

# Paper Pieces

May/June 2014

## Quilters Checklist>>>

- Remember to bring Charm Squares
- Renew your annual membership
- Introduce yourself to someone new
- Wear a Name Tag
- Bring your latest quilt for Show & Tell

## In This Issue>>>

Quilt Show Winners

May Speaker — Monica Johnstone

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2015 Board

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## Success in the Attic

### Winners of the 2014 Quilt Show

More than 500 visitors came to admire the 162 colorful quilts on display April 25-26 in Roseville at our 2014 Quilt Show, *Quilts From The Attic*. By all reviews, the show was a complete success. Macomb County Quilt Guild is pleased to announce the winners.

**Best of Show:** Elaine Martin, *"Tyler — Lucas Family Heroes"*

**Best of Show 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up:** Judy Keener, *"Circle of Life"*

**Best of Show 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up:** Elaine Krause, *"Cinco de Mayo"*

**Best Wearable:** Margrette Farah, *"Easy Measure Cutting Mat & Iron Carrier"*  
See Page 6



*"Tyler — Lucas Family Heroes"* by Elaine Martin

## From the U.S. to Australia and Back Again...

### The 'Eclectic' Style of Monica Johnstone

Monica Johnstone, PhD, began quilting when a new baby made her theatrical costuming hobby impractical. From making traditional quilts by hand in Sydney, Australia in the mid-90s to moving to Michigan in 2007, she has been on a path toward art quilting. The featured guest at MCQG's May 5th meeting, Monica will talk about her quilt journey with special attention on the most recent period of 'really going for it.' The artist jokingly calls this time, which started in 2012, as 'My Year of Quilting Dangerously.'



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# Guild Board 2013-2014

**PRESIDENT**

Jill Stiger



**VICE**

**PRESIDENT**

Sue Sharkey



**SECRETARY**

Cindy Dembeck



**TREASURER**

Linda Fenska



**PAST**

**PRESIDENT**

Kathy Santo



**MEMBERSHIP**

Joan Moore



**EDUCATION**

Sherry Scharra



**NEWSLETTER**

Colleen Belli



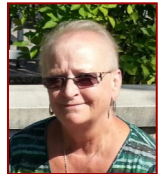
**MEMBERS AT  
LARGE**

Fran Pietron



&

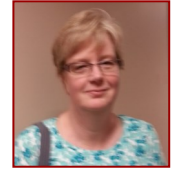
Marj Bryen



# Committees

**CHARITY**

Claudia Baker,  
Mary Ellen Zajac  
& Crew



**SUNSHINE**

Sue Rakowski



**WEBSITE**

Tracey Shock



**RETREATS**

Diane Tocco



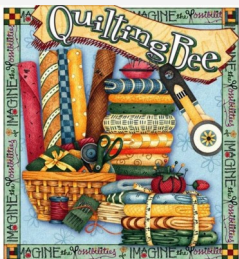
**HISTORIAN**

Kathy Wallace

**HOSPITALITY**

Kathy MacFarland, Carol Holloway,

## Retreat & Fest News>>>



Fests will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**2014**

**Lakeport Retreat**, September 25-28, 2014

**Fallfest**, Saturday, October 11, 2014

**2015**

**Winterfest**, Saturday, January 17, 2015  
**Lakeport Retreat**, February 12-15, 2015

## MCQG Program List 2014 >>>

In June let's have a real tea party! We encourage members to bring in tea pots and tea cups. In addition to a potluck dish, we would like everyone to decorate the tables with pretty tablecloths, table runners and perhaps a centerpiece. If you want to get fancy, wear pretty dresses and hats! Please remember the party is for

Jill, she's done a great job as President this year.

