November Meetings

Sharyn Resvick, Laurie Klinkhammer, ed@mnquilt.org

Dawn Cook-Ronningen will present lectures "Journey of a Collector" on Thursday, November 7, and "How Did They Do That?" on Saturday morning, November 9.

She is a well-known authority on antique quilts and has an impressive collection. She will be sharing a few quilts with us on Thursday evening. Dawn has shared her lecture and trunk show around the country with guilds, museums and organizations. She has been featured in podcasts and authored articles for several magazines including Piecework. Her quilts have been on loan for museum exhibits, including the Bryan museum in Galveston. She has also taught workshops and authored patterns. Dawn is very active with the International Quilt Study Group and has lectured at their annual meetings on several occasions.

Her latest endeavor is to have authored a book showing her years of collecting needlework ephemera titled "Antique American Needlework Tools" which she will share with us on Saturday morning. It will be an excellent and informative presentation you won’t want to miss.

Dawn will have her book for sale so we made add this impressive book to our quilting libraries. We are fortunate to have Dawn share her knowledge with us once again with these two informative and entertaining lectures.

December Preview

Rhende Hagemeister, rhensnestquilts@aol.com

Registration for the MQ Holiday Brunch is open. Please register on Cvent at https://cvent.me/0L4we soon. The registration deadline is November 25, which is before Thanksgiving.

This year’s brunch will be held at a new location, Keller Clubhouse, 2166 Maplewood Drive, Maplewood, Minnesota.

Join other MQ members in beginning the holiday festivities with hours of fun, food and fellowship. Attire is dressy, casual or tree skirt. Show and tell items are welcome, as are donations of JOYful placemats and other placemats, Christmas stockings or stocking stuffers. Join in the exchange of holiday quilt blocks for your own Christmas quilt. Expect to have a good time.

See more details on page 3.

SignUp Genius lists MQ volunteer opportunities and sends reminders. Save the link shown and refer to it often for additional ways to participate in MQ activities. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044acaf28a4fc1-mqs

Minnesota Quilters depends on its volunteers, and everyone’s help is appreciated. Please volunteer as often as you can and in any capacity that suits your schedule and abilities.
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.
The Minnesota Quilters Holiday Brunch will be held Saturday, December 7, at 10 am in the beautiful Ballroom of the Keller Clubhouse, 2166 Maplewood Drive, Maplewood, Minnesota. As in the past we will have the Block Exchange and will collect quilt donations. We will collect and display your Christmas stockings, Placemats for Meals on Wheels and the challenge placemats as described below. And... and... and... for each item donated in these three categories you can place your name in the corresponding box for awesome prizes. Your registration also makes you eligible for door prizes. There is a theme here...

We hope you will mark your calendars, grab a quilting buddy, and join us in the fun. The registration information for the Holiday Brunch is on Cvent at https://cvent.me/0lL4we and seating is limited, so please make your plans today. Register by November 25. You are invited to wear your Christmas Tree Skirt! Share an heirloom, your own creation or a thrift store find (or two sewn together). You can wear it as a skirt, a poncho or a cape. Rhenda and Linda are pictured at right. See our slideshow on the MQ Facebook page.

Block Exchange for Members
Every year members make 12½” holiday blocks with either a white or off-white background. You can exchange up to three blocks. If you haven’t done this before, you might want to participate this year. It’s pretty cool. Your block is placed in a bag, hidden from sight, and when everyone has turned theirs in, you choose another bag. Surprise! This is the year.

Christmas Stockings for St. Josephs Home for Children
We make as many stockings as we can, and after the brunch we give them to St. Joseph’s Home for Children at Catholic Charities. They assist people of any faith, and they hand out every single stocking we give them. We have a pattern for stockings at http://www.mnquilt.org/documents/HolidayStockingPattern.pdf. If you wish, you can also donate gifts or money to Catholic Charities to help fill the stockings. Make checks payable to Catholic Charities, not to MQ. You will be eligible for prizes based on the number of stockings you donate.

