



Keeping the Thread Going

One of the most encouraging things about this month's newsletter is how many different ways our guild is investing in the future.

This summer, six young sewists stitched their first quilt blocks, learned to use sewing machines, discovered color and design, and—most importantly—experienced the joy of making something with their own hands. Thanks to Prissy and an amazing team of volunteers, they also caught a glimpse of the generosity and friendship that make quilting such a special community.

But passing along knowledge isn't just for children.

This month, Cindy's new "Inquiring Minds Want to Know" initiative invites all of us to share the little tips and tricks we've learned over years of quilting. Our Community Outreach projects let us use our skills to comfort others. The Alternative Gift Fair transforms our creativity into support for the guild. And MJ Kinman's presentation reminds us that every creative journey begins with curiosity—and continues with joy.

A guild is more than meetings and quilts. It's a place where ideas are shared, friendships are formed, and experience becomes encouragement for someone else.

Whether you're teaching a child to sew, answering a fellow member's question, making a donation quilt, or simply welcoming a new face at Show & Tell, you're helping keep the thread going.

July 2026 Program



MJ Kinman
Gems & Joy Trunk Show

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
6:30 PM social time, 7 PM meeting
Patterson-Appleton Arts Center

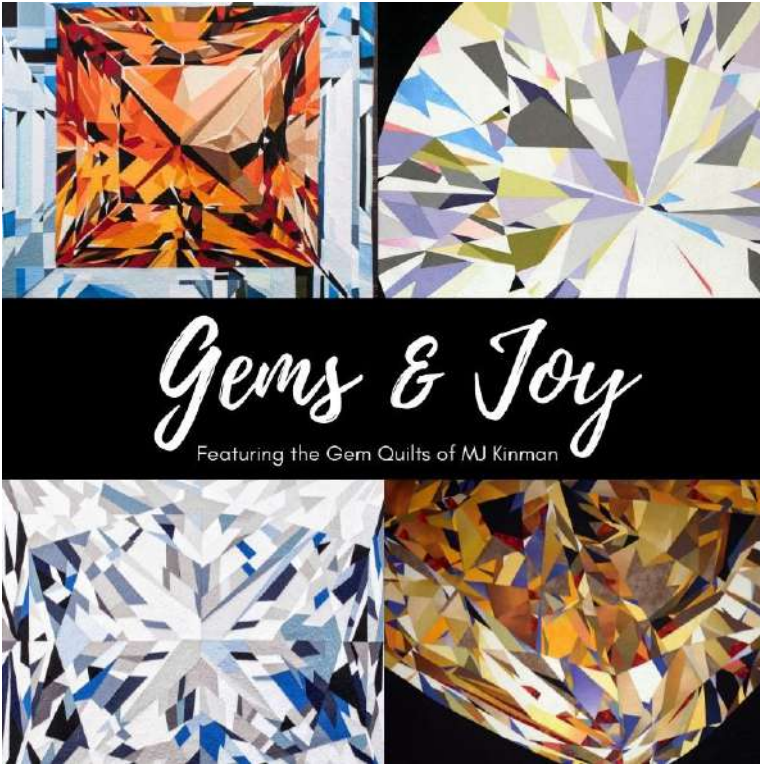
July Birthdays

2	Nancy D
3	Jeris B
4	Rae H
4	Dana H
4	Peter S
5	Vicki S
6	Diane C
6	Diana F
6	Sue N
7	Cassie C
7	Dana G
9	Sharyn M
11	Lin C
11	Mary M
11	Jane W
12	Carol C
12	Saska K
13	Noreen G
13	Shareen H
13	Freda McG
17	Mickey F
20	Ruth Ann S
22	Judy K
26	Chris M
27	Lynn B
27	Cathy P
28	Jana J
28	Belinda S
31	Sotella S
31	Linda S

July Guild Meeting - MJ Kinman

"Gems & Joy" Talk & Trunk Show

Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 — 9 PM
Programs, Kathleen Carmona



This slide lecture and trunk show chronicle my own story – my 25+-year adventure learning how to create the world's biggest diamonds in cloth. Most importantly, though, the underlying message to my audiences throughout my presentation is the importance of choosing joy and saying “no” to fear, both in our creative lives and in our personal lives.

