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

March has certainly come in like a lion, so let's hope it goes out like a lamb. April is Minnesota Quilters’ big 40th birthday celebration. The April meetings are jam-packed with activities and programming; be part of the action.

Birthday Celebration – It's our 40th birthday, and we're celebrating with cake and special programs at both the Thursday and Saturday meetings. Join us as we celebrate our 40th Birthday as an organization. We have planned two very special parties to mark the occasion. On Thursday evening Sandi Irish, of Irish Chain quilt patterns, will bring a colorful trunk show and bring us up-to-date on her quilting journey. She has been a long-time contributor to the success of MQ's development from serving as Day Director to organizing a show challenge, charming city stroll, and designing one of the raffle quilts. You won't want to miss her progress from making quilts to creating patterns, templates, and designing fabrics.

On Saturday it's a surprise party. Do you remember telling friends and family “Whatever you do, I don't want a surprise party,” for one of your significant decades birthday? You may have said it, but did you really mean it? We didn't think so, and a surprise party is exactly what we have planned. Six Minnesota "Star" quilters have been invited to let you in on their secrets for successful quilting. Who are they? What will they tell us? You'll have to come and see for yourself. No one's letting this cat out of the bag.

Of course you can't have a party without a birthday cake, candles and balloons. We need you to share the fun with us, so don't disappoint. Put on your party clothes and experience how fabulous forty can be.

Quilt Show Deadlines

Monday, April 16 at 2 pm – quilt entry deadline for Judged, Non-Judged and Youth exhibits

Friday, April 20 – deadline for 2018 challenge registration forms to arrive in the MQ office

Thursday, May 31 – deadline to register for or to add classes and lectures, to purchase challenge packets and banquet tickets.

Log in at www.mnquilt.org/mq2018 to begin. Assistance is available at registration@mnquilt.org or quiltentryhelp@mnquilt.org.

Saturday Volunteer Breakfast – Join your volunteering friends for a recognition breakfast on Saturday at 9 am before the meeting. Our organization is made greater by our numerous volunteers, so come and be appreciated for all of your hard work. Thank you from Minnesota Quilters!

Quilters Garage Sale Donations
Linda Huntzicker, Kathy Grinsteiner
doorprizes@mnquilt.org

MQ will have a quilters’ garage sale before the Saturday meeting in May. Bring your donations to the April meetings so they can be sorted and priced for sale. Fabrics, books, patterns, notions, unfinished projects, thread, tools, rulers, batting, and other quilting ephemera will be accepted.

Use this opportunity to relieve your studio of things you know you’ll never use or finish. If you have a change of heart, buy them back in May or trade up for someone else’s items.

We will need volunteers to help set up, staff the sale, and pack unsold items after the garage sale in May.
Upcoming Events

April 5, 7 Member meetings
April 16, deadline for Judged, Non-Judged and Youth Quilt Entries, 2 pm
April 24, MQ Combined Board and Finance meeting, 5 pm
June 14-16, 2018, MQ Quilt Show & Conference, St. Cloud, Minnesota
December 1, MQ Holiday Brunch

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 May Newsletter: Tuesday, April 10. 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.

Minnesota Quilters Vision Statement

Minnesota Quilters will be a state-wide leader in providing creative quilting education, activities, and mentoring through a welcoming multi-generational community of quilters with various skills and abilities.

Adopted by Minnesota Quilters at the February 2018 board meeting.

President’s Greeting

Adrianne Lemberg, president@mnquilt.org

Happy Birthday to us! We’ll be celebrating 40 years at our April meetings. On Saturday morning we are also celebrating our volunteers with a breakfast at 9 am. I hope you can attend.

Since Minnesota Quilters is a mostly volunteer organization, I am always amazed at what we accomplish and to what extent quilters will go to make good things happen. If you’ve never volunteered at MQ, this may be the time to try it. Opportunities abound to help at our meetings, at the show, and with the behind the scenes action that keeps Minnesota Quilters operational. We always need help, and the regulars appreciate the break. Thank you for what you do.

There is still time to register for the 2018 show and enjoy its many fabulous happenings. If you are planning to take a class, you may want to register soon as some classes are filling up. MQ has hotel blocks so be sure to mention that when you book a room. I hope you can attend, and as the show needs thousands of hours of volunteer time, any donation of your time is much appreciated. Please be aware that a number of these jobs are sit-down positions—a great way to take a break. There is sign up information online and near the show entrance.

