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

Minnesota Quilters Show Preview—Look Who’s Turning 40

You won’t want to miss the big reveal at the MQ January 4th and 6th meetings. As always, the meetings feature a PowerPoint preview of the 2018 faculty and their classes as well as an enticing display of samples and supply lists for the projects. This is presented by the Faculty committee of Rose Allen and Yvonne Curran. But there is so much more being prepared for you. Several committees will host an information table to answer your questions or to demonstrate procedures to help you get ready for online registration, online quilt entry and for enjoying and volunteering at the show.

Foremost on everyone’s to-do list is to purchase tickets to win our spectacular red and white raffle quilts—Ruby (97” by 97”) and Just the Start (64” x 80”). Construction was organized by Jude Edling, and ticket sales are managed by Kate Jones and Donna Rockette.

Remember that all show registrations will be online this year. If you aren’t sure how to accomplish that, Jan Schmidt and Char Wenger will walk you through the process.

To avoid a wait in long lines to enter the show, stop by the Admissions table where Mary Tague and Nancy Hall will sell advance tickets. Kathie Simon Frank and Merle Pratt will entice you to attend the Anniversary Banquet and the Meet the Teachers social before the banquet dinner.

There are so many opportunities to enter your quilts. The Judged committee of Kate Eelkema and Melissa Griggs will show you how to safely package and send your quilts. Wanda Shelton and Kathleen Winters want your Non-Judged entries. Paulette Marini and Lisa Stene encourage you to assist the next generation of quilters enter the Youth Exhibit.

Still looking for a Challenge? Jude Edling has the rules and fabric packets for the 2018 Challenge, and she encourages you to order the 2019 Challenge packets online to ensure that one is reserved for you.

In addition to quilts by members, we thank Marcia Rocheleau and Tracy Eller for coordinating several Special Exhibits to enjoy at the show. Stop by their table to preview some examples.

It wouldn’t be a quilt show without an opportunity to shop. Mary Wellman and Loretta Stone have been busy selecting merchandise to tempt you. Many items will be available at the meetings. To plan your shopping at the show, stop by the Vendor area to see a list of the shops and companies that have signed up for booths. If your favorite shop is not there, please add it to the suggestion box. For those quilters who like to get out and about during the show, Mary Jane Heng and Kathy Reisinger are planning an enjoyable Charming Stroll.

Virginia Gleason and Margaret Lundberg want you to encourage the quilt shops you frequent to organize bus tours to the show. There is special pricing for Saturday tours, and contrary to popular belief, vendors still have lots of merchandise available. Bus tours are a great way to arrive without the hassle of parking and your entry ticket is included so you get to walk right in. E-mail bustours@mnquilt.org if you have questions. It’s always more fun when you share the experience of coming to the show, being at the show, and when returning home.

Donations are always welcome at the Door Prize table where Linda Huntzicker and Kathy Grinsteiner will collect quilt-related items.

If you want to contribute your quilting talents, Lynnette Wass and Carla Kilkeley will gladly take your small quilts at the Small Quilt Auction table.

We hope you have the gift of time to offer as Virginia Gleason will be signing up members at the Volunteer table. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the show—set up, take down, and in between, selling entry tickets, raffle tickets and MQ merchandise, white gloving and providing information. Please volunteer for a shift or more.

Don’t forget to bring your Registration book which Karen Knoll expertly organized; you can highlight all of the classes and special events you want to enjoy at the show. If you can, please help deliver copies of the Registration book to your favorite quilt shops.

We can’t wait to see you in January and share the excitement of our Ruby year!
### Upcoming Events

**January 4 and 6, MQ Member Meetings**

**January 15, Long Range Program Planning Meeting** 6 pm

**January 16, MQ Finance Meeting, 5-9 pm**

**January 23, MQ Board Meeting, 5-9 pm**

**June 14-16, 2018, MQ Quilt Show & Conference, St. Cloud, Minnesota**

More calendar information available on the MQ website: [http://www.mnquilt.org/meetings.html](http://www.mnquilt.org/meetings.html)

Directions and map to our meetings on the MQ website: [http://www.mnquilt.org/location.html](http://www.mnquilt.org/location.html)

### DEADLINE for February Newsletter:

Tuesday, January 9. Please send newsletter articles to editor@mnquilt.org. Later submissions may be saved for the following month’s newsletter. The newsletter deadline is Tuesday after the Saturday meeting.

