Minnesota Quilters December Holiday Brunch  
Saturday, December 2, 10 am

December Holiday Brunch  
Sharon Birnbaum, Debbie Craig, Suzanne Fisher,  
Elise Frederick, Karen Knoll, Laura Nagel, Patty Von Arx

Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 10:00 am  
Edinburgh USA Golf Course  
8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55433

Begin your holiday season by celebrating at the Minnesota Quilters Holiday Brunch. It is being held in the Grand Ballroom on the first floor of the Edinburgh Golf Course Clubhouse. The event starts at 10:00 am, and brunch will be served about 10:45am.

There are many ways to participate at this year’s brunch.

♥ Bring a small Mason jar (pint or half-pint) for a fun project that you can make at the brunch, or if you prefer, you will be able to finish it at home.

♥ The Holiday-themed Quilt-on-a-Stick Challenge will be on display so don't forget to bring a holder for your challenge, too. Who knows, yours might be the winning challenge.

♥ There will be the 12-1/2 inch unfinished holiday block exchange. The background should be white or off-white. You may exchange up to three blocks.

♥ We will be collecting the stockings that you made for St. Joseph's Home for Children, along with stocking stuffers or donations to St. Joseph's Home for Children. There is a viewers' choice prize for the stockings.

♥ We will also be collecting placemats with a preference of non-holiday themed placemats.

♥ Quilting for Others will be collecting 36" by 36" lap quilts at the brunch.

♥ Don't forget to bring show and tell.

♥ Ten dollar gift memberships will be available for sale. Give someone the gift of a Minnesota Quilters membership.

♥ And if your participation is simply to attend this year, we are happy that you will be there.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Minnesota Quilters January Show Preview Meetings  
Thursday, January 4 at 7 pm, Saturday, January 6 at 10 am

Don't miss the January meetings! These are the much-anticipated opportunities to preview classes offered at the MQ show in June and to see the class samples of projects and techniques. One teacher is profiled in this issue. There will be information about online registering for classes and entering your quilts into the judged and non-judged categories. Read about Wholecloth and Miniature quilt categories in this issue. The raffle quilt will be revealed. New merchandise will be for sale. Check it out. The chairmen for small quilt auction, volunteers, president's invitational, 2018 and 2019 challenges, banquet and charming stroll will inspire you to quilt to enter, to quilt to donate, to shop and to volunteer. And there’s even more. Be sure to attend.
Upcoming Events

December 2, MQ Holiday Brunch
December 19, Combined Board and Finance Meeting, 5 pm
January 4 and 6, MQ Member Meetings
January 15, Long Range Program Planning Meeting 6 pm
June 14-16, 2018, MQ Quilt Show & Conference, St. Cloud, Minnesota

More calendar information available on the MQ website: http://www.mnquilt.org/meetings.html
Directions and map to our meetings on the MQ website: http://www.mnquilt.org/location.html

DEADLINE for January Newsletter: Tuesday, December 5. Please send newsletter articles to editor@mnquilt.org. Later submissions may be saved for the following month’s newsletter. The newsletter deadline is Tuesday after the Saturday meeting.

Message From Our President Adrianne Lemberg, president@mnquilt.org

Happy December! Although Mother Nature sure is taking a stand with the freezing nights and frosty mornings, I never mind bundling up for a brisk morning walk with my dog, Izzy. Maybe it’s the returning to a warm house and hot cup of coffee that makes it so invigorating. Well, my goal of making a quilt before winter arrives has hit a bit of a snag. I tripped and broke my wrist, the baby has arrived, and the quilt is still in pieces. Lucky for me it is completely cut out. Slowly, much too slowly, I have been stitching the blocks. When my red (ruby-colored) cast is removed, I’ll square up the blocks and finish up the quilt.

To celebrate our 40th year, the Ruby Anniversary, the 2018 Minnesota Quilters show volunteers have quite a lineup of faculty for lectures and classes, exhibits, vendors, and special activities…much to be unveiled during our January meetings. It’s sure to inspire attendees to make their June quilt show plans and trek to St. Cloud. What a great way to start to the new year. I hope to see you there.