Don’t forget that the board is looking for a few good MQ members to fill the slate for our annual election in June. Check out the duties online, and if you’d like to nominate yourself, please do so to any board member. If not yourself, maybe you have a qualified friend that you could encourage. Thank you.

Silent Auction Item – Sewing chair. Are you looking for a cute chair for your sewing room? For auction we have a sewing chair on casters with underseat storage. Lightly used.

We will have a closed bid silent auction at both of the April member meetings. The winner will be announced at the end of the Saturday meeting on April 7. The minimum bid is $50. If you are not able to attend the April meeting, bids will be accepted by e-mail until 5 pm on Friday, April 6. You may e-mail your bid to Ops@mnquilt.org.
March Meeting Highlights
Carolyn Silflow, mqp@mnquilt.org

Lori Lee Triplett shared spectacular quilts from the Poos Quilt Collection that is curated by her sister, Kay Triplett. Thursday evening's program was an overview of the collection that has a major focus on pre-1860s quilts. Saturday's program featured 15 rare chintz quilts as Lori described the history and manufacturing methods of chintz fabrics.

Participants at a workshop on Friday learned about the tradition of indigo resist dyeing in western Africa and practiced several resist methods. The chintz workshop on Saturday gave students an opportunity to inspect chintz fabrics and learn details about chintz printing methods.

May Meetings Preview
Diane Rose, Merle Pratt, ed@mnquilt.org

Pam Dinndorf of Aardvark Quilts, well-known for her classes on color theory and improvisational quilting techniques, will be speaking at our member meetings in May. She also will present a workshop on the Mandela Floor Cushion on Friday, May 4. Watch your inbox for more details.

Quilting for Others
Linda Wines, qfo@mnquilt.org

Quilting for Others Workday—Quilting For Others will hold a work day at the MQ meeting place on Friday, April 6. We will start about 9:30 am and go until about 3:30 pm. We’d love to have you join us for a worth-your-while time of working on quilts for people who need them. You can bring your machine to sew, or you can do the supporting tasks of cutting, ironing, pinning, etc. Bring your own lunch—we’ll have a few treats to keep you going. If you have questions, please contact qfo@mnquilt.org or call 763.516.0865.

Thank you to all the people who took tops at the March meetings to quilt at home. We appreciate your efforts.

2018 Mystery Quilt—Not Too Late to Join the Fun
Charlette Pittman, charlette.pittman1@gmail.com

The annual Mystery Quilt has been a successful MQ fundraiser and a tremendous amount of fun for the participants. In the private Facebook group they posted pictures of fabric selections, finished blocks and their final quilts. In the meantime there was lots of advice and encouragement.

The 2018 MQ mystery quilt was designed just for us by Kari Schell. It’s a traditional quilt with no applique or curved piecing. The cost is $30 for MQ members and $40 for non-members. Click here to see more about it: http://www.cvent.com/d/8tq270. Join the fun of MQ while sitting at your sewing machine.

Holiday Brunch Challenge
Charlette Pittman, charlette.pittman1@gmail.com

The holiday brunch will be December 1, 2018, and the holiday brunch committee has a challenge for you. Do you have a favorite holiday? Do you love to wrap gifts in pretty paper and bows? This is the challenge for you. Pick your favorite holiday and make a quilt with a package on it. The only requirement is there must be a wrapped package on the quilt. The quilt can be between the size of a postcard and a wall hanging no larger than 32 inches by 42 inches.

We look forward to seeing your challenge quilt at the brunch in December.
Seeking Board Nominations

Pat Curtner, Rose Allen, pastpres@mnquilt.org

MQ is governed by a board of directors. We are a working board and also a policy making board. Four board positions have co-directors, and every year one of the team rotates off and a new co-director comes onboard. It’s a great way to build continuity.

For 2018-2019 we are looking for nominations for the following co-directors:
- Communications
- Education
- Operations
- Membership

In addition, we are seeking nominations for President-elect (a 3 year term) and Treasurer.

Perhaps you are interested in providing leadership for MQ. Chances are you know someone you think might make a good board member. We invite you to submit names to pastpres@mnquilt.org.

