

The Common Thread

A newsletter of the Mississippi Quilt Association

President’s Message

My how this year has flown by! Thank you for your support as I served as MQA president this past year. I especially appreciate your enthusiastic response to the 25th anniversary celebration. February will be our last chance to showcase our Silver Anniversary Challenge wall hangings. Simply create a 25”x25” art quilt, take a photo, write an artist’s statement that explains how your quilt celebrates, and send both to me at pjgraber@juno.com. Whether you’ve brought a quilt before or have a new one to display, bring it to Brandon. I look forward to seeing the final collection!

Thank you to everyone who made the Fall Gathering in Columbus such a success! From the local volunteers and guest speakers to the fantastic vendors and attendees, it was an event to remember!

We look forward to seeing you in February in Brandon at the first gathering of 2017. Event details are on page 2. We will celebrate our charter members, past presidents, and lifetime members.

Please remember to vote for the slate of officers presented on page 3. If you attend the Gathering, you will vote there. **The paper ballot in this newsletter is only for absentee voters.**

My best wishes to Nancy Losure as she begins her term as president, and my sincere thanks to everyone on the MQA Board!

Celebrate, Integrate, Create!

Julia Graber



Inside this issue

- Spring Gathering2
- Absentee Ballot3
- Spring Vendors4
- Registration Form5
- Regional News6
- MQA History.....10
- Membership Form11

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 17-18: MQA Spring Gathering in Brandon
- June 2-3: MQA June Gathering in Jackson
- Educational Seminar with Barbara Cline:
 - July 17 in Biloxi
 - July 18 in Hattiesburg
 - July 19 in Jackson
 - July 20 in Starkville
 - July 21 in Oxford
 - July 22 in Corinth

The MQA logo is based on an original design by Martha Ginn. Used with Permission.

Spring Gathering: The Basics

When: Feb. 17-18

Registration Deadline: Jan. 27

Times: Fri. registration 4 p.m. Program 5-8:00 p.m.
Saturday activities start at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Rankin County Safe Room
651 Marquette Rd., Brandon, MS 39042

Directions:

From the LaQuinta. Travel back to I-20 east until you reach exit 56, Stay in the left lane. Turn at the signal, stay in the center lane. Travel to the 2nd traffic signal which is Marquette Rd., turn left and travel approximately 1 mile. Building will be on the right side of the street.

If you are traveling from the Brandon direction. Take Hwy 80, or Government Street until you reach Marquette Rd. Turn left on Marquette Rd and travel approximately 1 mile. Building is on right.

Host Hotel: LaQuinta Inn & Suites

215 Dandle Rd., Brandon
601-591-1045
www.laquintabrandonjacksonairport.com/en/photos-videos.html

Two Doubles: \$74 + tax
King: \$69 + tax

Tip: Room reservations must be made by Jan. 27 for the special rate. A block of rooms has been reserved under the name MS Quilt Association.

Directions: If you come into the Jackson area on I-55, you will turn left onto I-20. Travel east on I-20 (like you are going to Meridian) until you reach exit 54. Stay in the right lane & you will see the hotel on the left. This is Hwy. 18.

****Note: Check-in time is 3 p.m. This hotel serves airline crews and if you do not check in by 3 p.m. they will give away your room!**

Mail registration and payment to:

Lucy E. Large

210 Woodlake Dr.
Brandon, MS 39047

Questions? Contact Lucy:
largele@bellsouth.net or 601-953-8075

Spring Gathering held in Brandon Feb. 17-18!

We will kick off the Spring Gathering at 4 p.m. with registration and shopping! The Rankin Quilters are preparing your evening meal of soup, salad and dessert, which will be served at 5:30 p.m. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the Mustard Seed Hand Bell Choir will perform, followed by an Apron Program by the Rankin Quilters.

The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Our programs will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a formal welcome by our president, Julia Graber. Our morning theme will address elements of *When Life Gives You Scraps--Start a Quilt!* What quilter does not have a scrap stash that could/should be "re-purposed" into a scrappy quilt? Our speakers are: Cindy Pannier, Marilyn Rose, Joan Alliston and Fran Cummings with Friends. From a Guild President's platform to strip piecing, to string piecing, to using grid blocks composed of little squares---they will present their favorite technique or method with examples and share the reference books they used.

After a short break, we will have our MQA's 25th Anniversary Celebration by recognizing our MQA presidents, our charter members and other tributes. Lunch will begin at 11:45 a.m. At 1:15 p.m., there will be an opportunity for announcements and upcoming events. At 1:30 p.m., we will have our Annual Business Meeting with the election of officers and presentation of the new Leadership Team. Show and Tell will follow. We will adjourn when we have seen all the quilts. The President's Silver Challenge wall hangings will be on display.

SATURDAY MEAL INFORMATION

Saturday's lunch will be catered by McAlister's for \$10 per person. The Spud Max Bar with Salad Bar features a freshly baked Idaho potato upon which you create your own masterpiece with flavorful fillings, such as Black Forest ham, Butterball smoked turkey, smoked bacon, black olives, green onions, cheese, sour cream, and butter. The Salad Bar features fresh greens, tomatoes, and cucumbers with cheddar-jack cheese and croutons on the side. Salad dressing choices are a vinaigrette and Ranch.

