Minnesota Quilters Holiday Brunch
Saturday, December 1, 10 am

Charlette.pittman1@gmail.com

Edinburgh USA Golf Course Clubhouse
8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55433

Join us for the Holiday Brunch to begin the seasonal festivities with quilting friends. Consider taking part in the following projects to share the fun of quilting and giving to others.

**Holiday Challenge**—Make a small holiday-themed quilt, pieced or appliquéd, embellished, and hand- or machine-quilted, that is no larger than 32 by 42 inches. Include a wrapped package in the design.

**Christmas Stockings for St. Joseph’s Home for Children**—Make one or more or many more handmade Christmas stockings that we donate to St. Joseph’s Home for Children in Minneapolis. A pattern and simple directions are at mnquilt.org. Click on Quilting for Others under the Meetings tab. You can also bring stocking stuffers and/or a donation to help fill the stockings. Make checks payable to St. Joseph’s Home for Children. For St. Joseph’s to acknowledge your donation, please include a list of your donations with your name and address.

**Holiday- or Winter-Themed Placemats for Meals on Wheels**—Make as many holiday- or winter-themed placemats as you wish. We will donate them to Meals on Wheels in Minneapolis which provides 250 meals daily for people who have food needs.

**Quilt Block Exchange**—Make one or two or three quilt blocks for our usual holiday exchange. Use white or off-white as the background. The unfinished block size is 12½”. In a few years you’ll have enough blocks for a holiday quilt. This is a guilt-free unfinished project; after all, you are still collecting blocks.

**Prior Crossing Quilts**—If your quilt for the President’s Invitational didn’t get finished in time for the MQ show in June, you can finish it now and bring it to the Holiday Brunch.

We look forward to seeing you and your quilter friends at the brunch.

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**January Meetings Preview**

The January meetings showcase the classes, lectures and special events at the upcoming MQ show to be held in June in Rochester. Planning the show is well underway by the Show Committee volunteers who are listed on page 7 in this issue.

Meet Valerie Mendoza, the newly hired Show Director, on page 2. She joins Debra Svedberg and Renae Shields as MQ’s office staff.

Bring your registration book to the January meetings to mark classes you’d like to take and lectures you want to attend. See the class samples to help you decide. A preliminary listing of faculty and classes is on page 7.

Make a note of the deadlines to enter your quilts in the Judged, Non-Judged, and Challenge categories. Plan to enter one or more quilts, take some classes and enjoy the show with quilters from around the area.
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Upcoming Events
December 1, MQ Holiday Brunch (no Thursday meeting)
December 18, Board and Finance Committee Meeting, 5 pm
January 3 and 5, Member Meetings
June 13-15, 2019, MQ 41st Annual Quilt Show and Conference, Rochester
More calendar information available on the MQ website: http://www.mnquilt.org/meetings.html
Directions and map to our meetings on the MQ website: http://www.mnquilt.org/location.html

DEADLINE for January Newsletter: Tuesday, December 4. 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.

President’s Greeting
Elise Frederick, president@mnquilt.org

Minnesota Quilters 2019 President’s Challenge
For the annual show next June make a baby-size quilt (approximately 36” x 36” up to 45” x 45”) that will be donated to an organization serving families in need.
Your challenge is to be creative with the edges of the quilt. Explore and learn a new technique for finishing the edges of a baby quilt. Will it be bound with fabric cut on the bias or straight of grain? Will it have an envelope finish or a facing? Why hand-stitch when you can finish the binding with a decorative stitch? Will the binding have piping or ric-rack? Will the quilt edges be straight lines, scallops, zig-zags, prairie-points, or curves? Will your critter motif crawl partially off the edge?
To enter a quilt, bring it to an MQ meeting or to the show. All quilts will receive Minnesota Quilters identification labels before they are donated.