We are proud to say that the organization is in good financial standing, our membership is steady and growing, and we are anticipating a dynamite show in June.

We are looking for new board members to continue this success. Join us!

Volunteer Corner

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

Our volunteers are wonderful, and they have a good time. Please join us if you can! Thanks to all of you who volunteered this past month. 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, but we need your hours to give to the bookkeeper for our audit at the end of the fiscal year. Thanks so much to all of you who turn in hours on the slips each month. You turned in 511 hours for the first quarter of this fiscal year. Congratulations!

If you are interested in the following positions or have questions about them, please e-mail volunteer@mnquilt.org or talk to us at the meetings. Our new fiscal year started on October 1, 2017, and there are positions open at the current time. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering for a position this year. Do you like to visit new quilt shops when they open? If so, this might be the position for you. Let us know. This is a volunteer organization and we need all our wonderful volunteers!

Currently available positions:

Meeting Hospitality Co-Coordinator, Evening: We are in immediate need of an additional person to help make coffee and set up treats for the Thursday night meetings. For more information see us at the April Thursday night meeting.

Business Member Coordinator: This person contacts quilting businesses to become members of our organization. I am sure many of you like to go to quilt shops. For more information contact Barbara Jackson at meyer98@comcast.net.

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

MQ Show and Conference Registration

Jan Schmidt, Char Wenger
registration@mnquilt.org

Registration is now open for everyone. Register early – register now!

Classes will be starting at the 2018 MQ Show on Wednesday, June 13, at 8:30 am. So register now for classes. Register early! Even though June may seem a long way off, some classes are already full or beginning to fill. The website will always have the latest information.

Online registration at www.mnquilt.org/mq2018 is shown in real time so you will know immediately whether or not you are registered for your selected classes. Class sessions, lectures, events, and merchandise will calculate automatically as you add items. You will see your total and be able to make changes before you finalize and pay.

Remember that MQ offers cancellation insurance to protect you from life's surprises. If you purchase this insurance for $20 when you register, you will receive a 100% refund for classes, lectures, and special events as long as you cancel by May 31. Cancellation insurance does not cover the registration fee or the insurance fee itself.

You can make online changes to your own registration. You will need your confirmation number from your confirmation receipt.

If you are already registered, you can add a class to your registration until May 31.

Add a lecture pass to your registration for only $30/member or $36/nonmember. The lecture pass is only available with advance registration and will not be available at the show. Individual lecture tickets are available at the show, at the advance registration booth, or at the door of the lecture.

Banquet tickets for guests may be added to your registration. If you are coming with a friend who is not using advance registration, you may purchase a ticket for that person on your advance registration. Last year the banquet was full before registration closed. Order now if you want to attend the banquet.
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 or traditional quilter, 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. See the stories on the MQ website at http://www.mnquilt.org/mqp/stories.html.

MQP 40th Anniversary Quilt Project
Carolyn Silflow, mpq@mnquilt.org

Over the years, MQ members have constructed quilts to mark special events for the organization. For example, the tenth anniversary quilt is shown here. The blocks reflect Homer Hankies made famous during the 1987 Minnesota Twins season that resulted in a World Series win. Blocks were signed by MQ members in May, 1988. At the April meetings we will display some of these quilts.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Minnesota Quilters, MQP is collecting blocks containing the signatures of MQ members and the year in which they joined Minnesota Quilters. The blocks are plain white fabric 2-1/2 by 5-1/2 inches (unfinished) and signed using a black Pigma pen. Please sign a block at the April MQ meetings or send it to the MQ office. We will make a red and white anniversary quilt.

MQ Challenges
Jude Edling, challenge@mnquilt.org

2017-18 Rubies Challenge Call For Entries
You bought the Kaffe and Ladyslipper fabric bundles at or after last year’s show; now what are you going to do with them? Everyone coming to the St. Cloud show will be excited to see your creativity. The challenge exhibit is one of the most popular exhibits. People are amazed at what four fabrics can inspire. Mail your entry form to the MQ office to arrive by Friday, April 20th, even if your project isn’t quite complete now.

The entry form has a space for a description which will appear on the gallery card by your project. Please tell us what your quilt means to you, or what your inspiration was, or what challenges you had. What would you like to know about a quilt when you see one at a show? The description is where you put your quilt’s creative information. The gallery card has space for 200 characters. That’s 60 more than a tweet.

