall Get-Away at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN (sold out)

November 3rd and 5th, Pat St. Germain from the Fon du Lac Band of Chippewa will speak on the meaning of star quilts in Native American culture and ceremonies.

November 4, Pat St. Germain will teach the Native American techniques for making star quilts.

November 5, Open House in our new location, Recovery Church, 1-4 pm

December 3, Holiday Brunch, Edinburgh, Brooklyn Park, MN

More calendar information available on the MQ website: http://www.mnquilt.org/meetings.html

MQ Board of Directors Meetings: Board Turnover Meeting - September 24. Finance Meeting - October 18. Board Meeting – October 26. All board and finance meetings are at 6 pm. Please notify Rose or Pat, president@mnquilt.org if you have an agenda item and/or wish to attend.

DEADLINE for November Newsletter: Tuesday, October 11. Please send newsletter articles to editor@mnquilt.org. Any submissions received after the due date will be saved for the following month’s newsletter.

Highlights from the August Board Meeting

The board turnover meeting date has been set for September 24th. An update of the move and a list of remaining items to be sold or given away was presented. Planning for the Open House was discussed. The long range program planning committee has been focusing on teachers for the show.

The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday September 27, 2016 at 6:00 pm at our new location - 253 State Street, St. Paul.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Knoll, Secretary

MQ... On The Move

We have successfully made the move to our new location at Recovery Church in St Paul. I want to say "Thanks" to all those that made this a smooth transition. A special "Thanks" goes to Kathie Simon-Frank, Martha Eaves, Linda Wines and Debra Svedberg. We couldn't have done it without your dedication, organizational skills and the generous giving of your time.

Thank you,
Suzanne, Operations Co-Director

YOU'RE INVITED! MINNESOTA QUILTER'S OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 1-4 PM

Minnesota Quilters is hosting an Open House on Saturday, November 5th from 1- 4 pm at our new location, The Recovery Church, 253 State Street in St. Paul (Near Plato Blvd just south of the Lafayette bridge). It’s a wonderful new space with ample parking, and it’s easy to get to. Please help celebrate our move to this new location!

The Open House is open to all who have an interest in quilting. Light refreshments will be served, door prizes awarded and quilts will be on display. Please reserve the date and bring your friends. The Open House will be held following the Minnesota Quilters membership meeting on November 5th.

Are you looking for a way to meet new people at Minnesota Quilters? We could use a few good hands to help welcome our guests, arrange table toppers and assist with refreshments at the Open House. Please contact Barbara Jackson and Lynette Wass at membership@mnquilt.org.
Applications Accepted for the MQ Charter Members’ Scholarship

Do you know someone who is a beginning quilter? MN Quilters is looking for enthusiastic newbies to apply for the Charter Members’ Scholarship.

The winner will receive a trip to the 2017 Minnesota Quilters Show in Duluth. The benefits include lodging, a class, lecture pass, show admission and a ticket to the banquet. In addition, they will get a one-year membership to MN Quilters.

Application deadline is November 1, 2016. Complete information and an application form are available on the MN Quilters web site - http://www.mnquilt.org/mqboard/documents/2017ScholarshipForm.pdf

President’s Block

As is the custom for MN Quilters, a block made by members may be contributed for the outgoing President. Martha Eaves would like to have a friendship block that is either lime green or pink (any shades) with a muslin background, and the contributor’s name printed on the front along one of the star tips on the muslin. You may make the block finish 3”, 4 1/2”, 7 1/2, or 9”. One source for directions may be found at http://www.generations-quilt-patterns.com/friendship-star-quilt-block.html which gives the cutting sizes along with piecing pictures for the different sizes.
Highlights from September Meetings

Our first meeting in our new location was a great success! The comments on Facebook were positive, the space is large and airy, bright and clean. The lighting is better and there were no basketballs bouncing overhead. The microphone will be working for the next meeting!

