

Quilters' Sew-ciety

www.qsrochester.org

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership in the Quilters' Sew-ciety is \$25 per year. Renewals must be received before the 15th of your renewal month as printed on your nametag. Please email or call the membership chair if you have any questions or wish to change your address, email address or telephone number. You will receive a temporary nametag at your first meeting and can pick up your permanent nametag at the next general meeting.

Lost cards and lost/forgotten membership holders can be replaced for \$1.00 fee.

Your membership card is your nametag and **MUST** be worn to attend meetings. Without it, you must pay \$1 fee for that month's meetings.

Membership benefits include:

Monthly meeting and program

Monthly Newsletter

Lending library of 500+ books

National speakers and workshops

Show and Tell: Members sharing of their projects

Secret Pal and Lotto block programs

Small quilt groups

Community Outreach opportunities

Biennial Quilt Show

“Members Only” feature on the QS website

MEETINGS

The day and evening meetings will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1835 19th Avenue NW, Rochester, MN 55901 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month.

The day and evening meetings in July and December are combined.

General meetings include announcements, a short business meeting followed by a speaker or demonstration on quilt-related topics, and Show and Tell by members (finished items only please, unless the item will be given away before the next meeting).

Guests pay \$5 to attend one meeting and receive one QS Newsletter.

LIBRARY

The Library is open before each meeting and during the break. Books may be checked out only at these times.

Only members in good standing may check put books. Books may be checked out for one month at a time. A maximum of four (4) books per member may be checked out. Books must be returned at the next meeting or to Kelley's Quality Sewing Center in Rochester prior to the next meeting.

There is a \$5 fine/book for those not returned by the second month. Library privileges will be suspended until books are returned. If a book is not returned by the third month, the borrower will owe the library the retail cost of the book. Fine fees apply towards the retail cost of replacement.

New books will be listed in the Newsletter. A copy of the current inventory is available from the librarians(s) and on the website.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Quilters' Sew-ciety was founded November 15, 1977, in Rochester in Rochester, Minnesota, by Darlene Zarling Thompson and Linda Byers Thompson. It was initiated to unite individuals with an interest in quilting. Twenty-six people attended the meeting held at the YWCA, home for the group from November 1977 to January 1979.

As membership grew, the meeting place moved to the Olmsted County Historical Society in February 1979. Since then the location has changed a few times to the following:

May 1985	Peace United Church of Christ 1503 2 nd Ave NE
September 1991	Christ United Methodist Church 400 5 th Ave SW
April 1999	Christ Community Church 4400 55 th Street NW
February 2004	Calvary Evangelical Free Church 5500 25 th Ave NW
June 2012	Bethany United Methodist Church 1835 19th Avenue NW

In 1999 we began to hold day meetings at Assisi Heights on a trial basis. In May 1999, both day and evening meetings moved to Christ Community Church.

In the fall of 1999, it was voted on by the QS membership to continue day and evening meetings. This required restructuring of our board during the year of 2000 and the new board structure took over in 2001. Our membership is currently between 250 and 300 members.

Many group quilts have been created by QS. These include many raffle quilts, a sampler quilt donated to the Olmsted

County Historical Society in 1981. In 1986 the Rochester History Quilt was made. It resided at the Mayo Civic Center and is currently at the Olmsted County History Center. Numerous slide/lecture presentations have been given on this quilt.

Quilting demonstrations have been given at various events over the years: YWCA Festivals, Olmsted County Historical Society's annual threshing show and Holiday of Hospitality, National Guard Convention, Olmsted County Fair, Rochester World Festival, and the biennial QS quilt show. The Minnesota Quilters Show and Convention previously rotated to Rochester every four years. MQ is a state guild that meets regularly in Minneapolis.

QS has and in some cases still does contribute to the Northland House Fete de Noel, Festival of Trees, Christmas at Maywood, Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, Rochester Women's Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and many other organizations in Rochester.

In 1993 some of our members helped with an AIDS quilt project; others helped produce the quilts and blocks for the play "The Quilters". In 1994 QS members created and donated quilts and wall hangings for the 24 bedrooms and common areas at the Ronald McDonald House. In 1996-97, some of our members helped with the creation of blocks for two quilts commemorating women with breast cancer for the Women's Cancer Program at the Mayo Clinic (these quilts are on display on the 10th floor of the Gonda Building). In 2001, several members made special projects after the September 11 tragedy of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Quilts are donated monthly to the Neo-natal Unit at St. Mary's Hospital. And the list continues to grow through the generosity of our membership.