Each year the MQ president chooses a quilt project for exhibition at the annual quilt show. For this Ruby Anniversary show, as President, I’m inviting quilters to make and donate a twin bed size quilt with a touch of ruby in it. We’ll refer to this exhibit as the President’s Invitational. After the show in June the quilts will be donated to Prior Crossing, a residential facility for previously homeless youth. Prior Crossing residents range in age from age 17 to 22 and pay rent that is based on their income. To help the young residents learn to live successfully and move forward, supportive services, such as help with transportation, job placement, education and mental health, are available at the residence. Each of the 365 square-foot studios includes a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and closet. There is a supply room where residents may gather some supplies as utensils, sheets, blankets, etc. when they arrive. An offering of a quilt could add that cozy touch we quilters know so well to their studio apartments. Happy Holidays.

Small Quilt Auction Lynnette Wass and Carla Kilkelly smallquiltauction@mnquilt.org

We know you are busy with holiday activities, but this is just a reminder about the Small Quilt Auction. We are hoping you will consider donating a small quilt (maximum perimeter of 100”) to be sold at a small quilt auction at our annual show in June in St. Cloud.

We encourage you to “think red” to help celebrate our ruby anniversary! There will be awards given for workmanship, so please do your finest work. Quilts may be dropped off at the MQ office or brought to one of our monthly meetings. Thank you.

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.
I recently learned that Minnesota Quilters Inc. has about 870 members. That bit of trivia made me wonder who joins MQ. Here are a few quick facts.

- 83% of our membership live in Minnesota
- 6.4% live in Wisconsin
- 2.1% live in North Dakota
- We also have 18 members in Canada

I also assumed that most of our membership would live in the Twin Cities, but that's not true at all.

- Minneapolis has 61 members
- St. Paul has 45 members
- Duluth has 27 members
- Bloomington has 20 members

Though many do live near our headquarters, the majority of our membership belong because they value having early access to class registration at the show and they like to receive the monthly newsletter. I suspect they also enjoy shopping with our MQ business members. It's a great place to make connections in many ways.

Did you know that in 1977, Minnesota Quilters charged just $10 for its annual membership? Of course, we each earned a bit less back then, and the expenses of operating MQ were much lower, i.e. no show, office or employees. But, now in 2017 as we celebrate our 40th anniversary, I thought it would be fun to expand our membership and invite our friends and fellow quilters in other guilds to consider being part of MQ.

So, I decided to ask the board for a "Roll Back" membership rate, where any current member could gift a friend with a highly valuable one-year membership for the original price of just $10. Wouldn't that be great?

Amazingly, they agreed. Here's the offer.

For a limited time, members will be able to purchase an MQ gift certificate for their non-member friends for the low, low 1977 price of $10. We'll have all the details at the November meeting, but start thinking about who might enjoy receiving this generous gift from you!

The Roll Back Membership will include:
- Access to MQ meetings during calendar 2018
- Access to show registration at same date as MQ members
- Access to monthly e-mail newsletter

This is a great opportunity for current members to give a membership to someone new to our organization, inviting them to partake in the benefits of belonging to the guild. However, it cannot be used for renewals.

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Miniature Quilts

Are you thinking about entering a quilt in the Judged portion of the 2018 MQ Show in St. Cloud? Are you trying to decide which category to enter? Did you know that there is a Miniature category? Did you know that in 2017 only six quilts were entered in the Miniature category? Why consider entering a Miniature quilt? Because it’s small and there is less competition.

What is a Miniature quilt?

"Any quilt measuring 24 inches or less on each side, with the overall pattern reflecting a proportionately reduced scale. If individual blocks are used, they should be no larger than 4 inches square. All work may be done by hand or by machine and by only one person.”