****Please complete the registration form on page 5.**

Special Request!!

Guild representatives:

Please bring ONE (1) door prize to the gathering.

****Remember to select items that would appeal to a broad range of quilters.**

Proposed Slate of Officers and 2017 Absentee Ballot

Please complete this ballot ONLY if you will **not be present** at the Spring Gathering in Brandon Feb. 17-18.

President (one-year term): **Nancy Losure**

For Against

President-elect (one-year term): **Lauren Hutchins**

For Against

Treasurer (two-year term): **Susan Beard**

For Against

Voting will occur during the business meeting at the February 2017 Gathering. If you are not attending, you may mail your ballot to:

Linda Jabour, MQA Secretary

PO Box 5489

Brandon MS 39047

Or you may email your vote to: pjabour@bellsouth.net

MQA Membership Report

We currently have 410 paid members. Some of the benefits of maintaining a current MQA membership include: attending 3 gatherings each year, receiving 3 newsletters and an MQA membership roster. MQA also hosts an educational class each summer with a nationally known instructor. Invite your friends to join! You know they will meet a lot of wonderful people and they may learn some new things about quilting!

New membership cards were mailed to those who are current. Please contact me if you did not receive your membership card or if you just need to update your information (address, phone number, email and email vs. regular mail preference.) The dues are \$15 for a year. If you want to pay for more than one year, you are welcome to do that. Beginning April 1st, Linda Levy will be taking over membership. Until that time feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Jere' Funk, Membership Director

7024 Pinehurst Drive

Ocean Springs, MS 39564

The9patch@bellsouth.net

(228) 818-9293

MQA Officers

President: Julia Graber

Pres. Elect: Nancy Losure

Secretary: Linda Jabour

Treasurer: Susan Beard

Immediate Past President:

Marietta Johnson

Membership Director:

Jere' Funk

Newsletter Editor:

Keri Lewis/Cristen Bland

Educational Director:

Judy Stokes

Leadership Directors:

Judy Stokes & Linda Jabour

Legacy Director:

Joan Alliston

Publicity Director:

Lauren Hutchins

Historian: Diane Rhyne

Parliamentarian:

Billie Thompson

Webmaster:

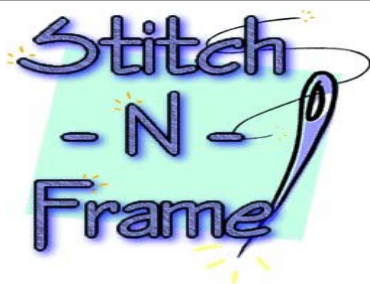
Lucy Large

The Common Thread is published three times per year. Please submit news, ads, and changes in guild information to Cristen Bland at gumtreequilters@gmail.com.

To request changes to the website, www.mississippiquilt.org, contact Lucy Large at large@bellsouth.net.

Join us on Facebook! Just search for the Mississippi Quilt Association and click "Join."

A Special Thanks to All of our Spring Gathering Vendors!



**Interstate 20 to
Exit 11 Bovina MS.
Mailing address:
31 Willow Creek Dr.
Vicksburg, MS
39183**

**Email: Stitch-n-frame@att.net
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2017 Spring Gathering Registration Form

Registration Deadline: Jan. 27

Name:

Address:

City:

State/ZIP:

Email:

Phone/Cell:

The Spring Gathering is a free event open to MQA members. Non-member guests are welcome to attend at no cost Friday night and at a cost of \$5 for Saturday's session. Please indicate soup preference if you are attending Friday night and/or indicate if you want a catered lunch Saturday.

I will attend Friday night. (Mark soup preference in box on right.)

Saturday Lunch Cost (\$10) : _____

Non-member/guest admission for Saturday: _____

Make checks payable to MQA.

Mail event registration form and payment to:

Lucy E. Large
210 Woodlake Dr.
Brandon, MS 39047

Questions: email Lucy at largele@bellsouth.net or call her at 601-953-8075.

MENU SELECTIONS (SEE PAGE 2)

****Write in your meal cost in box at left.**

Friday Night: Soups, salad and desserts provided by Rankin Quilters. Please select your preference so appropriate amounts can be made.

- 1. Chili
- 2. Potato Soup
- 3. Vegetable Soup
- 4. Chicken & Rice Soup (Gluten Free)

Saturday Lunch:

- 1. Spud Max Bar with Salad (\$10)

Birthday cake will be served Saturday for dessert.

Water, tea & coffee provided.



If you have not paid your membership dues, complete the form on pg. 11 & send with payment to:

Jeré Funk
7024 Pinehurst Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Phone: 228-818-9293
Email: the9patch@bellsouth.net

Regional News

Please send guild news to your area rep and to Cristen Bland at gumtreequilters@gmail.com by April 1.

Central

Brandon, Brandon Quilters

As the year drew to a close, we also closed the book on our series of programs based on scraps.