Placemats for Meals on Wheels
We make placemats that we take to area Meals on Wheels and they give them out as they deliver meals. Placemats do not have to be holiday-themed. There are two examples with instructions on the MQ website. Click on Meetings, then Quilting for Others to see these examples. Let your imagination and your fabric collection be your guide. There are as many beautiful placemats waiting to be made as there are beautiful people in our organization. I think you will be amazed. You will be eligible for prizes based on the number of placemats you donate.

JOYful Placemats Challenge
Make one placemat (or more) using the fabrics you were gifted at the 2018 Holiday Brunch. The challenge is to use the fabric you were given, which determines the theme or design of your placemat. It does not have to be a holiday-themed placemat. You can add your own fabric up to 50% on one side. The other side can be your fabric, your choice. Everyone loves a reversible placemat.

Two examples of placemat patterns are on the MQ website, and the measurements of those two styles are: 15” by 18” and 12” by 18”. These are suggestions, but size and shape is your choice.

Placemats will be donated to the Meals on Wheels organization(s) through our Quilting for Others committee. You will be eligible for prizes based on the number of placemats you donate. What you create will bring JOY to the receiver, and we hope to you as well.

If you have questions, need encouragement, more incentive or a laugh, please e-mail me at rhensnestquilts@aol.com.
Jackie Northrup

Jackie was exposed to sewing early in life. Her grandmother made many cross-stitched blocks. Her grand- mother and great-grandmother were quilters. Jackie took a beginning quilting class from Judy Bowers in Anoka and made a four-block sampler in the early 1980’s.

Hand-quilting was very important in the beginning of this quilt revival, and Jackie excelled at this. She has followed the trends and now does some machine-quilting in order to get her quilt tops finished. She has more than 200 finished pieces of work.

Jackie was active in Minnesota Quilters and was president in 1997 and 1998. After her husband’s retirement she moved five miles north of Cambridge.

She loves working with Civil War reproduction fabrics and now does more piecing than appliqué. She enjoys picking out the fabrics for each project and does not feel “right” if she does not do some sewing each day. To her, the finishing touches such as binding are very important as well.

A very special quilted wall hanging using Baltimore style designs and 3-D effects was made for her father-in-law shortly before he died.

Jackie feels quilting brings her out of her shell as she has something to discuss with others interested in the craft. You can always talk about what you are going to do next.

October Meetings and Workshop Review

We were entertained with a great trunk show by Katie Henniger from Bay Window Quilt Shop in Perham, Minnesota, in October. She hosted a workshop on Friday for 19 members who sewed a variety of her easy patterns featuring pre-cuts, fat quarters or one-yard cuts. Below are pictures from the day, a fun and productive time for everyone.
Show and Tell —October

Thank you to Peggy Stockwell and Carrie D’Andrea for photos of the October show and tell items. If you enjoy the show and tell photos and want to make sure they are included in the newsletter, please volunteer to be a photographer. Thank you to all who complete the show and tell sign-in sheets with a good description of their items and note that the photos can be printed in the newsletter.

Betsy Munroe—three quilts

Char Wenger—two quilts

Faye Bodenhamer

Jean Cline

Diane Rose

Cheryl Saver

Karen Golden
Hints and Tips
Always put your name on your quilt accessories when going to a workshop or a quilt retreat. Then it is so much easier to get lost items back to their owners. We all get hundreds of return address labels in the mail, so use those.
Do you have a hint to share with MQ members? Do you have questions or need an explanation about quilting or about Minnesota Quilters, the meetings, the show or volunteering? Ask away. There’s a wealth of information in this organization. Write to editor@mnquilt.org for the newsletter.
The only thing I have more of than fabric is books. To say they are in every room in the house is an understatement. When I hear someone say they have a stack of three or four books on their nightstand waiting to be read, I laugh to myself and think, “I can’t even get to my bed because there are so many books piled on the floor.”