Introducing MQ Show Director Valerie Mendoza
Minnesota Quilters hired Valerie Mendoza as Show Director to fill the position that opened when Brenda Lyseng resigned in September. She comes to us with 18 years of event and tradeshow management, logistics coordination, and programming experience. Please welcome Val to our organization.

Hello!
I am very excited to be working with Minnesota Quilters, Inc., and am looking forward to meeting our members. As Elise mentioned, I have been in the events industry for 18 years. I started my career working for a medical association in St. Paul, Minnesota, managing various events and conferences and have since continued similar work for other companies and organizations. I am also active in community groups. I am currently a Co-chair of the Midway Chamber of Commerce Events Committee and am a District Representative of the Dakota County Arts Advisory Council.
I have always had a love for art and the creative spirit. My creativity has been centered on painting, writing, and mixed media assemblage, but I was recently reintroduced to the artistic expression of quilting. It has been wonderful to learn about the various styles and techniques of quilting, as well as to get a better understanding and appreciation of the storytelling, symbolism and community.
In the next several months we will continue the planning and preparation of the 2019 Annual Quilt Show and Conference taking place June 13–15 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.
If you have any questions for me regarding the conference, or want to leave a comment, or even just to introduce yourself, feel free to e-mail me at showdirector@mnquilt.org.
Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank my predecessor, Brenda Lyseng, for the excellent work she did for Minnesota Quilters and its previous conferences. I will continue to ensure that our activities and events are “structured to honor the past, celebrate the present, and nurture the future of the time-honored traditional craft of quilting in all its forms.”

Hard copies of the newsletter will be available for an additional $20 at the time of membership renewal. This charge is to cover the cost of printing and postage. Cash and checks welcome.
Should MQ have a meeting space library? Martha Eaves on behalf of library committee, eavesm@visi.com

Fall is a time of changes, rethinking the past and dreaming or planning for the future. In a big organization like Minnesota Quilters, there can be many opinions about what the future needs might be. The library committee of volunteers met in late October and decided that input from a larger group would certainly help how we ask the Board to prioritize library issues.

Many smaller guilds do not have meeting libraries or even established offices. In the early years MQ’s library was small enough to be carried in boxes of Board Member’s car trunks. There were very few quilt books on the market so those that were written were greatly treasured. Our own MQ members were writing books and sometimes self-publishing them to meet the crying need for more information on how to quilt. There were no YouTube how-to-quilt videos, etc. There were no blogs and no Pinterest sites. Quilting patterns were printed in the newspapers and by batting companies. If you wanted to see a variety of quilts, you had to wait for the quilt shows. No wonder Show and Tell was a favorite part of guild meetings.

Fast forward through MQ’s library history and see that the library was an important resource for members. At the Machinists Hall office we had a separate room for our library with banks of shelves for books. We bought some new books every year (about $250-$400 worth), but it was not uncommon for members also to buy books or donate books to the library.

When we moved into Textile Center building, one of the selling points was that we could merge our library with those of other guilds. We could continue to have access to our books and also borrow beading, crocheting, weaving, and other books from groups that were Textile Center members. We did not give Textile Center our books, rather we shared them and were expected to pay $1 per member per year for having our books become part of Textile Center library services and available to our members. We were also expected to keep our collection updated and provide volunteers to the Textile Center library.

When we moved from Textile Center to the Minneapolis church site, we took some of our books with us and left for “in library use” only our Minnesota Quilt Project historical state books and some of our duplicate books. While we have continuing access to Textile Center’s library and we still have some volunteers there, we have not kept up buying books there. We got a rolling book cart and used it at the Minneapolis church. Our collection became much more limited because of lack of space.

We have now been at Recovery Church for a while and hope to remain there. The Library has added a second rolling cart, and members continue to donate great books. But we have run out of space and the Board has not determined a space priority for the library beyond the two full rolling carts. Additional books are waiting for space.

Thus the question that the Board must answer: Do we want a meeting space library?

