When the days are short and the nights are long, and the world is frozen and the landscape bleak, take a break and brighten your life by attending the 

2017 Minnesota Quilters Show and Conference
January Preview Meetings
January 5 at 7 pm and January 7 at 10 am
Guests attend for free so don’t come alone!

Our 39th Minnesota Quilters Show and Conference show will take place in about six months. The days will be longer, the weather will be milder, the trees will be green and Duluth MN, our 2017 venue, will be beautiful as always. We will all be ready for the four days of classes, lectures, exhibits, shopping and special quilting activities that will take place at the 2017 June 8-10 show at the Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center (classes will start on June 7).

We invite you to start the New Year by attending one of the January preview meetings to hear about the classes that will be taught. Now maybe you think you’ve seen it all when it comes to faculty at MQ quilt shows but let me assure you that this year’s crop of teachers is truly outstanding. You will meet those faculty who are in attendance and see samples of the items you can create in the classes. Make sure you bring your registration books so that you can check off those classes and lectures that pique your interest. (There will even be a yoga class offered that is especially for quilters.)

Some of the 2017 merchandise will be previewed and on sale; you will hear about our special exhibits, Charming City Stroll and the Grand Banquet. The Judged and Non-Judged co-chairs will tell you how to enter those quilts you’ve been making into the show, including into the new “Workmanship” category. The Door Prize Committee will tell you how to donate all those extra rulers and gadgets you’ve got to benefit Minnesota Quilters. And don’t forget to pick up tickets to sell for our beautiful raffle quilt!

**Minnesota Quilters 39th Annual Show and Conference Faculty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marilyn Badger</th>
<th>Barbara Yates Beasley</th>
<th>Michele Cartier</th>
<th>Mickey Depre</th>
<th>Pam Dinndorf</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Eelkema</td>
<td>Gudrun Erla</td>
<td>Pam Goekke Dinndorf</td>
<td>Becky Goldsmith</td>
<td>Laura Heine</td>
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<td>Lola Jenkins</td>
<td>Lori Kennedy</td>
<td>Mary Elizabeth Kinch</td>
<td>Bonnie Langenfeld</td>
<td>Cindy Lohbeck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen McTavish</td>
<td>Claudia Clark Myers</td>
<td>Karla Overland</td>
<td>Kari Schell</td>
<td>Annie Unrein</td>
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**Quilting for Others**

Everyone is invited to come sew together. We will be doing heart string blocks and baby blankets. Bring your machine or just come. We always need people to cut and press. You don’t have to bring fabric but if you have stash or strips that you want to use up, we can put them to good use! Come for all day or stop in for a little bit. Feel free to bring snacks and/or lunch. Friends, fabric and food – can’t think of a better way to give service to others!!

**Our guest speaker for February will be Suzy Webster.**

Suzy has been quilting since she was eight years old. Over the years, she has come to love a variety of quilting techniques, her favorites being applique, paper-piecing, designing her own original work, and free-motion machine quilting. She has won numerous awards including six Best Machine Quilting ribbons. She also won the Young Designer’s category at Paducah three years in a row. She currently teaches beginning machine quilting.

**Suzy will be teaching a class on MONDAY, JANUARY 16 (MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY).** She will be teaching machine applique table runner based on her book Folk Art Quilted Traditions.

Cost of the class is $45 for members and $55 for nonmembers. The book is $20. Watch for email invite for more information coming soon.
Upcoming Events

January 5 and 7, Annual Quilt Show and Conference KICK OFF!
January 6, Quilting For Others at the MQ location.
January 16, Workshop with Suzy Webster!
February 2 and 4, lectures by Suzy Webster.

More calendar information available on the MQ website: [http://www.mnquilts.org/meetings.html](http://www.mnquilts.org/meetings.html)
Directions and map to our meetings on the MQ website: [http://www.mnquilts.org/location.html](http://www.mnquilts.org/location.html)

MQ Board of Directors Meetings: Combined Finance and Board Meeting—Tuesday, December 20. All board and finance meetings are at 6 pm. Please notify Rose or Pat, president@mnquilts.org if you have an agenda item and/or wish to attend.

DEADLINE for February Newsletter: Tuesday, January 3rd. Please send newsletter articles to editor@mnquilts.org. Any submissions received after the due date will be saved for the following month’s newsletter.

