

Nimble Fingers Newsletter

Fiber Artists of the Nation's Capital

www.nimblefingers.org
January/February 2018

PO Box 8101
Gaithersburg MD 20898-8101

Officers 2017-2018:
President: Dottie Acton
Vice President: Liz Adams
Secretary: Virginia Weber
Treasurer: Helen Wasserman

Since 1974 = 43 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

Remember to please keep our meetings a fragrance-free environment.

Next meeting is Wednesday January 3

President's Message from Dottie Acton

I'm writing this on Christmas day, late in the afternoon, when baby Jett is visiting his grandparents and everyone else is off playing with their new Christmas gifts. I miss Jett already, but a few minutes of quiet is a real treat after the busy morning.

I hope all of you have had a joyous holiday season, and are looking forward to a great new year, with lots of time for quilting. I have a wealth of projects in the queue, from simple service projects to some complex piecing that will help grow my skills. Of course, there's our ugly fabric challenge too. I still haven't decided what I'm going to do, but I have the fabric out where it can inspire me. Hopefully the rest of you are making good progress on your challenge quilts. The February meeting should be a lot of fun. We have a lot of good programs in the lineup for the coming year. Be sure to check out the program information in other parts of the newsletter.

One of my resolutions for the coming year is to go through my stash, one color at a time, and cut pieces for service project quilts, pull out fabric that I won't ever use and donate it to the yard sale, and contribute scraps that are just too small to the dog bed project. I'm starting with red, and working my way through the rainbow. My overall goal is to use or donate enough fabric so that all my stash can fit in my bookcases by the end of the year. Of course, to achieve that goal, I'll have to stop buying new fabric too. Not likely when so many quilt stores are having inventory reduction sales! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our January meeting. What better way to start the new year than meeting with quilting friends. Until then, keep on quilting.

Quilting 4 Others – Margaret Natof and Sheri Thompson

Co-chairs Margaret Natof and Sheri Thompson are delighted to report on the success of 2017 Quilting for Others projects.

In 2017, Nimble Fingers through Q4O donated over 150 quilts to the pediatric ward at Shady Grove Hospital.

In December, 45 quilts were donated to Montgomery County Social Services to be distributed to women's shelters in the County. Those shelters serve both abused and homeless women.

A huge thank-you to all of the nearly 50 persons who participated in the November Quilt-In and to the faithful group of 10-12 women who met twice a month at Margaret's house to sort fabric, prepare kits, and have lunch. You all rock!

In 2018, we would like to both continue to make quilts for children and also make more quilts for women in shelters.

The January Q4O meetings will be at Margaret's on January 9 and 23. If you would like to join the group, please call Margaret to RSVP.

Programs – Cecilia Marzulli (Chair), Ann McNulty

Jan – Liz Brodsky will present a lecture and half-day workshop on Wool Appliqué.

Feb - Ugly Fabric Challenge with Show and Tell

Mar - Susan Schoelwer, Textile Curator at Mt Vernon, will present a lecture on Quilts of the Founding Mothers

Apr - Andrea Schnur (quiltsensations.com) will present a lecture and trunk show on foundation paper piecing followed by a half-day workshop

May – Yard Sale

June – Brenda Shoemaker will talk about T-shirt and memory quilts

Ugly Fabric Challenge – Ann McNulty

Have you ever wanted to be a quilt judge? Whether you have wanted to or not, come to the February meeting and you are one! The ONLY judging will be a People's Choice award. You are asked to hand Ann your entry when you come in, with no labels on to indicate who made the item. Once items are laid out on tables, everyone at the February meeting gets to vote on whose challenge they like the best...is it funny?

Beautiful? Original (never saw anything like it!) or what? Your choice! Maybe you just like dog quilts!

The winners (there will be at least three) get yard sale bucks...and everyone who enters will get to choose some fabric to take home.

Please pin a scrap of your ugly fabric to the challenge piece, so everyone can see which fabric is the ugly one. Your quilt may be any size, placemat size or larger. We'll ask that you do show and tell explain why you think the fabric was truly ugly, or, why it is not ugly to you. What challenges (can be other than sewing) did you run into in completing the challenge? Were there any surprises along the way?