In September we widened our scope and looked at not only scraps, but "scrap blocks"- those orphans that were one too many, not quite the color we wanted, just a sample, etc. Three teams each worked magic with stacks of those miss-matched blocks, arranging them in various ways to end up with amazingly pleasing results.

October found us back into scraps, with Joan Alliston sharing a program on a scrappy string star quilt, along with other string quilts. Local guild members were then offered the chance to make one of their own in a class taught by Joan in December.

In November and December, we were back to our traditional events: We had our "Make It, Bake It, Sew It, Grow It" Auction in November that was very successful. And the Christmas season had a great start in December with another catered meal and a rousing round of "The Wright Family Christmas"!

December also brought the conclusion of the Round Robin Challenge, where each month participants got a certain fabric as well as various shapes and sizes that had to be used in a series of borders around the original center block that they made. They were all so different it was hard to believe the same fabrics were included in all of them. We voted on our favorites and cash prizes were awarded! We also had our UFO drawing in December with participants having a chance to win half of the monies collected for this challenge. Actually, we were ALL winners though, as it provided incentive to work on those numerous UFO's that we all have!

Some of us have started our UFO list for next year, and our new board is hard at work, recruiting members to suggest programs and present programs. We look forward to another great year, so come if you can- first Monday, 6:30 p.m., Brandon Library. Happy quilting!

Brandon, Rankin County Quilters

In September, Teresa Pino from Hernando, MS came to our group and did a great trunk show. Our members enjoyed listening and learning from a fellow quilter. Every October

we have a workshop where we work on our charity projects. This year we focused on making bibs for Hudspeth patients. This is a very rewarding project. These patients love the variety of colored bibs that we make for them. At our November meeting we had a program on Aprons. Members brought aprons from their past, present and future. It was an interesting display of what our members owned and what family treasures they shared with us.

Joan Alliston taught a string quilt class at our December meeting. We had approximately 30 ladies in attendance. The Rankin Quilters provided lunch for our guests. Everyone had a great time and left with at least one block sewn together. We had a member of the MQA Education committee attend and she was encouraging the ladies to try to have a top completed by our Spring Gathering meeting. We shall see.

Rankin Quilters will host for the Spring Gathering. If you are in our area on the second Monday of the month, stop in and say hello. We meet at 1:00 in the afternoon. Hope to see you at the Spring Gathering.

Brandon, Quilters By Hearts Desire

It seems as though during the fall our meetings are all about celebrations. This was the 25th year our guild has been together, so in October we had a birthday cake and ice cream. November is our last meeting of the month, so we always have a Thanksgiving meal and do a heart exchange. Some of the hearts are simple and some quite elegant. It is always exciting to see who creates the prize heart. Members take them home and put them on their Christmas Tree.

Our officers for 2017 are: Delene Browning, President; Shelley Taylor, Vice President; Jackie Watkins, Secretary; and Karen Pettrignani, Treasurer. I know we will have another year of growing and learning.

Come and see us on the third Monday of the month at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Brandon. Our meeting time is 7 p.m.

Canton, Allison Wells Quilters

The members of the Allison's Wells Quilt have been busy. A few of our members displayed their quilts at the Old Man River Quiltfest in Vicksburg, Mississippi in August. Julie Hendricks won a blue ribbon for hand-quilting. Way to go Julie!

Using our donated scraps from our projects, we have been putting together charity quilts. We have also been busy with our beautiful raffle quilt which will be hanging in our spring 2017 quilt show.

This past year we have had several programs Mary Jane Boutwell, Ann Fox, Diane Rayburn and Julie Hendricks.

The guild meets on Tuesdays in Canton at the Visitors Welcome Center from 9:30 a.m. until ?, to fellowship and teach each other tips and tricks and just have fun.

October thru January we meet at the WIN Center in Canton located on Watford. We are always happy to see visitors.

Jackson, Jackson Quilt Guild

Jackson Quilters have made and donated many charity quilts to Blair Batson Children's Hospital in 2016. In July, the Jackson Quilters celebrated Christmas with a program by Sara Ridgway Running. She taught us how to make the Triangle Christmas Tree. Many Christmas items were shared during Show & Tell.

The big news for August and September was the change in our meeting location. We now meet at Christ United Methodist Church on Old Canton Road in Jackson.

At the August meeting Dorinda Evans gave a program called Happy Scrappy Quilting. The definition of a scrap quilt is that it should use at least 75 different fabrics. Dorinda gave us tips on our to organize our scraps. Many examples of Dorinda's work were enjoyed.

Our members that attended the Old Man River Quiltfest talked about their classes and showed class examples.

Quida Davis presented a program entitled "Knowledge at your Fingertips" at the September meeting. She talked about how the internet has made learning and sharing of quilting much easier. There are so many classes - paid and free - that are available. She talked about websites for learning and shopping, the availability of tutorials, patterns and blogs. She compiled a handout listing numerous internet sites for members to enjoy.

In October, we finished off our year with a luncheon and election of officers for 2017.

East Central

Dacula, Busy Hands

We hope to raise our membership and attendance for the year 2017. Our membership is 27 with an attendance of 12-15.