2018-19 Global Inspiration Challenge
The MQ Challenge can be a bit confusing, but the idea is simple. Buy a bundle of fabric at one show and make a quilt for the next year’s show. Everyone starts with the same fabric, adds some of their own fabric or embellishments, and then stirs in unique creativity to make a phenomenal exhibit of brilliant projects. Voila!

The Global Inspiration challenge begins with a deep-colored bundle or a bright-colored bundle of red, yellow, green and blue Cherrywood fabrics that can be pre-ordered when you register online for the 2018 St. Cloud show. The bundles are to be picked up at the show. Pre-ordering guarantees that you get the bundles you desire. Bundles will be available for sale at the show, but quantities are limited. Past experience indicates that the Cherrywood bundles sell out early at the show.

The world of fabric and techniques is available to us. When you have your Cherrywood fabric bundle, your project will need one to four international fabrics and/or embellishments to make your project global. Every area of the world has unique textiles from Irish linen to llama wool, sari silk to Korean satin, Belgian lace to Sashiko stitching. Explore our beautiful world with Global Inspiration as you make your entry for the 2019 MQ show.

Bulletin Board

April 12—14, Textile Center Garage Sale, U of M Reuse Warehouse, 883 29th Ave SE, Minneapolis. Donate Thursday 10 am—7 pm. Preview sale Friday 6—8 pm (advance tickets $30/$25 members, $35 at the door) Saturday 9 am—4 pm, $3 admission, bag sale 3—4 pm.
Youth Quilt Exhibit
Paulette Marini, Lisa Stene youth@mnquilt.org

Wanted – Grandmas, Aunts, Neighbors, & Youth Leaders
The Quilt Show is only three months away. That means it's time to take a look at what
our children have been creating with fabric over the past year. Is there something they
can finish and exhibit at the show? We’d love to include their work.
The deadline is Monday, April 16, at 2:00 pm. Register is done online go at www.mnquilt.org/
mq2018. If you are unable to register online, please contact quiltentryhelp@mnquilt.org for options.

Raffle Ticket Sales
Kate Jones, Donna Rocket, raffletickets@mnquilt.org

Help our MQ Efforts and Buy them at the May MQ Meeting
You may think that raffle tickets are something to consider once and then forget. Wrong. We need your financial support for MQ, and buying raffle tickets is just one of many ways you can help support the organization.
Think about all the gift opportunities you have coming up in the next few months. With Mother’s Day, spring graduations, wedding showers, weddings, confirmations, school recognitions, Father’s Day, and so many other opportunities to show you care with family and friends, you have loads of ways to share the gift of MQ quilt raffle tickets.
Why not purchase a bundle of five or ten or more tickets at the May MQ meeting? A gift of raffle tickets is a very nice gift to give someone, and a super way to support the ticket sales effort currently underway at the same time.
Remember that there are two raffle quilts being awarded, and that doubles the chances that you or someone you know could become a winner.
We would love to see a surge of ticket sales in May. While the tickets are certainly going to be available for sale at the June show, buying them in June will mean you miss the many giving opportunities before that time.
The two ruby quilts are lovely pieces of creativity and workmanship. Let’s support all the hard work that it took to make the quilts and buy a group of tickets in May. Thank you!

Faculty Preview
Yvonne Curran, Rose Allen, faculty@mnquilt.org

Coming to the 2018 Minnesota Quilters Show in St. Cloud…Joannie Zeier Poole

Joannie will be teaching the following classes at the MN Quilt Show in June. There are going to be twelve machine heads in each machine-quilting class. Her story and photos of the class samples are below and on the following page.

My quiltmaking career began in ancient times, when sandpaper was glued to cereal boxes from which templates were cut, and scissors was used to cut each patch of fabric. My first quilt was a gift for my soon-to-be husband and was made in secret during the summer after we met at UW Whitewater where I had my first formal training in studio art. Over the years I attended classes in interior design and needle arts as well as quilting classes. I have learned all the traditional quilting methods and have experienced all the new innovations the industry has produced. At first I quilted only by hand, but as demands for my time increased, so did my desire to quilt more quickly.