The important part of this definition is the phrase “a proportionately reduced scale.” Not all small quilts are Miniatures. Some are just small wall quilts. Only if you can visualize enlarging the quilt and the scale is still correct is the quilt a true Miniature.
Frieda Anderson

“I made my first quilt when I was in high school. I have always made things, and I love the process of creating. In college I majored in Art History and minored in ceramics, but I returned to fiber because it was more satisfying. I can’t remember when I didn’t sew. For years my focus was designing and making clothing. All that changed in 1992, however, when I was in fashion design and realized that all I wanted to do was make quilts. I have been designing and making original art quilts ever since.

“I find each step of quilt making, from the beginning to the end, a real challenge. It is hard to say what part I like best. I love the pure creativity involved in conceiving and designing a new quilt. I love to piece and I love to fuse. I have found that by fusing smaller pieces, I can work out design issues. Then I like to make a bigger, bolder statement and piece the same quilt in a large format. Most of my work is machine quilted and nature inspired.

“I discovered hand dyeing fabric 30 years ago, and I now work almost exclusively with my own hand dyed cottons and silks. I love the dye process, and I particularly enjoy seeing the colors emerge from the wet fabric.”

Frieda will be teaching four classes in June.

Frieda’s Fun Free Motion Quilting With the sewing machine used as a drawing tool, learn to handle the quilt sandwich with confidence as Frieda leads you through a series of fun exercises

Laughing Leaves is a fusing and design class. Using decorative rotary blades and fused hand dyed fabric students will create a one of a kind LEAF quilt.

Seaside Village Raw-edge fusing makes this class fun and easy, and you’ll learn new techniques to make it fast. A kit takes the worry out of fabric selection, and Frieda shows you machine-quilting tricks to complete this colorful wall hanging at home.

Sundance This fun and whimsical fused quilt is created using two different decorative blades, a pinking blade and a wavy blade.

For more information and inspiration check out Frieda’s web site at: www.friestyle.com.
Volunteer Corner

Nancy Hall, Loretta Stone, Mary Tague
Volunteer Coordinators volunteer@mnquilt.org

Our volunteers are wonderful and they have a good time. Join us if you can! Many thanks to all of you who volunteered this past month. We especially thank Amy Lange-Thorsett as the new Meeting Hospitality Evening Coordinator because Lindsay Leguillon can no longer help due to a new job. Kay Genelin will help the Hospitality Day Coordinators as needed.

We ask that all volunteers continue to record their hours on the white slips at the meetings. Not only do you get a chance at a door prize, we turn your hours in to the bookkeeper at the end of the fiscal year. For the year ending September 30, 2017, we turned in 2,329 hours from slips and MQP. Thanks so much to all of you who turned in hours on the slips each month.

If any of you are interested in the following positions or have questions about them, please send us an email at volunteer@mnquilt.org or talk to us at the meetings. Our new fiscal year started on October 1, 2017, and there are some positions open. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering for a position this next year. This is a volunteer organization and we need you badly.

Currently available positions:

Business Member Coordinator: This person contacts quilting businesses to become members of our club. For more information contact Barbara Jackson at meyer98@comcast.net.

Gallery Exhibit Coordinator: Rebecca Finch is looking for one more coordinator for this committee. She will train anyone interested. See her at the meeting or email MQgalleryexibits@mnquilt.org.

Public Relations Coordinator: See Rebecca Finch about this position also if you are interested. She will train the new person. Contact her at luvkimono@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in any other positions starting this Fall, please let us know. We would love to be able to find something for you to help with at meetings.

Quilt Bombing is Fun

Elise Frederick, preselect@mnquilt.org

Have you noticed the quilt bombing on the column as you enter or leave the meeting room? What is quilt bombing?

Quilt bombing, quilt storming, guerrilla quilting, quilftiti, urban quilting, or graffiti quilting is a type of graffiti or street art that is made from colorful displays of quilted fabric rather than paint or chalk. Quilt installations are non-permanent, and unlike graffiti, can be easily removed. Quilt bombing is not as common as yarn bombing. You may have seen the yarn bombing horses and buffalo this past summer at the Minnesota State Fairground.