In October several ladies attended the Quilt Show in Vicksburg. Three of our members had quilts on display in Columbus. Eleven of our members attended the Hattiesburg Quilt Show. We collect our orphan squares and add to them to make 42 for our charity quilts. We are making a charity quilt for a family in Lake.

The president passed out a sheet for members to complete and return naming the programs they would like during and volunteering or suggesting a teacher for the programs for 2017.

In November several members worked on pillowcases. Bonnie worked on pillowcases and small quilts to match. Twenty-three matching pillowcases and quilts and several extra pillow cases have been sent to a children's home in Corinth, Mississippi.

In December we will have our Christmas Lunch made of favorites of each member attending. We will also draw and open our presents pertaining to quilting.

Meridian, Carousel Quilters

The Carousel Quilters are busy trying to finish projects on their Resolution List made back in January 2016! For each project completed, your name goes in the hat, the lucky name drawn will receive a very nice prize! For each project on the list not completed, you will pay a fat quarter. Needless to say, there have been many projects completed this year. But sadly, a few remain unfinished! I think this guild activity has increased our productivity! We will be doing it again!

We recently met for our time of Christmas celebrating. Each person attending had made two blocks with a focal fabric chosen and supplied by the guild. Bridget Hill, our long distance member, (Bridget lives in KY but joins us for meetings via FaceTime, and travels for special occasions) won the lot of Christmas blocks! She will have blocks assembled together for us to see by this time next year. Barbara Thompson, winner of last year's blocks, recently had show and tell for the guild!

Our small guild continues to grow. We meet on the second Thursday evening of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Meridian Activity Center. We welcome all who want to join us!

West Central

Greenville, Delta Quilters

The Delta Quilters have been doing some traveling to visit quilt shops, quilt shows and quilt exhibits. We've taken several of our monthly meeting times to catch ourselves up on what's going on outside of the Delta!! For anyone interested in meeting in the Delta area, we gather up monthly at different churches, homes and the library. To join us any time, please contact Ann Simcox 662-686-7905 to find out where we are that month.

Gulf Coast

Long Beach, Ocean Waves

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Contact Jean for info. jeant228@aol.com.

Lucedale, Melon Patch Quilt Guild

Glory be... we've expanded by three!! We would like to welcome our newest members Rene, Donna & Sue. Sue happens to be a "celebrity" thanks to the many people who have seen her Facebook outreach ministry. She opened her heart and home to make quilts for people recently effected by the Louisiana Flood. She has received quilt tops from all over the world and has made it her mission to quilt each and every one. Her kindness touched the hearts of others and the donations began to pour in! We are so blessed to have her in our little guild and have offered to help her bind some of the quilts. If you would like to donate or help in any way please contact us through our Facebook site.

Whew... countless hours spent planning and preparing for the quilt show this year was worth it all, and not to mention a huge success. It was by far the best show we have done yet! We enjoyed getting the opportunity to meet members from several other guilds that attended from the surrounding areas. Many thanks to everyone for your "labors of love." We have already turned our thoughts in anticipation to the next one in 2018.

As the year is winding down, our group has already met and shared meals for Thanksgiving & Christmas. We always seem to gather in the kitchen, hugging, laughing, and swapping heartwarming stories. As we sat down to eat, we took a few minutes to reflect on the last couple of years and without hesitation, different ones began to point out what meant the most to them, things they had learned and what they were most thankful for. It's always the simple things that mean the most. With full hearts and bellies we concluded by welcoming our new officers for 2017 and discussed many outreach opportunities. From our little quilt house to yours we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!!

Poplarville, Jubilee Quilt Guild

We meet 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Saturday at the MSU Pearl River County Extension Service Office, 417 Hwy 11 North, Poplarville.

Orange Grove/Gulfport, Magnolia Quilters

We consistently meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month except for November and December.

Moss Point, River City Quilters

We meet every Thursday at the Ina Thompson Moss Point Library from 3-7:30 pm. and the 1st Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We had a Name That Song Challenge with

the blocks on display at the Library from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1. Viewers looked at the block and identified the song title. We had 5 winners with 22 or more correct titles. We had 36 song blocks by 15 artists. We will display our Black History/Valentine quilts from Jan. 13 to Feb. 28, 2017. We will have our Journey on the Underground Railroad on Feb. 23, 2017 from 3 -7 p.m.

Picayune, Picayune Piecemakers

We participated in the Heritage Festival and handed out lanyards to the school children who attended. A good time was had by all at the Christmas Party Dec. 3. We enjoyed Dulcimer music, pot luck lunch, door prizes and gift exchange. In 2017 we are continuing with the Lotto Blocks, but also adding a 2 1/2" strip exchange. We will be working on our Opportunity Quilt for our 2018 Quilt Show. We have many exciting programs for the New Year. We meet on the first Saturday of the month at St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM. For more information contact our President, Glenda Copeland at 601 798-3944!

Gautier, Scrappy Quilters

We meet every Tuesday, 4-6 p.m. at Gautier First United Methodist Church.