If yes, then there is an opportunity to make ours better and more accessible by giving the library space in the third office (adjacent to the social hall) that the church has offered to rent us. If yes, there are other things we could do to make the library of more use. Any member who wants to can help rearrange the books by category: appliqué, pattern books, picture books, historical, etc. We would have room to add some books for checkout.

But, do we want a meeting library? Some people may not see it as a priority any more. The computer and TV options for learning to quilt are more available. Pinterest and blogs allow viewing of shows and other changes. Volunteers are needed for the meeting library to help people find what they want. Money is needed to buy wall shelves and update with some new books. But the biggest need is space.

The new office that has become available could solve this biggest need. The Library Committee thinks we could share that office with others, but we need about 50% of the room to add shelves and maybe store our existing two carts. If this issue is important to you, we ask that you let the Board know through phone calls or e-mail. Please cc eavesm@visi.com on your e-mails so the library committee knows general group wishes. Please provide your views ASAP. This issue of space will be on the November Board agenda. The board meeting is open to those who wish to attend.

—Diamond Sponsors—

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ELNA
SWISS DESIGN

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Volunteer Corner  Nancy Hall, Loretta Stone, Mary Tague  
voluteer@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 check-in tables at the meetings. Not only do you get a chance for a door prize, but we need your hours to give to the bookkeeper for our audit at the end of the fiscal year.

Thanks to all of you who turn in hours on the slips each month. You turned in a total of 2,683 hours for this past fiscal year. Congratulations!

Thank you also to those who are keeping their positions for another year. If any of you are interested in the following position or have questions about it, please send us an e-mail at volunteer@mnquilt.org or talk to us at the meetings.

Currently available position:
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. If this sounds like a position you would enjoy, call a friend to do it with you. This might be more fun when two can go together. For information contact Mary Tague at tague5@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in any other position, please let us know. We would love to be able to find something for you to help with at meetings. Our new fiscal year began October 1, 2018.

Public Relations Coordinator  Peggy Stockwell  
comm@mnquilt.org

Minnesota Quilters needs a Public Relations Coordinator to help keep MQ connected to the outside world. Duties include sending out information on MQ meetings and events to quilt shops and sister organizations, keeping the MQ Quilt Shop listing up to date, and helping with displays and setting up for public events. If you are interested in this important position for one or two people and you would like more information, please send an e-mail to Peggy Stockwell or Karen Knoll at comm@mnquilt.org.

MQP Corner  Carolyn Silflow, mqp@mnquilt.org

As a fundraiser for Minnesota Quilters, the Minnesota Quilt Project group is collecting vintage or antique quilts or tops for sale at the MQP booth at the MQ Show in June 2019. All funds generated are used to support the activities of Minnesota Quilters.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the MQ office. You may drop off your items at the office, or one of our MQP members will pick up the quilt from your location. Sales at the MQP booth are a great way to connect vintage textiles with buyers who will appreciate them. For answers to your questions, contact MQP@mnquilt.org

Bulletin Board

October 12—13, 2019, Mixed Sampler Quilt Guild’s 32nd Annual Quilt Show & Exhibit, 10 am to 4 pm. Webster High School, 7564 W Alder Street, Webster, Wisconsin. Admission $5 (under 12 free) About 200 quilts, vendors, boutique, demonstrations, special exhibit, quilt appraisals by Bev Proulx, on-site café.
The guild meets the second Saturday of most months at Siren Community Center, Highways 35 and 70. To join contact mixedsampler@gmail.com.
Quilting For Others

Quilting For Others has more than 20 twin and baby quilts to be quilted. If anyone is able to do the quilting, please send an e-mail to QFO@mnquilt.org. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

We have set up our Sew Day dates for several months. On the Minnesota Quilters website there is a link to sign up. Click on the Meetings tab and select Quilting for Others. We use Signup Genius to help us. Use this link to create an account: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044a4acaf28a4fc1-quilting

There is no charge to use Signup Genius, and the program will remind you of your volunteer selections.