September is our Schoolhouse meeting when members share their skills and project ideas. We rotate around the room in small groups so everyone gets a chance to learn some new techniques and get new ideas. MQ members who demonstrated were: Anne Marcellis showing her fabulous paper piecing, Bonnie Ellis demonstrated various stitches for crazy quilts, Rose Allen showed us how to make a faux piped binding, Martha Eaves and Wanda Shelton talked about sewing with selvages, and Mimi Goodwin showed how to make fabric collage ornaments. Thank you all!

State Fair Thank You

Thank you Gail Kieper and all those who worked in the Minnesota Quilters’ booth in the Creative Activities Building at the State Fair.

Thank you to MQ members who entered quilts in the State Fair.

 Minnesota Quilters State Fair Awards

Sweepstakes - Mary Alsop
Best Hand Appliqué - Victoria Miller
Best Machine Quilting - Karla Dahms
Best Use of Color - Patricia Hemsler
Best Quilted Garment - Janet Harvey
Best First Quilt Made - Natalie Gilbertson
2016 Holiday Brunch Scavenger Hunt Challenge (December 3rd)

Here is this year’s challenge! We hope you have fun with it. The challenge is to incorporate as many of the items listed below into your quilt as possible. How you accomplish that is open to: block choices, appliqué, quilting, embellishment, your imagination.

Please include a label on that back of your quilt telling how many of the items you incorporated into your project (no need to list them).

Prizes will be awarded to the quilt that incorporates the most items and the quilt with the most creative and cohesive presentation of the items. Questions? Contact: Rita Culshaw trnculshaw@comcast.net, or Jean Carr jeanocarr@gmail.com

Volunteer Corner

Hello to all our wonderful MQ members. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered this past month... especially Bonnie Ellis who will help Loretta Stone as meeting coordinator, day, Lynn Zuspann who will help with Fat Quarter Drawings, and Peggy Stockwell who will help the meeting photographers. Thanks to all of you! We need and appreciate all of our volunteers! All volunteers need to record their hours on the white slips at the meetings.

Since the first quarter of our fiscal year starting Oct. 1 you have turned in 2152 hours on the white slips. 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. Our next fiscal year will start on Oct 1, 2016 and there will be some positions open. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering for a position this year. Remember this is a volunteer organization!

Current available positions:

Gallery Exhibit Committee: Rebecca Finch is looking for help on this committee. See her at the meeting or email MQgelleryexhibits@mnquilt.org.

Historian: This position keeps info, newsletters and important papers in an album or scrapbook for MQ. For more information contact the Co-Presidents.

Two Meeting Hospitality Co-coordinators evening: These people make the coffee and set out the treats for the Thursday evening meetings. Talk to Nancy Broshat if interested.

Membership Co-Coordinator Day: Talk to Lynette Wass who, October 1, will be Membership Co-Director.

Nancy Hall, Loretta Stone, Mary Tague, Volunteer Coordinators

Quilting for Others

Holiday Stockings for St. Joseph’s Children’s Home

Making holiday stockings for Saint Josephs Children’s Home is an annual service project for Minnesota Quilters. The stockings are made so that kids who have very little will have a brighter holiday. Stockings made for Saint Josephs can be brought to the Membership meetings (September - November) and to the Holiday Brunch in December. Click on the following link for the stocking pattern. http://www.mnquilt.org/documents/

Coasters for Meals on Wheels

Minnesota Quilters Quilting For Others Project for Meals On Wheels in 2016 will be these easy and quick coasters. Pull out one of those charm packs to make the coasters. Coasters will be collected at the September - December 2016 membership meetings.

Here is an online tutorial: http://poppyseedfabrics.blogspot.com/2011/12/holiday-coaster-tutorial-updated-last.html
**THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!**

The MQ move on Saturday August 20th was a resounding success. Our hired moving truck, more than 20 young football players from Central High School, Martha Eaves’ (our president’s) whole family, some of the Central High School coaching staff, and a few of the MQ Board members showed up at 9:30 am for our move from St. Lawrence Newman Center in Dinkytown to Recovery Church in St. Paul! It was pouring rain most of the morning, but that didn't stop us! The main part of the move was done about 11:30 am. Less than an hour later, some made a second trip to move the remaining office furniture and boxes.

