

Nimble Fingers Newsletter

www.nimblefingers.org

January/February 2012

Officers 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Linda August
and Patty Estey

Vice President: Pat Lefevre

Secretary: Evelyn Farinas

Treasurer: Barbara Kilby

Est. 1974 = 38 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

National Quilting Association Chapter #MD019

Co-Presidents' Message – Linda August and Patty Estey

Making quilts never gets old. One reason is because we are challenged by the constant stream of innovative products that help us create quilts. The textile companies also tempt us with new, beautiful fabrics. While buying fabric is addictive, nothing is more pleasing than to make a quilt with fabrics from our stash. We feel both thrifty and relieved that we have room to store even more fabric. But if we look back to the products that help us the most - the rulers, cutters, scissors, etc. - these basic tools are our most important tools. And, while we enjoy beautifully created quilts, simple patterns in two colors continue to hold our attention. During the Guild's show-and-tell, the simple quilts using innovative colors never fail to please. So, for 2012, make a commitment to create a quilt using fabrics from your stash, select a simple pattern and make a gorgeous quilt.

Make an additional commitment to set aside unwanted quilt-related items for the Guild's yard sale scheduled for April 2012. What may be "why did I ever buy that fabric?" for you, may well be gems for others. It is a good way to both clean out your stash and support the Guild. Who doesn't like a bargain?

A reminder that the Quilt Show Chairpersons are still looking for two committee chairs – selling ads for the program and organizing volunteers. Please contact Chris Ritcher or Beverly Ferrell to volunteer.

Nominating Committee – Laura Markus, Kim Jalette, Liz Brigham

Elections are just around the corner! Time flies – your currently elected board members are completing almost two years in office. It is time for a new group to step forward and serve. The nominating committee is looking for candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good candidate, please contact a member of the nominating committee by February 1.

Descriptions of the positions are in the bylaws available on the Nimble Fingers website. It is a one-year term, but most of the board continues for a second term. The committee will present the slate at the March meeting. Elections will be in April.

Programs – Susan Sellers, Carol Clanton, Cheryl Layman, Nancy Rose Opeka, Jill Ruspi, Julie Taylor

We will kick off the new year with a round robin of surface design techniques from our Nimble Fingers members. Learn how to use thread and quilting to embellish the surface of your quilt or add color and design interest with rubber stamps or paint. As you visit the different demonstrations, you will enjoy a sampling of ideas and techniques that you might want to explore further later.

Our January workshop will feature **Kim Jalette** and her latest **Mystery Quilt** on **Thursday, January 5, 2012** from **11 AM – 5 PM**, at a cost of \$40 per member. We can't wait to see what Kim has planned!

The **February** speaker will be Eileen **Doughty** from Northern Virginia who will share her techniques for creating beautiful three dimensional thread sculptures. Unfortunately, her workshop has been cancelled due to lack of registrants.

Our **March** teacher, **Jennifer Amor**, will entertain us with a fashion show of her beautiful **“Wearable Art.”** You will have a chance to make your own creation and learn Jennifer's fitting secrets in her full day workshop, **“The Pop Top Jacket”** on **Thursday, March 8, 11 AM- 5 PM**, at a cost of \$50 per member.

The **April** meeting is our annual meeting for the election of officers. In addition, we will have a special speaker, Chris Meyers of Fil-Tec, a local thread company. After his lecture, there will be a members' yard sale to benefit the guild.

If you have been curious about the creative doodling phenomenon known as **“Zentangle”**, our **May** lecture and workshops with Pat Ferguson will intrigue and delight you. Pat will begin with a half day workshop on creating art on paper in her **“Zentangle”** class at a cost of \$35 per member, plus a kit fee of \$6, on **Wednesday, May 2, 1-4 PM**. She will teach

you to use your designs on fabric in her full day workshop, “**Zen Quilting**”, on **Thursday, May 3, 11 AM- 5 PM**, on at a cost of \$50 per member, plus a kit fee of \$40. We are offering a special member price of \$75 if you sign up for both workshops. (The kit fees are not included.) If you haven’t heard about this exciting creative process, check our Pat’s web site at www.patfergusonquilts.com or visit www.zentangle.com.

Our **June** meeting brings the talented, nationally known quilt artist **Ellen Anne Eddy** to Maryland to share her lecture about “**The Visual Path.**” Ellen Anne will teach a full day workshop on thread sketched bobbin work in her “**Dragonfly Sky**” workshop, scheduled for **Thursday, June 7, 2012, 11 AM – 5 PM**. We will also have a special show and tell for our log cabin “Block of the Year.