The next sewing day is Monday, December 17, at Millie P's Retreat Center in Anoka. January 4th we have a Sew Day at Recovery Church in St. Paul. All are welcome to come even if you have not signed up. Times are from 9 am to 3 pm.

Quilts and Mary Tyler Moore Challenge

Take a picture of a quilt on the Mary Tyler Moore statue in downtown Minneapolis at 7th and Nicollet. Post your pictures on Facebook in the Minnesota Quilters Group Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/337462224907/.

A winner will be chosen the first week of January 2019. The winner will receive a prize. Let's see some quilts.

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More Silver Sponsors on page 6.
November Meeting Highlights

The November meetings were a look at the past and how to bring the best of the past forward to today's quilting world. On Thursday evening Jean Carlton showed us a picture of an antique quilt she had purchased because of the treasure trove of old fabrics it contained. She then took it apart (with a lot of help from her seam ripper) block by block. Using those fabrics, she made nine mini quilts showing different styles from traditional to improvisational. It was very inspiring. Jean's blog is found at http://quiltsetcetera.blogspot.com.

On Saturday Minnesota Quilt Project, a standing committee within MQ, presented a program about the importance of documenting quilts in the Quilt Index and how the documentation is done. A few quilts from Pat Cox's collection of antique quilts were shown to demonstrate some of the things a quilt documenter considers, such as block set and sashing.

All in all, it was a very educational weekend.

Diane Rose, Sharyn Resvick
ed@mnquilt.org

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2019 MQ Show Committee Chairs

Show Director: Valerie Mendoza
Show Co-coordinators: Lou Roos, Jill Schultz
Show Secretary: Kathie Simon Frank
Admissions: Joanne Kirby, Sherie Falink
Banquet: Jeanne LaMoore, Wynn Martin
Bus Tours: Leslie Hall, Margaret Lundberg
2020 Challenge: Annemarie Yohnk, Deb Burk
2019 Challenge: Jude Edling, Gloria Bahr
Local Events: Rosie Campbell, Sherry Whalen
Door Prizes: Linda Huntzicker, Sharon Peterson
Faculty: Cheryl Plourde
Judged Quilts: Mary Nelson, Karen Kooda
Quilt Exhibit Logistics: Sue Rutford
Merchandise: Mary Wellman, Pat Basch
Non-Judged Quilts: Judy Frandson, Jill Brandt
Photography: Peggy Stockwell, Elise Fredrickson
PowerPoint: Debra Svedberg
Printing: Karen Knoll, Janet Watt
Registration: Char Hansen, Jan Schmidt
Signage: Diana Fink
Small Quilt Auction: Ann Brenke, Linda Lundin
Special Exhibits: Deb Kjelland, Sue Chad
Vendors: Rodeli Benjamin, RoxAnn Strand
Volunteers: Pam Geerdes, Merle Pratt
Website: Linda Wines, Pat Curtner
Youth Quilts: Linda Logsdon, Paulette Marini
MQ President: Elise Frederick
MQ Presidents Elect: Karen Kopitzke, Linda Wines
Treasurer: Vicci Mattsfield
Bookkeeper: Renae Shields

Faculty Preview

This summary of our faculty and lecturers includes only faculty with whom we have signed contracts as of November 12. Any faculty for whom the contract negotiation and signatures have not been completed are excluded.