Meanwhile a good team assembled at Recovery Church, our destination, dried off everything, unpacked, and arranged the storage room at our new location. Many thanks to Rose Allen, Becca Brackett, Pat Curtner, Martha Eaves and her family, Bonnie Ellis, Suzanne Fisher, Barbara Jackson, Karen Knoll, Adrienne Lemberg, Anne McCandless, Merle and Rio Pratt, and Peggy Stockwell for helping to unpack. They brought towels to dry drenched items, and provided treats for all the workers including sweets for the hardworking teenage football players! Others whose help was invaluable include Mike and Kay Genelin, their son and grandson who helped take apart the stage and removed the wood, and, again to Mike Genelin for moving the last of the items out of the office to storage and final destinations a week after our move. We are so grateful for Mike's hard work, his able assistance, and the use of his truck.

Faye Bodenhamer helped with the final cleaning of the office at St. Lawrence. Others came in to help Debra and Linda pack up the office and to shred files that we didn’t want to move. Thanks to Rose Allen, Anne McCandless, Sharon Peterson, Charlotte Pittman, Pam Plocek, Merle Pratt, and others for helping in this way. Amazing packers in the Social Hall after our August meeting included Mary Ann Bariabar, Becca Brackett, Gayle Cmiel, Martha Eaves, Carla Kilkhely, Linda Kosfeld, Louise Somers, Loretta Stone, and other committee members who put on our programs and conduct our meetings. Jeanne LaMoore and her husband contributed many useful boxes for this part of the project. With that help, everyone got the meeting storage spaces organized in no time at all!

The contributions that each of you made, individually and as a group, was invaluable. We appreciate you so much for your willingness to pitch in and help. If I haven’t included your name here, I deeply apologize. Your help did not go unnoticed, nor unappreciated. Your extra pair of hands help make all our work easier and quicker. Last but not least, thank you to our office staff, Debra Svedberg and Linda Wines, for their cooperation, and their continuing good work in the midst of temporary chaos and disorganization. Thank you thank you, thank you all!

We’re moved now. We’ve already had two September meetings in the new space. We heard so many supportive and positive comments from the almost 200 of you who came to these meetings! We’re still settling in and finding our way around our new space, but everything is moving along smoothly. It’s all thanks to everyone's effort working with our search team of Suzanne Fisher, Mary Ann Bariabar, Ann McCandless, Martha Eaves and me, and with our Board of Directors.

*Thank you one and all!* Kathie Simon Frank

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**Fat Quarters - A New Twist in October**

The Fat Quarter theme for October is Leaves, any color - we know they will be falling all around us!

For October and November there is new twist - Orphan Blocks - if this is popular it may replace Fat Quarters in 2017. Thanks Martha Eaves for a good idea.

Please donate 1-3 Fat Quarters of leaf type fabric, or donate an orphan block with leaves, or green coloration. The drawing will be for all of it. You may also, or alternatively donate an orphan block(s) that fits with the fat quarter theme--each orphan block donated counts as a fat quarter! The magic number is a total of 3 for your donation!

The orphan blocks donation may not be as easy as a FQ donation. For one thing, I know my orphan blocks are usually in a project box, the project was never finished, and some fabric from the project is with them, but I don't think of them until I start re-organizing again. I can feel like a failure looking at them. I think, was I too ambitious to make a block beyond my skill? The challenge contest deadline went by? Maybe it was a test block in the wrong colors. Your discard might be someone else's treasure. You can donate them anonymously if you like!

Fat quarter drawing rules: Contribute up to three fat quarters 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). Please attach your complete name, address and phone number to each fat quarter. Bring your fat quarter(s) to Thursday or Saturday meetings or mail them to Minnesota Quilters, 253 State Street, St Paul, MN 55107-1612. Fat quarters mailed should arrive before the Saturday meeting. Label your envelope “FQ Drawing.” We draw one name at the Saturday meeting. You need not be present to win.