Stop by the quilt bombing kiosk at the January meeting to find out how you can help commemorate the 40th Ruby Anniversary Minnesota Quilters Show. If you can’t attend the meeting, additional information will be in upcoming newsletters.

An example of yarn bombing
WHEN? Do you have it on your calendar? Our 40th Annual Quilt Show is June 14 - 16 at River’s Edge Convention Center in downtown St. Cloud. Classes begin on Wednesday, June 13.

WHO IS PLANNING IT? The Show Committee consists of 42 people, and each one is in charge of a specific aspect of the show. Some are planning the annual banquet, organizing the various quilt entries, arranging bus tours, or selecting show merchandise. Photos of some of the members are shown in this issue – watch future newsletters for more pictures. Laura Nagel is the Show Coordinator, and Brenda Lyseng is the Show Director.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED? Most importantly, plan to register in January. We depend on Minnesota Quilters members to register in advance, enter quilts, and sign up for classes. Vendors depend on you to shop. When you register, remember to sign up to volunteer before or at the show. At the January membership meeting you can volunteer to bring registration books to quilt shops across the state. We also have a need for a Volunteer committee co-chair. Also, if you come across a vendor, please invite them to our show and share their contact information with Brenda Lyseng.

WHAT’S NEW?

· **Online Registration:** This year class registration and quilt entry registration will be available online only. We have been moving toward this change as more people become accustomed to registering online. Paper registrations must be manually entered into our database system which means staff or volunteer hours and possible errors. Online registration also allows us to eliminate some pages in the registration book, thus cutting costs. No worries—we will offer help for those who need it.

· **Learning Stage:** A Learning Stage will be located on the show floor giving show attendees a chance to sit down and learn from our vendors. This will be free for you, and will be a source of income for the show as vendors will pay $50 for a time slot. We are also planning an event on Wednesday evening to celebrate our award winners.

· **Meet the Teachers:** This event will be combined with our social before the Friday evening banquet. It is your chance to meet our slate of great teachers, purchase books, and have some wine.

· **New Quilt Category:** Due to the high number of entries in last year’s show, we added a new judged category for Wholecloth quilts.

· **Quilt Bombing:** Check out the article in this issue to learn what this is all about.

Registration books will be sent in December, and the show preview will be the feature of the January membership meetings on the 4th and 6th. You’ll hear about the wonderful classes you can take and see samples. The 2018 raffle quilt will be revealed, and you can buy tickets. Visit with the various committees, ask them questions and share ideas. Take a box or two of registration books and plan a road trip to your favorite shops.

Questions? Contact Laura at mq2018@mnquilt.org or Brenda at showdirector@mnquilt.org.

**MQ 40th Anniversary Signature Quilt**

Carolyn Silflow, mqp@mnquilt.org

Special anniversaries of the Minnesota Quilters have sometimes been marked with the assembly of signature quilts. In honor of the 40th anniversary members of the Minnesota Quilt Project group are making a red and white signature quilt.

The blocks are white, 2-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches unfinished, each with an MQ member’s name signed in black Pigma pen. In addition to the signature, we are asking members to indicate the year in which they joined MQ.

The blocks will be available to sign at MQ meetings and at the show in 2018 where we will have the top on display. You may also send blocks to Pat Cox at 6601 Normandale Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435.
Who’s Who on the Show Committee (a partial showing, continued on next page and in future newsletters)

Contact show committee members with your suggestions, ideas and questions. Thank them for the time and effort they contribute to Minnesota Quilters.

Mary Wellman
Merchandise

Nancy Hall
Admissions

Patty Von Arx
Secretary

Rodel Benjamin
Vendor Move In
& Out

RoxAnn Strand
Vendor Move In
& Out

Kathie Simon
Frank
Banquet

Linda Huntzicker
Door Prizes

Loretta Stone
Merchandise

Lynnette Wass
Small Quilt Auction

Mary Tague
Admissions

Becca Brackett
Signage

Betsy Shannon
2018 Challenge,
Signage

Carla Kilkelly
Small Quilt
Auction

Jan Schmidt
Registration

Jude Edling Raffle
Quilt, 2018 and
2019 Challenges
Quilting for Others

We have so many warmhearted quilters in our organization! Thank you to all who have been turning in completed tops and quilts for our Wheelchair quilt project, completed tops and quilts for our baby quilts project for Minnesota Visiting Nurses, and those who turned in blocks and completed quilts for our Harriet Tubman project. We received 158 holiday stockings at the November MQ meetings! They tell us that EVERY stocking we make is given out, so we look forward to getting more at the Holiday Brunch.