### Message From Our President

Adrienne Lemberg, president@mnquilt.org

Best wishes for a very happy new year to each of you. I hope your holidays were joyful. The holiday brunch was a festive awakening into the season of giving. The holiday spirit was felt in the air, heard in the chatter and laughter and especially exuded through the generous donations of stockings, wheelchair quilts, knitted hats and more from the MQ members. I delighted in meeting Mary Chalmers, 2018 Quilter of the Year. She touched my heart when she expressed that it is her quilter friendships that she most treasures about quilting.

Hopefully you are all perusing the 2018 show registration book to plan for your June getaway. The 2018 show committee has been busy all fall working out show details before the book was sent to printing. You may have noticed the book is a bit downsized, as a need be mindful of our costs. Karen Knoll deserves a lot of credit for the many hours she worked with the board and show committee to reformat the book. Bring your show book to our January meetings to follow along and check all the classes you may want to take.

Looking ahead to our February meetings—Amanda Jean Nyberg is the featured speaker. More information is below.

Whether you are a snowbird or staying put to enjoy our crystalline winter, it’s a perfect time to work on a quilt for our show. With so many quilt categories to enter there should be a good match for each of us.

### Coming in February—Amanda Jean Nyberg

Amanda Jean Nyberg will show quilts from her newest book *No Scrap Left Behind* on Thursday, February 1. On Friday, February 2, she will present Spin Class as a workshop. Saturday morning, she will lecture about the 101 Scrap Challenge, using scraps of all sizes in non-quilt projects.

An e-mail invitation will be sent soon for the Friday class.
2018 Quilter of the Year, Mary Chalmers

Minnesota Quilters was pleased to honor our 2018 Quilter of the Year, Mary Chalmers, accompanied by her husband “Mr. Mary” Gordy Chalmers and her daughter, Michelle, at our holiday brunch. Members were charmed by Mary’s presentation and a sampling of her exquisite wool quilts. Mary does not have a stash but rather purchases fabric as she needs. Often her wool quilts are driven by donations given to her. She does her own machine quilting on her 20-year-old Bernina, fitting each quilt through the 6-inch opening.

For more than 20 years Mary Chalmers has been competing in national, state, and local quilt shows and winning more than a hundred awards. At the American Quilt Society Show in Paducah, Kentucky, she won first place in 2015 in the category of quilting on a home machine, second place in 2010 on a wool quilt, and honorable mention in 1995 on a white whole cloth quilt, Snow Dance. Her Vestments quilt won third place at the AQS Show in Des Moines, Iowa, while she achieved the Best Embellishment award at the Mid Atlantic Show. In 2010 AQS magazine published an article of her embroidery technique for wool quilts. Mary’s quilts were also featured in the AQS Quilt Engagement Calendar.

Mary Chalmers, of Wilmar, Minnesota, enjoys trying new methods and materials to continually evolve her quilting style. In the 70’s she stitched scrappy quilts. Currently she is very passionate about her hand embroidered wool quilts and feels that stitching these quilts is exactly what she was meant to do. Mary, a delightful light-hearted speaker, is extremely generous using her time and knowledge to promote quilting in Minnesota.

MQ Holiday Brunch

It was the second of December, and for most of us it was our first scheduled holiday event. What a wonderful way to begin the season. As the 150 guests arrived, they dropped off their exchange blocks, stockings for St. Joseph's Home, lap quilts and placemats. Then they headed for the make and take table to collect the supplies to make holiday/winter snow globes. It was exciting to see everyone choosing their pieces for their imaginative vignettes. Committee members were introduced: Sharon Birnbaum, Suzanne Fisher, Elise Frederick, Karen Knoll, Laura Nagel and Patty Von Arx. President Adrianne Lemberg introduced our Quilter of the Year, Mary Chalmers, who shared several of her award-winning masterpiece quilts with the group. We are looking forward to her exhibit in St. Cloud.