Highlights from the November Board Meeting

Quilting for Others sewing sessions will be held on the Friday between the Thursday and Saturday meetings when no class has been scheduled. A second Operations Director needs to be appointed to finish the year ending September 2017. Six applications for the bookkeeper position have been received, interviews will begin after Thanksgiving. The show director position posting was approved. The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday December 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 253 State Street, St. Paul.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Knoll, Secretary

MQ Event Cancellation Policy

In case of inclement weather or another situation that may cause cancellation of an MQ monthly meeting or sponsored event, the following will occur:

- A posting will be made on the MQ website and on Facebook.
- A recorded message will be on the MQ office telephone.
- An email blast will be sent to all members.
- Time-permitting, KSTP TV and WCCO TV and radio stations will be contacted.
- If a cancellation is pending, the MQ website will indicate at what time a decision will be made/posted.

Ebenezer Senior Residences in South Minneapolis is looking for someone who would like to come in twice a month for 2 hours to teach seniors to do handwork.

If interested, contact Chris Mangold at 612-879-1415

Congratulations to Anne Marcellis who won the Challenge at the Holiday Brunch.
Message From Our Co-Presidents
Greetings:

2017 is nearly here. We are gearing up for a busy year of quilting and quilt related events.

Of course, the 39th Annual Quilt Show will be held in June – in Duluth, one of our favorite venues. We have some great monthly programs, starting with the show kickoff in January. You are going to want to trek to Duluth to take a class once you see the line up of teachers and topics.

Award winning quilter Suzy Webster will be teaching a class on Martin Luther King Day – January 16, as well as presenting the February Program. March will feature the Minnesota Quilt Project. Look for details in the next newsletter.

Save the date – Saturday, March 11, 5:30 to 7:30 in The Recovery Church sanctuary. Minnesota Quilters and the Textile Center of Minnesota will be hosting a festive talk by Dr. Caroline Mazloomi, a distinguished scholar and quilter who studies African American quilting traditions. She is here in conjunction with the Prince Fiber exhibit at the Textile Center. We will also feature live jazz to add zing to the evening.

The board is also very busy with the process of hiring a bookkeeper and a show director to replace the incredible Linda Wines who wants to finally retire and quilt. Stay tuned.

Rose Allen and Pat Curtner, Co-Presidents
president@mnquilt.org

Remember Haley Andrews?

She’s the youth quilter who won an Elna sewing machine at the 2016 Show thanks to B & J Sewing in Faribault, MN.

Her Mom sent us pictures of a quilt retreat they went to and Haley is happily sewing away!

At the International Quilt Study and Museum at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln they have a short document on preserving quilts. Click here to see it:

http://www.quiltstudy.org/file_download/33893c63-176e-4225-a41c-e76804099b67

2017 Strips and Fat Quarters Drawings in 2017

For 2017, The Fat Quarter Drawing team Becca Brackett and Lynn Zuspann, have decided that every other month we will have a drawing of donated 2 1/2 inch wide strips. So if you are one of the MN Quilters who is Stripping a lot and Never Use Fat, then come share the fun!

Stips should be 2.5 inches wide and Width of the Fabric length, or from a jelly roll.

Our themes are:

- January - Fat Quarters of Batik fabric
- February - Strips of Pink Orange or Red
- March - Fat Quarters of Solid colors
- April - Strips of Purple or Yellow (Complementary colors)
- May – Fat Quarters of Plaid
- June – no drawing- see you at the Show
- July – Strips of pastel colors
- August – Fat Quarters with Small Floral designs
- September – Strips of fabric with geometric designs
- October – Fat Quarters of Red or Green or prints with both -red roses?
- November – Strips of Blue fabric
- December, no drawing see you at the Brunch.

Basic Information:

- Fabric should be 100% cotton quilt-shop quality, approximately 18” x 22” for fat quarters, 2.5” x Width of Fabric for Strips.
- Each entry should follow the theme of the month.
- Each person may contribute as many as, but not more than, three per month.
- Each contribution should have the donor’s name and phone number attached.
- For each item contributed, the donor’s name is put into the drawing up to three.
- Donations are taken at the Thursday and Saturday meeting. Or they may be mailed to the MQ office, 253 State St, St Paul, MN 55107-1612 so long as they arrive before the Saturday meeting.
- If there are 29 or fewer entries on Saturday, one name is drawn. If there are 30 or more, two names are drawn. The FQs are divided up evenly between the winners. Winners do not need to be present.
- The winner(s), if not present, is phoned and notified that s/he may pick up the FQs/ Strips at the MQ office. Or other arrangements may be made with the winner.