Recently I had to bring order to the chaos to make room for a new bed. What that really meant is that I had to pick up my books and return them to my bookshelves in an orderly arrangement. The decorating magazines always have such beautifully staged shelves in their model rooms with photos, vases, and objects d’art adding to the appeal, but I only have room for books, edge to edge, one right after the other. After some time the books were all neatly arranged by subject, and I wondered how I would decide what to read first. Because I know I will continue to acquire books, I thought it might be wise to read the thickest ones first, thus making room for more than one book to take its space. This is a hopeless situation.

My love of books has not been limited to mysteries, biographies, history and women’s fiction. As we all know, there are numerous quilt books, too. Needless to say, there are multiple bookcases in my quilt room. My original intent was to purchase a particular book because I wanted to make one of the featured quilts, but somehow my budget to buy quilt books exceeded my time to actually make the projects. When I started quilting 30-plus years ago, quilt books were a fresh commodity displaying new quilt styles and updated techniques to accomplish the task more accurately and faster. In no time at all I amassed a collection of Country Threads, Red Wagon, Debbie Mumm and Thimbleberries books.

When antique and reproduction quilts captivated me, my library grew to include each state documentation book as it was published and women’s history books as they pertained to quilting. My shelves were weighted down with Barbara Brackman’s Identification Encyclopedias, coffee table books of museum quilt collections and as many books with small reproduction quilt patterns as I could acquire. I am truly a visual learner, and seeing the quilts displayed on every page was so satisfying – even if I didn’t have time to make them all.

Nothing activates my creative juices more than bringing home a new quilt book and examining each project. With a pad of Post-Its and sticky tabs, I set to work flagging my favorite quilts and jotting down any revisions I would like to make. Sometimes I want smaller blocks, a different border, to see the quilt in a particular style of fabric in my stash or just to use a section in another project.

It’s amazing how much I have learned along the way – not just about the craft of quilting, but history, women’s history. How women were instrumental in settling the colonies or blazing the trails westward, forming states, building churches and schools and establishing organizations to promote social welfare. Their resourcefulness and resilience were phenomenal as they put down roots, provided for their families and made quilts. Long before women had a vote, their quilts spoke volumes about their needs, desires and beliefs. That so many of their quilts have survived with their stories passed down to their children and grandchildren speaks to the legacy they left for future generations of quilters. All this I’ve discovered while traveling through the pages of my books.

At the MQ pop-up garage sales I spy books already on my shelves which are selling for a dollar, but I know I am not yet ready to part with mine. They still speak to me on some level. Even if they are not yelling, “Come on, pick one of my projects and make it,” I still want to listen to what they tell me about the original maker, or the designer, or just to reminisce about a particular era of fabrics, the quilt and pattern styles and the hand- or machine-quilting that was suitable then. Not a week goes by that I don’t stop in front of one of the shelves and pull out a book or two to flip through the pages. The images inspire me, provide me with ideas for blocks and settings, offer myriad fabric and color choices and include instructions for successfully crafting any project I choose to tackle. There will never be enough time to realize most of these imagined quilts, but I am delighted in the vision of possibilities.

At some point in the future I will have to seriously weed my collection, but right now I have a sentimental attachment to my quilt books. Over the years they have influenced my fabric purchases, the quilts I have made, the competencies I have learned and the friends who have joined me on the numerous shop hops and quilt shows where I purchased them. They embody my journey as a quilter. It’s comforting to know that even when I’m not wrapped in a quilt, I am surrounded by pages of splendid quilts and all the stories they tell.

**Bulletin Board**

**November 2-3, Hudson Heritage Quilters Guild Patchwork Harvest Quilt Show**, Saturday 9 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. River Crest Elementary School, 535 County Road F, Hudson, Wisconsin. Quilts, raffle quilt, raffle baskets, boutique, vendors. Lunch available. Voter favorite awards. Admission $6.

