Minnesota Quilters Meetings
Thursday, March 5, 7 pm
Saturday, March 7, 10 am

Quilting Arts - Let’s Have Some Fun!
Our Thursday, March 5 meeting will feature a wonderful lecture and trunk show by local quilt artist, Penny Kapszak. Penny is a self-taught quilter and has been quilting for more than 35 years. She will share quilts from her early years up to her present focus of art quilts. Penny has always challenged herself to learn something new. Some worked out well; others not so much. She likes to share both her good and bad outcomes so everyone can see that you have to go through the “not so good” to get to the best outcome you can.

On Friday, March 6 Penny will be presenting a workshop. If you’ve ever wanted to try collage quilting, this class is for you. She will introduce the process of collage quilting, and you will be amazed at how quickly you can complete this fun art quilt. In this class you will learn how to select fabrics and placement to bring out the details in your collage quilt along with how to use tulle to bring it all together. Penny will provide a Sun Quilt pattern for the class from Susan Carlson’s Serendipity Quilt book. This is an easy process that anyone can do. If you are interested, please sign up online.

Please join the Minnesota Quilt Project in welcoming Rose Marie Werner from Dundas, Minnesota, as the speaker at the MQ meeting on March 7. Rosie has conducted research on kit quilts since 2003. Her findings are highlighted in an online database and in two books, one of which was published in 2019 – Quilt Kits: 20th Century Short Cuts. She is featured in the current Quiltfolk magazine (issue 13).

Shown are some quilts from her collection that were displayed in the MQP booth at the MQ show last June. We invite you to enjoy some “eye candy” as you learn about kit quilts from Rosie.

MQ Quilt Show Dates and Deadlines:
► Online Registration for classes, lectures and seminars is open. Advance Registration closes May 30.
► Online Entry for Judged, Non-Judged, Youth and Challenge Quilts is open until April 17 at 2 pm.
► Classes begin June 10, Sneak Preview June 10, 6 pm to 9 pm
► Show opens June 11, exhibits open at 9 am
► Show closes June 13
Upcoming Events

March 5 and 7, Member Meetings with Show Committee meeting after Saturday meeting
March 13, Quilting for Others, 9 am to 3 pm, Community of Grace Church, WBL
March 16, Faculty, Lectures and Programs Meeting, Recovery Church
March 22-25, Spring Getaway, Camp Wapogasset, Amery, Wisconsin
March 23, Quilting for Others, 9 am to 3 pm, Recovery Church, St. Paul
March 24 Finance and Board Meeting, Recovery Church
June 11 to 13, 2020, MQ Quilt Show and Conference, St. Cloud

See more calendar information on the MQ website: http://www.mnquilt.org/meetings.html
Directions and a map to meetings are shown at http://www.mnquilt.org/location.html

DEADLINE for April Newsletter: Tuesday, March 10. Send newsletter articles to editor@mnquilt.org. Later submissions may be saved for the following month’s newsletter. The newsletter deadline is normally the Tuesday after the Saturday meeting.

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MQ Annual Garage Sale and Tote Bag Workshop

Linda Huntzicker, lhuntzicker@comcast.net

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Board of Directors

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Hard copies of the newsletter will be available for an additional $20 at the time of membership renewal. This charge is to cover the cost of printing and postage. Cash and checks welcome.

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Quilting for Others, Q & A with QFO

Diane Rose, qfo@mnquilt.org

Q: I would like to support Quilting for Others, but between working full time and my kid's activities, I barely have any time to sew on my own quilting projects, let alone working on QFO projects. What can I do to help?

A: We greatly appreciate those who generously give their time to sew, either at home or at one of our Sew Days, but there are other ways to help this important cause.

We depend on the fabric donated to us, but we still need to buy batting for finishing the quilts. Hobbs Batting Company sells a roll of batting to us at a greatly discounted price when we send them five UPC labels from Hobbs batting packages. So save those labels for us.

We use lots of the jumbo 2.5 gallon zipper bags for our kits and can always use more of them. We also greatly appreciate cash donations to help defray the cost of batting.

This month we were able to donate nine twin-sized quilts and three child-sized quilts plus 35 large tote bags to Tubman. Also, 31 baby quilts were donated to Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association. Thanks to all who helped with these quilts.

Our upcoming Sew Days are:
Friday, March 13 at Community of Grace Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake
Monday, March 23 at Recovery Church in St. Paul

We start at 9 am and finish by 3 pm, but come when you can and join the fun!