Everyone was encouraged to vote for a Viewer’s Choice for Stockings and Quilt on a Stick entries while they lined up for the delicious brunch. Following our meal, each table was challenged to complete as many of the Holiday Name That Tune trivia questions as possible. The only rule was – no cell phones. There was a lot of humming heard among the would-be carolers. Time was called, and the two tables with the most correct answers won a gift bag for each member of the group. Door prizes were distributed, including some cute sewing Santas donated by Ellen Carter and a new pattern and template set contributed by Sandy Irish. Sandra Johnson’s name was drawn for the end of the year volunteer, and before you knew it, the party was almost over. The only thing left to do was give away the centerpiece snow globe to the person who was attending the largest Christmas Day gathering.

Thank you to all who came and for the several members who signed up for the 2018 holiday brunch committee.
Faculty Preview

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

Gail Garber

Bold, colorful, and stunning geometric designs with flying geese galore – that’s how you know you’re looking at one of Gail’s quilts. Her style has become immediately recognizable because of her talent for combining vivid colors with intricate piecework. Her geometric star quilts and pictorial quilts have won awards at shows throughout the United States and have been featured in publications worldwide. Students love her ability to make these designs achievable even for novice quilt designers.

Gail says, “For me, teaching is my greatest reward in quilting. I love giving students new skills and the confidence to create their own original designs. My favorite classes are multi-day workshops where students explore design in-depth and new information is presented at a rate that can be easily absorbed. However, there is a very special place in my heart for ½ day classes that focus on basic paper foundation piecing techniques. Seeing that ‘aha’ moment, when a quilter who has previously struggled with foundation piecing finally gets it, has got to be one of my most rewarding moments as a teacher.”

Gail’s workshops are appropriate for all skill levels and range from beginner (never before sewn on a sewing machine) to advanced design. Her specialties include drafting original quilts with free-form shapes, designing circular stars and circular borders, basic paper foundation piecing, and color and contrast. She loves teaching students to use a compass and flex curve to create drawings that will eventually be beautiful art quilts. Her students enjoy the hands-on, no-stress approach.

Gail will be teaching all four days of the show.

Introduction to Freezer Paper Foundation Piecing
Half-day class

The Goose is Loose, Designing with Free Form Shapes
Two-day class

Scrumptious Star Stitchery
One-day class

Designing Circular Borders
Half-day class
Small Quilt Auction  Lynnette Wass and Carla Kilkelley, smallquiltauction@mnquilt.org

If your New Year's resolution includes cleaning and organizing the sewing room, don't put those Christmas reds away too deep. We would like you to include a small quilt for the auction in June as part of your to-do list.

It can be any design, traditional or modern, but we encourage you to incorporate red into it for our ruby year—a red binding or border, red centers for log cabins or that red spark in a 30's reproduction.

There will be ribbons and rewards for the ones most well done. So, get started while those beautiful reds are still handy and calling your name.

Minnesota Quilters 2019 Challenge - Global Inspiration  Jude Edling, challenge@mnquilt.org

Minnesota Quilters celebrates its show return to Rochester, a truly international city, with the Challenge Global Inspiration. Rochester is a world center for healthcare. Not only do people from all parts of the world come to Rochester for healthcare, but many healthcare providers are international citizens. Rochester is home to people from all habitable continents.

We are privileged to have at our fingertips beautiful fabrics and techniques found all around the globe, and the theme celebrates that. Earth supports infinite variety. I expect an extraordinary variety of quilts exploring the earth and all her creatures, citizens, climes and cultures.

Cherrywood Fabrics created two bundles of four fat quarters each, one colored deep and one bright of red, blue, yellow, and green. Each entry must use all four Cherrywood fabrics plus one or two international fabrics. White and black fabric is optional. The international fabric should be easily recognized as international: African, Asian, Australian, European, South Pacific Island, Inuit, Mayan, Latin, sub-continental Indian, Middle Eastern, just to name a few. It is not limited to cotton. Imagine Cherrywood fabric with Indian sari silks, Japanese silks and satins, Irish linen, Scottish wool tartan (but you had better know the clan) or llama wool. Explore international quilting and embroidery techniques such as Sashiko, Celtic inspired bias work, Hmong and Guatemalan.