Becca Brackett and Lynn Zuspann
ATTENTION QUILTERS!
Crafty Corner Quilt & Sewing Shoppe
Worthington, Minnesota
Call 1-800-SEW-MORE
Visit us at www.craftycornerquiltandsewingshoppe.com

22nd Annual trip to Paducah
Quilt Show

Ken is planning Crafty Corner’s 22nd annual trip to Paducah Quilt Show by Deluxe Motor Coach. He has secured rooms in Paducah at the Drury Inn and Suites during the quilt show at the Drury Inn in Columbia, Missouri on departure and the Drury Inn in St. Joe, Missouri on the return trip. Drury Inns are noted for their free evening snacks and super-hot breakfasts! On our return trip we will be stopping in Hamilton, MO the home of Missouri Star Quilts.

Price: $760.00 (two to a room) - $500.00 deposit
Price: $710.00 (three to a room) - $450.00 deposit
Price: $660.00 (four to a room) - $400.00 deposit
Includes 5 Nights Lodging and Transportation

April 21 - 29, 2017
Return home approximately 2:30 p.m. on the 29th.
2017 Raffle Quilt ~ “Wish I May”

“Wish I May” designed by Kristin Lawson, blocks made by the Minneapolis Modern Quilt Group and quilted by Nancy Birger, made a brilliant debut in October at meetings of the MN Quilters, Minneapolis Modern Quilt Guild and Minneapolis Contemporary Quilters.

“Wish I May” was the belle of the last Saturday of the American Swedish Institute’s Quilting Arts Today Exhibit. It wowed the guests at the Nov. 5th MQ Open House. It will be on view at all MN Quilters’ regular meetings.

The raffle quilt is a significant fundraiser for Minnesota Quilters, supporting community outreach, education, and quilt culture.

“Wish I May” expresses the character of MQ as it took many hands to make, practical inspiration to design, creative expertise to quilt in an exuberant celebration of quilting and quilters.

“Wish I May” is a bright joyful quilt which has to be seen to be fully appreciated. It is our mission to get this beautiful quilt out and about as much as possible. If you’d like “Wish I May” to make an appearance at your quilt event, guild meeting, quilt shop event or community event, please email Jude Edling and Martha Eaves at raffletickets2017@mnquilter.org

Call for Submissions for 2018 Raffle Quilt

Minnesota Quilters is welcoming design ideas for their 2018 Raffle Quilt! 2018 will be our Ruby Anniversary, we’ll be 40 years old. So we want this quilt to be special. If you have some good ideas, please go to the MQ website — on the home page, on the left hand side, there is a link titled “Call for RAFFLE QUILT proposals!” You’ll find more details about this opportunity there. The deadline for submitting your design is December 31, 2016. Contact Pat Curtner at: president@mnquilt.org if you have any questions not answered in the detail sheet.
Advanced Registration for MQ Members
 Begins on January 16, 2017 at 10:00am
 Advance Registration for Non-members Begins February 1, 2017 at 10:00am
 Register early for classes and get the classes you want.
 Online registration is encouraged:
 Go to the MQ website at www.mnquilt.org
 Click 2017 Show button.
 On the summary page, click the “Register” button on the lower right or the “Register” tab on the top right to begin and follow the online instructions.
 Enter your information and selections on the form.
 Complete your payment information, pay by credit card or send a check to Minnesota Quilters.
 Click the “Finish” button!
 Prefer to Mail-In Registration:
 Fill out the registration form found in your registration booklet.
 Keep a copy for your records.
 Include credit card information or send a check to Minnesota Quilters along with the form.
 Mail your check to the MQ office.
 Any questions contact the Registration Chairs at registration2017@mnquilt.org
 Jan Schmidt (Coon Rapids), Char Wenger (Coon Rapids), Nancy Hall (Nisswa)