Becca Brackett
**Quilting in the Castle**

Our quilting adventure at the Turnblad Mansion is drawing to a close. Thank you to each one of you who turned out for the 167 quilting demo shifts we scheduled and the 14 trunk shows we put on. Both of these activities were very popular with museum staff and attendees. The “Quilting Arts Today” exhibit will close on October 23, 2016 and take down of the quilts will proceed in the week following the closing. Our quilting demos will be continue through the second week of October but will then wind down. Here is the schedule for the remaining trunk shows (free with museum admission):

**Sunday, October 2, 2016 - 2:30 pm - Joan Neudecker** - Joan has been working as a lead volunteer with Minnesota Quilters during the ASI exhibit. She creates contemporary art quilts.

**Sunday, October 9, 2016 - 2:30 pm - Susan Stein** - The author of two books on art quilting techniques and a longtime member of Minnesota Quilters

The Minnesota Quilters exhibit at the Hennepin Gallery (located in the Hennepin County Government Center) will open to the public on September 20, 2016. You won’t want to miss this; we are showing Carol Hancuh’s quilts in an exhibit titled “Fusing and Faces.”

**Other Gallery Exhibits**

- **Pat Cox** will have an exhibit of her Japanese inspired quilts at the Owatonna Art Center from September 1 - October 31. The Owatonna Art Center is located at 435 Garden View Lane, Owatonna MN 55060. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 1-5 pm. Pat is a founding member of Minnesota Quilters.

- **Nancy Birger** will have a retrospective exhibit of her quilts at the Unity/Universalist Church, 733 Portland Avenue, St. Paul September 3 - October 3. Nancy has been quilting for forty years and is a member of MQ and of Truly Unruly.

- **Carol Hancuh** will have her collection “Fusing and Faces—The Quilts of Carol Hancuh” at the Minnesota Quilters Gallery Exhibit at Hennepin Gallery, Hennepin County Government Center. September 20 - November 23, 9 am to 5 pm

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**Over 60 people attended Pat Cox’s trunk show at the Swedish Institute on Sunday, September 18.**

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**MQP Corner**

Minnesota Quilt Project members will be available to document quilts at an MQ meeting once each quarter. If you would like to have a quilt documented on Nov. 5, please let us know (mqp@mnquilt.org). It will take place following the general MQ meeting. We will need about 20 minutes to photograph the quilt and complete a physical description. The information will be sent to the public database the Quilt Index. Currently more than 4000 Minnesota quilts have been documented by MQP!

Carolyn Silflow
Why do we put on a Show and Conference every year? First, its a service to the quilting community and to the quilting industry. Second, its our most important outreach activity (7,000 people attended the show in Duluth). Third, its our most important fund raising activity each year.

Our show exists to celebrate quilting arts as practiced by crafts persons at every level. While we draw quilts from professional and semi-professional quilters who compete for the prize money we make available, our show is primarily organized to display and celebrate the quilts made by nonprofessional participants. This does not mean that we put on a second class show. On the contrary, from the comments we get back from attendees and the organizers of other shows we know that we are innovators and leaders in the field and that our shows are first class all around.

We are able to do this because of the volunteers who come forward each year to co-chair our show subcommittees and to work shifts either before the show or at the show site. Each person who co-chairs a committee receives free registration for the show, a banquet ticket at cost and a free one year membership in Minnesota Quilters.

The volunteers come from every level of our organization including our Board of Directors. Adrienne Lemburg, the 2016 President elect and Merle Pratt, Education Co-Director are chairing the Non-Judged committee. Rebecca Finch, Communications Co-Director and Mary Ann Baraibar, outgoing Membership Co-Director, are running the Special Exhibits Committee and Rebecca Finch is the Show Coordinator. Pat Curtner, Co-President, does the show website and Karen Knoll, Board Secretary is half the Printing Committee. Kathie Simon Frank is on the Youth Exhibit committee and Sharon Peterson is chair of the Facebook subcommittee.

Other committees are being chaired by both experienced and non-experienced Minnesota Quilter members. Their names will appear in the next newsletter. But we still have some very big holes in the committee structure that need to be addressed and filled if our show is to be a success. We still urgently need the following personnel:

Faculty-this is our most pressing need. If we don’t find people to staff this committee and soon, we will not have a successful show.