Contemporary Elements, Designing Your Own Motifs on Paper
From 1985 to 1989 I put my drawing skills to use self-publishing patterns for miniature quilts and dolls. After four years I decided to put that aside to concentrate on raising two sons and operating a home decorating business. In 1998 my first venture back into the quilting industry was to create images used in the production of Stick-N-Stitch by Pieces of the Past (chosen by Quilter’s Newsletters’ Tools Review-2001).

About that same time the quilt world was undergoing a major change from hand- to machine-quilting. I was intrigued by how a home sewing machine could be used to produce lines of stitching that created patterns just as my pencil did when drawing illustrations. I held back afraid and relied on the big stitch to finish my quilts.

In the spring of 1999 I saw the heirloom machine quilted work of Diane Gaudynski for the first time. I could not take my eyes off the wonderful designs and tiny stippling. I met Diane, and in February, 2000, I attended her Heirloom Machine Quilting workshop. My life has not been the same since. I immersed myself in drawing new designs and kept the words of Eleanor Roosevelt in my thoughts as I worked – ‘The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams.’

I began dreaming of a new future for myself, one where quilting would take center stage. I returned to school, knowing that if I wanted to bring my designs to the market, I needed to learn computer technology. While a student, I began exhibiting my showpiece quilts where my original designs caught the attention of viewers as well as earned awards at major quilt shows. My quilts exhibit narrative images, initials, and dates to dedicate them to the special people in my life. Checkerboard and basket-weave background textures are my personal signature.

In 2003 with our two sons off to college and my new degree in Graphic Design, I began Heirloom Quilting Designs to promote myself as a professional educator and to distribute quilting designs that add an exciting new dimension to the art of quilting. I have written four books on design and refined free-motion quilting, and I am developing nationally distributed products for the industry.
**Small Quilt Auction**

Lynnette Wass, Carla Kilkelly, smallquiltauction@mnquilt.org

The Small Quilt Auction is looking for your donations!

This fundraiser takes place at our annual show each June. We are looking for donations of small quilts (maximum perimeter of 100”) to be used in our silent auction or on the buy-it-now table. Donations may be brought to a monthly MQ meeting, or you can call Lynnette Wass at 612-729-5375 for other arrangements. We will also accept donations at the show in St. Cloud. Please consider making a small quilt for this event.

Our latest donation is this beautifully pieced, embroidered, and quilted table runner. Thank you to the donor.

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**Door Prizes**

Linda Huntzicker, Kathy Grinsteiner, doorprizes@mnquilt.org

Do you have a quilting item that you would like to share with a fellow quilter? You can donate it so it can be used for a door prize. Bring donations to a MQ meeting or contact Linda at 612-414-9620 to arrange for it to be picked up.

The 2018 show is just around the corner. This year there will be three (or possibly more) baskets up for raffle. Each basket will be filled to the brim with items donated by members and vendors. Raffle Tickets cost only $2 during the show in St. Cloud in June.

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**Non-Judged Quilt Entries**

Wanda Shelton and Kathleen Winters nonjudged@mnquilt.org

Quilt sleeves are a necessary part of entering a quilt in the MQ show in the Judged, Non-Judged and Youth exhibits. Here are instructions for making a hanging sleeve and attaching it to your quilt.

Cut fabric 9 inches by the width of the finished quilt. Hem the short ends of the fabric.

Fold the fabric lengthwise wrong sides together. Crease the fold.
Open the fabric and place it wrong side up. Bring each long edge to the center crease.
Press the new folds firmly, or edge-stitch the folds to maintain the creases.

Open the fabric wrong side up. Bring the long edges together and stitch them together.
This creates a tube of fabric with the seamed area between the creases being smaller than the unseamed area.

Place the tube on the back of the quilt with the seamed area against the quilt. The tube will lie flat against the quilt with a bulged area for the hanging rod to be inserted.

Stitch the top crease (or edge-stitched fold) to the top of the quilt.
Make sure the sleeve is lying flat against the quilt, and then stitch the bottom crease (or edge-stitched fold) flat against the quilt.

If your quilt is longer than 90 inches, its sleeve must be no higher than 90 inches from the top of the quilt. This prevents the bottom of your quilt from lying on the floor and being stepped on. Follow the construction instructions above, but attach the sleeve so the top of the sleeve is no higher than 90 inches from the bottom edge of the quilt.