**Sue Sharkey—Vice President**

**2014**

**May 5, 2014—Monica Johnstone: Trunk Show and Lecture**

**June 2, 2014—President's Tea Party: Potluck (Members only. Decorate your table)**

**August 9, 2014 — Charity Cutting at North Macomb Sportsmen's Club**

**September 8, 2014—Welcome back fall meeting**

**October 6, 2014—Janet Maurer: Trunk Show and Lecture "Applique Patterns"**

**November 3, 2014—Ann Loveless: Trunk Show and Lecture "Landscape Art Quilts"**



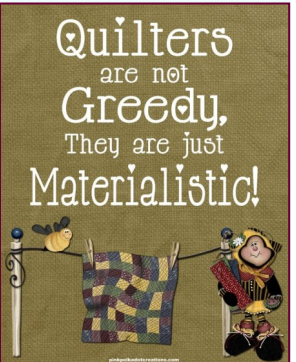
## Greetings from the President >>>

I've been sewing since I took Home Ec (remember that?) in high school. My dad took me to Montgomery Ward to buy my first sewing machine. It had zigzag AND it could make buttonholes! I made most of my own clothes, even when I started my first teaching job. I thought I knew everything I ever needed to know about sewing.

Until I started quilting, that is. Then I learned that you are actually supposed to change the needle, even if it isn't broken. And you can open the bobbin case to clean out the dust. And if you have one seam that is a little bigger on one side than the other, you can put the larger side on the bottom and the feed dogs will ease it in for you.

Yes, I have learned many things since I became a quilter. One that totally baffled me is the 'scant' ¼-inch seam. It seems that to do this, you sew ONE THREAD to the right of your normal ¼-inch seam. Really? I'm supposed to be able to SEE one thread away from it? Needless to say, my seams were not exactly 'scant.' UNTIL I discovered that on my Bernina I can move the needle to the right! Wow! I can sew anything needing a scant seam now.

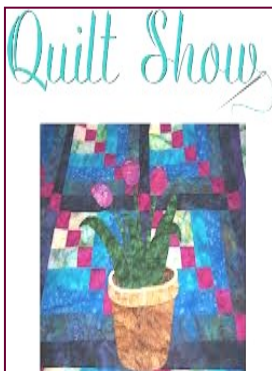
But, what if I am using my Janome? It didn't appear to have this feature UNTIL I looked at that stitch width button. I always assumed that was for making zigzag and other decorative stitches wider or narrower. But, I thought, what happens if I push that button when it's on the straight stitch setting? By golly, I can get a scant seam doing that too! I've only owned these machines for several years, but I guess you really can learn something new every day!



*Jill Stiger, President*

## Kudos for Quilt Show Volunteers

Our 2014 Quilts in the Attic show was a great success!! There were 162 beautifully assembled quilts on display. I want to personally thank all the committee chairs, volunteers and vendors for their help and support. We could not have had such a success without the efforts of many people. It was a very busy three days. Set up and take down went well thanks to the efforts of members and their husbands, sons and other guys who climbed ladders and assembled racks. Thanks to committee chairs: Admissions - **Diane Hubble**, Advertising/Publicity - **Kathy Santo**, Charity Boutique - **Claudia Baker**, Decorations/Vendors - **Kathy Hellebuyck**, Raffle - **Diane Tocco** and **Judy Keener**, Ribbons - **Terri Brown**, Set up/Take down - **Barb Montag**, **Dawn Nelson** and **Kathy Santo**, Programs/Quilt stories - **Linda Fenska**, White Gloves - **Peggy Lau** and the many volunteers who worked on these committees.



Our quilt raffle was a success also due to many hours spent obtaining the license. The two raffle quilts were pieced by **Diane Tocco** and machine quilted by **Karen McDavid** and **Pam Thompson**. The lucky raffle winners were **Carol Sonntag** and **Joyce Wells**. In addition, we held a drawing for attendees who completed a ballot. The winner of the **Applebee's** gift card was **Chris Gilbert**. Thanks to all!! Now we can relax until it is time to organize the 2016 show!!

*Marj Bryen & Fran Pietron, Quilt Show Co-Chairs*

## Happy May/June Birthdays>>>

Cindy Zielke – May 3

Terri Brown -- May 10

Linda Couzens – May 10

Kathy MacFarland – May 11

Sandi Miski – May 12

Sue Sharkey – May 14

Kathy Stevens – May 15

Donna Tavalieri – May 18

Janne Postma – May 19

Helen Fleetwood – May 22

Kathy Wallace – May 29

Dawn Holtz – June 3

Peggy Lau – June 4

Donna Mead – June 8

Diane Wezner – June 9

Marilyn Gross – June 11

Dawn Nelson – June 13

Barbara Shock – June 15

Elaine Krause – June 18

Nancy Branigan – June 18

Susan Rakowski – June 23

Marilyn Philips – June 26



Annette Konupek – June 28

Louise Osborn – June 29

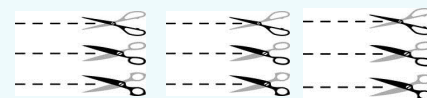
If you have a May birthday, please bring a treat to share at the May 5th meeting. June is Potluck; all members are asked to bring an entree or dessert June 2.