Vanceleave, The Vanceleave Quilt Bees

We meet every Monday from 4-6 p.m. at the Vanceleave Library.

Diamondhead, Bay Oaks Quilt Guild

Meetings are held 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Kiln Library, Highway 603. Check out our website www.bayoaksquiltguild.com and our Facebook page for more information.

Biloxi, Sand Stitchers

We meet on most Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Northside ASOG Church, 14901 Lemoyne Blvd., Biloxi. The first Thursday of the month is our business meeting. The third Thursday is project night. We may have a lesson, work on a charity project or have a lecture. The second and fourth Thursdays we have Quilting and Crafts. Everyone works on whatever project they want to. Some bring their sewing machines, some bring hand-piecing, and some bring knitting or crocheting. We even occasionally push some tables together to baste a quilt or two. And of course everyone is willing to lend a helping hand to those who need a lesson or want an opinion. We welcome visitors at any time. For more information: Jere' Funk 228-818-9293 the9patch@bellsouth.net

Northeast

Ackerman, Scrappers Quilt Guild

Our guild meets at various locations and times each month. Visitors are always welcome to come join in on the fun at our guild meetings, but be sure to call to get all the details of the meeting. We have 35 members and continue to grow with creative and talented members, who come from 9 different counties in our Northeast area of the Mississippi. Come join us. For meeting details, call Diane Rhyne at 251-680-1409 or Nancy Henson at 662-285-8373.

Starkville, Golden Triangle Quilt Guild

I hope you all are busy quilting! I have a question for you all. Do you advertise your guild? Newspaper, flyers, website, business cards? How do you let people in your area know who you are, where you are and what you do? My challenge to you all is to get the word out about your guild. Recruit people to join and get them excited to learn about our wonderful hobby (real jobs for some). Guilds can be intimidating to beginner quilters as the new ones worry that they won't measure up. I encourage each of you advanced quilters to team up with a beginner and mentor them. It will enrich BOTH of your lives. For our joy of quilting to survive and thrive, we have to teach it to younger people, so that they can continue to pass it on as they were taught.

GTQG was just featured in an article with Starkville Dispatch about our continuing community service project to supply the Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Department with Comfort Quilts for each car. These quilts are to be used at the Deputy's discretion in their day to day operations where the situation calls for comforting a child or even an adult, such as car wrecks, or fire.

In January, we have a new line up of programs and classes our members will be sure to enjoy throughout the year. I'm looking forward to GTQG learning and growing in 2017. Our very own Nancy Losure will be MQA President in 2017, so I know it will be an exciting and fun year there as well.

I know I've said this before, but if you are ever in Starkville, we'd love to have you join us at our monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday night of the month at 5:30 at the Starkville Sportsplex Activities Building...or come to our monthly Sit & Sew on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at this same location. Also, look us up on Facebook to see some of our show and tell from the meetings.

Iuka, Northeast Needle Chasers

Our guild again mourns the loss of two

members – Burke Bonds, a founding member of our guild, and Gail Barnes of Belmont.

In September the Guild had a very successful quilt show in Iuka. Barbara Black of Alabama was our Guest Quilter and judge. A special needlework award was presented to honor three members who had died the prior year-- Evelyn Tucker, Nancy Larson, and Norma Grisom. Dorothy Dailey who does outstanding hand quilting and appliqué was the recipient. In October ten guild members attended the Fall Gathering in Columbus.

Elections were held in November. Every year we elect one-half of our board members so that we always have experienced officers as the newer members are getting oriented to their responsibilities. Late in the month the Board met to discuss plans for the coming year and put together a budget.

Guild members enjoyed the best Christmas party ever in December. We learned that we have some talented members who can sing, dance, and create loads of fun.

Members are looking forward to enjoying our annual quilting retreat at J. P. Coleman State Park in January—3 days of sewing, pajamas, eating, and fellowship. What more could a quilter ask for?

Several guild members have signed up to participate in the 'black & white and one other color' guild challenge at the Mountain Quiltfest next year.

Columbus, Possum Town Quilters

The Possum Town Quilters thank all those who made it to Columbus for the Fall Gathering. We pretty much invested our entire year to the preparations and are ready to move on towards the new year. Our new officers are President – Tonya Stewart, Vice President – Naomi Perry, Secretary – Gwen Sisson, Treasurer – Michelle Miller.

Our Christmas Party was held December 3. Great Food, awesome handmade gifts and a new Secret Santa idea created a fun time for all who were there. The newest Habitat for Humanity House was dedicated December 11 and the owners received a lovely quilt from PTQ. Looking forward to 2017.

Come see us on the 2nd or 4th Saturday. We meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Rosensweig Art Center in downtown Columbus. Visit our blog at www.possumtownquilters.blogspot.com.

Starkville, Happy Hoopers

Starting with yesterday's meeting (December 15) and going backwards, we had a good group to play Dirty Santa and we got some work done, as well. Nine of us then had lunch at Applebee's and finished (?) our talking.

Our number has grown considerably since this time last year. Encouraging members to bring show-and-tell has been wonderful.