2017 Show Challenge – 2+2+1=5!
 Hooray!! We are starting to get calls and emails with questions about the 2017 Challenge. That means some of you have actually opened the packets and are thinking about your entry!
 Remember, you can only add one fabric of your own so think outside the box—swirls and whirls of color, stripes of all varieties, plaid maybe? Anything goes! Let the creative juices flow!
 Karen Kopitzke & Miki Peine, 2017 Challenge Co-Chairs

National Association of Certified Quilt Judges
 The NACQJ (National Association of Certified Quilt Judges) is looking forward to partnering with the Minnesota Quilters Show this year. Our interaction will focus on the following activities:
 • Certified Judge candidates will gain experience as aides and observers on the judging floor at the MQ Show in Duluth.
 • The MQ Show will provide a venue for the evaluation of quilts for the NACQJ’s Masterpiece Quilt Program.
 The Two-Day Introduction to Quilt Judging Seminar will be offered by Qualified Instructor CJs to anyone interested in learning more about the quilt judging process.
 To find out more about certified judges, the judging candidate program, or the Masterpiece Quilts program, please visit www.nacqj.com.
 To find our more about the Two-Day Introduction to Quilt Judging Seminar, please visit www.quiltjudgingseminar.com.
 Thank you to Minnesota Quilters for its support of the NACQJ Certification Program.

Time for some New Year resolutions?
 How about making one of your resolutions to donate something for a door prize?
 It can be new or gently used. Maybe it could be something that has been sitting in your sewing room and you no longer use it or want to make it. Maybe it’s something you went out and bought and discovered you already owned such an item! Maybe it’s something you need to move out of your space to clear your conscience and be able to get on with the next project you want to tackle.
 Please bring your items to the monthly meetings or drop them off at the MQ offices. Items that we cannot use as door prizes will be sold at the annual garage sale in the spring to raise funds for purchasing door prizes.

Thanks for your generosity, The Door Prize Committee
Minnesota Quilters 2017 Show Faculty Techniques

Appliqué

Becky Goldsmith- Backyard Birds, Blowin’ in the Wind, Stitch it in Wool: Texas Tulips

Design

Becky Goldsmith- Practical Color for Quilters-Minneapolis
Kari Schell- Introduction to EQ7, Introduction to Easy Draw, T-Shirt Quilt Design

Piecing

Becky Goldsmith- Improvisational Piecing
Pam Goecke Dinndorf- Sukiyaki
Gudrun Erla- Stripology, Stripology Squared, Strip Your Stash
Kari Schell- Mystery Quilt
Mary Elizabeth Kinch- Four Play Fun, String Piecing, Small Quilts Small Pieces, Pumpkin Peel
Mickey Depre- Half Scrap Quilts, Pieced Hexies Buffet, Happy Quilt

Improvisational Piecing

Becky Goldsmith- Improvisational Piecing
Pam Goecke Dinndorf- Ka-Pow

Paper Piecing

Pam Goecke Dinndorf- Frond

Professional and Practical Useful Sewing

Annie Unrein- Make a Backpack, Yoga Bag, Sewing Project Bag, Travel Essentials, Tote and Project Bag

Digitizing

Kari Schell- Introduction to Art and Stitch

Portraits and Collage

Barbara Yates Beasley- Animal Portraits
Laura Heine- Fabric Collage
Lola Jenkins- Portraits, Portrait Collage, Thread Art

Landscape Artistry

Bonnie Langenfeld- Landscape Stitch Sampler, Beginning Landscape, Olde World Window

Fabric Dyeing

Cindy Lohbeck- Snow and Ice Dyeing, 24 Step Color Gradation, Arashi Shibori, Itajime Shibori

Quilting on a Domestic Machine

Lori Kennedy- Sailboat Sampler, Border Sampler, Background Fills Sampler, Thread Sampler
Gudrun Erla- Mastering Quilt as You Go

Quilting on a Longarm

Karen McTavish

Professional Academy

Kate Eelkema- Introduction to Quilt Judging Seminar

Quilters Mind/Body Connection

Michelle Cartier-Yoga

There will also be lectures and book signings.

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Minnesota Quilters is seeking applications for Show Director

This flexible, part time position (20 to 40 plus hours a week) oversees all aspects of the annual MQ quilt show that occurs every year in June. A position description and application instructions are in the left column on the MQ web site home page – www.mnquilt.org
NEW CATEGORY FOR JUDGED QUILTS NEXT YEAR

Most quilt shops offer Block of the Month, Row by Row, Mystery, or Kit quilts which provide the pattern and often all the fabric needed to make the quilt. Many quilt shows do not allow these quilts in their judged competitions. In 2017, Minnesota Quilters will have a brand new category in the judged competition of our annual show especially for these kinds of quilts.