Look beyond our borders for your Global Inspiration and then bring it home to Rochester in 2019.
What's new this year in the Judged Competition? Kate Eelkema and Melissa Griggs
2018 Judged Co-Chairs, judged@mnquilt.org

The 2018 Show Registration book has a few changes from last year in the information about Judged Quilts.
First, be sure to notice the new Wholecloth category. We had so many beautiful Wholecloth quilts entered into the Other category last year that we decided to separate them into their own category. Wholecloth quilts are all about the quilting, so this is a chance to showcase your best hand or machine quilting.
Second, notice the new Machine Quilting designations: Stationary Machine Quilting and Moveable Machine Quilting. These should be easier to understand.
● When you are quilting your quilt, does your machine stay in one place while you move the fabric layers under it? Then it is Stationary Machine Quilting (such as by most domestic sewing machines or midarm quilting machines).
● Or, are the layers of your quilt attached to rollers and you move the machine across the surface of the fabric layers? Then it is Moveable Machine Quilting (such as with most longarm machines).
Also notice that quilts will not be accepted at the May membership meetings this year, but they may be dropped off at either the MQ office or at Kate's house in Minnetonka the last week in May. These two locations should be convenient for many people. If they are not convenient, please ship your quilt to the MQ office to arrive during the dates listed in the registration book.
Lastly, you will notice that there is no entry form in the registration book because all entries will be done online this year. Most national quilt shows have moved to all electronic entries, and MQ is joining their ranks. However, do not despair if you are unable to complete your online entry by yourself. There is help at quiltentryhelp@mnquilt.org.
If you have any questions about entering the judged portion of the MQ show, please contact us at judged@mnquilt.org.

Top ten reasons to enter your quilt in the Non-judged Category

Wanda Shelton and Kathleen Winters
nonjudged@mnquilt.org

10 – You support the guild. We won’t have a quilt show without quilts.
9 – Online entry is easy, and help is available if you don’t believe it’s easy.
8 – Non-judged entries are eligible for viewers’ choice and other awards.
7 – You take pride in your workmanship, pattern selection, and color and design choices.
6 – You can eavesdrop on comments made by viewers. Viewers see the overall magnificence of your work, not the tiny errors you find glaring.
5 – There is no entry fee for MQ members in the non-judged category.
4 – You don’t need a professional photo of your quilt – just a snapshot to help us plan the layout of the exhibit.
3 – You want to show your quilt to friends and relatives in person. They’ll be awed.
2 – Your quilt looks spectacular when hung in a bay at the show. Every quilt looks more artistic in an exhibit than spread on a bed or hung on a wall of your house.
1 – You finished it!

Bonus: You can enter two quilts in Non-judged, so enter two!

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.
Quilt on a Stick entries at the Holiday Brunch

More entries are on the next page. Be sure to notice the clever containers or stands as well as the quilts.
Volunteer Corner

Nancy Hall, Loretta Stone, Mary Tague
Volunteer Coordinators 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 to win a door prize, but we need your hours recorded to turn in to the bookkeeper at the end of the fiscal year. For the year ending September 30th we turned in 2,329 hours from volunteer slips and the Minnesota Quilt Project. Thanks so much to all of you who turn in hours on the slips each month.

If any of you are interested in the following positions, or if you 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 1st, and there are some open positions. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering. This is a volunteer organization, and we need your participation.

Currently available positions:

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

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

Business Member Coordinator: This person contacts quilting businesses to become members of our club. 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.
Quilting for Others

Our goal was to have 45 wheelchair quilts for nursing home residents, and you wonderful quilters delivered 72 quilts to us! The staff at the Good Samaritan Home are just delighted. They will be giving them out at their Holiday Party on December 22. We thank all of you who showed up for work days for these quilts, those that took kits home to work on, and those who just made quilts on their own. Enjoy your own holidays a little bit more knowing that you have made a difference in the lives of people you don't even know.

