

**Nimble
Fingers
Newsletter**
www.nimblefingers.org

January/February 2011

Officers 2010-2011

Co-Presidents: Linda August
and Patty Estey

Vice President: Pat Lefevre

Secretary: Evelyn Farinas

Treasurer: Barbara Kilby

Est. 1974 = 37 YEARS OF

FELLOWSHIP

National Quilting Association

Chapter #MD019

**Co-Presidents' Message –
Linda August and Patty Estey**

In our previous letter, we noted that a "State of the Guild" would be presented in January. We plan to summarize sources of income for the guild and how much it costs to run the guild annually including the quilt show. Given the amount of work it takes to run a quilt show, we also want to take this opportunity to gauge interest and support for future quilt shows. There will be a survey conducted at the January meeting. You will be given time to complete it during the meeting. For those of you who cannot attend, there is a copy of the

survey in this newsletter that you may complete and mail to Nimble Fingers Quilters Inc, PO Box 8101, Gaithersburg MD 20898 by January 15.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our quilt-in at the November meeting. Over 60 people attended the meeting and split into teams to complete quilt tops. Adding in the quilts completed in November, the guild delivered a total of 48 quilts to Montgomery County shelters and 4 quilts to Habitat for Humanity. A big thanks goes to Francie Parrack for stepping in as interim chair for Quilting for Others and organizing our quilt-in. We are delighted to announce new co-chairs, Margaret Natof and Mary Moore Payne. They are in the process of inventorying Q4O materials and planning the best way to provide quilts on an ongoing basis throughout the year to the various shelters the guild supports. Through member donations of time and material, the guild has enjoyed a long history of volunteer work. We encourage all of you to get involved in 2011.

Please join us in welcoming new member Chris Ritcher who not only joined the guild in December but also volunteered to take over as Library chairperson from Patrice Thomas. Many thanks to Patrice for her years of service.

As we enter into a new year, your co-presidents wish you a quilty and warm new year.

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

January 5, 2011: Have you ever wondered how to use that special ruler that you purchased, or if there could be a better way to make mitered corners or to piece perfect triangles? Join us in January for a round robin of tips and techniques entitled “**Tool Time.**”

Our full day workshop on **Thursday, January 6, 10 AM- 4 PM, (Note: time change)**, will be presented by **Kim Jalette**, who will challenge us with her latest **Mystery Quilt**. You will have a chance to focus on your piecing while our volunteer “pressing wenches” handle the irons for you. Kim will keep you guessing until the end, wondering how your quilt will come together, until the final clues are revealed, and you discover that your fabric choices were the right ones. A few spaces remain for this workshop at a cost of \$40 for Nimble Fingers members.

February 2, 2011: **Eleanor Levie** will join us to coax us out of our comfort zones with a lecture entitled “**Quilting Outside the Box.**” Her afternoon workshop, “**Stretch a Block**”, will feature a design from her book *Skinny Quilts and Table Runners*. The workshop will be held from 1- 4 PM and will cost \$35. Check out her website at www.EleanorLevie.com.

March 2, 2011: **Sue Reno** will present a lecture about her innovative technique of cyanotype or sun printing on fabric. Visit her web site at www.suereno.com to learn more about how she incorporates natural images into her quilts.

April 6, 2011: **Mary Stori** will entertain us with her lecture entitled “**Let It Shine**” at our April meeting. She will present an afternoon workshop from 1-4 PM on “**Decorative Beading Techniques**” at a cost to members of \$35 plus a \$6 kit fee payable to the instructor. Enjoy an afternoon of fun and create a reference sampler as you learn eye-catching decorative techniques such as: the basic bead stitch, bead appliqué, picot stitch, chain stitch, branched fringe, netting, bugle bead walls, bead embroidery, and more. This class will be handwork, with no beading experience required. For more information, go to Mary’s web site at www.marystori.com.

May 4, 2011: **Maria Elkins** will join us to discuss how to safeguard our fabric creations in “**Protecting Quilts.**” In addition to her talents as a quilter, Maria is the founder of the website, “Lost Quilt Come Home” at www.lostquilt.com, which is dedicated to reuniting quilt owners and their lost or stolen quilts. Maria’s quilting talents will be shared in her full day workshop on **Thursday, May 5**, where we will learn how to make fused applique portraits, at a cost of \$50 for members. Find out more about Maria’s work at her website, www.mariaelkins.com.