Charming City Stroll- previously known as Fat Quarter Stroll. People are needed who can solicit fabric donations, design and print the passport, sell the passport and distribute the charm packs to those completing the stroll.

Merchandise- Wynn Martin has signed on as one co-chair and we need one more person. This is a fun job that helps us raise a significant amount of money.

Raffle Ticket Manager-Jude Edling has volunteered to co-chair this effort. The committee organizes MQ members to sell raffle tickets at quilt related meetings and functions and at the show; they also help publicize our show.

Signage- Jill Schultz has signed on and we need another person. Most of the work is done in the last month before the show. Requires that you be at the show on Monday and Tuesday to distribute signs and help exhibitors with sign corrections and then that you help take down signs at the end of the show.

Vendor Move In/Move Out- Check vendors in and out. You get two nights in a hotel as part of your benefit.

Volunteers- Organizes volunteers prior to and during the show. You get three nights in a hotel as part of your benefit.

If you are interested in co-chairing any of these committees, please send email to Rebecca Finch, show coordinator at mq2017@mnquilt.org and thank you in advance for your help.

Rebecca Finch

← Minnesota State Parks and Trails 125th Anniversary Quilt made by MQ members, Bonnie Ellis, Page Johnson, Faye Bodenhamer, Gayle Cmiel and Debra Svedberg. This was hanging in the DNR Building at the State Fair.
Goose Stripes - Block of the Month - November 2016  
Jeanne LaMoore and Kathie Simon Frank

10 ¼” unfinished

So many of you liked the 2016 MQ raffle quilt (Contemporary Amish Sampler) made by the Blue Earth Block-swappers. Many thanks to them for giving us permission to draft their designs for some of our future blocks of the month. We’ll offer all of these blocks over time, so if you wish to make your own layout of this lovely quilt, here’s your chance! Let’s get started with one made by Lissia Laehn. It appears in a corner of the original raffle quilt in two shades of aqua Kona cotton on a very pale gray background. Ours this month is in two shades of green with off-white or cream background.

Fabric Choice:
Medium-to-light green for the flying geese
A contrasting darker green for the stripes and borders
Background: tan, off-white, or cream

To make 1 block cut:

Background:
B (6) 2 ¼” x 2 ¼” squares for flying geese backgrounds
C (2) 1 ⅛” x 7 ¼” rectangles for inner border sides
E (1) 1 ⅛” x 7 ¼” rectangle for stripe on left side (NOTE: this is a little wider than the other strips!)
F (2) 1 ⅛” x 8 ⅛” rectangles for inner border top and bottom

Medium-to-light green:
A (3) 2 ¼” x 4 ⅜” rectangles for flying geese

Contrasting Dark green:
D (2) 1 ⅛” x 7 ¼” rectangles for stripes on left side
G (2) 1 ⅛” x 8 ⅞” rectangles for outside border sides
H (2) 1 ¼” x 10 ¼” rectangles for outside border top and bottom

Sewing Instructions:
Using 1 A and 2 B for each, make three flying geese, as follows. Draw a line diagonally on each B square. Right sides together, place a B on right-hand side of an A rectangle, sew on diagonal line, trim off corner, press up. Repeat with the second B square on the left-hand side of the A rectangle. Sew the three together to make a vertical stack of flying geese. Press seams up.

Sew one C background strip (for inner border) to right side of flying geese. Press seams to side.

Make unit C-D-E-D (notice that E is wider than the border strips). Press seams to the side.
Add C-D-E-D unit to the left side of the flying geese unit. Press.
Sew one F to the top and the other F to the bottom of the block.
Sew one G strip to each side of the block. Press.
Sew one H strip to the top and one to the bottom of the block to finish it.

