Minnesota Quilters November Meetings
Thursday, November 2, 7 pm
Saturday, November 4, 10 am

November Meetings

Education Co-Directors, Merle Pratt and Diane Rose
ed@mnquilt.org

Our guest speaker for November is Doris Deutmeyer, well known for her raw edge appliqué techniques. At the Thursday, November 2, meeting, she will be talking about Creative Fused Appliqué Landscape quilt blocks – Is it Fine Art? On Friday, November 3, she will present a five-hour class featuring the Autumn Birch Woodland scene.

During the Saturday, November 4, meeting, she will discuss Creative Methods to Display your Small Art Quilts. After the meeting she will teach a three-hour class featuring either the Crystal Night or Sunset Pine patterns. Kits are available for all three quilts. This should be entertaining and informative. Please join us!

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

Join us for the Minnesota Quilters Holiday Brunch on December 2, 2017. The brunch will be held in the Grand Ballroom on the first floor of Edinburgh USA Golf Course Clubhouse. Doors open at 10:00 am, and brunch will be served about 10:45 am. There will be valet parking available when a valet sign is visible near the front door. A $3 to $5 tip is appropriate as the drivers work for tips. Click here to register: http://www.cvent.com/d/tqlnn

Registration for the brunch has also been sent to your email address; just click the link to sign up. The deadline for reservations is November 22nd. Tickets are $25 for members and $30 for non-members. You will be able to pay by credit card or by sending a check to the office after you have registered.

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Upcoming Events

November 2 and 4, MQ Meetings, speaker workshops November 3 and 4
November 4, MQP Meeting, 8:30-10 am
November 4, Show Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
November 28, Combined Board and Finance Meeting, 5 pm
December 2, MQ Holiday Brunch
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 November Newsletter: Tuesday, November 7. 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.

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December Holiday Brunch

Please bring a small Mason jar (pint or ½ pint) for a fun project you will be able to make and take at the brunch. We will also have Show and Tell, so don’t forget to bring your latest creation. We all love to see the beautiful and imaginative pieces that everyone shares.

We hope you have been preparing to participate in the Holiday Quilt-On-A-Stick challenge. It is not too late to get started on your entry. All you need to do is design and make an 8” wide x 9” high quilt with any holiday theme. You can use any construction method. Feel free to add any embellishments. It needs to be machine- or hand-quilted and to have a centered, vertical, 1-1/2"x8" sleeve on the back in which a paint stick has been inserted. Be creative with a container to hold your quilt upright. A Mason jar of beans or a vase of buttons will work. There will be a viewer’s choice prize for the Holiday Quilt-On-A-Stick.

Once again, we will be collecting handmade Christmas stockings for St Joseph’s Home for Children located in Minneapolis. Directions for the stockings can be found at mnquilt.org. Click on Quilting for Others under the Links section. There you will find the link to the pdf file to make a stocking or two. You are not limited to the number of stockings you can contribute, and there will be a viewer’s choice prize. If you want to participate, but don’t want to make a stocking, you can help by bringing stocking stuffers and/or a donation to help St Joseph’s fill the stockings. Checks should be made out to St Joseph’s Home for Children. If you bring stocking stuffers, please make a list of your donations along with your name and address so St Joseph’s can acknowledge your contribution.

We are also collecting placemats. Placemats that are not holiday themed are preferred.

Quilting for Others is collecting completed (pieced, quilted and bound) 36”x36” lap quilts for a rest home. We will be collecting them at the brunch if you would like to contribute.

There will also be a Holiday Quilt Block Exchange again this year. Please make a 12-1/2” unfinished holiday block with either white or off-white background. You can exchange up to three blocks.

Now is the time to make plans with your friends to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.
Message From Our President

Adrianne Lemberg, president@mnquilt.org

A friend sent me a quote..."Fall is a time to make a quilt before winter arrives. (Like a squirrel gathering nuts)." With the cooler weather blowing in that's exactly what I decided to do (plus the baby is due long before winter arrives). May you make a quilt before winter also.

Minnesota Quilters has many opportunities for members in November. In honor of our "Ruby Year" we are rolling back membership costs to allow members to gift a one-year membership to a first-time member at the 1978 rate. November’s membership meetings feature Doris Deutmeyer. Her programs and trunk show are sure to inspire. In addition to regular scheduling, she will be teaching a class following our Saturday meeting. Also in November watch for details about our 2018 Mystery Quilt.