## Spring Forward... Renew Your Membership Early

If you want to beat the fall rush, renew your membership for 2014-15 at the May or June meeting. Fill out the membership application form available online. Submit it with the annual \$30 dues. Forms will be available at the May and June meeting. We had 153 members this 2013-14 year which included at least 20 new members. That's fantastic!

**Joan Moore, Membership**

## Cutting and Sewing for Charity>>>



Thank-you to **Barb Barringer, Geri Swiatek, Nancy Branigan, Pam Tibbits, Mary Lou Grimes, Marilyn Philips, Darlene Hull and Sharon Emerson** who worked at our Charity Cutting April 5th. Two boxes of fabric were sorted, cut and bagged for sale at the quilt show. Our next Cutting party will be held August 9th at the North Macomb Sportsmen's Club, at 3231 Inwood Road in Washington.

Thank-you to **Letty Gablemann, Nancy Branigan, Mary Ellen Zajac, Jacqueline Bertolini, Rose Alongi, Geri Swiatek, Donna Tavalieri, Louise Osbourn, Diane McMinn, Kathy Santos, Marilyn Woods, Eileen Caroll and Mary Lou Grimes** for staffing the Charity Boutique. I want to thank **Barb Barringer** for overseeing the boutique while I was on vacation. And a special thanks to everyone that donated items. Your quality gifts were

a huge success, making a profit of \$1,772.00 for our guild.

Our charity project for 2014-15 will be **Miracle Quilts**, a Michigan organization that distributes quilts to wounded soldiers. Carole Carroll, the founder, will be our guest speaker in May, 2015. Our goal is to present 50 quilts to her at that meeting. Every guild member is invited to donate a yard of quilt-store quality fabric in red, white or blue or a patriotic pattern of red, white and blue. Please bring the fabric to our President's Tea this June so that kits can be cut during the summer. In September members can choose a kit to sew. Please complete the quilt tops by December so they can be quilted after the holidays. Members may also choose to make a complete lap-size quilt on their own for Miracle Quilts. **Claudia Baker, Charity Co-Chair**

**Monica Johnstone** *From Page 1* Success is due in part to Monica's guilds: Quilters Guild of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia and West Michigan Quilters Guild. These groups have provided inspiration and guidance to learn and grow. The guild 'down under' has 1,000 members and the biggest show in the Southern Hemisphere. "I was in every challenge, every show, every general meeting," Monica added.

In a word, 'eclectic' is Monica's style. "I'm one of those people who pieces, does needle turn and raw edge and fused applique, likes surface design from paint sticks to discharging, uses beads and a bit of embroidery, hand quilts, machine quilts—sometimes all in the same quilt. I really love different techniques," she said. Monica will show some quilts, including a blue and white 'Mariner's Compass' which won ribbons at West Michigan. Among many accolades, Monica received Special Commendations for 'Kieran's Compass,' a bed quilt for her son. She has braved the challenges of juried exhibitions locally, regionally and internationally.

Sewing for Monica started at age five, while growing up in San Francisco. Her mom was a home sewer and even taught herself how to reupholster. "I recall her completing a 3-piece sectional sofa! She was generally crafty and let the kids in the neighborhood come over to make crepe paper flowers, macramé and puppets," Monica said. Living in East Grand Rapids today, the artist is a soccer mom, a Grand Valley State University administrator and teacher. "I have worked in and traveled to seventeen countries. Expression and communication remain the connecting threads through all my journeys," Monica said. Find more information on her blog: [monicajohnstone.com](http://monicajohnstone.com) and in the university publication: [gvsu.edu/gvmagazine/otp-107.htm](http://gvsu.edu/gvmagazine/otp-107.htm).