During my presentation, I'll discuss how I've learned to spot gemstones with personality – the unique configuration of light and color that translate into a successful work of art.

I'll discuss my techniques to create and assemble the hundreds of pieces in each diamond, materials I use to create the wash of color and light across a gem's surface, and the quilting techniques that enhance a gem's facets. We may even talk a little bit (maybe a lot) about Kentucky Bourbon, as I describe the gem quilts in my series “Bourbon Diamonds”!

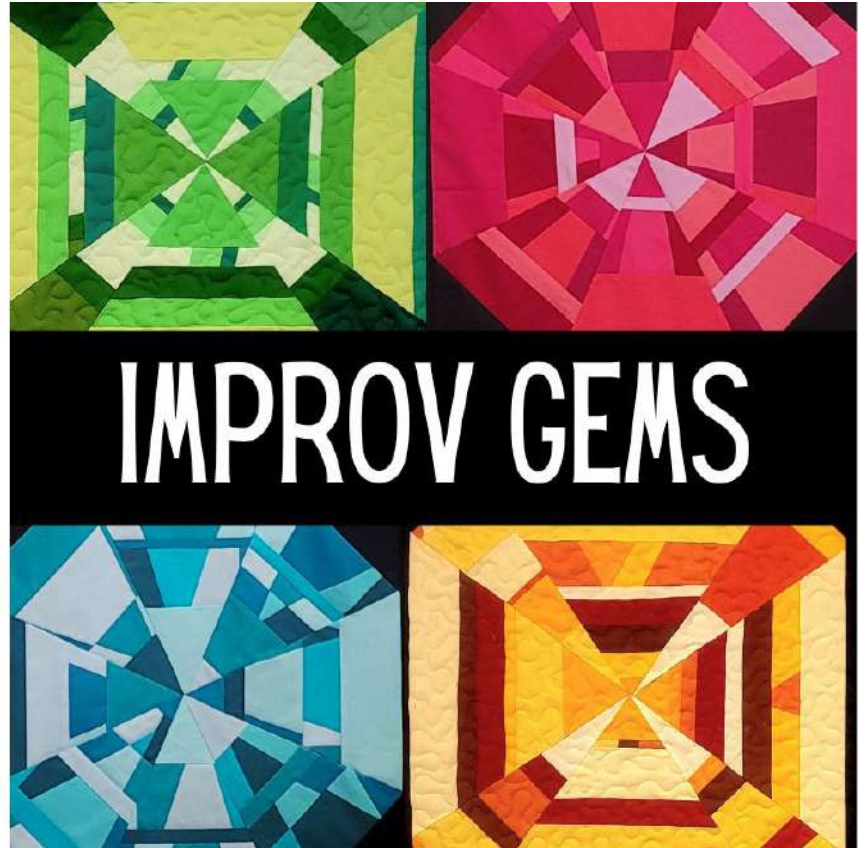
And as so often happens with any artist's decades-long journey, I'll share insights gleaned from my walk away from corporate life and into the creative life..

June Workshop - Improv Gems - by MJ Kinman

Workshops - Claudia Kopel, Sandra Sirignano

Box Car Quilts, Wed, July 22,
10 AM —3 PM

Create sparkling gem blocks in a whole new way using the power of improvisational piecing. During class, MJ will discuss color selection for gems. (Hint: there is no wrong answer!). She'll show you how to make your gem sparkle with value contrast, and how to make your gem glow with saturation contrast. Finally, she'll demonstrate simple assembly techniques to piece together your lovely creation.



Activities include:

- Creating a color palette that brings you joy.
- Playing with high value contrast and saturation contrast to incorporate sparkle and glow into your gem.
- Strip-piecing the interior facets of your gemstone.
- Assembling the strip-pieced facets to create your own unique gemstone.