MQ and Textile Center Garage Sales

Kathie Simon Frank, kathie@umn.edu

MQ will host its annual garage sale on Saturday, May 9th, before the meeting, during breaks, and after the Saturday regular membership meeting. We'll sell everything quilting-related: fabric, tools, orphan blocks, thread, books, etc. MQ doesn't have space to store donations before that time, so we request that you bring your donations to the Recovery Church, 253 State Street, St. Paul on Friday, May 8, the day before the sale. More information will be in the next newsletter.

If you can't hold onto your donations until May, or if you can't find a friend or relative to store them for you, consider donating your quilting and sewing related items to Textile Center's annual garage sale a month earlier. Drop-off is Thursday, April 16 from 10 am to 7 pm, at 2811 Weeks Avenue SE, which is not far from Como Avenue and Highway 280. The sale is Friday evening, April 17, through Saturday afternoon, April 18. For more information, see textilecentermn.org/garagesale/.

You could do a really deep cleaning and donate to both sales. Minnesota Quilters and Textile Center thank you for your support.

Outstanding Volunteer Nominations

Donna Rockette, membership@mnquilt.org

We are requesting nominations for this year’s Outstanding Volunteer award. Nomination forms can be found on the home page of mnquilt.org under links. Please submit the completed form to quilter@mnquilt.org. All nominations received prior to the March board meeting will be considered. If an outstanding volunteer is selected by the Board, the recipient will be announced at the April meetings.

Repurposing Project

Kathie Simon Frank, kathie@umn.edu

What would you do with new t-shirts and leftover mugs that weren't sold at MQ shows in 2016 through 2019, and that won't ever be sold? We're finding creative ways to give them new life to help sell them. Please join a group of forward-thinking MQ members in the next few months as we repurpose items to sell at a pop-up sale within the Silent Auction area at MQ's show in St. Cloud in June.

We've got ideas galore and are willing to embrace new ideas, as well.
Make a tote from leftover t-shirts or make mug organizers to cover outdated mugs. Make pin trays from refrigerator magnets. Make a Take-a-Mug-to Meeting, or make a scarf or necklace or potholder from t-shirt strips.

The ideas are endless, and we welcome your ideas and assistance in making items. This will generate some income for MQ and will keep our overstock out of the landfills. Please bring your sewing machine, a handful of fat quarters and large scraps, scissors and thread to create new items with other MQ members.

Come sew and help repurpose our overstock on Monday, March 9, from 10 am to 3 pm at Recovery Church in the MQ meeting hall, 253 State Street, St. Paul.
MQ Scholarship  
Charlette Pittman, preselect@mnquilt.org

The mission of Minnesota Quilters is to provide creative quilting education, activities and mentoring through a welcoming multi-generational community of quilters with various skills and abilities. By offering a scholarship we encourage and inspire new or beginner quilters by giving them a chance to participate in MQ’s quilt show and conference. We offer this scholarship in honor of our charter members who years ago saw the importance of celebrating and promoting quilting. All scholarship applications are reviewed and selection is based on the applicant’s essay, not on the quality of the applicant’s quilts.

The board received four applications this year and selected Amy Cory from Blaine as the winner. She will receive a one-year membership to Minnesota Quilters, Inc., priority registration for the June 2020 quilt show, registration fee including a multi-day pass, show bag, pin, tuition for two 3-hour classes or one 6-hour class, tuition for a lecture pass, two Banquet and Award Ceremony tickets and single hotel room for two nights. Congratulations, Amy!

The other three applicants, Lisa Campbell from Burnsville, Tiffany Wong from Eagan and Sandie Baumgarten from St. Michael each receive a free one-year membership to Minnesota Quilters.

The deadline for the 2021 scholarship is October 1, 2020. This scholarship is for any new quilter in Minnesota, not just the Twin Cities area. New quilters who wish to apply should fill out the Entry Form found on the Minnesota Quilters website. The 2021 MQ show will be in Duluth.

Minnesota Quilt Project  
Carolyn Silflow, mqp@mnquilt.org

At this time of year many folks do some closet cleaning and organizing. Quilters in this “cleaning mode” may come upon vintage quilts, tops, blocks, fabrics and patterns that they no longer need. If this description fits you, the Minnesota Quilt Project offers a solution. The MQP booth at the MQ show in St. Cloud will be offering vintage quilt-related items for sale. We can help you find good homes for your quilt-related items, often with beginning quilters. All funds raised at the booth are used for education and outreach programs of MQ. Please call the MQ office if you would like to make a donation.