Quilts entered into this new WORKMANSHIP category may be constructed by hand or machine. They may include piecing and/or appliqué. They may be completely constructed and quilted by one person, or the quilting may be done by a second person. Since many of the design and/or fabric decisions will have been made by someone other than the entrant, the judges will focus on WORKMANSHIP - how well the entrant has used the given elements to create the finished quilt.

This is a single, 1 or 2 person category. Please note that if you have won Block of the Month blocks at a monthly guild meeting and combine those blocks into a quilt, that must be entered into the GROUP category, as it is the work of more than two people. If, however, you have signed up for a Block of the Month quilt at a quilt shop and are receiving a pattern and/or a kit each month which you are assembling yourself, that quilt should be entered into the new Workmanship category.

There were photos of several Row by Row quilts on Facebook last summer. Did you know that there was a special prize for Row by Row quilts at the Minnesota State Fair, but none were entered this year? How about entering those quilts into the MQ show next June? How about the online Mystery quilt offered by MQ this year? How about that kit you just had to buy at the show in St. Cloud? Get those quilts finished and enter them into our new category in 2017!

If you have any questions, please contact judged2017@mnquilt.org. Kate Eelkema & Melissa

Small Quilt Auction

Last year at the MQ Show in St Cloud the Small Quilt Auction raised a generous amount to support Minnesota Quilters thanks to your wonderful donations. We are doing it again at the 2017 MQ Show in Duluth. This is one of the many opportunities offered to you by the Show to share your skills and contribute to our ongoing success as an organization. The money raised by this auction goes into the general MQ budget and funds our grants program, our scholarship program and other charitable activities of our organization. When you make and donate a small quilt or other quilted item for the Small Quilt Auction, you show your support for the art of quilting as a whole and for MQ as an organization. Plus, the happy bid winner gets to take home an authentic quilter made item!

Thank you in advance for sharing your skills and don’t forget to put this on your “to do” list.

Needed: Quilters to Volunteer for a 2017 Minnesota Quilters Studio Tour Event.

There were not enough volunteers last year to offer Studio Tours in 2016. Will there be enough in 2017 so we can hold this fun fund-raiser again?

Last year’s tours were supposed to be in the Northwest quadrant of the Metro area - those living north of I394 and west of I35, and the following year we were going to try for the Northeast region - those living north of I94/394 and east of I35. For 2017, let’s see which region has six willing volunteers, and we will go there. (And these division lines are suggestions, not rules - we will definitely allow some variance if you live in Plymouth or Woodbury and are just south of 94/394; we just want the studios to be in the same general area so we can get to all of them in one afternoon.)

So…if you live in either the northwest OR the northeast region of the Metro and are willing to let MQ members tour your personal quilting space from 1:00 to 5:30 pm on Saturday, August 5, 2017, please contact Kate Eelkema at keelkema@comcast.net.

Non-Judged Quilts for the 2017 Show

Will someone special be surprised with a quilted gift from you this holiday season? Have you thought about “borrowing it back” for the upcoming June 2017 MQ show? Two entries per person are allowed in the non-judged category at the show. Non-judged quilts are quilts that are loved, quilts that are used and quilts that are gifted. This is a perfect time of the year to think about entering those quilts into our quilt show! We’d love to see them! Questions contact Adrianne Lemberg and Merle Pratt, nonjudged2017@mnquilt.org
Quilt Exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art  
*Cut from the Same Cloth: American Quilts at Mia*

**Exhibition Dates:** August 20, 2016 - March 19, 2017

Enjoy a rare opportunity to see 14 American quilts from Mia’s collection, dating from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. See appliquéd, pieced, and embroidered quilts in a dramatic, ceiling-suspended display in Mia’s grand Regis Fountain Court. Highlights include a Baltimore album quilt, bold and graphic Amish quilts, and a historic quilt top made with souvenir squares from the 1901 Pan American Expo at Buffalo, New York. Some of these intricately crafted textiles have never been displayed before. Makers and admirers of quilts, this exhibition is for you.


