

Nimble Fingers Newsletter

www.nimblefingers.org
January / February 2015

PO Box 8101
Gaithersburg MD 20898-8101

Officers 2014-2015:
President: Diane Heller
Vice President: Mary Campbell
Secretary: Karen Smith
Treasurer: Sandy Koubek

Est. 1974 = Over 40 Years of Fellowship
National Quilting Association Chapter #MD019

Presidents' Message from Diane Heller

Where did 2014 go? Can you believe that another year has passed? I do hope that your year has been a good one, that your creative juices have been exercised and that you are ready for another year to begin!

As I write this, I am preparing to head up to Deep Creek for Christmas week and then on to Pittsburgh for my nephew's wedding. Praying for good travel weather.

I hope you all have finished your holiday projects and are planning to take a bit of time to relax and enjoy family and friends.

Mary Campbell has graciously said she will fill in the Vice President position for the rest of the year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 7th. We are planning a Round Robin for this meeting. Six members will provide short demos on some great topics. Many thanks to all you who have volunteered! Ginger Peebles has put together this Round Robin. Check later in the newsletter for the topics to be covered.

Another mini group has been brainstorming and come up with some suggestions for potential programs/speakers. Thank you all so much.

Linda August is doing her trunk show and talk for the **February 4th** meeting. Francie Parrack and Mary Campbell are working on the Nimble Fingers Yard Sale for **April 1st** meeting. On **June 3rd**, Kristen Schenning from the MD Historical Society will be speaking about the Flag Project and also about the role the society plays in preserving quilts. We are still firming up plans for March and May. We have reserved the church for a workshop on the Thursdays following the meetings.

Looking forward, we have to have a nominating committee. So please consider this as a way to volunteer for the group. We have to have a slate of officers to present at the **March** meeting for the coming year.

Ponder on these opportunities over holidays and come to the January meeting with new enthusiasm for a new year!

Programs – Open (chair), Natalie Felsher

Programs is a key part of our guild. Nimble Fingers needs a member or group to step up as Programs Chair. Your board has put together programs for the remainder of the year and a few for next year but the guild needs someone to plan for future speakers and workshops and coordinate them. For more information about the ins and outs of the job, see Susan Sellers or one of the board members at the next meeting. The responsibilities can easily be split among several people.

Wednesday, January 7, 2015, will be our first meeting of the year. We will have a Round Robin led by our talented guild members showcasing favorite tools, rulers, and methods.

1. How to prepare your quilt for long arm quilting. Winnie McCarraher
2. Using Wonder Under to transfer a pattern for appliqué. Helen Wasserman
3. Deb Tucker's newest ruler, Corner Pop. Ginger Peebles
4. Scrap Bag Treasures. Carolyn McShane.
5. Appliqué technique using Magic Sizing. Linda August
6. Wonky Setting Strips for any size block. Barbara Kilby

April, 2015 Yard Sale Planning Info

More space in your stash! Nimble Fingers is having a yard sale at our April 2015 meeting. Over the next few months as you go through your sewing stuff, set aside things that no longer speak to you. Maybe you're an advanced quilter who still has beginner books; maybe you've realized you will never appliqué despite having bought many appliqué books; maybe you bought a book because of one attractive picture and then realized that the book was about a seventeen step process for making half square triangles (If you don't have this book, my copy will be available). All items are donations to Nimble Fingers. The organization keeps the money—this is our big fundraiser for the year.

Along with books, we welcome fabric (yardage or scraps), unfinished objects, orphan blocks, patterns, notions, batting, and tools. No magazines, please. Early next year you will get instructions on how to prepare these things for the yard sale. Start sorting and stay tuned!

If you have nothing to donate, you will surely want to shop the sale.

Questions? Contact Francie Parrack or Mary Campbell, Yard Sale co-chairs

Hospitality – Joni Hanley and Vivi Sheff (co-chairs)

Sandwiches have returned!!! Joni Hanley and Vivi Sheff will be the co chairs. Thank you both for coming forward to help. Six hostesses will be needed at each meeting to set up and take down the paper products and food. Hostesses will also need to bring a two-liter bottle of a drink and dessert. One person will bring ice instead of dessert. \$4.00 covers your sandwich, salad, drink, and dessert. What a deal!

Membership – Rainie Broad

Membership dues are \$25 for the year. For more information, send an email to membership@nimblefingers.org.

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.

Quilting 4 Others – Barbara Shaffer and Ginger Peebles (co-chairs)

As 2014 comes to an end, we are very grateful for all the support that the guild has given to Quilting For Others. Because of your continued support there are many children out there that have a nice quilt to comfort them. It is your dedication to helping those in need that has really made a difference. Thank you! Thank you!

In 2015 we are going to add new "Kits" - check them out! We will continue to have packages of coordinated fabrics for you to piece as you choose. There is a child out there that will be very happy you are continuing with our tradition of helping others.