Block should finish at 10 ¼”

BOM GUIDELINES: Each person may enter up to 3 blocks each month. Please include your name and phone number on your block(s). Make it simple: stick your mailing label on the back of each block. If you have any scraps left over, consider including them with your block (pinned to the block or in an attached baggie) for the winner to use in a border or for other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the November 3rd or 5th meetings, you may mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive before the drawings. Address: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc., 253 State Street. St. Paul, MN 55107-1612. We’ll have a drawing at both the Thursday night and Saturday meetings if we have enough blocks. If we get only a few on Thursday night, we’ll do one drawing on Saturday. You need not be present to win. We’ll call to notify winners. Winning blocks can be mailed to the winner or picked up at the MQ office or at the next meeting.

Quilters love cats and cat fabric! Forty BOM blocks came in for September, so three different people won the drawings for cat quilt blocks!

MEOW!
"There is only one thing worse than a quitter, and that is a person who is afraid to begin," cautions many an athletic coach, and boy, was I afraid to begin machine quilting my youngest grandchild’s quilt. This wasn’t my first baby quilt, as Ben is the fifth grandchild to join the family, and while I normally quilt by check, I make it a personal commitment to quilt each child’s first quilt myself. The other quilts were more traditional pieced quilts with easy-to-follow seam lines and only a few motifs that required minimal outline quilting. Although nervous, I was able to do justice on the previous four quilts with my domestic machine. But Ben’s quilt was appliqué with large expanses of background. I fell in love with the pattern in a Twin Cities Quilting newsletter. They were offering a class and a kit. The class schedule didn’t work for me so I called to order the kit. Alas, they were sold out, and only the pattern booklet, "A Walk in the Woods" by Jennifer Heynen, was still available. In my mind, this project was very dependent on the line of fabric by the same designer, so I took a pass. Next thing you know, I’m at another quilt shop, and they have a sample of the quilt, some of the fabrics, but no pattern. This is where I start to get into trouble.

So I step outside the shop, call TCQ and ask if they still have the pattern, they do and will put one aside for me. I go back into the shop and buy what I need of the fabrics they have. Of course they don’t have everything. Next, I dedicate a project tote to the fabric, go pick up the pattern, and take the tote with me whenever I am quilt shopping, in the hopes of finding the rest of the line. Now there were a few of the fabrics that only color was important, so I was able to use a few pieces from my stash, but as I located more of the original fabric line, even some of those were replaced.

I now had enough of the main fabrics to begin the animal shapes. Although I said it was appliqué, I am talking ‘fusible,’ but even that is time consuming, especially with large pieces where I use the ‘window-pane’ technique so the quilt isn’t stiff with heat-n-bond. In the meantime, I still hadn’t found the inner border or border fabrics until I ventured north to Four Seasons with a friend to shop for reproduction fabrics, and there in the back of the shop were several pieces of the line. Be still my heart. But did I have my tote with pattern, of course not. So used my cell to look up the pattern online to try and figure out what I needed. (There’s a reason we have become so dependent on these devices.) Happy is the quilter who has been able to track down all the specific fabrics she needs for her project - no matter how many stores it takes. Did I mention I found the perfect backing in Oregon?

Now all of the shapes are cut out and fused to the background, and a decision has to be made as to quilting the quilt. Not having much confidence in my free-motion machine quilting ability, I decide to make the quilt sandwich so that as I zigzag around each motif, I am also quilting as I go. I spray baste and pin (the old belt and suspenders philosophy), and begin, making an effort to quilt all of the same color objects at one time to eliminate thread changes.

While time consuming, the process progresses, right up until my quilt retreat last January. Having successfully outlined most figures, it was now time to drop the feed dogs and venture into the unknown world of free-motion for details and background. Too scary a prospect, and I set the project aside. Next thing you know, it’s July and his second birthday is less than a month away. This quilt is already eleven months overdue for his first birthday, so I better put the pedal to the metal, literally!

According to advice from risk-taking professionals, the first thing you should do is picture the worst-case scenario and plan a strategy to deal with it. So what is the worst thing that could happen to this quilt? There might be somequilting that I wouldn’t be happy with and would have to take it out. Still nervous and paralyzed, I remembered the second piece of advice; think of all the benefits of moving forward. That’s easy, the quilt would be done, Ben would have the quilt for his second birthday, and I could start something new. Any of the three would be welcome outcomes.