Block of the Month Feedback Request  
Kathie Simon Frank, Linda Huntzicker, botm@mnquilt.org

We’d like to know something about why you participate the Block of the Month program. What would you like us to know about why you make blocks of the month and submit them for drawings? What techniques would you like us to feature? What particular blocks would you like to see directions for? What size blocks do you prefer -- all the same size or a variety of sizes over a period of months? Any particular dimensions? What do you like best or what don't you like about the program? If you don't participate now, what might inspire you to participate in the future?

Please drop a quick note to kathie@umn.edu to let Linda and me know what you’re thinking. When we hear from you, we’ll work on designing and finding blocks that respond to your preferences.

Many thanks from Kathie and Linda.

Help Victims of Australian Fires  
Kathie Simon Frank, kathie@umn.edu

For months we’ve been hearing and reading about the raging fires all over Australia. Some of us have friends and family living there as well, and we’re worried for their personal safety, their state of mind and their environment as we contemplate how they’ll recover from their devastation and loss. If you’d like to help in some small way, here’s one idea.

You can make a 12½” quilt block showing a tree. The blocks will be made into quilts for families who have lost possessions and property in the bushfires. Choose your favorite tree block, or check out a couple of blocks designed especially for this project. One is by Kirsty on her blog Bonjour Quilts at https://www.bonjourquilts.com/tree-quilt-block/ and another is the free Tree of Strength quilt pattern at https://www.sewwhatyvette.com/tree-strength-australia/.

Send your blocks as soon as possible (the beginning of March) to Wollongong Modern Quilt Guild, PO Box 54, Jamberoo New South Wales, Australia 2533.
There have long been rumblings that Minnesota quilters have had little or no representation in the win column at the Minnesota Quilters show. The American Quilt Society (AQS) insisted Minnesota Quilters open judged competition to those outside of the state to assure Minnesota quilters’ quilts would be considered to appear in the AQS quilt calendar among other things AQS publishes. The upside of opening judged quilt entries has allowed Minnesota Quilt show attendees the chance to see national award-winning quilts. The downside of opening judged competition to those outside of Minnesota is that it’s much harder for a Minnesota resident to win a prize against such competition.

For this reason, a new category has been presented to and approved by the MQ Board and starting at the 2020 quilt show. Ribbons and monetary prizes for quilts made exclusively by Minnesota residents, that did not win a prize in a judged category, has been approved. If the quilt is produced by more than one person, all contributors must be Minnesota residents. Also, quilts in this category will not be judged in the judges’ room but by an independent committee who will see quilts after they are hung in either Judged or Non-Judged categories. There will not be judges’ comment forms. There is no entry form or fee for this category.

A first, second and third place will be awarded in each of two categories, Hand-worked and Pieced, for a total of six Minnesota winners. The judging committee will select the winners based on its judgement as to the most creative or original. Workmanship will be considered but it is not the most important criteria.

Independent anonymous funding has been obtained to cover the cost of the monetary prizes and ribbons for this category. No money is being requested from Minnesota Quilters, judged or sponsored entry categories. The Minnesota Award is an independent non-commercial endeavor with the sole purpose of encouraging and acknowledging the talents of resident Minnesotans.

Show Registration

Jan Schmidt, Carolyn Davidson, show registration co-chairs

Things to keep in mind when registering for the quilt show:
• There is a registration fee for everyone to register for classes. As a bonus registrants receive three-day admission to the show, a show bag and a show pin.
• Every registrant for the show needs a unique email address.
• Only available through show registration are the following – classes, lecture passes, box lunches and banquet tickets.
• There is a wait list for full classes. If the class you want is full, you can sign up to be on the wait list. If an opening occurs, you will be notified by e-mail, and you have 24 hours to respond. If you decline or do not reply, the next person on the list will be offered the open class spot.

Thanks for registering for the show. We are looking forward to a great show in St. Cloud.

Small Quilt Auction

Liz Murray, Laurie Klinkhammer, smallquiltauction@mnquilt.org

It was fantastic meeting our members at the Thursday and Saturday MQ February meetings and receiving so many amazing donations. The money we raise from this auction will be used to support the mission of Minnesota Quilters Inc. including grants and scholarship programs, quilting television shows aired in our area and other needs of our volunteer organization.

Our success depends on the generous contribution of your skill and creativity to make small sewn and quilted items for sale during the show. We ask that you limit the size of your donated quilts to a 100-inch perimeter since our space is somewhat limited. We hope to receive bags, purses, wearable art, bowls and other fabric projects. We would like to thank all our donors by including them in a drawing for cool door prizes to be awarded at the August meeting. Every donation results in an entry into this drawing, so contribute early and often.

This year we will be featuring a pop-up shop for smaller items available for immediate purchase rather than bidding. We hope that visitors to the show will want to purchase a small gift for themselves or others. We actively hope our members will donate smaller items like zippered bags, bowl warmers and pillows to provide a large and excellent inventory for our shop.