I'm saving the date, December 2nd, for our Holiday Brunch. That celebration puts me in a festive mood.

The Amazing $10 New Member Roll Back Offer

Wynn Martin

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.

Pop-up Sale Table

A mid-arm quilting machine was donated to MQ and was auctioned to the highest bidder at the October meeting. You never know just what will turn up at the Pop-Up Sale table at the meetings! Donations are always welcome.

MQ members at the Fall Getaway at Green Lake
Fat Quarters and Strips Drawing

Becca Brackett and Kate Jones, ecbrackett@cohousing.org

At the October 7th meeting the theme was Red and/or Green fat quarters. We only had three entries - 1) Anonymous, 2) the committee member Becca, and 3) Markey Dwyer. Therefore, Markey Dwyer was declared the winner, and the fat quarters will be mailed to her.

In November the theme is Blue STRIPS. I found I had just cut and sewn a few of those.

Blue can be pure like the sky, or deep and cold. Will we be having snow and ice by the November meeting? There certainly are icy blues. In November please donate one, or preferably three, blue strips 2-1/2 inches wide by the width of the fabric, a print or solid blue cotton fabric.

When do strips become stripes? Certainly not in all quilts. I just read a quaint little book, The Devils Cloth - a History of Stripes and Striped Fabric, by Michel Pastoureau. It was translated from French. The author is a historian of Medieval heraldry, and striped clothing was a mark of the marginal person, the juggler, the leper, and other outcasts. Of course, later “good stripes” were on national flags, sports outfits, beach tents, and children’s jerseys.

One problem for the medieval mind was that stripes can confuse the foreground and background, just the sort of problem quilters need to be mindful of.

News from Textile Center

Introducing Youth Fiber Art Guild™, an activity club for ages nine and up, brought to you by Textile Center.

Here’s how it works: every month, each Guild member receives an exciting new kit packed with tools and materials to make a unique fiber art project. A membership includes an illustrated guidebook, access to online demos, and 6 different kits with materials and instructions included, all delivered to your door.

For more information and to register visit YOUTHFIBERART.ORG

Become a member and receive fiber art kits delivered right to your mailbox.

Remember Me….Stories about MN Quilters

Pat Cox and Martha Eaves
Coxxx052@umn.edu and eavesm@visi.com

The Minnesota Quilt Project, an integral part of MQ’s mission, is interviewing Minnesota Quilters members and sharing their special stories of quilting. We are doing a notebook of everyone we interview. To be interviewed you can be a new quilter or a more experienced one, a modern, contemporary, traditionalist or all of the above. Contact Pat Cox, Coxxx052@umn.edu, or Martha Eaves, eavesm@visi.com, to make an interview date. We will take a picture of you with some of your quilts. We hope everyone will enjoy knowing more about each other. We appreciate your participation in this special documentation project and Minnesota Quilt Project.

New Wholecloth Judged Category

Did you see the beautiful Wholecloth quilts in the Minnesota Quilters Show and Conference in Duluth in June 2017? We hope to have even more in St. Cloud next June. Not many shows have a separate category for Wholecloth quilts, but MQ will have one in 2018. Watch for the show registration information coming in early January. Here is an advance look at the definition:

A quilt made by one person from a solid piece of fabric on which the quilting stitches themselves form the entire design of the quilt. There can be no piecing, appliqué, painting, or other embellishments on the quilt surface, only quilting, which may be done by hand or machine.

We would love to see both traditional and modern Wholecloth quilts in the show, so spread the word and start stitching!
Volunteer Corner

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

We are so lucky to have so many wonderful volunteers! Many thanks to all of you who volunteered this past month. We especially thank Amy Lange-Thorsett as the new Membership Day Co-coordinator and Kate Jones as the new Meeting Evening Co-coordinator. We ask that all volunteers record their hours on the white slips at the meetings. Not only do you get a chance at a door prize, we need your hours to turn in to the bookkeeper at the end of the fiscal year. When the hours are recorded for the whole year, We can announce the total of 2,329 hours for 2017. This includes volunteer hours turned in on the slips and MQP hours. Thanks so much to all of you who turned in hours on the slips each month.

If 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 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.

Meeting Hospitality Co-Coordinators: One for evening and one for day in case extra help is needed.

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.