Dropping the feed dogs and donning my quilting gloves I began. Slowly at first, detailing fox ears, pumpkin ribs, sunrays and squirrel paws. Next was free-form blades of grass, and finally, the most terrifying of all, meandering the sky. Now meandering may not frighten you, but I don’t seem to have a natural flow for that. I think it’s because my mother changed me from left-handed to right-handed when I was little, and as a result I’m not very coordinated moving in either direction. But I soldiered on, and had to remove only a small portion of the sky to requilt. Feeling I had already embraced enough risk-taking behavior for one project, I abandoned the trailing leaf design I once envisioned for the border and piano-keyed it instead. Using a manufactured embroidered fox appliqué, I created a label and attached the binding.

Finished is a wonderful feeling. As for my fears and me, I have to say I believe my technique has improved a little, and I feel more confident in tackling the next machine quilting project. I think the solution to not letting fear get in the way of one’s success is to do whatever aspect of the quilting process scares you the most frequently, so the skills you do acquire don’t get rusty. And don’t let the fear of being less than perfect paralyze you. Do the best you can on each project so you can move on to the next, and let the fun begin again.

Now I’m off to the post office, and can’t wait to get the video of Ben opening his present. Laura Nagel
Update on Lexi Fresh’s Dress For A Change Girl Scout Gold Award Project

The primary volunteer sewers of the project were the Women of the West Quilt Guild. Other sewers included Gratz Sewing Center in Golden Valley, and Creative Sewing Center in Minnetonka. Contributors donating time and space, discounts, and publicity include S.R. Harris Fabric Outlet, Blue Bamboo Quilt Shop, Freight Dynamics, and Minnesota Quilter Organization! Over 120 yards of beautiful quilting fabric was donated to my project by the quilters in my community.

A total of 1,072 dresses with a message about joining Girl Guides were sent to Kenya, Haiti, Senegal and Uganda. All dresses had a Girl Scout badge sewn to them to inspire the little girls. 300 dresses were sent to the Light of Hope School in Naivasha, Kenya. 300 dresses went to the orphanages Grace Village, La Loo, La Phare, and Montfort in Port au Prince, Haiti. 172 dresses were sent to the Wolof Children in villages located in northwest Senegal. 300 dresses were sent to Grace Fellowship Church located in Mityana, Uganda.

My project is sustainable in several ways. To begin, if just one of the 1,072 girls joins Girl Scouts, the world will indeed become a better place. She will not fall victim to her circumstances, she will rise above them and find the strength to better herself. She will learn skills to make a living, and become the girl she was born to be.

Dress For A Change has partnered with Heshima Kenya’s Safe House Program for young refugee girls in East Africa http://heshimakenya.org/. Young refugee women and their children in the Safe House are building a new life together through Heshima’s holistic programming that provides protection, education and a supportive community of empowerment to one of the most vulnerable populations in the world. I hope that the MN Quilters will join me, and continue to sew my dresses, to give these refugee girls some pretty dresses to wear, too!

On my website, www.dressforachange.com, I have a donation page for Heshima Kenya Organization explaining how sewing clubs can make and donate T-shirt dresses to. Dresses can easily be shipped to their headquarters in Chicago, and the missionaries subsequently deliver them to the women and girls in Kenya. I am printing flyers indicting this partnership that I am sending to quilt shops throughout USA.

My hope is to empower other young girls in unfortunate situations so they can make a better life through this project. Thank you to the Minnesota Quilters who helped me with my project by sewing dresses or donating fabric. THANK YOU LEXI and all those who volunteered to sew and donate fabric. Lexi Fresh

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November 10, 11, 12, Quilt Festival and Tour, Menomie, WI

November 10 – Classes, Pinewood Golf Course, 9-3. November 11 – Classes, Speakers, Mabel Tainter Theater tour, lunch, Barn Quilt Tour in pm. November 12, Hope, Hugs & Healing Quilt Tour. The events of the festival support The Bridge to Hope.
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