From Ginger: Why we do what we do.... The day after Warm Up America met, processed over 180 quilts & blankets, and sent them out for local distribution ... our Susan Sellers received a call from a pediatric unit at NIH. They were out of quilts. Their patients are very sick children and teens. We had to provide quilts/blankets for those children !!! A quilt emergency!

At the Warm up America meeting I told Susan I had Nimble Fingers quilts at home that had just been turned in. I knew that Mother Seton Parrish might have quilts available. Kathy Thorne, the coordinator, said in fact they did have quilts - three Ikea bags full !!! Susan made some fleece blankets. Due to our joint effort, 37 quilts & blankets were delivered to NIH on Tuesday, December 16th. The children have quilts!!! What a wonderful experience working together to provide comfort. **Why we do what we do.....**



Nominating Committee – all slots OPEN

We need a Nominating Committee in place now to prepare a slate for the upcoming elections. The slate needs to be presented at the March guild meeting. Please consider volunteering for one of the 3 slots and also consider being a candidate for a guild office.

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.

Quilting Bee – Francie Parrack

Need to sandwich a quilt, work on kitting, bind a quilt or start a new project? This is a great place to do these and other projects. Join us at Habitat Headquarters, Gaither Rd. 10-12 Thursday, Jan 15th, and Thursday, Feb 19th. If you don't have a project, come and visit. Hope to see you there.

Welcoming – Winnie McCarraher, Helen Wasserman

A big warm hi y'all and welcome from Winnie & Helen! If you are a new member, please check in with them so they can make sure you have fun and get to know everyone!!

Library – Susan Sellers

The Nimble Fingers Library is a collection of books about quilting that are available as a resource to guild members. As the new librarian, I will bring a selection of books to each meeting that will be available to check out. In addition, an updated list of available books will be posted to the new web site. Members can request a book by e-mailing me and the book will be brought to the next meeting.

Sew Nice Mini-group answers our guild president's call for help!

The following is a report from the Sew Nice Mini-group's response to Diane's call for help at our December guild meeting. Sew Nice members include Renuka Algama, Carole Auth, Cathy Berman, Liz Brigham, Karen Cyr, Linda Dixon, June Hubley, Gray Miller, Nancy Sharp, and Glenda Walker.

Sew Nice Mini-Group's Brainstorming

Being in a holiday spirit at the last Sew Nice mini-group meeting on December 12, we had an enthusiastic brainstorming session on potential speakers for Nimble Fingers 2015. Right then and there -- we made commitments, went home to call potential speakers, got three "Yes" answers from five speakers. Suggestions were sent to the President.

We borrowed from the inaugural speech of President John F Kennedy and came up with:
"Fellow quilters and members of Nimble Fingers -- ask not what the quilt guild can do for you,
ask what you can do for your quilt guild."

Can We Be More Like "Cheers?"

Over a fabulous potluck lunch we continued talking, and came up with ideas on how the Sew Nice mini-group can help make our guild meetings enhance its meetings to be more like the old TV program "Cheers," where everyone knows your name. Again the mini-group members committed to do more outreach at each of the Nimble Fingers guild meetings, greeting new members, old members, and especially visitors.

Our question to all Nimble Fingers members is: What do other mini-groups do and talk about at their meetings? We hope you will share your sessions with us.

Current Events – Cathy Berman

- **Ongoing, extended to Jan 4, 2015 – Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum**
1901 Fort PI SE, Washington, DC 20020. (202) 633-4820. Using black fabric as a canvas and different colored Czech glass beads as the medium of expression, the *Ubuhle* community has re-imagined the longstanding beading tradition as a contemporary art form. Free admission. Open Daily 10am-5pm.
- **Coming Jan 7-31, 2015: "A Reverence for Cloth" fiber art exhibit** – Lorie McCown and Karen Schulz – Winners of the 2014 Tribute to Fiber Art.
Blackrock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD.

Saturday Jan 10, Meet the Artist Reception. Please Join Us ...
3:00 – 5:00 PM FREE

Main Gallery Hours: Mon – Sat: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.*
Sunday: Closed*

* Please call 301-528-2260 to confirm gallery open hours before you visit. Galleries are often open in the evening and on weekends when classes and performances are being offered at BlackRock. Galleries are closed on certain days when exhibits are being installed.

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR
MARCH / APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER:
February 17, 2015**

Please, let's make Nimble Fingers a fragrance-free zone, both at meetings and in workshops!

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

Current Events:	Cathy Berman
Historian:	Susan Sellers
Hospitality:	Joni Hanley, Vivi Sheff
Library:	Susan Sellers
Membership:	Rainie Broad
Mini Groups:	Ruth Cohen
Newsletter:	Linda August
Nominating:	OPEN
Programs:	OPEN (chair) , Natalie Felsher
Quilting Bee:	Francie Parrack
Quilting for Others:	Barbara Shaffer, Ginger Peebles
Retreat:	Rainie Broad
Sunshine:	Laura Markus
Website:	Linda Dixon
Welcoming:	Winnie McCarraher, Helen Wasserman

Nimble Fingers Quilters, Inc. meet 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.