**President’s Invitational**

Adrianne Lemberg, president@mnquilt.org

The President’s Invitational exhibit at our annual show invites quilters to make bed-sized quilts to be donated to Prior Crossing, a place where young people who have experienced homelessness now live and thrive. When a person is homeless, virtually every decision and action is about how to survive. The young people living at Prior Crossing are adjusting to stability, creating community, and can finally dream big. To offer a comfort quilt to every new resident is our goal.

Some Minnesota Quilters recently toured Prior Crossing. Residents, both male and female, sign leases and pay rent. The efficiency apartments are about the size of a basic college dorm room but designed with a bathroom, kitchen area, seating, and bed. Mattresses measure 55” x 80”. Quilts, sized for those beds, may have a touch of ruby to celebrate Minnesota Quilter’s 40th year. MQ logo labels for the back of each quilt will be available at our April membership meetings. No hanging sleeves are needed on the quilts.

**From left: Efficiency apartment, commons area, supply room**

**Judged Quilt Entries**

Kate Eelkema and Melissa Griggs
2018 Judged Co-Chairs, judged@mnquilt.org

The Judged Quilt entries have been arriving online, and we are impressed with how many hand-quilted quilts have been entered. Evidently many quilters have decided to slow down and enjoy the meditative effect of the in-and-out motion of pushing a needle through fiber.

We have a few entries in the new Wholecloth category, too, but we would like to see several more. How about entering a Modern Wholecloth quilt? Make the whole quilt an expanse of negative space with some modern quilting designs across its surface.

Have you finished a Block of the Month or kit quilt from your favorite quilt shop, or did you put together a Row by Row quilt as you traveled to quilt shops last summer? Enter those quilts in the Workmanship category.

We had only six quilts in the Miniature category last year. You still have plenty of time to complete a miniature quilt before the deadline. There are thirteen other categories, also. Finish those quilts so you can share your art with all the show visitors in St. Cloud in June, and you might even receive a monetary award for your efforts.

Remember, the deadline for entries is 2 pm on Monday, April 16th.

**MQ Show and Volunteer Pins**

Wynn Martin
wynnerquilts@gmail.com

The search for show pins and volunteer pins continues. We are looking for show pins from 1980 through 1986 and 1988. We are also looking for volunteer pins from 1979 through 1995.

Please look in your collections, and contact Wynn Martin if you have one or more to contribute. Here is the first show button.
March Show & Tell Quilts

Many of the quilts shown at the January meetings are here and on the following page. Thank you to Peggy Stockwell and Carrie D’Andrea for taking these photos.

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 could not be reliably matched to its photo, 3-the quilter did not indicate permission for MQ to print the photo, or 4-the quilter did not sign in on the sheet.

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.

We like seeing your quilts in Show and Tell, and we’d also like to see them in the MQ show in June—enter in the Judged, Non-Judged, or Youth exhibits.

Anne Marcellis
Ann Tiller—two quilts
Jude Edling
Argene Whalen
Cathy Moos
Debby Heymans—two quilts
Glendia Fulkerson—two quilts
Jan Schmidt
Kim Becker
Who Said “I Don’t Like Leftovers”?  

Leftovers, the most dreaded meal on the weekly menu. I actually like some leftovers. Why would I cook it in the first place if I didn't already like it? For me they are a free meal, two meals for the price of one, and minimal prep and clean up. But some people are hard to please and try as one might, it's hard to disguise Sunday's roast or Monday's meatloaf. Somehow someone seated at the table always recognizes the repurposed meat as a previous dinner no matter the color of the sauce or amount of gravy used to conceal it. Quilt leftovers are another topic altogether. They can come in the form of scraps leftover from a previous finished quilt or the remains of an abandoned UFO.

As I walked into a recent MQ meeting, I passed a whole table of leftovers: fabric pieces, yardage, and UFOs. Too much temptation for this quilter, and before I knew it I had acquired yet another UFO. It wasn't even one of my own making. No, this one I actually paid money for. Well, only $5.00 at the Pop-Up garage sale. (I really have to stop looking.) What tempted me through the plastic zippered bag was a view of a vintage Jinny Beyer paisley print. Then I saw the instructions were from a Glad Creations mystery weekend, and the final straw was that most of the clues were done, except for assembling the strip sets into blocks. I even spied some finished blocks (turns out there were only four, but it's a start). At this point did I really have a choice?