You make a difference in the lives of many people – babies, kids and young women in sad circumstances, elderly people who just need to know people care.

Current projects you can help with:

• Bring any completed 36” by 36” (approximate size) wheelchair quilts to the Holiday Brunch for residents of a senior home who don’t get visitors or any kind of gifts at Christmas. If you have a completed quilt but can’t make it to the Holiday Brunch, either bring it to the MQ office or contact the office and we will try to make arrangements to get it from you.

• We’re making holiday stockings for children at St. Joseph’s Home for Children. Bring these to the MQ Holiday Brunch. If you can’t make a stocking, we will accept stocking stuffers, and they also welcome cash donations for purchasing stuffers.

• We’re making placemats for the Saint Cloud residents who receive home-delivered meals. Our deadline is the 2018 show.

• We’re continuing to make baby quilts for Minnesota Visiting Nurses and twin/double quilts for the Harriet Tubman center.

These quilted items can be made from our kits, or from your own stash!

We always especially need people who will do the quilting. It can be, but doesn’t need to be anything fancy – it can be as simple as quilt in the ditch. We have foundation blocks and complete kits (top, backing and batting) for you, so please pick up whatever you can do at the next regular MQ meeting.

Minnesota Quilters is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, so all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.
September Show & Tell Quilts

Many of the quilts shown at the September meetings are below and on the following pages. Thank you to Ellen Wold and Carrie D’Andrea for taking photos at these meetings.

Quilts may not be shown if no photo was taken or if:
1-the quilter’s name on the sign-in sheet was illegible, 2-the description on the sign-in sheet could not be reliably matched to its photo, or 3-the quilter did not indicate permission for MQ to print the photo.

If you want a photo of your quilt included in the newsletter, you must print your name legibly, describe what your quilt looks like so it can be matched with a photograph, and indicate permission for MQ to include the photo of your quilt in the newsletter. Thank you.

Thank Merle Pratt for the idea of hoisting the show and tell quilts on poles with clips at the top. It’s easier for the holders not to be standing on stools, and even short members can volunteer as holders. Great idea, Merle.

Amy Lange-Thorsett

Anne Marcellis—dog quilt and two bags

Becca Brackett—Halloween block of the month blocks.

Carla Kilkelly

Carol Graves

← Sharon Johnson

Ellen Wold →
Mary Wiebusch

Laura Sahlberg

Melissa Nellis—project from Doris Deutmeyer class

Molly O’Dea—two quilts

Lynnette Wass—Des Moines winner

Mary Tague

Mary Kay Wyckoff-Harcus—two quilts

Norrie MacIlraith—wall quilt at left and jacket right
Word Seek
Find the words at right in the grid below.
Words are up, down, diagonal and/or backwards.
Answer is not provided.