How can you get your items to us? Bring your donation to a meeting and drop it off with Laurie and Liz in person. Pop your donation into a mailer and mail it to Minnesota Quilters at 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107, or drop it off in person at the MQ office with your show quilt. We will accept donations up to the beginning of show in St. Cloud. Please label your quilt or project with your name and address and the title of the quilt; a slip of paper pinned to it is fine. If you mail items to the MQ office, please also provide your contact information. If you have questions, contact the committee at smallquiltauction@mnquilt.org.
Now that we have your attention, here are some updates about the classes being offered at the quilt show. Remember that classes run Wednesday through Saturday, June 10 through 13. We are offering one two-day class, 26 full-day classes, 18 half-day classes, four seminars, and 11 lectures. Class prices vary, but bottom line is that your MQ membership pays off.

• We have added 2 new classes.
  “Dahlia” will be taught by Laura Maki. This class will feature a mid-arm Janome for each class member. It is a full-day class on Wednesday.
  “Meet Your Midarm” will also be taught by Laura Maki and will use a mid-arm Janome for each class member. This will be Saturday morning.

• Several vendors have stepped up to provide sewing machines for classrooms. If you already registered for one of these classes, you should have received an e-mail notification. Thank you to our vendors.
  Pfaff machines will be in Heather Mulder Peterson classes and in Kari Schell’s Studio 180 Designs class.
  Janome machines will be in Christa Watson classes.
  Elna machines will be in Celine Perkins classes.
  Baby Lock will be in Gyleen Fitzgerald classes.
  Bernina machines will be in Sue Nickels classes. Note that if you signed up for one of her ruler classes, she will bring the rulers and special foot.

• Classes are filling. Fourteen of our classes are either full or have limited space available. If a class is full, please sign up for the waiting list. You just might get in.

• Do you belong to a smaller quilt group that would like to hear more about the classes? If so, contact us.
Special Exhibits at the MQ Show
Laura Nagel, Patty von Arx

Being March and Women’s History Month, I thought it only fitting to highlight three of the intriguing Special Exhibits that focus on women’s accomplishments. First is the Women’s Suffrage Quilt Challenge sponsored by the Dakota County Star Quilters. This collection includes more than 30 small quilts celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in the United States. If you can’t wait until June to view these tributes, see the exhibit during the month of March at the Dakota County Historical Society as part of DCSQ’s 25th Annual Show.

HERstory Collection
This exhibit by 84 artists from seven countries includes tributes to women well known to us. They celebrate strong women who cracked glass ceilings and those who made discoveries. Women who shook the world by breaking into fields previously reserved for men, and those women who were the first to do something before any man.

These quilts honor athletes, authors, artists, aviators and astronauts, business leaders, educators, entertainers, mathematicians, scientists, writers and world leaders. I’m sure some of your favorite iconic women will be among them.

Ready, Set, Vote!
Once again Carol Hancuh’s artistic prowess will astound you with the detail and emotional impact of her lineup of 25 voters at their polling place, each with his or her story as to why the Right to Vote is so important to them.

Volunteer at the Quilt Show
Merle Pratt, Liz McHenry, showvolunteers@mnquilt.org
Choose when, where and what you would like to do as a volunteer at the show. See and touch beautiful quilts, get to know the teachers, work with vendors, meet new people and work with friends. Be a volunteer who makes the show happen. Go to SignupGenius to volunteer www.signupgenius.com/go/MQshowvolunteer
Presidents’ Invitational

Karen Kopitzke, Linda Wines
president@mnquilt.org
Hold the Dream

“We hold the dream of non-violence for women and children until they can hold it for themselves” is the mission of Anna Marie’s Alliance in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Our co-presidents, Karen Kopitzke and Linda Wines, have chosen Anna Marie’s Alliance, a shelter for battered women, their children and sometimes their pets, as our charity for the 2020 MQ Show. They have asked for twin-size quilts with no religious tones or fabrics or anything to do with weapons or guns. They also request no labeling of any kind—neither your information nor Minnesota Quilters information.

Your donations can be delivered to the MQ office either during open hours or at membership meetings. We will also accept them at the River’s Edge Conference Center in St. Cloud beginning on Monday, June 8, 2020. The quilts will be displayed on the second story railings of the RECC during the show and delivered to Anna Marie’s Alliance immediately after the show.

Pictured at left is the quilt top that Joe Muehlbauer is making to donate to Anna Marie’s Alliance at the show. The photo was taken during show and tell at the Saturday meeting in January.