At the MQ Holiday Brunch you also turned in many heartstring blocks and baby quilts. Minnesota Quilters is blessed to have so many who are willing to give of their time and talent for quilting for others. Thank you, thank you!

Elise Fredrick delivered 414 stockings, 6 bags of knitted hats and toys, and more than $300 in cash and gift cards to St Joseph's Children's Homes. So awesome. Thank you for your generous service and kind hearts.

Our current projects for Quilting For Others continue to be the heartstring blocks and quilts for the Harriet Tubman Center and baby quilts for Minnesota Visiting Nurses. We are also going into ‘placemat mode’ hoping you will all want to help us create placemats for seniors in the Saint Cloud area who receive home delivered meals. We will be delivering those at the time of the 2018 show in Saint Cloud. We will be scheduling some work days in 2018, but you can always work on these projects in your own sewing room or with your quilting friends.
December Show & Tell Quilts

Many of the quilts shown at the December Holiday Brunch are here and on the following page. Thank you to 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 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.
2018 Mystery Quilt

The annual Mystery Quilt has been a successful fundraiser for MQ. Participants have had a ball in the private Facebook group. They posted pictures of fabric selections, the blocks as they were finished, the final quilt, and got advice and encouragement.

In 2018 MQ has another mystery quilt designed just for us. It’s a traditional quilt designed by Kari Schell. There is no applique or curved piecing. Join the fun.

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

The Amazing $10 New Member Roll Back Offer

Wynn Martin, wynnerquilts@gmail.com

For a limited time, MQ 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 meetings, 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.

Bulletin Board

February 13 - March 9, Dakota County Star Quilters Show, UFO Sightings, Dakota County Historical Museum, 130 3rd Avenue North, South Saint Paul, Minnesota. Suggested donation to museum is $5. Chris Hoover of Whirligig Designs lectures ($6 lecture ticket includes donation to museum) at 1 pm and 7 pm on Tuesday, February 13, and teaches a class, Gooseberry Falls, on Saturday, February 24, ($40 including pattern). More information at dcsq.org. Call Nanette at 612-860-0862 for class information.
Who’s Who on the Show Committee...

Here are additional photos of MQ members who are on the show committee. Others were printed in the last newsletter.

Laura Nagel
Show Coordinator

Merle Pratt
Banquet

Paulette Marini
Youth Exhibit

Peggy Stockwell
Photography

Yvonne Curran, Rose Allen
Faculty

Donna Rockette
Raffle Quilt Tickets

And the Office Staff...

Renae Shields, Bookkeeper
Brenda Lyseng, Show Director

MQ 40th Anniversary Signature Quilt

Carolyn Silflow, mqp@mnquilt.org

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

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

The blocks will be available to sign at MQ meetings and at the show in 2018 where we will have the top on display. You may also send blocks to Pat Cox at 6601 Normandale Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435.

Quilt Bombing, How it is Done

Elise Frederick, preselect@mnquilt.org

Stop by the quilt bombing kiosk at the January meeting to find out how you can help commemorate the 40th Ruby Anniversary Minnesota Quilters Show with a fiber form of graffiti or street art. Watch a demo of a quilt bombing project assembly and installation.

Participate by donating your orphan blocks, volunteering to assemble donated blocks into building block sizes, or help with the installation or take down at the show.

Donations of orphan blocks will be accepted at the meeting.
Block of the Month – February 2018
Country Charm Variation

Jeanne LaMoore, Kathie Simon Frank
botm@mnquilt.org

10 ½” square (unfinished)

Fabrics: White or white-on-white for the background
    Dark shade of a color
    Light shade of the same color

Cutting (see alternate plan below!):
White background:
3  1 1/2” x 8”  piece A
2  1” x 8”   piece D
2  1” x 9”   piece E
Dark shade of your color:
6  1 1/4” x 4 1/4”  piece B
2  1 1/4” x 9   piece F
2  1 1/4” x 10 1/2” piece G
Light shade of your color:
6  1 1/4” x 4 1/4”  piece C