## Hot Fun in the Summertime... Happy July/August Birthdays>>>

Margrette Farah – July 1	Joanne Czeiszperger – July 29
Margaret Bernard – July 7	Jill Stiger – July 29
Vicky Ruthkosky – July 13	Anne Peters – August 4
Karen McDavitt – July 18	Letty Gabelmann – August 7
Phyllis Wink – July 18	Nancy McNally – August 9
Susan Richter – July 28	Carol Sonntag – August 11
Karen Walsh – July 20	Cheryl Burck – August 21
Lillian Fortuna – July 22	Dianne Stall – August 21
Pamela Thompson – July 22	Kitty Kenning – August 23
Shirly Ward – July 22	Eileen Carroll – August 25
Bonnie Kaster – July 23	Mary Starkey – August 26
Margaret Weinand – July 24	Barbara Cook – August 27
Colleen Belli – July 25	Diane Holk – August 27
Jill Cross – July 25	Sharon Miner – August 30
Sharon Emerson – July 25	Cynthia Kavanagh – August 31



### Win a Prize!

Congratulations to **Amy Priebac** who found her birthday published here in the March/April 2014 edition of Paper Pieces.

If your birthday falls on **December 6**, be the **first\*** to call **Colleen Belli** at **(586) 263-9795** to receive a \$20 gift certificate to **JoAnn Fabric & Craft Stores**

\*If more than one birthday falls on the date above, be the **first** to call wins the prize. There will be only **one prize**.

## Meet a Member...

### Barbara Montag, a Real Risk Taker

Barbara Montag leads a most interesting life. A MCQG member since 2002, Barb works at Cranbrook Educational Community, serves as Councilwoman in Utica, helps care for her 89-year old mother and has tackled an ambitious Bucket List. She even barter her quilts! Most definitely, Barb is not afraid to take a risk. Originally from Redford, Barb resides in Utica. She shares her life with two sons Ken and Matt, foster daughter Janice, stepdaughter Jeannette and two granddaughters Maggie and Sophie. Her Mom, Elizabeth Montag, was a guild member for many years.



Mother and daughter: Elizabeth and Barbara

Her quilt journey began with hand quilting in the 1980s. While she still does some hand applique, Barb prefers machine quilting. "I enjoy trying all techniques at least once. A pattern is just a suggestion, usually because I will mess it up. But I never give up on it, I just redesign it," she said. Barb can take an idea and turn it into a quilt.

Curved piecing and bargello quilts are on her Bucket List, as well as race car driving! Along with a niece, Barb has completed a challenge every year in the past four years. They went parasailing in Traverse City last summer. White water rafting, sky diving, zip lining, hang gliding and parasailing have all been checked off the list. This year they plan to drive a race car at Michigan International Speedway.

A class on the **One Block Wonder** pattern, also called **Stack 'n Whack**, is Barb's favorite quilt memory. She thought her sons would like the 1940s fabric she purchased, depicting Polynesian bathing beauties. In describing the quilt, Barb said, "There were heads, knees, shoulders and other important parts all together. We called it **'Bare Naked Ladies.'** The boys thought it was too weird!" Not wanting the effort to go to waste, Barb bartered **'Bare Naked Ladies'** for a handmade shelf in her bathroom. In addition Barb made four quilts for a handyman's grandchildren, bartering them for four expensive window treatments. Barb answered the following questions.

**How long have you been a member and do you belong to any other guilds?** I joined in 2002. I am dedicated to MCQG. I served as Program Chair, VP, President and Charity Committee. As a Utica Councilwoman there is not a lot of free time.

**What is your favorite quilt pattern?** I don't have one particular pattern! There are so many to do.

**What other hobbies do you have?** Reading, antiquing and remodeling my house.



'Bare Naked Ladies,' Barb's One Block Wonder quilt.

**What is your favorite food?** No favorites! I love to eat.

**What is your favorite movie of all time and why?** "The Sound of Music." It has music, love, humor, history and is based on a true story.

**If you could interview anyone in the world (dead or alive) who would you interview and why?** Fanny Brice. She was a comedian, singer, actress and the creator of 'Baby Snooks.' Her quote: "Let the world know you as you are, not as you should be, because sooner or later if you are posing, you will forget the pose and then where are you?"