Applique
Suzy Webster - Combining Painting and Applique
Art
Barbara Beasley - Animal Portrait
Beading
Nancy Eha - Beaded Text Messages, Organic Beading for Art Quilters
Domestic Machine Quilting
Suzy Webster - Free Motion Quilting, Free Motion Filler Pizzazz
Improvisational
Carole Lyles Shaw - Parisian Curves Quilt #1, Fibonacci Quilt #1, Fractured Disappearing 9-Patch Quilt, Mid-Century Mod Curve Quilt #1
Hand Quilting
Diane Pitchford – Hand Quilting
Long-arm Quilting
Page Johnson - Starting off Square and Keeping Straight with a Frame Quilting System, Design Dilemma (How Should I Quilt This?), Easy Textures and Background Fills, Vines and Leaves, Continuous Curve Quilting
Modern
Gudrun Erla - Stripology 2, Nordical/Lopapeysa, Lupine/Aurora, Quilting as You Go
Paper Piecing
Suzy Webster - Modern Beginning Paper Piecing
Piecing
Bonnie Hunter - Tentative Classes: Pfeffernusse, Talking Turkey, Smith Mountain Morning, Texas Braid
Tony Jacobson - Blurred Lines, Will You Walk Into My Parlor
Diane Pitchford - Drafting and Constructing a Mariner's Compass, Perfect Your Binding Technique
Quilt Design
Kari Schell - Introduction to Electric Quilt 8

Lectures
Bonnie Hunter - String Fling
Nancy Eha - New Beading Techniques from Needle at Traditions
Gudrun Erla - Quilts of Iceland
Tony Jacobson - Let the Fabric Do the Work
Page Johnson – Quilting
Karla Overland - The Prince Cherrywood Challenge
Allison Rainboth - Unveiling the Mystery of the Judging Room, After the War
Show and Tell — November

Thank you to Ellen Wold and Carrie D’Andrea for photos at the November meetings. On the sign-in sheet please remember to sign in and note whether you want your item pictured in the newsletter. Describe your quilt so it can be identified from the photo.

Brenda Lyseng

Charlette Pittman

Debby Heymans, front and back

Dee Legvold

Carol Stewart

Carol Stewart

Beth Robinson

Deb Kjelland
January Block of the Month  
Seasons of Trees  
12½” block (unfinished) shows trees in each of our four seasons.

Linda Huntziger, Darci Read, Kathie Simon Frank  
bom@mnquilt.org

Fabrics
A Background (sky): light blue, beige, or white; textured, tone on tone, or solid
B Winter tree—white or grey
C Spring—pale green, pink, lavender, pale yellow, white with pale pastel flowers
D Summer—bright or dark green, leaf print, apple print
E Fall—golden yellow, orange, red, rust
F Tree trunks: shades of brown or brown/grey

Cutting Instructions
1. Background A: (8) 2 ½” squares for sky behind trees
   (8) 1 ½” squares for sky behind tree trunks
2. Fabrics B, C, D, and E: (1) 4 ½” x 6 ½” rectangle of each color
   (1) 2 ½” x 4 ½” rectangle of each color
3. Tree Trunk fabric F: (4) 2 ½” squares

Assembly Instructions
1) Draw a line diagonally on the back of each background square for the trees and trunks. Before sewing on the background squares (see below), double check the diagram for proper placement on tree rectangles and trunk squares.
2) RST place a 2 ½” square on the upper right corner of Winter’s B large rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right. RST place a 2½” square on the left side of the small Winter B rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right.
3) RST place a 2 ½” square on the upper left corner of Spring’s C large rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left. RST place a 2½” square on the right side of the small Spring C rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left.
4) RST place a 2 ½” square on the lower left corner of Summer’s large D rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right. RST place a 2½” square on the right side of the small Summer D rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper left to lower right.
5) RST place a 2 ½” square on the lower right corner of Fall’s E large rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left. RST place a 2½” square on the left side of the small Fall E rectangle. Sew on diagonal line - upper right to lower left.
6) On each piece you’ve added background to, trim ¼” from your stitching line, leaving a piece of background to press up to fill the corner. Press the remaining triangle outward to fill in the empty corner. See that the background sky shows behind the tree. Repeat for all of the tree foliage rectangles.
7) Trunk block: RST place one 1 ½” square of A (background) to one corner of F (trunk). Stitch on the diagonal line drawn on A. Sew a second 1½” square of A to the opposite corner of F. Trim corners. Press remaining corners out to fill in the corners. Repeat for all four trunk pieces. Each unit will measure 2 ½” x 2 ½”.
8) Sew 4 trunk units together forming a center cross with the trunks. This will measure 4 ½” x 4 ½”. Press flat.
9) Assemble the units. For Row 1 - sew the large unit of Winter B to the large unit of Spring C. Make row 3 - repeat for Fall E and Summer D large units. Press seam flat.
Block of the Month continued