Highlights from the September Board Meeting

Karen Knoll, secretary@mnquilt.org

The finance statement was reviewed and approved. The 2017-2018 budget was approved. Show planning was discussed, and the 2018 raffle quilt was unveiled. The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at 6:00 pm at 253 State Street, St. Paul.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Knoll, Secretary

Time’s a-wasting, let’s get sewing….

The 2018 Minnesota Quilters Quilt Show and Conference is less than eight months away. Are you binding? Quilting? Piecing? Choosing a pattern for your entry? Selecting fabrics? Do you have an original design? Or will you finish a project from a class at the 2017 show? Are you helping a child or teen complete a youth quilt?

The judged and non-judged committees look forward to filling their exhibit spaces with your creations. If you don’t think now is the time to begin, please consider whether you’ve ever finished a baby quilt after the baby was born….

...seven-and-a-half months and counting down….

In October Jean Wakely discussed her mother Jewell Wolk’s quilts
The Purple Sandwich and Women of the Plains.
2018 MQ Show Committee: There's Always Room for You

You are the only one who is missing from the 2018 Show Committee. Please join these MQ volunteers to create a terrific show celebrating Minnesota Quilters 40th year.

Show Coordinator Laura Nagel
Show Secretary Patty Von Arx
Admissions Mary Tague, Nancy Hall
Banquet Kathie Simon Frank, Merle Pratt
Bus Tours Virginia Gleason, Margaret Lundberg
Challenge 2018 Betsy Shannon, Jude Edling
Challenge 2019 Jude Edling, Pat Curtner
Charming Stroll Mary Jane Heng, Kathy Reisinger
Door Prizes Linda Huntzicker, Kathy Grinsteinner
Faculty Rose Allen, Yvonne Curran
Judged Exhibit Kate Eelkema, Melissa Griggs, Sue Rutford
Merchandise Mary Wellman, Loretta Stone
Non-Judged Exhibit Wanda Shelton, Kathleen Winters and Maple Grove Quilt Guild volunteers
Photography Peggy Stockwell
Power Point Debra Svedberg
President's Challenge Adrianne Lemberg
Printing Karen Knoll, Janet Watt
Raffle Quilt Jude Edling
Raffle Quilt Tickets Kate Jones, Donna Rockette
Registration Jan Schmidt, Char Wenger
Signage Betsy Shannon, Becca Brackett
Small Quilt Auction Lynette Wass, Carla Kilkelly
Special Exhibits Tracy Eller, Marcia Rocheleau
Vendors Rodell Benjamin, RoxAnn Strand
Volunteers Virginia Gleason, YOUR NAME HERE
Website Pat Curtner, Linda Wines
Youth Exhibit Paulette Marini, Lisa Stene

If you have questions or want to volunteer, please contact Laura Nagel or Brenda Lyseng. The next Show Committee meeting is Saturday, November 4th, immediately after the member meeting. This meeting is the preparation for the January roll-out of classes and lectures at the show.

Show dates—June 14-16 Classes begin Wednesday, June 13.
River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota

MQ 40th Anniversary Signature Quilt
Mary Hinz, maryhinz@comcast.net

MQP (Minnesota Quilt Project) is gathering signature blocks for a quilt being created to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Minnesota Quilters. We would love to have your signature as part of the project.

If you attend the monthly meetings, white fabric rectangles await your signature and, if you can recall, the year you joined MQ.

If you are a more distant member and wish to participate, simply sign and date (with year of joining) a white (we do mean white, not cream or vanilla, etc.) fabric rectangle, of dimensions 2.5 inches by 5.5 inches and mail it to the attention of MQP at the MQ office — Minnesota Quilters, Inc., 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107-1612. Thanks for your help in celebrating Minnesota Quilters’ year 40.
10” finished block

Fabric and Cutting:
White (background):
(8)  3” x 3” squares  
(4)  2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangles  
White on Black (W&B)  
(4)  3” x 3” squares  
Black on White (B&W)  
(4)  3” x 3” squares  
Red-A (center block)  
(1)  2 ½” x 2 ½” square  
Red-B (center flaps)  
(4)  3” x 3” squares