Challenge 2020 – Flower Power

Are you working on your Challenge quilt? Entries have begun online and continue until April 17th. Just in case you need a little more fabric, we have several extra yards of the lovely floral focus fabrics for sale and a bit of the supporting fabrics, too. If you are in need, let us know. We would be happy to send you some, or you can pick it up in the MQ office. The cost is $10 per yard. Remember you can add up to four additional fabrics.

FYI, there has been one change to the rules. If your quilt is valued more than $400, you will need a written appraisal for MQ insurance purposes.

We can’t wait to see what you make. Best of luck!

2021 MQ Fabric Challenge

When you register online, purchase the fabric packets for the 2021 Fabric challenge— “Seen on Superior’s Shores” for the show to be held in Duluth in 2021. There are two colorway bundles. Superior Tones is cool, as in lake waters, streams, worn pebbles and sky. The other bundle is Volcanic Swirls, a packet of warm colors like agates, iron-rich soil and fall foliage. Rules are included in the fabric bundles.
Youth Exhibit 2020

Just when we were wondering how to inspire you to teach your children or grandchildren to make a quilt and exhibit it in Minnesota Quilters’ 2020 show in St. Cloud in June, I remembered how I got started quilting as a child. My mother and maternal grandmother taught me. I grew up sleeping under a wonderful quilt. Two of my grandchildren made quilts and exhibited them in MQ shows in the past.

Minnesota Quilters, too, encourages its members to hand down an interest and skills in quilting to young people. MQ’s mission is: “to further the preservation of quilting, to educate, and to document the art and craft of quilting in Minnesota.” MQ also envisions that it “will be a statewide leader in providing creative quilting education, activities and mentoring through a welcoming multi-generational community of quilters with various skills and abilities.”

To reinforce that it’s indeed the time to think about quilting with the children in our lives, the March 2020 issue of American Quilter magazine arrived in the mail. There, to my surprise, were two articles about quilting with children. “Quilting with youngsters is a treat!” starts the first article, encouraging readers to find a child to quilt with.

The articles address positive qualities we can share with children through quilting. We can help them balance their focus on tech devices by offering them an activity that’s fun, creative, maybe a bit challenging and that results in a beautiful outcome to enhance their decor. We can help our children build character as they learn discipline, including safe and proper use of tools, follow-through and finishing projects and thinking creatively. As we sew with our children, we may share family stories, how we learned to sew and other aspects of our family's history and culture. All the while, we’re strengthening the bond between us.

So talk with the children in your life who are 18 and younger. Propose making a quilt with them. It can be any size up to a maximum of 110” by 110”. They must make at least 75% of the quilt themselves. You can assist here and there (perhaps helping with rotary cutting). The final quilting can be done by anyone and does not count in the 75%. Encourage them to enter their quilt in the MQ 2020 St. Cloud show. Register it online by the April 17 deadline. There’s no entry fee for youth. The quilt must be finished including a hanging sleeve on the back and delivered between May 29 and June 4. In any family, each youth may enter up to three quilts, or three children can each enter one quilt.

“Here Comes the Next Generation: The cherished process of teaching a child to sew,” pp. 22-24; “Why Should You Teach Your Kids How to Sew? An excerpt from Quilting with Kids by Wendy and Gwendolyn Sheppard, pp. 24-26

Charter Bus Tours

Please encourage your favorite quilt shop, quilt guild or community education center to sponsor a charter bus to the 42nd annual Minnesota Quilter’s Show in St. Cloud. Last year 683 quilters arrived fresh and relaxed, delivered by 17 buses.

Passengers on a bus enjoy a discounted entrance fee and lots of laughter and networking on the bus. When they arrive at River's Edge Convention Center, they are met by volunteers, given a show book and their hands are stamped for easy entrance to the show floor of quilts and vendors.

At the end of the day they can compare experiences or they can snooze all the way home, dreaming of quilts.

Bulletin Board

April 23-25, 2020 Kalona Quilt Show and Sale, Thursday 5 pm to 8 pm, Friday 9 am to 7 pm, Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, 511 C Ave, Kalona, IA. 52247 in the Kalona YMCA, use the east entrance. $6 admission for all three days. 319-656-2240, e-mail katie@woodinwheel.com or kac@kctc.net. More than 250 new and vintage hand-quilted quilts on display and for sale. Many are Amish or Mennonite made. One block east is the Kalona Quilt and Textile Museum featuring two quilt galleries. The Kalona Chamber offers 90-minute tours twice daily in the Amish country. Kalona has two wonderful fabric stores, coffee shop, chocolate store, gift shops, antiques and more. The local Methodist Church does a wonderful turkey dinner during the show. Other restaurants are available as is a family-owned motel. The Chamber of Commerce will send out Kalona information.