Remember to pick up your copy of our pattern for the Block of the Year and make your log cabin blocks and quilts to share at our special June show and tell. We love to see the wonderful pieces that our members create!

We would like to thank the members who participated in our **Fiesta!** challenge in December. The entries were beautiful and creative. The judges chose Ruth Cohen’s quilt “Summer” for *Best Use of Color*. Renuka Algama’s “Fruit Fiesta” won *Most Original* and Ginger Peebles’ quilt entitled “Kids Fiesta” won *Best Delivery of the Fiesta Theme*. Pictures will be posted on the Nimble Fingers website. We hope to see all of the **Fiesta!** quilts displayed in our Quilt Show.

Hospitality – Cathy Berman, Rainie Broad, Beverly Ferrell

Lunches in January and February will be sandwiches and salad at \$4. If anyone has any ideas about changes to the menu in the future, please contact Rainie Broad.

The hostesses for January are: Natalie Felsher, Patrice Thomas, Chita Brawner, Ann Plunkett, Suzanne Kinnard, Evelyn Flittner and Mary Campbell.

The hostesses/host for February are: Burt White, Josephine Sanders, Pat Lefevre, Joni Hanley, Danee Wilson, Karen Smith and Albert Feldman.

We want to thank those members who have already signed up to help and request that those of you who have not yet been a hostess, please sign up for March, April, May or June. A sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting or you can email Rainie to let her know which month you will be willing to help.

Membership – Mila Haberman, Mary Jo Haczewski

New member:

Lois Kutun

Quilting Bee – Francie Parrack

The Quilting Bee will be held the 3rd Thursday of the month during January and February at for Humanity Headquarters, 9110 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg (diagonal from Capital Quilts). We are there from 10 am till 12:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

Quilting for Others – Margaret Natof, Mary Moore Payne

Many thanks to all the members who have done a bit to create thirty-five beautiful quilted and bound quilts for children in need. Piecers, quilters with standard and long arm machines, binders, finish checkers and label attachers have pitched in with their favorite task. Your many hands have created a wonderful, comforting body of work.

The guild donates to Project Linus because they send quilts to local shelters and hospitals, first in Montgomery County, then as need arises and there are quilts available, to Washington, DC and Prince Georges County. Recent recipients have been the Kranke Shelter, Montgomery General Hospital, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, NIH Pediatric Inpatient Unit and Children's National Medical Center.

At the January meeting there will be quilts from the Great November Quilt Day to take home for quilting and kits to assemble into tops. Now that the holidays are past, we can turn our thoughts to keeping up the good work.

Mini Groups – Jane Oden

?? Are you looking for some quilting buddies??

I am happy to help members find other quilters who are interested in being part of a mini group.

Mini groups are a great way to form friendships while also learning more quilting skills and techniques. These small groups get together whenever they want during the month. Some activities you can do are: stitching together, planning trips to quilt shows and fabric shops and sharing your latest accomplishments.

If you are interested in being part of a mini group, there will be a sign up sheet at the January and February meetings.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Jane Oden.

Committee Chairs – contact these people to volunteer or get information:

Current Events:	VACANT
Historian:	Susan Sellers
Hospitality:	Cathy Berman, Rainie Broad, Beverly Ferrell
Library:	Chris Ritcher
Membership:	Mila Haberman, Mary Jo Haczewski
Mini Groups:	Jane Oden
Newsletter:	Kim Jalette
Programs:	Susan Sellers, Carol Clanton, Cheryl Layman, Nancy Rose Opeka, Jill Ruspi, Julie Taylor
Quilt Consortium:	Elizabeth Davison
Quilt Show:	Chris Ritcher, Beverly Ferrell
Quilting Bee:	Francie Parrack
Quilting for Others:	Margaret Natof, Mary Moore Payne
Retreat:	Anne Datko
Sunshine:	Betty Ford
Website:	Jane Van Horn
Welcoming:	Jane Oden

All telephone numbers, snail mail and e-mail addresses can be found in the Membership Directory. Copies are available from the Membership Chair.

Please notify Mila Haberman, Membership Chair, with any changes in home address/phone number and/or e-mail address.

SNOW AND/OR INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

If Montgomery County Public Schools are operating on a delayed opening schedule (either one or two hour delay), the Nimble Fingers meeting will go on as scheduled (10 am at the Potomac Community Center). If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, then the Nimble Fingers meeting will be cancelled.

Quilt Show 2012 – Chris Ritcher, Beverly Ferrell

Raffle Quilt News

We are scheduling 2012 dates for the Nimble Fingers' Raffle Quilt to travel -- to the large regional quilt shows (sponsored by Mancuso Management Inc.) as well as to local quilt guilds around the State of Maryland and Washington, DC.