Anyway, home it came. Now most things linger in my studio for a year or two as they age to perfection, but this one had already served its time as evidenced by the teal, mauve and tan color scheme (the 'putting it all together' clue is dated 1998). As I was packing for my California trip to take care of three grandchildren for ten days (and don't anyone call this a vacation), I had to grab a few projects to take along. A few days a week all three kids are in school, and I can get some sewing done. Glancing around the room I spied the zippered plastic bag and into the suitcase it went.

Eventually the time arrived for the big reveal. Everyone was gone – the kids to school and their parents off to Aspen – time to unzip the plastic bag. It felt like Christmas all over again. First I put the clues in order, and then I opened each little zip-lock bag of strips, sections, or subsets and counted them to see which clue they belonged to. Next I measured the designer fabric, which I assume was meant for the border as it was not cut and didn't appear in any of the strip sets. However, it was obvious that all of the fabrics had been selected to coordinate with it. Alas, only a yard, which does not a border make for a queen-size quilt.

Time for some creative math to transform the original project into something new, just like reimagining what's left in the Tupperware container in the fridge. If the border is supposed to be 5” finished, I could narrow it by 1/2 to 1”, and that would give me seven 5” cut strips equaling 160” of border. From there I went to the last clue to see the block layout and determine how much of the quilt I could make to maximize the amount of border fabric I had. The original pattern makes a 5 by 7 block quilt, I had enough for a 3 by 5 block finish, basically downsizing from a queen to a twin. Not bad for $5.

Now I can’t wait to get home and start on this quilt. I'm thinking about it in terms of the 'clean plate' club - all those times I couldn't leave the table until my plate was empty. Now if someone would just threaten me with not leaving my quilt room until this project is finished.
Block of the Month – May 2018
Shoo Fly

Jeanne LaMoore, Kathie Simon Frank
botm@mnquilt.org

11-½” square (unfinished)

Fabrics:
Choose a colorful all-over flowered fabric for the Fly and a cream fabric for the background.

Cutting directions:
Flowered Fabric:
A: 1 2” x 2” square (You may fussy-cut this if there’s a dominant flower in your fabric.)
D: 4 2 ½” x 2 ½” squares
G: 2 1 ¼” x 9” strips for 2nd border
H: 2 1 ¼” x 10 ½” strips for 2nd border
Cream (background):
B: 4 2” x 3 ½” rectangles
C: 4 3 ¼” x 3 ½” squares
E: 2 1” x 8” strips for first border
F: 2 1” x 9” strips for first border
I: 2 1” x 10 ½” strips for outer border
J: 2 1” x 11 ½” strips for outer border

Assembly directions:
On each D (2 ½” flowered square) draw one line diagonally on the wrong side. RST place a D square on one corner of a C 3 ½” square with the ends of the diagonal line touching the sides of C. Sew on the line. Trim off the corner of D and C leaving a ¼” seam allowance. Press D down to fill the empty corner of C, returning it to a 3 1 2” square. Repeat for remaining C and D squares.
Sew one C/D square to a B rectangle. Add a D/C to the other side of B. Press seams toward B. Repeat with the remaining two C/D, B, and D/C pieces.
Sew the short side of B to the left side of A; add the other B to the right side. Press seams toward B.
Assemble center of block. Sew C/D+B+D/C strip to the B+A+B strip. Then sew the other C/D+B+D/C strip to the other side of B+A+B. Press seams to one side. Center section should measure 8” x 8”. Trim if needed.
Attach borders. Border 1: Sew an E to the top and bottom of the center square. Press border outward. Sew on Border strips F to each side of center square. Border 2: Attach G (flowered fabric) to the top and bottom of the growing square. Sew one H to each side. Finally, sew I strips to the top and bottom of the center square. And sew J strips onto each side. Block should measure 11 ½”.

BOM GUIDELINES: Each person may enter up to three blocks each month. Please include your name, address, and phone number on your block(s). (You can 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, mail them to the MQ office. Please allow adequate time for them to arrive. Address: Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. We’ll have a drawing for the blocks at the Saturday meeting. Winners will be notified by phone if not present. Winning blocks may be mailed, picked up during the month at the MQ office, or claimed at the next meeting.
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