Lost and Found

If you left a chair cushion or a glass pie plate at a recent MQ meeting, you may claim your property by calling the MQ office at 651-224-3572. We hope these items can find their way home.
Women of Influence

It would be hard to imagine that there is a single woman who has not looked up to another woman; probably one who is older, has accomplished something significant and has been a role model or example to follow. I remember a school assignment to write about a person, living or dead, whom I admired and would like to meet. In grade school that person was Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the Little House on the Prairie series. In high school it was Jacqueline Kennedy, and as an adult it is Eleanor Roosevelt. All were strong, independent and accomplished women, whose influence continues to reverberate in today’s social climate.

I credit my love of quilting with connecting me with more women whose influence on our lives resonates today, especially as we celebrate the centennial of Women’s Right to Vote this year. As I researched the history of 19th century quilts, I couldn’t help but uncover the integrated efforts of women’s needlework and their struggle to improve their stature.

Deborah Coates, the wife of a Lancaster County abolitionist, made her feelings known when she inked the image of a slave along with the phrase “Deliver me from the oppression of man” on a block in the center of her pieced quilt. When her two granddaughters couldn’t decide who should inherit the quilt, it was cut in half, obscuring the image. Not until many years later, when the two quilts came to one descendant, was the image revealed after removing the binding and laying the two halves side by side. In addition to her quilt and her husband’s organization of the Anti-Slavery Society, their house was a station on the Underground Railroad.

The Grimke Sisters, Sarah and Angelina, grew up on a South Carolina plantation and saw firsthand the hardships of slavery. In spite of the mores of the time, both sisters taught slave children how to read. Hired in 1836 by the Anti-Slavery Society to give public abolition speeches, they also included comments and arguments about women’s rights. As a result they were labeled promiscuous, unladylike and un-Christian. Eventually they were persuaded to speak only about slavery in public, but privately they wrote letters advocating equality for women. These letters embody the first serious work by an American woman about this issue. For a fictional, but history-based account of the Grimke sisters, read The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd.

While attending one of these antislavery meetings, Lucretia Mott met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in a segregated section of the hall designated for women. Following the treatment they received at this gathering, the women vowed to someday sponsor a convention that would focus on the topic of women’s rights. The day came eight years later in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. More than 300 women attended and listened to the “Declaration of Sentiments” which closely resembled the Declaration of Independence and included twelve resolutions. The ninth resolution declared “That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure for themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise.” All resolutions passed. Of all the women in attendance, only one, Charlotte Woodward, lived to exercise her newly-won vote in the 1920 presidential election.

On the subject of sewing, Stanton saw needlework as another symbol of women’s inferior status that contributed to the class system dividing the rich from the poor. Those who were employed in the textile factories were underpaid and overworked, while women of leisure spent their time doing non-essential fancy needlework like crazy quilts. She declared women’s fancywork to be a series of “digital absurdities.”

The skill of needlework was freeing in another sense. Elizabeth Keckley, who became Mary Todd Lincoln’s seamstress, was able to purchase her freedom as well as her son’s. Prior to this, as a sewing slave, she had supported seventeen people, including her poverty-stricken white owner. As a freedwoman she formed the Contraband Relief Association in 1862 after having viewed a fundraising festival organized by the Sanitary Commission to benefit sick and wounded soldiers in Washington. As a result more than 80 boxes of goods were sent to the freedmen in Washington.

For an intimate look at the friendship between Elizabeth Keckley and Mary Todd Lincoln, you might enjoy Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini.

Elizabeth Keckley Medalion Quilt - 86x81 inches. Collection of Ross Trump, detail at right

Continued on next page
Following the Civil War women once again united to reform social behavior, this time focused on the widespread problem of alcoholism. In 1874, the Women’s Christian Temperance Union was formed bringing in women who had not participated in abolition or suffrage causes. A persuasive speaker and extraordinary organizer, Frances E. Willard, convinced the members that the only way to achieve their temperance goals would be through securing the right to vote. In many states they were able to gain a limited local suffrage allowing them to vote in municipal matters which gave them input over liquor licenses and laws governing taverns and saloons. By 1898 the WCTU was the largest women’s organization in the world counting over two million members.

The WCTU used quilts for banners, petitions and fundraisers. In 1878 the Crusade Quilt, (88x98 inches), made from silks and inked with the signatures of 3000 women supporters, was presented at the national convention in Baltimore. Upon receiving the gift, Willard radicalized the use of quilts for protest when she included in her remarks, “The quilt deserved to be placed, as an example of protest, alongside the death sentence of a woman burned as a witch in Massachusetts, and the auction block on which a South Carolina woman slave had been sold.”