Directions:
1. Make 8 half-square triangle blocks (HST) using one white square and one W&B square for each. Mark a diagonal line on the wrong side of each white 3” square, sew 1/4” on each side of that line, cut along the drawn line, press, and trim to 2 ½” x 2 ½” square. You’ll have eight 2 ½” HSTs.
2. Similarly, make 8 HST using one white square and one B&W square for each. After cutting and trimming, you’ll have eight 2 ½” HSTs.
3. Fold each Red-B 3” x 3” square wrong sides together in half diagonally, then in half again, so you have a small triangle (a Prairie Point).
4. Right sides together, and with the fold on the left, place the raw edge of one Prairie Point on the raw edge of the short end of one white 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangle. Baste the two layers together. The bottom 2 triangle points will stick out about ¼” to the sides. The triangle point will point toward the other end of the rectangle. Make 4 of these units.
5. Make a corner 4-patch unit by alternating B&W and W&B HSTs units. Repeat for 3 more corner units. Sew one corner unit to one side of the white 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangle with the Prairie Point on the end. Attach a second corner unit to the other side of the rectangle. Set aside. Make one more unit this way.
6. Sew the Red-A square to one of the rectangle/Prairie Point units and then to another on the opposite side.
7. Sew one unit from Step 4 to the unit you just constructed in Step 6. Then do the same on the other side of the block, leaving the red square surrounded by Prairie Points in the very center.
8. Pick up the point of the Prairie Point, then press down so that the fold of the Prairie Point is on top of the seam. Press in place. Repeat for the other three Prairie Points. All should be oriented in the same direction.
9. Press block. Trim to 10 ½” if necessary.

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

The October blocks were won by Laura Nagel, Aileen Lively, Kathy Johnson, and Becca Brackett. Each received 15 Halloween Crazy blocks. →
We want to thank all of you who have been turning in completed tops and quilts for our Wheelchair quilt project and 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 even got our first holiday stockings. And there are nine special people who came to our October Quilting For Others (QFO) workday! You make a difference in the lives of many people.

When we schedule more work days, we will notify members by e-mail of the opportunity.

Current projects you can help with are the following.

We’re trying to make **40 wheelchair quilts** by Christmas for residents of a senior home who don’t get visitors or gifts at Christmas. The size should be approximately 36” x 36” but can be a bit bigger. However, keep those wheels in mind. We have many kits that you can pick one up at the MQ meetings, or you can make one on your own. We want to deliver these by Christmas.

We’re making **holiday stockings for children** at St. Joseph’s Home for Children. Bring these to the MQ Holiday Brunch. A pattern is available on the MQ website.

We’re making **placemats** for the Saint Cloud residents who receive home delivered meals. Our deadline is for the 2018 show. Non-holiday themes are preferred.

We’re continuing to make **baby quilts** for Minnesota Visiting Nurses. The recommended baby quilt size is about 45” by 45” so the quilt can be used as a quilt, a play mat or a stroller cover in Minnesota winters.

We are making **twin/double quilts** for the Harriet Tubman center. Eighty blocks trimmed to 9-1/2” x 9-1/2” makes a quilt.

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—fancy. It can be as simple as quilt in the ditch. We have complete kits (top, backing and batting) for you, so please pick up a kit at the next 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.

**Thank you from Linda Wines**

A special Thank You to those of you who participated in creating my “Retirement Quilt.” I simply love it! The thoughts and wishes were some humorous and some touching, but all appreciated. The quilt has already been kitty-approved, but she wishes I’d change my love of cow stuff to cat stuff!
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.

Betsy Munroe— all four quilts in this row

Brenda Lyseng

Dee Legvold—two quilts in center

Ed Hartman

Faye Bodenhamer—three quilts in this row
Gail Kieper

Gayle Cmiel ↑ and →

Jude Edling

Karen Kopitzke

Laura Sahlberg

Mary Ann Baraibar—four quilts in this row

Mary Reinhardt
Remembering Audrey Sells

Audrey Sells passed away at the age of 89 on September 20, 2017, after a brief battle with colon cancer. Audrey was a prolific quilter – producing more than 670 works in the past three decades. She was the 2014 Minnesota Quilter of the Year and Co-founder of the Chaska Area Quilt Guild.

Audrey’s quilts can be found in the National Quilt Museum, The Library of Congress and in medical settings and libraries locally.

I didn’t know Audrey well, but I have a special place in my heart for her. Seeing her work when I had a medical appointment was comforting. I also faithfully purchased raffle tickets for the Chaska Guild raffle quilts that she designed. But one memory stands out for me. I had the opportunity to spend an afternoon in Audrey’s studio. She invited several of us to join her and learn how to make the lovely landscape cards she created. There I was, surrounded by tons of quilts, fabric and quilting gear, layering fabric selected by Audrey into a base and learning how to stitch the details of the design. It was a magical three hours that will forever be a part of my quilting memories.