Instructions:
1. Sew short ends of two colored pieces together in pairs: one B (dark strip) to one C (light strip) to make pieces (bars) 1 1/4” x 8”. Gently press seams to the dark side. Make 6 bars.
2. Sew these bars together in groups of three alternating dark on top with light on top. Nestle the seams together. Set 1 = B+C+C/B+B+C. Reverse color order in set 2 = C+B/B+C/C+B. The dark bar will be on the top left in one set and the light bar will be on the top left in the second set. (See diagram.)
3. Alternating A with each of the 2 bar-sets you’ve just made, construct a piece A + BC/CB/BC + A + CB/BC/CB + A. Measure and trim square to 8” x 8”.
4. Border 1. Add a 1”x8” D to the top and bottom of the 8” square. Press seams toward the center of the square. Then add E (1” x 9” pieces) to the sides of the square. Trim to 9” x 9”.
5. Border 2. Add 1 1/4” x 9” F to the top and bottom of the 9” square. Then add remaining 1 1/4” x 10 1/2” G to the sides of the block. Press open. Square to 10 1/2” x 10 1/2”.

Note: The key to success in making this block is to make sure you’re sewing a scant 1/4” seam and that you’re pressing your seams after each addition. This will make all the difference and should result in making a square and accurately-sized block.

Alternate cutting and sewing directions: One could strip-piece the dark and light pieces. That would make the cutting easier. To strip piece the B/C pieces, cut 1 dark piece (B) 4 1/4” x 8” and 1 light piece (C) 4 1/4” x 8”. Sew together to make one piece 8” x 8”. Press toward the dark fabric. Cut 6 pieces BC 1 1/4” x 8”.

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. 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.

Note: Origami Fun is the block of the month to turn in at the January meetings. Refer to the November newsletter for its pattern and construction details.
Picking up the Pieces

Cheers to the New Year

If you're like me, to get ready for the holidays you put away your quilting projects and cleaned up your sewing areas, finally took down the ironing board and cleared the dining room table. Now you are untrimming the tree and packing up the Santas, reindeer, carolers, nativity scenes, and anything else that resembles the festive season. I know you already ate all the cookies, so you don't have to worry about storing any of those.

Eventually everything is in order and you have a clean slate (and table) on which to write your quilting escapades for the New Year. But where to start? What should you take out first, or would you rather begin a new project? Is there an old UFO nagging your conscience? Too many decisions can cause an eager quilter to get stuck in neutral when you would rather be in high gear.

Here are a few suggestions for helping you shift gears and get the New Year of quilting off to a good beginning. Start with something small – a mug rug, a postcard quilt, MQ's President's block – anything that will get the machine threaded, the iron heated up, and a new blade in the rotary cutter.

Maybe you're in the middle of a project with several repetitive sections or blocks. You probably know how to make this without even thinking about it, so sit down and get started. Before you know it you will have several done, and the end will be in sight (or at least a little closer). Either way, it's a good filler until you decide what you really want to concentrate on.

Definitely don't labor over an 'obligation' project during this time. It will only drag you down, and will not generate any enthusiasm to return to your quilt room. A project like this can also lead to procrastination of the worst type – the type that causes you to think that cleaning the oven should be a priority over quilting!

Perusing your quilt magazines and books is actually a beneficial use of your time. A bundle of fat quarters to anyone who can read their monthly magazines the month they come and pass them on. I always have a stack and find it takes three passes to complete each one. First I look at each page just to see what's new and which patterns are included. Second I actually read it cover to cover, highlighting any important information, turning down the corners of pages I want to keep, and writing notes on post-its if I have ideas for changes in a project. Finally I sit down with scissors and a stapler and remove the articles I want to save, classify them with a heading for filing, and then discard the leftovers. I know what you are thinking – but I really do enjoy this process.