We are a very diverse, sit-and-sew group

that meets every Thursday, 10:00-12:00. We meet in the Activities Building at the Sportsplex on Lynn Lane where we have a lot of tables and chairs with which to spread out whatever we are working on. Some may be sewing on binding, some may need to sandwich a quilt (and there are always those who are willing to help with that), some may be auditioning fabric for a new project.....and the list goes on. We have members who drive from Columbus, West Point, and Tibbee, and we are thankful for them. And we have beginning quilters all the way up the quilting ladder to those who have been quilting for many years.

We have some who are very talented in other crafts such as knitting and crocheting; and they are always willing to help with any problems that are encountered. We even have a member who is a spinner of thread now; and it is wonderful to witness this diversity in our membership. Sometimes our meetings are similar to a crafts class.

Congratulations again to the Possumtown Quilters of Columbus for hosting a most successful October Gathering.

Please come and join us at the Sportsplex any Thursday that you can.

Tupelo, Gumtree Quilters

The end of 2016 kept us very busy. New officers were elected in September. President is Cristen Bland, Denise Backstrom is treasurer, Martha Ann Casmus is our program chair, and Marcelle Bethany is our secretary/newsletter editor. Our new president decided to make things a little interesting and has decided to offer up quarterly challenges to the guild. The first one was presented in October with final projects due in January 2017. The first one is a color based challenge that is having lots of us step out of our color comfort zone. Check our Facebook page in January to see how members interpreted their challenge (www.facebook.com/gumtreequilters).

Several of our members were honored during the Needle Chasers Quilt Show in September. Karen Asbury won Best of Show and first place in the applique-machine quilted category for her "Wreath of Roses" quilt and second place in the large category for her "Colonial Cockscomb" quilt. Lynn Blaylock won Best of Show in the medium category, Viewer's Choice and First Place in the mixed technique and machine quilted by professional category for her "Diamond in the Rough Squared" quilt. Charline Hill won third place for her "Log Cabin" quilt and honorable mention in the large, hand-pieced category for her "Grandmother's Flower Garden" quilt. Marcelle Bethany won second place in the medium pieced and machine quilted category for her "Ode to a Butterfly" quilt and honorable mention for three other quilts entered into the show.

In October, the guild gathered for a place mat workshop. The purpose of the workshop

was to create place mats for a donation to the local Meals on Wheels program for the holiday season. With the 10 in attendance for the workshop and those that weren't able to attend but made place mats, we created 67 placemats to deliver to not only the Meals on Wheels program but to three other area programs that offer holiday meals to the community. We are very excited about this donation and are considering doing it again next year.

Invitation Tupelo, a local lifestyles publication, did a wonderful story about the guild in their December issue. Lynn Blaylock and Cristen Bland spoke with the reporter about the guild and their experiences quilting. Lynn and her quilts also were the models for the article. It is a free publication and should be available in various places around town. If you're not in the northeast area and would like to read the article, it can be found online at www.invitationtupelo.com. Search for their December/January 2017 issue, it starts on page 44. If you aren't online but would like to read the article, to call our president at (662) 394-3088 and she can drop a copy in the mail for you.

Next year looks to be an exciting one for the guild. We have our first class booked for March on free-motion quilting on your domestic machine. It's being taught by Patti Sandage. We hope to do more classes and possibly more community service projects as the year moves forward. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at All Saints Episcopal Church (608 W. Jefferson St., Tupelo, 38804) at 6:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. If you have any questions or just want to see what we're up to, check out our Facebook page, email us at gumtreequilters@gmail.com, or call (662) 394-3088.

Corinth, Cross City Piecemakers

The Cross City Piece Makers Quilt Guild of Corinth has certainly enjoyed a busy year with workshops and charity projects. Community involvement remains a priority for the guild. In addition to donating nearly 150 chemo caps to West Clinic cancer center in Corinth and 36 lap-sized quilts for the Alcorn County Sheriffs Dept. used by their officers during domestic emergencies, guild members also cheerfully contributed to the Christmas program for residents of Pinevale Children's Home by making up more than 25 darling totes (using recycled plastic ice cream buckets) filled with small toys, sweet treats and school supplies.

There's much to look forward to 2017 as well with some very special events in the works! In January, our own expert quilter Sharon Beene will be teaching a one-day workshop featuring the Diamond in the Rough pattern by designers Debbie Caffrey & Charlotte Angotti. In April, we're very excited that certified Studio 180 instructor Anita Chaisty will be joining us from Knoxville to present a workshop using Deb Tucker rulers. Then in July at our annual trunk show and silent auction, we are thrilled that renowned nationally recognized quilter Flavin Glover has accepted our invitation to present a lecture featuring some of her amazing, award-winning quilts. Also in July as part of MQA's annual Educational Seminar, we eagerly anticipate master quilter Barbara Cline's visit to Corinth to present a class, "Cookie Cutter" quilt, a pattern from her new book *Amazingly Simple Triangle Stars*.