*"Circle of Life"* by Judy Keener



*"Cinco de Mayo"* by Elaine Krause

**Quilt Show Winners** *from Page 1*

**Best Use of Color:** Judy Keener, *"Circle of Life"*

**Best Hand Quilting:** Katherine Delicato, *"White Whole Cloth"*

**Best Applique:** Elaine Martin, *"Tyler – Lucas Family Heroes"*

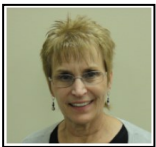
**Best Handwork:** Judy Keener, *"Sweet Dreams"*

**Best Traditional Quilt:** Anne Peters, *"Dresden Plate"*

**Best Modern/Art Quilt:** Denise Champine, *"A Whole New World"*

***Turquoise is the Charm***

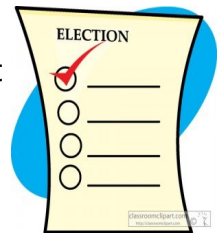
Turquoise is the color of the final charm exchange at the May 5th meeting.



***From the Past President >>>***

I believe we have volunteers to fill all positions on the board next year. The latest members who have stepped up will be kept secret until June. (A lot of people know already BUT many of you don't!)

Nomination forms will be available on the tables at the May 5th meeting. There is still time to nominate anyone. If so, I will contact that person and determine interest. Even though we MAY have a full slate of candidates; none of these positions are carved in stone. Our election will be held at the June 2nd meeting. God is great, beer is good and Macomb County Quilt Guild is AWESOME.



***Kathy Santo, Past President***

## *The Importance of Identification*

I wonder how many quilters take the time to label quilts? We put so much of ourselves into our quilts that I think we should inform people about us. Often I read in magazines or books about beautiful antique quilts that have no information about the quilter. If you are curious (or nosy?) like me, you want to know who made the quilt, when it was made, where the quilter lived and for whom it was made.

I have to confess that I did not always make labels. When I started quilting more than 36 years ago (has it really been that long ago?), it did not seem important. If I got the quilting and binding done, I thought that was it. Now, to me, a quilt is not finished until the label is sewn on. When I finish piecing a quilt top, I make binding and a quilt label with all the information I think is essential. I keep them on my pin-up wall until the quilting is completed.

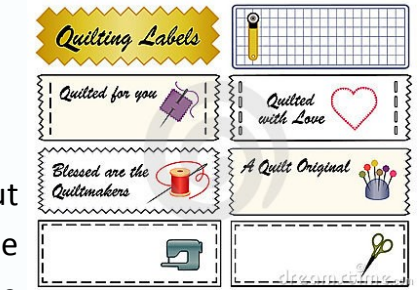
Each quilt label may be different but I think the following information is essential:

- ◆ The name of the person who pieced the quilt (I always include my maiden name).
- ◆ Date started and finished (sometimes that can be scary).
- ◆ Name of the quilter. Always give credit if you did not quilt it yourself.
- ◆ State whether the quilt was hand or machine quilted. Some cannot tell the difference.
- ◆ City and state in which it was made.
- ◆ The name of the Quilt Pattern. Was it from a book, a pattern, a kit or an original design?

If I am making the quilt for a special person or occasion, I include that information on the label also. Example: To Emma Marie Delicato for your high school graduation. June 2021. From Grandma Delicato. On baby quilts, when the sex of the child is not known, I write: To Bob and Tracey Delicato on the birth of your first child. If the sex and name of the child is known, I write that information on the label as well.

When I hand quilt, I keep track of the time spent and add that to the label. (That can be scary also!) A quilt appraiser once told me this will add value to your quilt. Sometimes I write a saying or a poem that I think goes along with the quilt. I like to include the reason for the color combination chosen, the pattern, or anything I deem of interest to my future great-grandchildren or generations to come. Also, I like to include any awards or ribbons the quilt holds. An antique dealer, appraiser, or even a museum curator may want these details about a quilt and the quilter in the future. That would be awesome! You never know who will view or cherish your quilts 100 years from now.

In addition, consider informing your family what you wish for the quilts after you are gone. I have given written instructions to my daughter detailing what to do with my quilts when something happens to my husband and I.