We will miss you, Audrey, but thank you for the wonderful work you did as a quilter, teacher and supporter of the quilting community. I will continue to admire your work shared in public areas of our community. What a legacy you have left us! See http://strib.mn/2krZgHl for a Star Tribune article about Audrey.

Remembering Carol Wagner

Carol Wagner of Baxter, Minnesota, formerly Roseville, passed away at Northern Lakes Senior Living on Friday, September 29, 2017. Carol was active in the Minnesota Quilters Guild and volunteered at the Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center for many years.

A talented and creative quilter, she won numerous awards, wrote several quilting books, and traveled the country teaching quilting and finishing techniques. Carol often created cartoons for the MQ newsletter, such as the ones shown here.

Her quilt, Freedom to Dream represented Minnesota in the 1986 Great American Quilt Contest commemorating the Statue of Liberty Centennial, and was published in All Flags Flying.
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>40th Year</td>
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Thanks for everyone who contacted me to offer show pins and volunteer pins from past shows.

As you can see, we have quite a few pins collected (or soon to arrive). Now we are mostly looking for the early years’ pins.

If you are willing to contribute, please contact me at wynnerquilts@gmail.com or call 612-360-5308.

Thanks in advance for your contributions to this lovely office wall-hanging. It’s a great way to celebrate our 40th year.

Plus Silver MQ Charm (logo) from unknown year.
How many times have I been so focused on a problem that I totally overlooked the obvious solution right in front of my eyes? The other day I was attempting some machine embroidery with 12 weight thread, trying to get the tension just right so the bobbin thread didn't pull the top thread through to the back. Finally my zigzagging was humming along, and then I ran out of bobbin thread. clipped my thread, rewound another bobbin and reset the machine: needle down, stitch width 2.8, stitch length 1.6, ready, set, sew. But my new stitches did not match the old ones, the bobbin thread was poking up to the surface and the top stitches looked loose. What's the problem? I duplicated all of the settings, so what could be wrong? Staring me in the face was the embroidery thread, sitting on the top of my machine, not back on its spool holder!

Next up was a floral project. The shop sample was so inspiring it demanded a kit purchase. It all looked simple enough, a few stems, leaves and 12 flower buds – a little cutting, measuring and some repetitive sewing. But somehow the results were not consistent. The mirror image pieces seemed to have a mind of their own. I ask you, which one is not like the other ones? I guess not all buds blossom alike.

To top things off, the other day chain-piecing really got the best of me. Really, how hard can it be to make a scrappy 9-patch? I had all of the strip sets sewn and sub-cut, mixed them all up into two piles, light-dark-light and dark-light-dark. I placed one of each strip on top of the other, wrong sides together, nested the seams and stacked the pairs ready to sew. I powered through the stack not once, but twice! Apparently carried away with my efficiency, I had created the 6-patch tube. But it wasn't until I tried to open the double strip to choose the third strip that I discovered the error of my ways. However, none of my sewing tensions compare to the tension of a helpful husband in the kitchen who is trying to make salsa from scratch with the end of the season's tomatoes. While I'm sewing with friends, he asks, "Should I use a blender or a mixer?"

"A blender," I replied.

"How much can I put in?"

"About half full," I suggested, and heard muttering from the kitchen that he would have to pour some of it out because he had filled it to the top.

"What speed should I use?"

By this time my friends are giving me quizzical glances and silently laughing. I'm about ready to get up and supervise the chef. "Just 'pulse' it a few times," I responded.

I heard the blender buzz into action and he yelled over the noise, "Nothing's moving."

I shouted, "Then you'll have to use a spoon..." Then all sewing stopped as we heard the chop, chop, grind of the wooden spoon being gnawed by the blender blades. It never occurred to me that a man so handy with power tools would insert a spoon into a moving blender, but what do I know about how a man thinks.

So now we have some organic salsa, with a little added fiber. My husband is welcome to eat it whenever he likes. As for me, I added my favorite Pace Chunky Salsa to my grocery list and made myself a margarita.
For Sale: Husqvarna-Viking 960Q. Extension table, all original feet, Interchangeable walking foot with 3 plates, and spring action quilting foot. Call Lynn Burke 612-483-3633 for more info.

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