For supply list, and to sign up:

Workshops Table at the general meeting (Tuesday evening)

DQGWorkshops@gmail.com

Claudia Kopel 940-435-9669

Sandra Sirignano 817-821-2107

FINDING THE GUILD ONLINE

With more than 200 members and activities happening year-round, there's always something exciting going on in our guild.

Stay informed, share in the fun, and connect with fellow members through our main online gathering places.



Click to visit:
[FACEBOOK](#)



Instagram

[INSTAGRAM](#)



[TIKTOK](#)



[WEBSITE](#)



[TWITCH](#)

JULY SNACK TABLE

Tina Hilton, MaryEllen Mitchell



Judy R	Joan S	Lynn S
Lucy R	Paula S	Becky S
Debra R	Dawn S	Sandra S
Kristin R	Eileen S	Cindy S
Prissy R	Diana S	Sotella S
Kathy R	Sarah S	Vicki S
Michele R	Kathy S	Jody S
Jean Ellen R	Deb S	Juliana S
Catherine R	Susanne S	Tanya S
Ann R	Elizabeth S	Margi S
Judy R	Natalie S	Vicki S
Mary R	Ruth Ann S	Linda S
Barbara R	Mana S	Sandy S
Charlotte R	Peter S	Kathy S
Yvette S	Val S	Louellen S
Bettie S	Diana S	

If your name is on the snack list, grab something yummy to bring and share!

Fancy trying a new dish? Guild members are great guinea pigs!

Just drop off your tasty little contribution at the snack table near the kitchen.

Don't forget to sign the snack contributor list on the table for a chance to win the snack table door prize—just for those who bring goodies!

Community Outreach

Sher Harnish

Character Portraits Now On Display!

The Greater Denton Arts Council is currently displaying our members' Whimsical Portraits at the Arts Center (our meeting location) from **July 11 through September 5, 2026**.

For everyone who made a portrait wall hanging, we would **love** to get your picture with your portrait before this month's meeting! Photographer Emanda will be there at 6:15!

*Quilters Needed -
We have tops - you can help!*



Boot Scootin' Guild Challenge:

To honor the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we're making an iconic Texas symbol, the cowboy boot. Cowboy boots symbolize the independence and spirit of the American West, representing a legacy of hard work, self-reliance and freedom.

Challenge instructions can be found on the [website](#).

Guild Initiative:

Wonky Churn Dash Blocks

Instructions are on the website and Facebook. These are purposefully Wonky and irregular, there is no 'right' way to make a block. Turn in your blocks at the Kids Kwilt Table at any DQG meeting. Blocks will be assembled into donation quilts by the Kid's Bee.



Youth Sewing Camp

Prissy Roberson and others

Kids eager to learn sewing made my heart happy! The Denton Quilt Guild's first sewing camp was a great success. We had 6 wonderful young ladies to walk away with either a completed quilt or the beginnings of a small quilt. Some had a little experience and to some this was a new experience. All the girls started with an open and eager mind. They learned to sew a straight stitch, which generally measured 1/4" (lol).

The first day was to create 4 patches for a quilt of valor. Being in the Green Valley School, with so many signs of Veterans, was the perfect back drop to explain the meaning of QOV and how their quilt blocks would be used to make a quilt and to present to a Veteran.

The 2nd and 3rd day was dedicated to choosing fabrics for color and pattern. These girls excelled at this stage! We had strips of fabric sorted by color, so they could choose a center and 3 strips to complete a quarter log cabin block. With one look at the fabric table, you could tell how eager they were to choose their fabric for each block! So fun!! Once they completed 9 blocks (or 6) they would choose their layout, take pictures or even label them to sew in order. They were able to choose their backing from wonderful donations. Some actually completed the quilts!! So proud of these girls! They may even be our future quilters!