“Inspired by Verse” Challenge: Entries in our annual guild challenge will be due at the **May 4** meeting. This challenge explores the creative connections between verse and quilting and is designed to get your creative juices flowing. Choose a favorite poem as the inspiration for your quilt or write a poem inspired by a quilt that you have created. Only one quilt per member may be entered, with no size restrictions.

June 1, 2011: **Cindy Blackberg** is a very talented hand quilter and she will share her secrets in her lecture “**Sneaky Tips and Tricks of the Pros.**” Her workshop on **Thursday, June 2, 11 AM- 5 PM**, is entitled “**Mountain Blossoms,**” and will cost \$50 for Nimble Fingers members. Visit Cindy’s website at www.cindyblackberg.com to view the beautiful hand stitched block that will be the focus of this full day workshop.

Block of the Year: We hope that everyone has been enjoying our “Block of the Year” split nine patch pattern. We will have a special show and tell at the **June 1** meeting so that we can see the single blocks or full quilts that have been created by our members.

Bring your calendar and checkbook to the meetings to sign up for these interesting workshops, or send checks payable to Nimble Fingers Quilters, along with your registration information, to Susan Sellers.

Nimble Fingers Quilters Workshop Refund Policy

The following policy was approved by a vote of the Nimble Fingers Executive Board on November 3, 2010. It provides a written statement about the longstanding guild practices with regards to workshop refunds and is intended to provide clear information for those registering for workshops.

The Nimble Fingers Program Committee makes every effort to provide detailed information about planned workshops including a description of the class, date, time, fees, supply list and class model when available. We rely on the information sent to us by the quilt instructor. Please review the information and consider your schedule carefully before signing up for a workshop.

Full payment of workshop fees is required when signing up for a workshop. No spaces will be held without payment.

The guild will only give refunds directly to an individual in case of medical emergency or if the workshop is canceled. Contact the program committee directly if one of these situations should occur.

If there is no waiting list, you may contact any guild member to fill your space. That individual will reimburse you directly. If a non-member fills your space, they must pay the additional non-member workshop fee to the program committee. All changes should be communicated to the program committee.

If the workshop has filled and there is a waiting list, you may contact the program committee to request names of individuals interested in filling your space. It is still your obligation to find your replacement.

Hospitality – Carole Auth, Karen Cyr, Nancy Sharp

In both January and February we will be having sandwiches, salad, etc. as usual for \$4. The hostesses are asked to come at 9:15am, and to bring a dessert and beverage of 2 liters. After lunch the hostesses are asked to stay and help clean up and put the supplies away. It goes very quickly if everyone pitches in.

The following hostesses have signed up for Jan.: Sheila Berman; June Mathison; Marina Baudoin; Barbara Kilby; Beverly Ferrell; Carole Auth. Captain: Nancy Sharp

And for Feb.: Donna Kopp; Donna Duce, Burt White, Nancy Opeka.

Members - we need your help to put the luncheons on. If any of the new members need more info on what we are about and what we have to do please call Carole Auth, Nancy Sharp or Karen Cyr. Thank you for all your help.

Quilting for Others – Margaret Natof, Mary Moore Payne

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this project. We were able to deliver 48 quilts to the Betty Ann Krahnke Center and 4 to Habitat. Lots of people will be comforted and be

warm with the quilts that were delivered after the December meeting. Again many, many thanks.

Membership – Mila Haberman, Mary Jo Haczewski, Liz Brigham

New email addresses:

Mary Jo Haczewski
Nancy Rose Opeka

New Members:

Carol Millman

[Christiane \(Chris\) Ritcher](#)

Quilting Bee – Mary Campbell

Dates for the January and February Quilting Bees will be announced as available by broadcast e-mail, and at the monthly meetings.

Our Bee Location: Habitat for Humanity, 9110 Gaither Rd. in Gaithersburg (past Capital Quilts, on the left), beginning around 10 and continuing until 12:30.

Questions: Contact Mary Campbell.

Library – Chris Ritcher

Please welcome Chris as a new member of Nimble Fingers! You can see her at the Library table during meetings, or contact her directly. Let Chris know if you have any suggestions for the library, or if you are looking for a specific book.