**2017 President’s Challenge**

In the last newsletter Pat and I described our President’s Challenge: *Quilts that Inspire a Child’s Senses*

The quilts you create will be donated to the Westside Community Health Services – one of our neighbors located about a half mile from our offices.

Westside Community Health Services nurse midwives and family practice doctors care for pregnant women and their families at three neighborhood health centers: La Clinica, East Side Family Clinic and McDonough Homes Clinic.

As an important piece of the "health care safety net" in Saint Paul, Westside provides all services on a sliding scale and assists people in accessing many state and federal programs to assist with cost of care. In addition to prenatal, family planning and well women care, they attend about 500 births a year at Regions Hospital.

They aim to meet women where they are and walk with them on their journey of pregnancy - addressing comprehensive physical, mental and social health needs in culturally competent and empowering ways. This care extends beyond an exam room, creating many community ties to meet the needs of the whole person.

It takes a village. Our quilts will be a welcome addition to their work with families.

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**Building a Legacy: African American Quilt History – Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi**

Saturday, March 11 at The Recovery Church  
6 to 7:30 PM - (Doors open at 5:30 pm, music starts at 5:45 pm.)

The Textile Center and Minnesota Quilters present: A lecture by Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi with music by Dennis W. Spears and the Wolverines Jazz Trio at the Recovery Church Sanctuary, Saint Paul.

No artistic form is more closely associated with African American culture than quilt making, representing skill, aesthetic beauty, and utilitarian need. For African Americans the quilt became a covert expression of resistance within the context of storytelling. In the past few decades, traveling museum exhibitions have brought African American quilts to the public, stimulating broad interest and offering extraordinary opportunity for scholarly study. As a result, African American-made quilts are now celebrated and highly collectable. From improvisation to art quilts, Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi will discuss the historical and cultural significance of quilts made in the African American community.

To learn more about Dr. Mazloomi, go to: [http://carolynlmazloomi.com](http://carolynlmazloomi.com)

Tickets for Minnesota Quilters and Textile Center members - $25  
Non-member tickets - $30  
Register now at: [http://textilecentermn.force.com/cnp_paas_evt__ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a21j0000003NKJkAAO&tid=a1Cj00000039obiEAA](http://textilecentermn.force.com/cnp_paas_evt__ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a21j0000003NKJkAAO&tid=a1Cj00000039obiEAA)
February 2017 Block of the Month - Friend's Hand

Block of the Month - February 2017
12 ½" unfinished

Monica Linden, Blue Earth Block Swapper, made this "Water Wheel" block for the MQ 2016 raffle quilt. After some research, I found many more names for this traditional block: Friendship Star variation; Chinese Coin, Indian Puzzle, Indiana Puzzle, Crosses and Losses, Monkey Wrench, Pinwheel, Milky Way, and, my favorite, Friend's Hand, which we'll call it this month when we honor friends and lovers!! We've made the block a bit bigger than the one in the raffle quilt. We'll publish those cutting directions on-line for those of you making a replica of the raffle quilt. —Kathie Simon Frank

Fabric and Cutting requirements: (These are a little generous for those of us – like Jeanne - who are not super-fantastic at a "scant" ¼" seam. You will trim excess.)

Dark Pink:
- A (1) 3 ½" x 3 ½"
- B (2) 4" x 4" (for HSTs)
- C (1) 2" x 9"

Medium Pink:
- D (1) 2" x 9"
- E (2) 1 ½" x 9 ½"
- F (2) 1 ½" x 11"

White on white or Pale Pink:
- G (2) 4" x 4" (for HSTs)
- H (2) 2" x 9"
- I (2) 1 ½" x 11"
- J (2) 1 ½" x 12 ½"

Sewing Directions:
Make the Half-Square Triangles (HSTs) by putting one B and one G right sides together (RST). Draw a diagonal line and stitch ¼" seam on each side of it. Cut on the line. Press each toward the dark pink. Repeat with the other B+G. Trim to 3 ½" square.
Sew D+H and C+H. Press toward the darker fabrics. Cut each double-strip into four 3 ½" x 2 1/8" rectangles. Sew the pieces together to match the diagram and photo. (Four-squares) Trim to 3 ½" square. Sew the nine middle blocks together, using the diagram and/or photo for orientation of pieces. Trim your block to 9 ¼". Add E pieces to the top and bottom, then F pieces to the sides. Press and trim the block to 11". Add I pieces to the top and bottom, then J pieces to the sides. Press and trim the block to 12 ½".