It is ironic that Willard depended on the political impact of quilts to further her cause. The only needlework she ever accomplished was a plain sampler which took five years to complete. In her autobiography she confided, “A needle and a dishcloth I could not abide. It never occurred to me that I ought to ‘know housework’ and do it.” But her personal motto, which hung above her desk in her study (which was adorned with a crazy quilt draped over a chair) was “Do Everything.” And she did.

Through the use of quilts women have discovered talents they didn’t know they had. They’ve become artists, teachers, businesswomen, curators and exhibit organizers. Additionally they have raised thousands, if not millions, of dollars for grants, charities, medial causes and social benefit. Quilting opens a door to a world of opportunity for women. It always has, and I believe it always will.

2020 Raffle Quilts and Basket

Laura Nagel, Annemarie Yohnk, Raffle Quilt Co-chairs
Nancy Hall, Raffle Quilt Tickets

Tickets are now available for purchase for the two raffle quilts and the basket of quilter’s goodies. First prize is Village of Quilters, 80” by 90”, the colorful quilt shown at right, second prize is the raffle basket of quilting goodies and third prize is Quilters’ Cottage, 45” by 55”, a small very cheery quilt. Thanks to approximately 115 MQ members and a lot of hard work, the quilts were finished on time. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and many tickets have been sold. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.

The raffle quilt will travel to other quilt meetings around the state. We can arrange for the quilts and tickets to be at your meetings, so please let us know of those opportunities.

One ticket is enough to win but many tickets improve your odds of winning tremendously. Remember to buy tickets for friends, family and coworkers.

Raffle tickets are for sale at all MQ meetings for $1 each.

Credit: Quilt designed by Jumble/Miss Rosie’s Quilt Co.; Pattern name Village; Quilt fabric supporter Gruber’s Quilt Shop, Waite Park, Minnesota; Village of Quilters quilted by Joe Muehlbauer; Quilter’s Cottage quilted by The Quilting Page, Eagan, Minnesota; Raffle Quilt Co-Chairs and quilt assembly, Laura Nagel and Annemarie Yohnk
Block of the Month, April 2020
Kathie Simon Frank, Linda Huntzicker, botm@mnquilt.org

This is a simple block with a lot of punch. By carefully choosing six colors (three darks and three lighter in one colorway, or three brights and three softer shades in the same colorway), you can make spinning pinwheels. Experiment with colors to see what you like.

Fabric Choices: Choose three dark or dark/medium fabrics in one colorway for the rectangles. For the squares choose three light or light/medium fabrics that contrast with the darks. One fat-quarter of each will suffice for two or more blocks.

Cutting Directions: All the pieces are made from 2½” strips cut crosswise from the fabric.
A1—cut four 2½” by 4½” rectangles of the darkest fabric
A2—cut four 2½” by 4½” rectangles of a dark-medium
A3—cut four 2½” by 4½” rectangles of a slightly lighter dark-medium
B1—cut four 2½” squares of a light fabric compatible with A1
B2—cut four 2½” squares of a light fabric compatible with A2
B3—cut four 2½” squares of a light fabric compatible with A3

Assembly Directions:
1. Pair each A1 rectangle with a B1 square. Repeat for remaining A rectangles and their B counterparts.
2. Sew each B square onto one end of its paired A rectangle. Press seam to one side.
3. Place one A3B3 piece upright with B3 at the top. To its right, place an A2B2 piece with B2 at the bottom. To the far right, place an A1B1 piece with B1 at the top.
5. Arrange the sections as a four-patch. The A1 rectangles will meet in the center forming a pinwheel. See graph drawing and block photo. Sew the sections together into a square. Press well and trim to 12½” square.
6. Note: Move clockwise starting from the upper left; arrange the sections by turning each successive section one-quarter turn clockwise. While the four A1 pieces form a pinwheel in the center, the other AB pairs shade into a lighter background as you move from the center toward the outer edge, and a B3 square will lie in each outer corner of the finished block.

Two-color alternatives: meander or “spots” on a background. For one option, but not this month, choose a dark fabric for the rectangles and a light for the squares to create a meander. If instead, you choose light for the rectangles and darker or brighter for the squares, you’ll create a background dotted with a darker (or brighter) “spot.” However, this month we’re going to aim for the pinwheel-look.