10) Nesting the seam allowances and forming a triangle of background along the left side, sew the smaller Winter B and Fall E units together. Similarly, forming a triangle of background along the right side, sew the smaller Spring C and Summer D units together. Check the diagram for the correct placement of background sections.

11) For Row 2 - sew A/B/E to the left side of the trunk section; then add C/D/A to the right side of the tree section. Press.

12) Sew row 1 to row 2. Add row 3 to the bottom. Press block. Finished block should measure 12 ½” square if you’ve been careful to sew ¼” seams.

BOM Guidelines: Follow the directions above to make up to three blocks for our monthly drawing. Please include your name, address, and phone number on your block(s). You may attach your mailing label on the back of each block and add your phone number. You may include leftover scraps with your block (pinned to the back or in an attached baggie) for the winner to use in a border or other finishing touches. If you cannot bring the blocks to the meeting, mail them to the MQ office allowing enough time for them to arrive before Saturday’s meeting. Mail to Block of the Month, Minnesota Quilters, Inc. 253 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107. We’ll draw for the blocks at the Saturday meeting. Winners will be notified by phone if not present. Winning blocks may be picked up at the MQ office or at the next meeting.

2019 Quilt Show Registration  Jan Schmidt, Char Hansen, Registration Committee

When registering for the show, you will find that a registration fee is included for both members and non-members. This fee helps pay for the venue facilities as well as giving you a three-day pass into the show, a show bag and a show pin. The registration fee also allows you to register for the banquet, to be assured of a challenge packet and lecture pass if you chose to purchase them, and to pre-order box lunches if you choose. Registering for the show even if you do not sign up for anything else supports Minnesota Quilters in putting on a wonderful show. Give your support to Minnesota Quilters – register and attend the show. The e-mail invitation to register for the show will be sent in January.
Picking up the Pieces
Laura Nagel, lauraquilts@charter.net

The Wheels on the Bus go Round and Round

No, I’m not talking about those big yellow buses full of eager, noisy students. This time I was on a deluxe coach bus with cup holders, trays, and foot rests, traveling with forty other quilters as we embarked on the Cherrywood Van Gogh tour through the Netherlands, Belgium and France in October. A custom itinerary was designed to explore the life and paintings of Van Gogh, the subject of Cherrywood’s 2017 Challenge, and included several additional fiber-related destinations.

I had never taken an extended bus tour so wasn’t sure what to expect, but I registered with two of my quilting pals knowing we would have a great time together. We arrived in Amsterdam two days early so we could visit the Anne Frank house and take a tour out to the Zaanse Schans Windmills (a dream I’ve had since 5th grade), visit a cheese factory in Volendam and watch wooden shoes being made in Marken. At the end of the tour our guide handed us free tickets for an evening canal ride which offered a glimpse into the houses, apartments, and houseboats along the way.

Our next day began early as we had arranged to meet the owner of Petra Prins Patchwork and Quilting shop before the store opened so we could have time to shop before the tour bus left. There were so many beautiful reproduction Dutch fabrics and many patterns to effectively use them. Real estate being at a premium, every space was full of quilting delights. Needless to say, we each left with a full shopping bag, hoping there would be enough room in the suitcase when that expansion zipper was released. Later that day the owner arrived at our hotel and delighted us with a trunk show of her original patterned quilts and an assortment of fabrics to purchase. Who could resist?