The Cross City Piece Makers meet the third Thursday of the month, 1 pm at the MSU Extension Service Building, next door to the Crossroads Arena at the junction of Hwys 45 and 72 in Corinth. New members and visitors, with or without quilting experience, are always welcome to join us. Our monthly programs offer demonstrations of techniques, quilt block ideas and back-to-basic fundamentals plus book reviews, gadgets, and handy tips & tricks.

Southwest

Brookhaven Piecemakers

Everyone has been busy these last months of 2016. We had our second annual retreat in October at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman with about fifteen campers. A lot of projects were completed and new

ones started. The day after we left it was off to Hattiesburg for the Pine Belt Quilt Show where several of our members won ribbons. In November we had a pizza party partially financed with money collected over the year for not wearing name tags (some of us have a hard time remembering the names of new members!!) New officers were elected and interesting programs presented for next year. Our charity project again this year was to make quilts for wounded veterans which are always appreciated.

One of our members is teaching a sewing class at Doll House which is a home for women in transition. We contributed cutting boards, rotary cutters and rulers to be kept at the home. Goody bags were made for each resident containing scissors, needles, pins and other supplies for each one to take.

Earlier in the year our president Pam Clark gave us a challenge using a VERY small piece of fabric to be used somewhere in a design for a Christmas stocking. There were some really neat ones and we had to guess which member made which stocking. We enjoyed food, games and fellowship ending 2016. We look forward to a new year and many new projects.

Vicksburg, Vicksburg Quilters

Vicksburg Quilters meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30 at the Vicksburg Senior Citizens Center located at 820 South Street, Vicksburg. Our officers are: President, Barbara Cashman; Vice President, Luanne Salgado; Secretary, Betty B. Jeffers; Treasurer, Mary Holman; and Programming, Brigid Jenkins.

This guild's primary project is the Canopy Children's Solutions. Quilts are given throughout the year. In December the members brought boys underwear and toys to be taken to Canopy.

In August, our guild had a booth at the Old Man River Quiltfest. Members had made blocks from a challenge fabric, Luanne Salgado made the quilt from these blocks and quilted it on her domestic sewing machine. Tickets were sold to be drawn for this quilt. The proceeds from this project also went the Canopy Children's Solutions.

A Note about The Common Thread

Cristen Bland, a member of the Gumtree Quilters of Tupelo, will take on the role of The Common Thread Editor beginning with the Summer, 2017 issue. Her email address is gumtreequilters@gmail.com.

Please mark your calendars for April 1! If you are a guild rep, please gather guild news! Please communicate with your area representatives even if you have nothing to report so the reps can let Cristen know.

Your report doesn't have to be long! Share ideas you think might benefit other guilds, highlight guild accomplishments, and remember to let people know how to find you so our guilds can grow.

MQA History: Celebrating our First 25 Years!

Part 3: 2009-2016, By Linda Jabour

2009

President Gloria Reeves challenged the membership with “*the start of something new and we hope you will join us in our quest for new quilts to make, new techniques to learn, new friends to meet and new roles to fill in MQA.*” The Educational Seminar instructor was M’Liss Rae Hawley who taught classes based on her book, **Mariner’s Medallion Quilts**. The **Common Thread** featured quilters were Jenny Reed, Carolyn Emerson and Linda Jones. The January issue of CT included *A Tribute in Memory of Martha Skelton* by her granddaughter, Jennifer Fentress. Martha passed away Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

2010

President Carolyn Emerson’s theme was *Connecting Threads to Keep our Quilting Heritage Alive Throughout the Generations*. The first annual Outstanding Mississippi Quilters Exhibit was displayed at the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. The June reception honored these ten quilters and their families: Betty Berryhill of Raymond; Ann Carleton of Union; Aleen Cullen of Kosciusko; Martha DuBard of Louisville; Lois Ford of Philadelphia; Nellie Gary of Kosciusko; Sue Mitchell of Louisville; Lorene Paris of Brandon; Nancy Welsch of Jackson; and Katherine Worrell of Utica. Joan Alliston and Georgia Polk coordinated this event. Guest speaker Carol Vickers shared stories about the documentation project that would become the published book, **Mississippi Quilts**. The 15th Annual MQA Educational Seminar was taught by Beth Ferrier. Her topics were Sneaky Piecing Tricks and Hand Applique by Machine. The **Common Thread** featured quilter was Billie Thompson.

2011

President Billie Thompson’s theme was *Everyday Quilts, Tomorrow’s Heirlooms*. She also introduced a President’s Challenge, to make a Civil War quilt or wall hanging to display at the June Gathering. Deb Karasik was the Educational Seminar instructor and taught paper piecing. CT featured quilters were Marilyn Rose and Judy Stokes. MQA celebrated its 20th anniversary.

2012

President Judy Stokes’ theme was *Let’s Keep Our Heritage Alive—Pass It On*. Her objective was “to teach one person something: quilting, knitting, crochet, tatting, cooking, etc. The next generation can only benefit from our efforts.” The Educational Seminar instructor was Marilyn Doheny. The Board of Directors approved amendments to the by-laws that were presented to the membership at the Fall Gathering in Starkville. The approved amendments added 3 new positions to the board of directors—Leadership Director, Legacy Director and Webmaster. CT featured quilter was Lucy Large.