Mini Groups – Jane Oden

The Guild would like to organize a list of members interested in being part of a mini-group.

Mini-groups are a way for individuals to form closer relationships with fellow quilters, and also to learn more quilting skills and techniques. Because mini-groups are not guild-

sponsored activities, each group makes its own decisions about how often, when, and where to meet.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the January and February monthly meeting. Please sign up if you are interested. You will be contacted when enough members (3-6) who want to meet on the same day of the week add their names to the list.

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

Member Beth Smith asked to share the following about her mini group, Merry Cats:

MERRY CATS MINI GROUP MEETS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Who are the Merry Cats and why are they called that? Probably because they are so happy to know one another, and also because in the original group, there was a Mary, a Mary Ann, a Kitty, a Kathy, and Katherine. The names and faces have changed somewhat, but the fun loving spirit of this mini group has stayed the same. To prove it, they had their 15th annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 7th at the King's Contrivance Restaurant in Columbia, MD.

Current members are Mary Hagen, mini group mom and a founding "Cat," Mary Ann Lanning, Jill Ruspi, Cathy Cottom, Dianne Ables, and Beth Smith. There are several honorary members as well, who turn up at various times and bring variety and even greater enjoyment to the meetings. The group has been meeting since 1995, quite an achievement in these times.

These ladies have seen one another through serious illness, getting kids through college, the births of grandchildren, traffic accidents, home sales and new home purchases, quilt shop field trips, close up and far flung quilt shows, and not a few quilting triumphs. Their trip to Houston a few years ago is infamous. Through it all, they have been supportive, generous, and loving to one another and to each other's families as well.

Every other Tuesday morning will find them gathered in a member's living room for show and tell, then moving on to the brunch table for refreshments. They are fortunate to have several talented cooks and bakers in the group, and calorie counting during meetings is not allowed. Chocolate is prominently featured, but there have been many other special dishes. After brunch, the group often works on projects both large and small, offering encouragement during the process and admiration of the finished products. The conversation during the meetings is informative, entertaining and often hilarious.

The friendships engendered through this mini group are lasting and close – proof that one of the wonders of quilting is its ability to bring people together and enrich their lives in many, sometimes unexpected, ways.

Current Events – Ann Plunkett

January 1- December 31 Exhibit: Women of the Civil War Era - Their Quilts and Their Stories. Also Sewing Machine Collection. 301 S. Main St. Harrisonburg VA.
www.vaquiltmuseum.org.

February 1 - May 14 Exhibit: Jinny Beyer: Kaleidoscope of Quilts 301 S. Main St. Harrisonburg VA. www.vaquiltmuseum.org.

February 24-27 Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival XX11. 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton VA.
www.quiltfest.org.

March 12-13 Quilt Expo 2011 1021 Dulaney Valley Rd. Towson MD.
www.Baltimorequilters.com

March 12-13 2011 Quilt Show 10624 Dumfries Rd, Manassas VA.
www.cabinbranchquilters.org

March 16-19, 2011 AQS Quilt Show & Contest , Lancaster PA. Lancaster Co. Convention Center www.AmericanQuilter.com

March 26-27 Southern Comforters Quilt Show. "Fans of Friendship", 15542 Peach Walker Drive, Bowie MD. www.southerncomforters.org.

April 28-30 Milltown Quilters Quilt Show, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia MD.
www.milltownquilters.com.

Member News

Debra Gabel's Open House, free lecture and book signing January 6th, 2011, 6-9pm.

Quilt Blocks Across America by Debra Gabel, published by C&T publishing is out now! 50 patterns, one for each state plus DC. 6-inch quilt blocks can be enlarged to any size via the included pattern CD. Quilt a travelogue of your adventures across the country! Every state is represented in a realistic landscape that shows off the state flowers, animals, landmarks, and the scenery that make each place so special.

Nimble Fingers members are invited to join Debra at her studio for a full studio tour, sneak peek at new patterns not yet released, lecture about making the book and book signing on January 6, 2011 from 6-9. **RSVP to debra@zebrapatterns.com**. Refreshments will be served. (Note there are 14 stairs up to Debra's loft studio)

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January 3 to 30 *A World of Color: Fabric Art* - Opening Reception Sunday, January 9, 3-5pm, River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road (access from Whittier Blvd.), Bethesda, Maryland.