| D | S | E | Q | B | B | M | R | A | D | I | M | N | R | F | N | R | E | D | O | M | A |
| S | T | V | U | U | R | E | E | J | D | B | E | N | E | E | D | L | E | N | G | R | G |
| T | A | W | I | L | A | L | E | L | O | U | D | A | E | R | H | T | Q | U | L | T | Y |
| K | C | O | L | B | T | D | U | M | D | D | D | T | H | O | O | O | Q | N | A | L | R |
| W | A | T | T | S | S | N | R | I | U | D | G | N | E | S | O | I | I | E | D | I | A |
| O | T | A | A | N | I | A | H | A | O | D | S | E | N | A | F | L | L | P | S | N | R |
| H | H | B | E | B | G | H | N | G | N | I | C | E | I | P | R | E | P | A | P | T | O |
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| L | U | E | R | L | O | O | P | S | U | N | B | O | N | N | T | S | U | E | P | C |
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| APPLIQUE | CONTEMPORARY | LONGARM |
| APPRAISE | COURTHOUSE | MACHINE |
| ATTIC | CUBE | MIDARM |
| BASTE | FAN | MODERN |
| BATTING | FEEDDOG | NEEDLE (3) |
| BEE | GRANDMOTHER | QUILT |
| BELT | GRID | NINEPATCH |
| BINDING | GROUP | OIL (2) |
| BLOCK | HAND | PAPERPIECING |
| BOBBIN | HIDDEN | PRESSERFOOT |
| BULBS | JUDGE | QUADRANGLE |
| CATS | LINTBRUSH | QUILT |
| CHARM | LOGCABIN | QUILTSHOW |
| | | RULER |
| | | SPOOL |
| | | STAR |
| | | SUNBONNETSUE |
| | | THIMBLE |
| | | THREAD |
| | | TRADITIONAL |
| | | TRIP |
| | | TUG |
| | | WATTS |
| | | YARD |
| | | YOYO |
Jeannie Spears

I began to quilt to use up fabric from sewing for four daughters. I sewed clothing for myself from the time I was in high school, my mom sewed a lot of my clothes, and I learned from her. Money was tight when the kids were little, so I seldom bought clothes for them. My parents taught me never to waste anything, since I was born during the great depression.

I began quilting during the Bicentennial celebration in 1976. My grandmother quilted, but not my mother. I loved doing crafts as a stay-at-home mom, and the magazines were showing “old-fashioned” ideas.

I quickly discovered that I didn’t care much for piecing or appliqué, but liked the handquilting best. That led me to using batik and other surface design techniques to dye fabric for a quilt top in a traditional pattern, then I could get to the part I liked best. However, when I began teaching quilting, I needed to become skilled in basic techniques.

My preferred technique/style has always been to use surface design techniques with traditional patterns, but once I learned to use graphic design programs on the computer and print the results on fabric, that has been my main focus.

All of my quilts tell me stories, as they bring back memories. The story of Another Rose of Texas is bittersweet. My mother lived in Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, and one February, my siblings and I visited her for the last time. You might think the weather would be warm, since winter Texans plan on that, but it was cold, windy, wet, and raw! As part of our visit, we took her to a bell concert at her church one evening. It had been misting all day, and the beautiful roses in the church garden had drops of moisture on them that looked like dew. I took lots of images.

I used the image of one of the roses in a quilt challenge from a Japanese quilt magazine. A special fabric had been designed to print with an inkjet printer. Although an exhibit in Japan had been planned, it fell through, but as an editor at Quilter’s Newsletter Magazine, I was able to display the challenge in the publisher’s gallery. I called the quilt Another Rose of Texas, referring to my mom and her love of roses.

The impact of quilting on my life is immeasurable. It allowed me to express my creativity and to gain recognition in my own right, and not just as wife and mother. The income I generated let me be independent, and I traveled the world over. Most important, I think, I was able work with other quilters to set standards for teaching, judging, and appraising quilts that are still in use. And I couldn’t have done it without Minnesota Quilters.
Did you notice how fast the Halloween candy disappeared from the supermarket shelves only to be instantly replaced with candy canes and red, green and silver foil-wrapped Hershey's Kisses? Or maybe you heard the first notes of a Christmas carol on an FM station. Whichever comes first, the candy or the songs, ready or not, the Holiday Season is upon us.

One of my favorite traditions as I prepare for the holidays is rereading my children's letters to Santa. My daughter's list usually had three to five items that were easily obtained. My son always had grandiose ideas and sent a three- or four-page letter with the pictures and descriptions of every item he desired. As he got older, he even included the store where they could be found. (I'm sure by then he figured out who was really doing the shopping!) I considered making a list, but everyone who shopped for me usually began two days before Christmas, and by then anything I wanted was usually sold out. But that doesn't mean I don't have a few ideas of what you can put on your list, especially if you can direct your family to the nearest quilt shop.