The first day on the bus was an opportunity to meet our fellow passengers. Everyone was a quilter or married to a quilter or a family member of a quilter, so it was very easy to make a connection with common interests. Eight of the women had quilts in the Van Gogh exhibit, and throughout the tour circulated their Cherrywood Challenge books so everyone could see their entries and leave their autograph. As I was to discover over shared meals, this was not their first competition. Several of these amazingly talented women have won several honors at national shows.

After a drive through The Hague and a tour of the Royal Delft Pottery Factory, we arrived in Bruges, my favorite city after Paris. We explored the shops along the winding cobblestone streets, partook of Belgian waffles loaded with fresh fruit and whipped cream and purchased an assortment of decadent Belgian chocolate, which never made it home.

The Kantcentrum, or Lace Center, was housed in the renovated old lace school of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at the edge of town. On the main floor was a multimedia presentation of Bruges lace, and there was a lace making demonstration in an upstairs classroom. Imagine our surprise to discover the 85-year-old woman interviewed for the video was actually there making bobbin lace. She had been taught as a young girl in that very building, and it was fascinating to see how quickly her fingers turned and twisted the threads to create the intricate pattern. If you think quilting takes a long time, a three to four centimeter piece of lace takes approximately one hour to make.

Located in the heart of the Normandy Landing beaches is Bayeux, a well-preserved medieval city that is home to The Bayeux Tapestry. Despite its name, it is not actually a tapestry, but a 225-foot long by 20 inches high embroidered scroll composed of colored wool yarns on bleached linen. Dating to the 11th century, through numerous scenes it depicts William the Conqueror’s Norman invasion of England and the ultimate Battle of Hastings. Based on its length which approximates the distance around the nave, it is presumed to have been commissioned for the Bayeux Cathedral where it was originally displayed once a year to retell the historical events to the uneducated parishioners. The images provide the most accurate depiction of life during this period, including dress, furnishings, customs, battle gear and combat.

Continued on next page
Our final stop on the tour was the La Manufacture Bohin, the last manufacturer of pins and needles in France, which uses the same techniques and machinery that made their product an industry standard for more than 185 years. Embroidery and appliquéd classes were offered on the first day, followed by an extensive tour of the factory where each of the 27 steps in needle manufacturing was explained and demonstrated on the second day. It is an amazing process to ensure the fine quality of their products which are distributed in more than 35 countries.

It was here that the Cherrywood Van Gogh Challenge quilts were beautifully exhibited. While the group viewed each panel of three quilts on display, our eight winners had their pictures taken with their entries. I’ve never seen prouder quilters, many of them joined by their husbands to celebrate their accomplishment. All of this and lunch, too, platters of French cheeses and meats, freshly baked baguettes, and a mouth-watering apple pastry for dessert.

The tour ended with a stop at the Palace of Versailles and an evening drive around Paris, the City of Lights, where I met my daughter for an extended stay. I continued to seek out the work of Van Gogh at the Musée d’Orsay and visit the Cluny Museum’s The Lady and the Unicorn tapestries woven from wool and silk around 1500. It is believed that the first five tapestries depict the five senses as indicated by the objects and gestures of the subjects, and the sixth one represents the heart or love, a good idea for an additional sense in my opinion.

In 1841 the tapestries were discovered in a castle where they had sustained severe damage due to poor storage conditions. In 1844 George Sand included them in her novel Jeanne, which led to a more accurate dating of the needlework, based on the costumes worn by the lady and her maid. Eventually the Cluny Museum rescued them in 1863 and began the restoration that allows them to be enjoyed in all their colorful glory today.

Now that I am home, unpacked and rested, I can only marvel at the history, scenery, landmarks, and artifacts that I enjoyed during my 15 days abroad – an experience of a lifetime that has expanded my horizons and inspired my creative spirit. If it’s not on your bucket list, I highly recommend a quilt-related travel adventure. You will have much in common with your fellow travelers, and there is so much to discover and explore about our craft.

**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.
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