2013

President Jean Tincher’s theme was *Thinking Outside the Box with Quilting*. The membership was introduced to Barn Quilts at the Fall Gathering. Gatherings were held in Meridian, Jackson and Corinth. Thinking outside the box, Bonnie Hunter was booked to teach May 31-June 2, 2018. This will be an additional workshop series NOT to replace the Annual Educational Seminar. Nancy Mahoney was the Educational Seminar instructor. At the Spring Gathering in Meridian, Judy Stokes prepared a map and presentation on MQA member guilds by region. It was very revealing by showing where MQA is well represented and pockets where we have room for improvement in the state.

2014

President Shirley Wiltshire’s theme was *Inspiration, Plan and Quilt—What INSPIRES you to quilt?* Shirley appointed the Educational Seminar Committee composed of past presidents to select and book national instructors beyond the immediate future. MQA quilters exhibited and demonstrated quilting techniques at the Mississippi Ag Museum for Capital Fair Day on July 5th and in November during the Fall Harvest Festival. Anita Schackelford was the National Teacher. Gatherings were held in Gulfport, Jackson and Vicksburg.

2015

President Marietta Johnson’s theme was *Quilt It Forward—Plant kindness by showing appreciation*. Marietta promoted MQA throughout the state. MQA banners were made for each Regional Representative to display at quilting events. The “Welcome Center” brochure, promoting quilting in MS was introduced at the February Gathering. Pat Sloan was the Educational Seminar teacher. The Fall Gathering in Pica-yune included a program on Post Katrina, a display of quilts that survived the hurricane and/or Katrina Memory quilts conveying the strength to survive and move forward from the ruins.

2016

President Julia Graber’s theme was **Celebrate MQA’s 25th Anniversary—Integrate Fiber Art with Traditional Quilts—Create-Go Make Something!** She issued a “Silver (Anniversary) Challenge” by inviting members to create a 25”x25” art quilt to communicate celebration. The Spring Gathering’s Friday night program was a private preview of Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry’s exhibit entitled **40 Years of Color, Light & Motion** at the University of Mississippi Museum and hosted by the Piece Makers Guild of Oxford. MQA adopted one of Martha Skelton’s quilts, New York Beauty, exhibited at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY. At the June Gathering, Martha Ginn was recognized with a lifetime membership for being a MQA charter member and our first president. The Educational Seminar teacher was Mickey DePre. The 2016 Outstanding Mississippi Quilters were recognized at the Fall Gathering in the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus. They are: Karen Asbury of Tupelo; Joanne Humphries of Brandon; Annette Burns of Natchez; Alta Morehead of Vaiden; Annie Edwards of Columbus; Annette Pennington of Columbus; Louise Moody Hatcher of Philadelphia; Bonnie Prettyman of Newton; and Dorothea Hoffman of Woodville.

This completes the final installment of “MQA, the First Twenty-Five Years”. Reviewing the three-part series reveals so many firsts for this organization. We have come so far in our first 25 years! Special thanks and appreciation to the **Common Thread** editors for publishing MQA’s communication life-line, our newsletter, during this period: Leslie Kiger, Linda Jones, Debra Sikes, Lucy Large, and Keri Lewis.

MQA Membership History:

1991: 134 members

2001: 328 members

2006: 415 members

2011: 353 members

2016: 410 members





The Mississippi Quilt Association invites everyone who loves quilts and quilting, and is interested in preserving and promoting quilt-making to join us! Our members come from all walks of life and levels of quilting experience. Our backgrounds may differ, but we share our love of quilts and the art of quilt making.

Membership Form

Dues are \$15.00 a year (April 1 to March 31)

Please print clearly!

Name:

Mailing Address:

City, County, Zip Code:

Email Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

***The Common Thread Newsletter* is sent three times per year. Please check one box.**

- Please email my newsletter and Membership Directory. (Must provide email address.) **OR**
- Please send a printed newsletter and directory to the address provided above.

The Membership Directory is sent in May. Please check one box.

- Yes, you have my permission to include my contact information in the Membership Directory. **OR**
- No, please do not share my contact information in the Membership Directory.

Send completed form with \$15.00 check made payable to Mississippi Quilt Association to:

**Jere' Funk
MQA Membership Director
7024 Pinehurst Drive
Ocean Springs, MS 39564-9151**

Questions about membership? Email Jere' at the9patch@bellsouth.net.

**“Lily” Class in Brooksville Feb. 20, 2017
At the Home of Julia Graber!**

MQA

The Mississippi Quilt Association invites everyone who loves quilts and quilting, and is interested in preserving and promoting quilt-making to join us!

Our members come from all walks of life and levels of quilting experience. Our backgrounds may differ, but we share our love of quilts and the art of quilt making.



A limited number of seats are available for the “Lily” workshop, snacks, and lunch.

Learn new techniques and create your own version of Julia’s award-winning design.

Workshop fee is \$40. Lunch is \$10.

For more information or to register, contact Julia at pjgraber@juno.com.

MQA

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