Lets have fun at the February meeting!

2018 Yard Sale – Margaret Natof

Starting in January, Margaret Natof will start collecting your donations for the **MAY 2** Nimble Fingers Yard Sale. Please note the May date. In the last blast, Margaret incorrectly stated the yard sale was in June.... wrong.... June is the month of the Friendship Star Yard Sale.

Some guidelines for your donations:

- 1) Fabric in all sizes from fat/skinny quarters to yardage. No scraps, please.
- 2) Cotton quilting fabric only.
- 3) Books and patterns, no magazines.
- 4) Sewing notions of all types.
- 5) UFO's or completed projects in which you have lost interest. Please package kits, etc. in plastic zip-loc bags.

Items left over after the sale will be recycled, donated to charity, and/or given to Friendship Star for their June yard sale. Call Margaret to arrange for delivery of your donated items to her garage.

2018 Spring Retreat – Kim Jalette and Laura Markus (co-chairs)

We are happy to announce that the Spring retreat is full, but we keep a wait list just in case! Contact Kim if you'd like to be added. Retreat dates are April 16-19, with a 3 day or 4 day option available.

Hospitality – Joni Hanley and Mary Campbell (co-chairs)

We will have subs and salad for lunch after our meeting on January 3 for \$5 (price increase and larger sandwich size). Those who signed up to hostess will be sent a reminder before the meeting.

Sunshine – Laura Markus

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE.....

Laura is looking to spread some Sunshine to our guild members, so if you hear of someone that needs a little Sunshine, or if there's Great news, please let her know, and she will send a card from the guild. Please email Laura.

Mini Groups – Ruth Cohen

If you are not in a small quilt group, now is the time to join one, or start a new one. Many of the small groups already have enough members. But it is easy to start your own group. Just send Ruth your name and contact information and when you would like to meet. She will keep a list of interested quilters and see if she can create a group. It is not necessary for everyone in the group to be at the same skill level or enjoy the same kind of quilting. Diversity makes for livelier meetings. Send information or questions to: Ruth Cohen by phone or email.

Membership – Rainie Broad

Nimble Fingers membership runs each year from May 1st through April 30th. Our dues remain at \$25 per year. You can either pay by check (payable to - Nimble Fingers) or cash. If you would like to mail your dues please mail check to Rainie Broad. For more information, send an email to membership@nimblefingers.org.

Library – Mary Ling

Many many thanks to Luanne Lindeman for serving as Librarian extraordinaire. She passed the baton to Mary Ling in December. Welcome Mary as our new Librarian!

LIBRARY FAQ's

Can I check out more than one book at a time?

Yes!

How long can I keep a book checked out?

The guild prefers that books be checked out for one month at a time so that more people have access to each title. Check it out at one meeting and return it at the next whenever possible.

Don't forget to check the website often (www.nimblefingers.org/library) and peruse our list of available titles. If you find one or more you would like me to bring to the next meeting, just email the request to librarian@nimblefingers.org

Current Events – position OPEN

Contact Dottie Acton if you are interested in this position. Your responsibilities would be to provide information about upcoming quilt shows and quilt-related events at meetings and to the Newsletter chair for publication in newsletters and blasts.

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR
March / April 2018 NEWSLETTER:
February 20, 2018**

Please send corrections to newsletter@nimblefingers.org

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

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Current Events: | OPEN |
| Historian: | Susan Sellers |
| Hospitality: | Joni Hanley, Mary Campbell |
| Library: | Mary Ling |
| Membership: | Rainie Broad |
| Mini Groups: | Ruth Cohen |
| Newsletter/Blasts: | Linda August |
| Nominating: | OPEN |
| Programs: | Cecilia Marzulli (Chair), Ann McNulty |
| Quilting Bee: | Francie Parrack |
| Quilting for Others: | Margaret Natof |
| Retreat: | Kim Jalette, Laura Markus |
| Sunshine: | Laura Markus |
| Website, Facebook: | Linda Dixon |
| Welcoming: | Ivy Barnett |

Nimble Fingers Quilters, Inc. meets at 10 AM on the first Wednesday of the month
(except July and August) at the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville (UUCR)
100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville MD 20850

Luncheon follows each meeting.