BOM Guidelines: To enter the monthly drawing for the Block of the Month, make one, two or three blocks, following the color and pattern directions above. Your name is entered into the drawing once for each block submitted. If your name is drawn, you win the blocks entered by other participants. Please attach your name and phone number to the back of your block(s). Consider including leftover scraps (pinned to the back or in an attached baggie) for the winner to use in the final setting. If you cannot bring the blocks to the meeting, mail them to the MQ office allowing adequate time for them to arrive by Friday the week of the meetings. Mail to Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc., 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107.

We draw the Block of the Month winner at the Saturday meeting each month, except December and June. Winners who are not present will be notified by phone or e-mail. Blocks may be picked up during the month at the MQ office, or claimed at the next meeting.
Show and Tell—February  Thank you to Ellen Wold and Carrie D’Andrea for photographing these quilts in February. On the sign-in sheet at each meeting, please remember to legibly write your name, accurately describe your quilt and note whether it can be pictured in the newsletter. Contact editor@mnquilt.org if you need a copy of your quilt photo to upload online to enter it in the MQ show exhibits.
Karen Golden

Not everyone comes to quilting when introduced to it by a mother or grandmother. In Karen’s case, she was a “traveling” military spouse with her family to various communities and found quilting guilds to be a ready way to meet people and share creativity. She did have sewing experience making clothing, but otherwise is a self-taught quilter. She sewed a lot of clothes at first, but the creativity that quilting offered her was a great attraction.

Her favorite color is red, but she will use any colors that she needs to for her creative result. She likes challenges and will take an orphan block and build a quilt around it. She uses her own designs for quilts and continues to take classes to learn more or alternative techniques for quilts. She feels that there are many stages in developing your quilt skills, and in her experience has learned to move from one- or two-color quilts to quilts of multiple colors. She hand appliqués and hand quilts her quilts, which clearly adds to their beauty.

The quilt in the picture is called “My Blue Hearts from Arkansas.” It started with white hearts that her quilting guild gave her when she had to move to another military location. She added her own embellishments to each heart and put them together in her own design. The quilt won a blue ribbon in 1994 and remains one of her favorites because it gave her confidence that she need not follow any particular rules to create a stunning quilt. One of her friends from the Arkansas guild told her, “Your quilts never have the same edges!”

She likes working in a group setting and considers the group guild for quilting one of the ways she can share her work and benefit from the work others share. Because she moved a lot as a military spouse, a quilt guild was a wonderful way to meet and be a part of the community wherever she went. She also belongs to groups online, including the Paducah Block of the Month group which gives a style for the block and the quilter is to create something in that style. One of the big benefits of that group is that getting to keep the blocks.

Karen is very modest about her quilting. She designed and quilted our MQ raffle quilt one year and continues to contribute her skills within her local guild.
Quilt Show Sponsors are vitally important to the enjoyment and the success of MQ shows. Below are current sponsors. Thank them when you shop there.

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Who’s Who on the MQ Show Committee

Show Coordinators – Lou Roos, Cheryl Plourde; Admissions – Jean Hoff, Jude Edling; Banquet – Audrey Weinand, Barb Orzechowski; Bus Tours – Leslie Hall, Margaret Lundberg; Challenge 2020 – Annemarie Yohnk, Deb Burck; Challenge 2021 – Becca Brackett, Jude Edling; Door Prizes – Linda Huntzicker; Faculty – Brenda Lyseng, Cindy Horan; Judged Exhibit – Karen Knoll, Elise Frederick; Merchandise – Kathy Dietz-Huber, Catherine Schneider Thieschafer; Non-Judged Exhibit – Judy Frandson, Wanda Shelton; Photography – Peggy Stockwell; Power Point – Debra Svedberg; Printing – Karen Knoll, Janet Watt; Quilt Exhibit Logistics – Sue Rutford; Quilting for Others – Diane Rose, Karen Newman; Raffle Quilt Creators – Annemarie Yohnk, Laura Nagel; Raffle Tickets – Nancy Hall, Sharlene Wimpfheimer; Registration – Jan Schmidt, Carolyn Davidson; Secretary – Loretta Stone; Signage – Mary Ann Baraiba, Rita Culshaw; Small Quilt Auction – Elizabeth Murray, Laurie Klinkhammer; Special Exhibits – Patty Von Arx, Laura Nagel; Transportation Logistics – Linda Wines; Vendor Move In and Out – Reo Pratt, Adrienne Lemberg; Volunteers – Merle Pratt, Liz McHenry; Website - Linda Wines, Pat Curtner; Youth Exhibit – Deb Kjelland, Kathie Simon Frank

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Established April, 1978.

For a printable form from our website go to: http://www.mnquilt.org/documents/PaperMembershipForm.pdf

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