**January 1, 2020 Dakota County Star Quilters** plan a special exhibit to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. U.S. quilters are invited to submit a 24” square quilt for display and possible touring after the DCSQ show. Submission guidelines are on the website www.dcsq.org. The deadline to submit a photo and entry is January 1, 2020.

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Minnesota Quilters' December membership meeting is a holiday brunch the first Saturday of the month. We anticipate and celebrate winter holidays of many traditions. It’s a festive occasion with good food, enlightening company, fun challenges and exchanges. Block of the Month takes a break each December to give you a chance to fully participate in all the brunch-related activities.

The 2019 Holiday Brunch challenge is to make a placemat using the challenge fabric given in a plastic cube at last year’s brunch or at a membership meeting afterward. Use as much of that fabric as you can and add up to 50% of your own to make the mat. Use fabric from your stash for the back.

For the block exchange select holiday-themed fabrics and white or off-white for the background; make any 12½” square (unfinished size) quilt block of your choice. You may enter up to three blocks. You’ll take home one block made by someone else for each block you bring.

Make other items to donate to charity. Make placemats for Meals on Wheels and holiday stockings for St. Joseph’s Home for Children. Both are projects that MQ has participated in for many years. Make and donate as many mats and stockings as you wish. They will all be given to people in our community during the holidays and are very much appreciated by those who receive them.

Head to your sewing room now. Put your energy toward making items that others will enjoy. Please refer to the Holiday Brunch article on page 3 for more details.

Congratulations to Linda Huntzicker for winning ten Yummy Ice Pop blocks in the October drawing. Watch for the Block of the Month Committee’s new ideas for blocks in 2020.

BOM GUIDELINES: Most months you may enter up to three blocks of the specified pattern. This month we hope you’ll participate in the Holiday Brunch challenge and exchange instead.

Volunteer Corner

Our volunteers are wonderful, and they have a good time. Please join us if you can! Thanks also 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 a record of your volunteer hours to give to the bookkeeper 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 3,746 hours for the past year. Congrats!

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

If you are interested in a position or helping at monthly meetings, please let us know. Volunteers are the life-blood of our organization. MQ could not exist without volunteers. Stop by the membership desk on your way in or out and talk to us. We would love to be able to find something for you to help with at meetings. Our fiscal year began October 1, 2019.

Please review our current volunteer needs on Sign Up Genius at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044aacf28a4fc1-mqs

Youth Exhibit at the MQ Show

At the annual MQ show the Quilts by Kids exhibit awes viewers and demonstrates that we continue to encourage young people to follow in our footsteps by creating quality quilts. We’re heartened to see evidence that you quilty-loving moms, grandmas, aunties, teachers and neighbors are passing this tradition to your children and young friends. We urge you to talk with children you know about making quilts. Invite them to make a block or two with you, and then many more, resulting in a quilt they can enter in the Minnesota Quilters show next June in St. Cloud.

It’s free for youth to enter their quilts in the show. Each quilt is hung with care in a special section. Each entrant receives a recognition ribbon, an entry ticket to the show, a goody bag and the opportunity to win a significant prize. Youth’s quilts are also eligible for other ribbons at the show. In 2018 a nationally-known teacher awarded a ribbon to the quilt made by a twelve-year-old boy.

Talk about Minnesota Quilters’ annual show now with the children you know, and get them excited about being part of it. When you’re shopping for holiday gifts for your children, choose some pretty fabric, an easy pattern and some cool thread. Then write a note inviting your children to spend some time with you learning to sew and quilt. We look forward to seeing the results of their efforts. It’s always awe-inspiring.
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For a printable form from our website go to: [http://www.mnquilt.org/documents/PaperMembershipForm.pdf](http://www.mnquilt.org/documents/PaperMembershipForm.pdf)

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