A special thanks to our wonderful teachers! Jody Branch, Amanda Newitt, Cathy Poethke, Mana Shaw, Deb Viso and myself. They were patient with the girls, saw when to help and when to let them let them fly alone. Thank you Jody Branch for bringing some wonderful quilts to show the girls what quilting can achieve. Also, thank you Mana Shaw for the free table! The girls got to take fabric and notions home! This was a rewarding experience, so if you have an interest to keep our quilting craft alive, please sign-up next year.

To the next Sewing Camp!
Prissy Roberson

Youth Sewing Camp (photos)

Prissy Roberson and others



Youth Sewing Camp (photos continued)

Prissy Roberson and others



Youth Sewing Camp (photos continued)

Prissy Roberson and others



Alternative Gift Fair

Dawn Scheffer, Nonie Phillips



The Alternative Gift Fair is one of our most important annual fundraisers. Throughout the year, guild members create a variety of fun and popular handmade items that will be sold at our booth during this fall's event.

On the [website](#), on our Facebook page and in the newsletter, we are sharing links to videos and websites where you can find ideas for items to make. You can also check our guild library for inspiration! Drop off these items throughout the year at each Guild meeting.

Here are some new links for July featuring dozens of fun and creative projects to inspire your next AGF contribution! This month, we're doing BABY GIFTS! Here are new links for July to find more fun ideas to try!

- Make It Love It - 20 Handmade Baby Gifts [Click Here](#)
- Simply Sewing - 10 Lovely British Baby Gifts to Sew [Click Here](#)
- Sew Can She - 15 Handmade Baby Shower gifts [Click Here](#)

We have monthly sew days at the Green Valley School, on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month from 10-3. Please bring \$5 to donate to the Green Valley School in appreciation for allowing us to use the facility.

The more the merrier! **Join us on August 4** for the next AGF Sew Day! For more information, contact Dawn or Nonie!

Dawn has created a great **online sign-up form** for booth volunteers at the fair, and that form is now live. There are slots available on all three days - Friday, Saturday and Sunday Nov. 6-8: set-up, tear-down and manning the booth. Volunteer slots are typically 2 hours long - you're welcome to sign up for more than one! It's fun, and you'll also have plenty of time to shop around the other wonderful booths before or after your shift.

Find the link here: [SIGN-UP FORM](#)

Continuing Education - July 2026

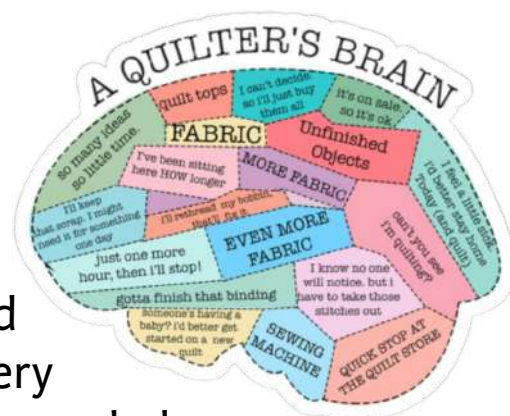
Karen Crozier

Continuing Ed is taking a short break in July, but will be back soon, with great classes like Cindy B's Christmas Crazy Block in September and Sher's Curved Piecing class in October. If you have something you'd like to teach - contact Karen Crozier!

Inquiring Minds Want to Know!!

Cynthia Bickhaus

One of the best things about belonging to a guild is the opportunity to learn from one another. Every quilter has tips, techniques, and experiences that can help someone else along their quilting journey.



Some newer quilters, or those trying a new technique, have hesitancy to ask. Perhaps they do not know who to ask, feel intimidated, or cannot even think of how to ask the question. With new topics to explore each month, we'll invite our members to share their own experience and advice!

Last month, Cindy started a question box for quilters of all levels. At the meeting, she'll have extra forms along with a collection box for your responses. Cindy will compile the results and share them on the guild website, and at our next guild meeting. The June questions were about threads. See your fellow members' answers below!

This month, the topic is QUILTING!

Download the form: [CLICK HERE](#)

Inquiring Minds Want to Know - What's your go-to thread?

...thread for piecing?