Let's start with scissors. The Fiskars Titanium Micro Tip Easy Action Scissors are my must have for every sewing task. In fact I have three pair, one by the machine, one on the ironing board, and one in my retreat tote bag. They are so easy to use, extremely sharp point, and the blades stay sharp for years. If you are seeking specialty scissors for applique, look no further than Karen Kay Buckley's Perfect scissors which come in three sizes, 4", 6", and 7 ½". I favor the 4" and 6" for my wool projects. And while we are on the subject of cutting, don't forget to try the new Olfa Endurance rotary cutter blades. They last twice as long and cut through your fabric like butter.

While I love my Big Board ironing board, I'm also quite happy with my estate sale folding wooden TV tray that is just the right size to hold the June Tailor Quilter's Cut'n Press board. At 12" by 18" it is the perfect size, and I can accomplish several tasks without leaving my machine. I even took it on my last retreat and didn't have to wait in line at the communal ironing board. I then invested in the larger size, packed it in my suitcase, and took it to California so I could quilt when I visit my grandchildren. My daughter-in-law has an iron, but alas no ironing board – and she's not even ashamed to admit it.

In a previous column I mentioned my favorite rulers, but don't forget to ask for one or more of those beautifully crafted wooden ruler racks. They hold the rulers vertically so they don't get lost under a pile of fabrics or a pattern sheet, and they come in several sizes to fit most rulers. Here are three new rulers I would add to your list. The first is Gudrun Erla's Stripology Ruler. It is slotted in ½” increments and has markings so it is easy to locate the popular 1½" and 2½” strips. You may think you don't need it, but once you try it, you will discover how quickly you can cut strips, squares, and subcut charm and layer cake precuts. Gudrun's newest ruler is Stripology Squared, which I haven't tried, but saw the blocks and quilt projects she designed with it at the Duluth show, and it is on my list. The third ruler is Doug Leko's Simple Folded Corner Ruler. It eliminates drawing the lines when you are using connector corners, and there are no dog-ears to trim or 'middle' and back triangles to cut away. If you like patterns with flying goose or snowball blocks, this ruler will come in handy.

My big splurge this year was a Sew-Ezi portable sewing table to use at home when I want both machines set up or to take on retreats. I delayed this purchase for several years and was so lucky to find one at a sale. I promptly ordered the insert for my machine as well as my daughter's machine, and now I can take the table with me and sew with my granddaughters in Duluth. It's the perfect size, not too big to fold up and load in the car, but ample size for sewing on your projects. It even has an accessory tray, but I have to admit I use it for snacks and a drink.

Still need some ideas, how about a subscription to your favorite quilt magazine or streaming video service, or a mini fridge for cold soda, a well-stocked candy jar with your favorite chocolates, or a 2018 quilter's calendar to keep track of your projects, meetings, and shop hops.

But the best gift of all is time, and my list wouldn't be complete if I didn't include time to quilt with my friends. Above all else, it's usually the gifts that money can't buy that have the most meaning, and spending time with other quilters is more valuable than any tool or notion you will find under your tree.

Did You Know...? Minnesota Quilters receives cash back when members shop Amazon Smile and have designated MQ as their nonprofit?
PADUCAH QUILT WEEK BUS TRIP, April 17-22, 2018 "UFFDAH PADUCAH" on luxury coach, many meals, quilt shops, events and prizes. You won't want to come home! Details at http://rhensnest.weebly.com

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MQ’s 2018 Mystery Quilt
The annual Mystery Quilt has been a successful fundraiser for MQ. We have a ball in the private Facebook group. We post pictures of our fabric selections, the blocks as we go, the final quilt, and get advice and encouragement.

2018 brings us another quilt designed just for MQ and it’s a traditional quilt. There is not any applique or curved piecing.

The cost is $30 for MQ members and $40 for non-members.

Click here to see more about it:
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