# How To Clean a Quilt

The method used to clean a quilt depends on its condition. There is a big difference in cleaning one made last month versus a quilt sewed 50 years ago. The age will affect the choice of cleaning method, especially a much older quilt which isn't used daily.

First, there are a few cleaning tricks. Some quilters suggest washing fabric before sewing to loosen it up a bit, while others suggest testing whether the color will run by patting it with a damp white cloth. If the color runs, avoid washing it with water. Also, it's nice to include washing instructions on a label when gifting. If a quilt has instructions, simply follow those. Below are five cleaning methods, starting with the most gentle.

## Air Drying

Sometimes a quilt benefits from simple airing. Lay the quilt flat -- on top of plastic or a clean white sheet -- in a shady spot outside or an airy place indoors for a few hours. The University of Nebraska warns against hanging quilts on clotheslines because it can strain the stitches.

## Vacuuming

Vacuuming the quilt is a much more delicate way of keeping it clean. Lay the quilt on a table or tables -- on top of clean sheets, according to the National Quilt Museum. Prepare a piece of nylon window screen -- 18x24 -- to use between the quilt and the vacuum hose attachment. Then, you'll move the screen along the quilt and vacuum through little by little. A quilt

in good condition can simply be vacuumed with a vacuum attachment covered with nylon hose.

## Hand Washing

Hand washing can be time-consuming, but it is a gentle way to totally clean a quilt. **About.com** recommends using a bathtub filled with cold water with gentle detergent for this task. A half-cup of vinegar can be added to brighten and soften the quilt. Then soak the quilt in the water and gently agitate it for about 10 minutes. Empty and refill the tub with fresh water, repeating the process until the water is clear and free of soap suds. Then spread the quilt out flat to dry on a bed of towels.

## Machine Washing

Many quilters warn against machine washing because it can be rough on the stitching. Others say machine washing is fine with the right precautions. As long as the quilt isn't an antique or starting to show signs of wear, a trip through the delicate cycle with a gentle detergent and cold water could be fine for a quilt in good condition. It all depends on the current condition of the quilt and the fabric itself. You may not want to put it in the dryer at all. Many quilts are made of cotton which is extremely washer-friendly. Something more delicate might not want to see the washing machine.

## Professional Cleaning

When in doubt, let a professional do the cleaning. Choose a dry cleaner you trust for the job or find one that specializes in quilts. Ask friends or the local guild for suggestions.

24blocks.com

## From the Kitchen of Sherry Scharra...

### Pear Salad

- Romaine lettuce
- Shredded fine mozzarella cheese
- Cashews
- Cranraisens
- Pears
- Poppy seed dressing



**Editor's note:** A guild member asked for the pear salad recipe served at the Christmas Party. Although Sherry did not make it for that event, she offered this recipe to our members.

## ***In Quilt City USA...***

### ***Quilters Paradise, an Affordable Place to Stay***

Have you dreamed of visiting ***Quilt City USA*** - Paducah, Kentucky? The perfect destination for a girls' getaway, Paducah is home of the ***National Quilt Museum***, numerous quilt stores and activities. ***UNESCO*** - the ***United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization*** has designated Paducah the world's seventh City of Crafts and Folk Art.



Eleanor Burns

There is an affordable place to stay, right above ***Eleanor Burns Quilt in a Day*** retail store. Appropriately named ***Quilters Paradise Retreat***, this rental has a complete kitchen, large workspace and three bedrooms that sleep six to eight comfortably. ***Eleanor Burns***, who started her ***Quilt in a Day*** revolution back in 1978, recently opened the retreat space to the public. Located in downtown Paducah, ***Quilters Paradise*** is just three blocks from the Quilt Museum, restaurants, and shopping. The full-access space is available for \$150 per day, or \$750 weekly.

Information and reservations can be made online at:

[quiltinaday.com/eleanorandcompany/events/paradisereservations.asp](http://quiltinaday.com/eleanorandcompany/events/paradisereservations.asp)



**Macomb County Quilt Guild**  
**P.O. Box 180671**  
**Utica, MI 48318-0671**  
**[www.macombcountyquiltguild.org](http://www.macombcountyquiltguild.org)**