BOM GUIDELINES: Each person may enter up to 3 blocks each month. Please include your name and phone number on your block(s) and (stick your mailing label on the back). If you have any scraps left over, please include them with your block for the winner to use in a border or for other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the January 5th and 7th meetings, you may mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive before the drawings.
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 next meeting or the MQ office during the month.
Picking up the Pieces by Laura Nagel 2017

I finally found the perfect word to describe who I am, or at least what I do - a papyrophile: one who loves paper. From paper dolls to picture books, newspapers and magazines to novels, I love reading anything printed on paper. This would be fine if I could part with the issues after reading, but I am also a saver, or better, a collector of articles, sayings and memorable quotes. But where to keep the clippings is my dilemma.

I have lots of files for personal use like recipes, floor plans and places I would like to visit. My professional files cover reading strategies, book reviews, and suggested reading by genres. There are three drawers of quilt-related files for different styles, settings, specific patterns, and various techniques. My favorite quilt era is the Civil War, and those files are divided into nine categories, the largest being Still in the News, as hardly a week goes by that something new or unusual isn't printed about the Civil War in the paper. Currently there have been several articles about the Civil War paintings that have graced the Governor's office in the State Capitol. A decision has yet to be made as to where they shall be displayed in the future.

My favorite printed collectible is quotations, either from famous people, or timely pieces of advice too good to forget. But how can I save all these precious words of wisdom? Some that are time sensitive or seasonally relevant are stored in my monthly 'tickler file' and are read annually, like Ann Landers' New Year's resolutions. Or a moving tribute to veterans that I re-read each November. And for over thirty years I have recorded my favorite quotes in a green leather journal with a little gold key - a precious find at an old ranch auction in Colorado.

But is anyone ever going to 'discover' this treasure trove of knowledge? Doubtful. So how best to preserve it? Paper files will ultimately be thrown out, unread, by my descendants. Electronic documents will just be deleted, or wiped off the hard drive. Instead I've decided to emulate the popular 19th century tradition of signature quilts, friendship quilts, and Bible verse quilts by transferring my favorite quotes and words of advice to quilt blocks.

Some will be light-hearted, like Jean Ray Laury's, "It is important to do one crazy thing every day, just to keep sane." Others thought-provoking, "How can a few notes of music, some paint on canvas, mere pieces of cloth sewed together, have this power to lift the human spirit? No one can explain this; it is the mystery of art," Rose Wilder Lane. A few cautionary quotes, "Life is a continuous process of getting used to things we haven't expected." And a couple of common sense ideas, "Most folks are just about as happy as they make up their minds to be," Abraham Lincoln.

This will be my legacy quilt; surely my heirs won't throw away my quilts. Then on some chilly January night before turning off the lights, someone tucked under this quilt will read a few of the verses before falling asleep and ponder their meaning as it applies to their life. And then when this quilt becomes as thin as paper through years of wear, someone else might just cut out the sayings and file them away for the next generation.

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Holiday Brunch 2017 Challenge

At the brunch on December third we announced that the 2017 brunch challenge will be Holiday quilt on a stick. Many people left with the instructions and a paint stick, but for those who weren't able to attend or didn't get the instructions here you go:

Holiday Quilt-On-A-Stick
Design an 8" w x 9" h quilt with any Holiday Theme (Christmas, Halloween, Fourth of July etc.)
Use any construction method - pieced or applique
Add any embellishments – paint, beads, crystals etc.
Hand or Machine Quilted
Quilt backing must include a centered, vertical sleeve (1 1/2 x 8) in which a paint stick has been inserted.
Bring a container to hold your quilt upright (mason jar of beans, flowerpot of buttons – anything goes just be creative)
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Above, Karen and her son, Storm McTavish, are taking a selfie. To the right is what Karen posted on her Facebook.

Karen McTavish is MQ’s 2017 Quilter of the Year.

Joyful quilters everywhere before the brunch begins.
MQ News is the monthly newsletter for members of Minnesota Quilters, Inc., a nonprofit organization formed to find and unite quilters and quilt enthusiasts throughout the state of Minnesota and elsewhere. MQ News is published twelve times a year by Minnesota Quilters, Inc.

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