Two large regional quilt shows coming up are:

- Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival, February 22-26, 2012, Hampton, VA
- The Quilt Fest of New Jersey, March 1-4, 2012, Somerset, NJ

For the above shows, **we need volunteers** to sell raffle tickets in 2-hour blocks between 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on the 4 days of the shows. In exchange for being allowed to display our raffle quilt and sell raffle tickets, we need to provide 32-36 hours of “white gloving” in 1-2 hour time blocks. So far, we have 8 volunteers for the Hampton, VA show, and need 4-5 more. We have 3 names for the Somerset, NJ show and need 7-8 more.

TO VOLUNTEER – Email / Call either Nancy Sharp or Barbara Kilby. We will also have sign-up sheets at all future Nimble Fingers meetings. When you call, please let us know **which days you will be attending** the shows. Thank you very much !!

Also, just confirmed: Patches Quilt Shop in Mt. Airy, MD will be running a bus to the Hampton show. Perhaps you could combine a trip to the show on their bus with some white glove hours for us! Check their website for details at <http://patchesquilting.com> and click on “Special Events”.

Members' Raffle Tickets

Each member is asked to sell 4 books of tickets. Each book has 6 tickets, which can be sold individually for \$1 each, or a book of 6 for \$5. If selling tickets is not your thing, please consider purchasing the tickets yourself at a total cost of \$20; you might think of it as contributing to the guild's efforts to bring us great speakers and to promote our charity quilting efforts. Raffle ticket proceeds are the single largest fund-raising effort that the guild has!

The member tickets will be available for pickup at the January meeting. Please help the guild save money by picking up your envelope from Kim Jalette or Laurie Bay; otherwise we will mail you your tickets. When you have sold your tickets, please return all stubs and money to either Kim or Laurie ONLY. Remember to write your last name on the stubs to be entered into the prize drawings! If you need additional tickets to sell, you may pick them up at any meeting or contact Kim to arrange delivery.

We are hoping for greater participation this quilt show season by members – last show, only about 60% of members sold and/or purchased their allotted tickets. Let's try hard to do better this year!

Artisan's Attic

Volunteers are needed to help, please contact Nancy Rose Opeka.

Quilt Show Challenge

Details will be announced at the January meeting.

Raffle Baskets

Anne will have a basket ready at the January meeting for your donations. Please think of regifting from the holidays. We need things such as candles, books, threads, patterns, fat quarters, notions...

Anne will be having a fabric dyeing day at her home as well, so join in the fun.

For those of you that are new to the Nimble Fingers guild, the baskets are for the Quilt Show. We raffle off one basket each hour of the quilt show. This is a fun opportunity to divest of our stash and notions for a great cause. At the last show, the baskets generated lots of buzz, and \$\$\$ to the guild.

Questions: Call Anne Trudel.

Vendors

Volunteers are needed to work on the Vendor Committee. The last show had 5 volunteers and it worked well for all who participated. The bulk of the work is during the show - helping out vendors in simple tasks, such as guiding vendors to their sites, showing where facilities are located, and directing them on the last day to the loading dock.

Anyone interested please contact Evelyn Farinas. She will need some assistance prior to the show, mostly on the business-related activities.

Committee Volunteers Needed

We need two more volunteers to fill all the show committee chairs. The positions left to fill are for Volunteer Coordinator and Program Advertising. Please contact Chris Ritcher or Beverly Ferrell for details or to volunteer.

Quilt Show Committees as of January 2012

COMMITTEE	CHAIR
Quilt Show Co-Chairs	Christiane Ritcher, Beverly Ferrell
Treasurer	Barbara Kilby
Secretary	Evelyn Farinas / Linda August
Admission	Linda August
Quilt Registration	Helen Wasserman / Diane Heller
Publicity	Susan Sellers (Shirley Malia)
Art Work	Linda Dixon
Program Advertising	VACANT
Program Layout	Christiane Ritcher
Design (quilt layout)	Julie Taylor
Show setup	Patrice Thomas
Volunteers	VACANT
Signage	Carole Auth
Quilting for Others	Mary Moore Payne
Artisan's Attic	Nancy Rose Opeka
Boutique	Rainie Broad
Vendors	Evelyn Farinas
Silent Auction	Burt White
Challenge (TBD)	Kim Jalette (Laurie Bay)
Demonstrations	Cheryl Layman
Viewers Choice	Al Feldman
Opportunity: Raffle Baskets	Anne Trudel
Opportunity: Quilt Mother	Barbara Kilby
Opportunity: Quilt Scheduler	Nancy Sharp
Opportunity: Quilt Tickets	Kim Jalette (Laurie Bay)