Quilter A: Aurifil for hand piecing with English Paper Piecing. It slides the best. Gutermann for regular hand piecing. Both are cotton threads.

Quilter B: Whatever is available in the right color.

Quilter C: Aurifil 50 weight. It was recommended by a friend and I have never had problems with it.

Quilter D: Aurifil 50 weight cotton is preferred but expensive. Alternatively, Essential from Connecting Threads. Also a 50 weight cotton, with similar colors and quality but 1/4th the cost.

Quilter Cindy Bickhaus: I like Aurifil 40 weight cotton. I use mostly neutral colors that blend with most fabrics, but I have played the matchy-matchy game when necessary. I just bought some Glide 40 weight polyester that was recommended by an employee Linda's Quilt Shop (McKinney) that quilts a lot. I plan on using it on a lap quilt that has some glitz to it, and a table runner made out of silk ties.

...thread for quilting on a domestic machine?

Quilter D:

I seldom do this, but would use the same threads as for piecing. Use for smaller projects.

Quilter Cindy Bickhaus:

I use the same thread I use for piecing.

Inquiring Minds Want to Know - continued...

...thread for quilting on a Long Arm?

Quilter C:

Superior Threads because it was recommended by a friend

Quilter D:

Omni by Superior Threads. My Handi Quilter came with this thread and I stick with it. It works well.

What brand(s) of machines do you perform these functions on?

Quilter A:

Piecing - Janome Continental M8. It has a big throat.

Quilter B:

Domestic Machine. Janome 6600 Quilter edition.

Quilter C:

Bernina: 990, 790, 325 and 480.

Brother machines, Featherweights and other old Singers

Quilter D:

Long Arm Handi Quilter's Simply Sixteen.

Quilter Cindy Bickhaus:

I started working on a Kenmore I purchased in the 1970s. It is a workhorse and I love having it. However, I now have a Janome M7 Continental that I purposely purchased because it has such a big throat. I do quilt in quadrants on quilts. I am going to do more quilt as you go.

General Meeting Minutes - June 2026

Prissy Roberson

88 Members, 6 Visitors

Debbie Nobles welcomed everyone at the art center and on Twitch at 7:00pm

Kids Sewing Workshop – Prissy stated the workshop will be from 9 and up to get more kids signed up. June 29, 30 and July 1st. She also showed a Bi-centennial Quilt made in 1976.

Workshops – Claudia said low attendance for June Workshop with Corey Pearson. Looking for more to sign up.

Programs and Workshops - Upcoming

Coordinator		Kathleen Carmona	Claudia Kopel, Sandra Sirignano				
Month	Date	Programs	Date	Workshops	Costs	Instructor	Locations
July	21-Jul	MJ Kinman	22-Jul	MJ Kinman	\$ 45	MJ Kinman	Box Car
		Gems & Joy		Improv Gems			
August	18-Aug	Charles Cameron	19-Aug	Charles Cameron	\$ 60	Charles Cameron	
		Curious Quilter		Tilted Tiles			Box Car
September	15-Sep	Rhonda Dort		Rhonda Dort		Rhonda Dort	
		Quilting Vintage		Quilting Vintage	?		Box Car

Community Outreach - More agencies have been identified to accept quilts. More Baby Quilts are needed. Prefer completed, but will of course accept tops. Reminder to turn in the Portrait Quilts by July 1st. Sher will work with the Art Center for the displays starting in July. Turn in your Boot Scootin' quilts.

Nonie had a very successful **Newbie Welcome Tea** before the General Meeting. Welcome New Members!

Alternative Gift Fair – Nonie showed some very special items donated to the Fair. The next workshop at Green Valley School in July 7th from 10 to 3. Theme is Christmas in July.

Membership – Cindy Bickhaus introduced an idea suggestion box. Fill out the forms and drop them in.

June Program – Denise Bartosh – Why Appraise Quilts

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Minutes by Prissy Roberson

June Meeting Photos

Emanda Johnson

[Click here to see original photos](#)



