This show by *Cloth and Conversation* exhibits the work of ten quilters who demonstrate the wide range of contemporary techniques used in making art quilts. Many of its members are also in Nimble Fingers: **Marilyn Barth, Connie Condrell, Elizabeth Davison, Floris Flam, Elke Jordan, Susan Walen.**

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Susan Thomas maintains a listserv at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sew-quilt-craft-costume/>

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Sue Walen has a blog: suewalen@me.com, www.suewalen.blogspot.com

Call for Raffle Quilt Proposals

The quilt show is over. The raffle quilt has been won. It is time to think about the next raffle quilt. We invite you to submit your proposal. All proposals are due by the meeting on February 2. Feel free to send them ahead to president@nimblefingers.org.

Your proposal must contain the following:

1. The basis for your design: original, photo, pattern. etc. A drawing or a picture of the quilt or of a similar quilt or a picture of the quilt design from a program such as EQ6 showing your proposed colors.
2. Size of finished quilt in inches.
3. Techniques used: piecing, applique, etc.
4. An overall plan showing start date through completion date (week 1 through week x).
5. A detailed plan on how the guild should make the quilt step by step. A spreadsheet or bulleted list would be fine. The description of each task should include:
 - Number of people needed for the task;
 - Description of task activities (cut up fabric, make kits for members to make blocks, piece blocks, etc.);
 - Length of time required to complete each task and if there are dependencies on other tasks.

6. Estimated yardage and costs for making the quilt.

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

Current Events:	Ann Plunkett
Historian:	Susan Sellers
Hospitality:	Carole Auth, Karen Cyr, Nancy Sharp
Library:	Chris Ritcher
Membership:	Mila Haberman, Mary Jo Haczewski, Liz Brigham
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
Quilting Bee:	Mary Campbell
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.

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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.

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Attached is a survey that will be taken at the January meeting. If you are not attending the meeting we ask you to complete the survey and mail it to the Nimble Fingers Quilt Guild, PO Box 8101, Gaithersburg MD 20898-8101 by January 15. We hope to get responses from the majority of the membership. Thanks, Linda and Patty.

NF QUILT SHOW / RAFFLE QUILT SURVEY JANUARY 2011

Disclaimer: This is not a sign-up sheet. The board is trying to gauge the guild's willingness to participate in future quilt shows and all that they entail.

1. What is your primary reason for belonging to Nimble Fingers? (Circle all that apply).
- a. Workshops b. Speakers c. Friendship d. Service to community
e. Show and Tell f. Quilt Show g. Other

What other quilt guilds do you belong to?

2. Do you want to have a quilt show? Yes _____ No _____
If no, then skip to question 7.
3. How often should we have a quilt show? Circle one.
a. every year b. every 2 years c. every 3 years
4. Are you willing to work on or at the show? Yes _____ No _____
If Yes, then what are you willing to do? (Circle all that apply).
a. volunteer at show b. chair a committee c. work on a committee
d. chair or co-chair the show (see Linda or Patty if you are)
5. Do you want to display your quilts at our quilt show? Yes _____ No _____
6. Would you be willing to pay a fee for entering your quilts? Yes _____ No _____
7. If you did not enter a quilt in the last show, why?

- _____
8. Would you pay higher dues instead of having a quilt show? Yes _____ No _____
If Yes, how much? _____

9. What suggestions do you have to provide funding for lectures and workshops other than from the proceeds from the raffle quilt and the quilt show? Please respond on the other side of this form.

RAFFLE QUILT:

1. Do you want to participate in making the raffle quilt? Yes _____ No _____
2. Are you willing to take the raffle quilt somewhere such as another guild meeting to sell raffle tickets? Yes _____ No _____
3. Would you volunteer to white glove and /or sell raffle tickets at a regional show (such as the Mancuso shows) in one-hour increments? Yes _____ No _____
4. If the guild offered to pay 50% of your hotel expense, would you consider volunteering at a regional show for 8 hours or more? Yes _____ No _____
5. Do you think that people should be required to either sell their raffle tickets or pay the \$20 value of the raffle tickets to the guild? Yes _____ No _____

PLEASE WRITE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE BACK.

Thank you from your Nimble Fingers Executive Board