Still not out of your quilt slump yet? Turn on the TV and see what Fons & Porter are up to. PBS also offers Sewing with Nancy (who will be deeply missed) and Quilting Arts for innovative techniques. Or go to YouTube and watch a quilting how-to video. My favorites are with Jenny Doan from Missouri Star Quilt Company. But you can find helpful videos on any quilt topic from using specialty rulers to machine quilting. Just remember at some point you need to resist automatically clicking on the next episode.

I hesitate to say this, but when all else fails, head to your most inspiring quilt shop. They will have the newest lines of fabrics, new patterns, new samples, and some offer an in-house quilt show or trunk show to get your New Year off on the right foot. Be sure to check out their classes. Speaking of classes, you won't want to miss the January MQ meeting when we preview the 2018 Quilt Show and Conference.

As for me, I am turning the last page of the 2017 calendar, and with pen in hand I am ready to schedule my quilting engagements: MQ monthly meetings, my small quilt group monthly get-togethers, Twin Cities Shop Hop, the annual Quilt Show in St. Cloud, a road trip TBD, and the Quilt Expo in Madison. Look at all of the blank days still left to fill in with my own quilting time and quilt-ins with my friends. If I really want to dream big, there are quilt cruises and tours to far off places to consider. I can tell it's going to be a very good and productive year for quilting. I wish the same for you in the New Year.

Textile Center Tool Library

Did you know that Textile Center Library has tools to lend?

One of the benefits of MQ membership is access to Textile Center Library. Along with being one of the largest repositories of circulating textile related books in the United States, the library collection also has tools available for lending.

They currently have tools for many different textile arts from polymer clay molds to batik printing blocks. For quilters they have a variety of rulers. Rather than purchase a specific ruler for that one quilt you want to make, check Textile Center Tool Lending library to see if you can borrow it.

You can check out tools, books and magazines for 35 days. All MQ current members are in the library’s database, so just provide your name. You can see the available collection online at https://textilecentermn.org/library/.

Textile Center Library, located at 3000 University Avenue Southeast in Minneapolis, is open mornings Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm, evenings Monday through Thursday 5 pm to 7 pm, open Tuesday all day, and Saturday from noon to 4 pm.
PADUCAH QUILT WEEK BUS TRIP, April 17-22, 2018 "UFFDAH PADUCAH" on luxury coach, many meals, quilt shops, events and prizes. You won’t want to come home!
Details at http://rhensnest.weebly.com

Did You Know...? Minnesota Quilters receives cash back when members shop Amazon Smile and have designated MQ as their non-profit.

KELWOOD RETREAT
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New website!

Gammill

We welcome ‘The Quilting Page’ to our Gammill family. Page Johnson and her staff in Eagan, MN will be our new sales and training location for At the Heart of Quilting. When you are looking for a Vision 2.0 hand guided machine or Statler Stitcher computer guided machine, be sure to give The Quilting Page a call at 651-214-4545.

At the Heart of Quilting will continue to offer machine support, longarm supplies and more at our Beloit, WI location. Call us at 877-633-3537 or go to our website at www.heartofquilting.com.
Keep Sending in Your Pins

Wynn Martin wynnerquilts@gmail.com

First of all, thanks to each member who has provided one or more pins for our office wall hanging. It's been great fun to see each pin and also to talk with you as you contribute to the collection. As of December 6 we have almost all the show pins and more than half of the volunteer pins from our forty year history.

This month was especially fun because I was contacted by Agnes Leer, one of our founding members. She offered her 1979 show pin, from the very first quilt show! This show was part of the St. Paul Winter Carnival and had a wintery theme. With this wonderful gift we just need show pins for 1980-1986, plus 1988. In addition, we are still looking for volunteer pins for 1979-1995, plus 2002.

Thanks again and keep looking for those missing pins. If you are willing to contribute, please contact Wynn Martin at wynnerquilts@gmail.com or 612-360-5308.

Click on any web address to be taken directly to the sponsor website from this online newsletter.

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The mission of Minnesota Quilters, Inc. is to further the preservation of quilting, to educate and to document the art and craft of quilting in Minnesota.

Established April, 1978.

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

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- **$40 Regular** Access to all website features. Receive newsletter via email. Early registration for annual show. Textile Center Library privileges.
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For questions call 651-224-3572