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A SAMPLING OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Use the following to become familiar with some of the projects and activities in which members are involved.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

Quilters' Sew-ciety Board, Committees: The Nominating Committee obtains candidates for all of the needed positions for the board and committees. Each member is encouraged to share in some of the responsibilities of a board or committee position at some time. Most positions currently have co-chairs thus making the workload much lighter for both participants.

The Nominating Committee consists of three people each serving three years on the committee. Each year your name moves up one level until you are the Chair of the respective committee during your third and last year.

MEETING ACTIVITIES

Christmas Block & Ornament Exchange: Interested members can make a 12-1/2 inch (unfinished) Christmas block or a Christmas ornament (made by you) for exchange. You receive one block/ornament for each one you bring. Details are usually found in the October and/or November Newsletter.

Lotto Block: A lotto block pattern is included in each newsletter with directions and color recommendations. The blocks are turned in at the beginning of the meeting. Of those participating, a winners name is drawn to win the blocks.

Salad Supper: Held at the combined July evening meeting. Half the membership brings salad or desert to share on alternating years. We all love this one!

Secret Pal: Have fun getting to know another quilter "secretly." Drawing for Secret Pals is done at the January meeting. In November the secret pal is revealed at a special meeting for those involved.

Show and Tell: At each monthly general meeting, members are invited and encouraged to show quilts they have made, purchased, or inherited. All are welcome to share.

Small Quilt Groups: There are numerous small quilt groups within QS. They vary in size and the times they get together. Meetings are generally in a member's home.

QUILT SHOWS AND ACTIVITIES

Challenge Projects: Done during our quilt show years and other times. A project consists of a packet containing pre-selected "challenge" fabric and rules regarding size and use of fabric. Members wishing to participate purchase packets to use to make a wall hanging, miniature, wearable art, etc.

Quilters' Sew-ciety Biennial Quilt Show: A quilt show is held every other year in Rochester in the odd numbered years in autumn. Members are needed to work on many different committees. Show Chair(s) will set forth their needs in January of the quilt show year. The quilt show is open to the public.

Raffle Quilt: A quilt made by QS members as a fund raiser for various charitable organizations and QS. The quilt is made for the Rochester Quilt Show. It is planned and started in the

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even years of that it is completed for the Rochester Quilt Show which is in the fall of the odd years.

Small Quilt Auction: Small quilts are made and donated by members for a silent auction at our Rochester Quilt Show. A portion of the proceeds are donated to local charities.

Minnesota Quilter's Show: The Minnesota Quilters hold a quilt show annually in June. More information can be found on their website at www.mnquilt.org.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Charitable offerings: QS members have donated quilts and/or money for many community services/projects. Some of these have been Quilts of Valor, Habitat for Humanity, Women's shelter, Hurricane Katrina victims, Ronald McDonald House, Hope Lodge, Running Start, Transplant House, SMH Neo-natal unit and Salvation Army to name a few.

Festival of Trees: This is an annual community event in which QS members decorate a tree at the Mayo Civic Auditorium. This project is sponsored by the Hiawatha Homes Foundation to raise money to enhance and develop community-based programs for people with severe developmental disabilities and handicaps.

The Special Events Chair person asks for individuals to lead and be responsible for this project. The membership is generally asked to help make ornaments and assist with the project. The preparation for this project generally begins in late spring or early summer.

4-H Award: An award is given to a 4-H'er for the best quilted item or project during the Olmsted County Fair. This is chosen by the current president of QS or designee.

Mayowood Christmas: Historically, QS has decorated a room at Mayowood. This is a project sponsored by Friends of Mayowood to promote appreciation and use of the residence by the community, to enhance Mayowood as a historical site, and to preserve the furnishings and collections within the house. This occurs in November.

National Quilting Day: National Quilting Day is the third Saturday of March. The Special Events Chair will select a location, set up for the event and disseminate details to the guild. Anyone is welcome to join in.

Quilting at the Fair: QS members demonstrate quilting at the fair on Senior Citizen's Day (Wednesday) at the Olmsted County Fair. A frame is set up for members to quilt on or individual projects are worked.

Threshing Show: The Olmsted County History Center holds an annual Threshing Show in August. Members volunteer their time to demonstrate hand quilting during the two-day event held at the History Center grounds in Rochester. More details announced by the Special Events Chairperson.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your talents, contact the President or the President-elect listed in the membership directory.

You may also write to the following address:
Quilters' Sew-ciety, P.O. Box 6245, Rochester, MN 55903

Please check our website at www.qsrochester.org for further information.