



Friendship Star Quilters March 2026

P.O. Box 8051, Gaithersburg, MD 20898
Website: friendshipstar.org

The Quiltline

March 2 -- FSQ Guild Meeting 7:30 pm
Asbury - Rosborough Center
301 Odendhal Ave, Gaithersburg, MD

Mar. 14 -- Southern Comforters Quilt Bingo
Bowie, MD ([more info](#))

Mar. 25 - 28 Lancaster-Lebanon Quilt Show
Lebanon, PA ([more info](#))

April 10-12 Northern Shenandoah Valley Quilt Show
Berryville, VA ([more info](#))

April 25-26 FSQ Sew-In
Asbury-Rosborough Center Gaithersburg, MD

May 16 – Nimble Finger Quilt Bingo
Frederick, MD ([more info](#))

May 15-16 Four County Quilters Guild Quilt Show
Frederick, MD ([more info](#))

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Guild Meetings

Guild meetings are usually held at 7:30 pm on the 1st Monday of the month.

We meet at:
Asbury Methodist Village
301 Odendhal Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD

If Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) evening activities are cancelled, FSQ meetings are cancelled. Check montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Service Projects

Workshops are held from 9:30 am to Noon at

Fairhaven United Methodist Church
12801 Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878

Workshops in March:

Thursday, Mar. 12
Thursday, Mar. 26

Fabric Raffle – Blue/Purple Fat quarters

Executive Board Meeting

The next Executive Board Meeting will be via Zoom on **MARCH 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**

If you have a topic to bring to the board, please contact any of the officers to add your item to the agenda or to receive the Zoom link for the meeting.



President's Message

Anne Flaggs

Anne.f.flaggs@gmail.com

Hello Quilters,

March is almost here and Spring is on the way. As much as I love Winter, I'll be glad when the snow is gone and I can get outside and walk again. Plus having warmer fresh air will be greatly welcome.

A great time was had by all at the retreat this year. What a great time to relax, sew, check out everyone's projects and catch up with everyone. I'm looking forward to next year already.

This month we return to hybrid meetings with an in-person meeting on Monday, March 2nd at Asbury with an option to join via Zoom also. I'll send out the meeting reminders a few days before the meeting.

We are still in need of a nominating committee and someone to volunteer to be co-president with me next year as it will be my fourth and final year. All the other positions are filled although if you are interested in any of the officer jobs just let me know. We should have 3 volunteers for the nominating committee. I was able to twist the arm of 1 person at the retreat so if you would like to do something for the guild that isn't a long-term commitment. Please consider helping out. A few words about the job of president -- it can be whatever you want it to be, but you have to run both the guild and the executive board meetings and write this blog for the newsletter. I make up an agenda (using ones done in the past and anything new that might be brewing) and keep the business meeting to about 10-15 minutes. Anything else I might be doing as president can be done by others in the guild so don't think the job might take over your life. I am hoping to share this job with someone next year who would then be willing to take over the following year (of course, if you just want to take over immediately, that can also be accommodated). Please consider volunteering to keep the guild going strong next year.

Another Guild job that needs filling is the Yard Sale Committee. This works best as a group committee with someone leading the charge to collect, sort and store all the fabric. If you can help out with this, please let me or another officer know. We are starting to get some donations that we would like to keep for the yard sale to be held at the April 2027 FSQ 2027 Quilt Show. I am happy to help, but I can't be the one in charge.

I'm still working on details for the April Sew-In, I'm hopeful it will be a fun time for all and hope to have everything organized soon. Date for the Sew-In is Sat/Sun April 25 & 26th at Asbury from 9am-5pm daily. You can come for the whole time or just drop in when you can.

Thanks and I hope to see you in person or on Zoom at our Meeting on March 2nd.

Anne Flaggs



Guild Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2026

Harriet Sheinson, co-secretary

Friendship Star Quilters Zoom Meeting

7pm-7:30pm -- Greet and Meet

7:30pm -- President Anne Flaggs welcomed everyone. Membership announced two new members. There were no visitors.

The next Executive Board meeting will be March 9th. If you would like to attend, please contact Anne and she will send you the connection.

A Nominating Committee needs to be formed for the next Board of Directors elections. If you would like to be on this committee, please let Anne know, Or, if you would like to be on the Board, please also let Anne know.

Anne reviewed the Quiltline with the following:

If you attend either or both of the VA and PA Quilt Shows this month, please write a report and send pictures. We would love to have them.

Raffle tickets are being sold by Karen Moss. Please turn in your stubs and money to her.

Service Projects are to meet Feb. 12 and 19 from 9:30-noon. They will have show and tell there as well. These sew ins are so much fun.

The Retreat is finally coming up. It's going to be wonderful!

MAQ (Mid Appalachian Quilters) is a 3-day seminar starting June 5 at Gettysburg College. You can stay there, in a hotel, or commute from home.

Upcoming April Sew-in at Asbury will be the weekend of April 25-26 with details to be forthcoming soon. There will be a Signup Genius about a month before to see who is coming and who can help supply some of the miscellaneous stuff like Irons, boards, cutting boards, design walls, etc. This will be a chance to sew your own stuff or work on a service project kit or pillowcase.

This year is the 250th USA Anniversary. Please do something to celebrate this wonderful occasion. There are many great quilting opportunities out there in which to participate. In addition to what is put in the newsletter, AQS is sending out patterns weekly for each of the states.

The newsletter contained tips from Michele Barnard. Judy Boccuzzi shared her tape thimble tip and how she uses long skinny roll wrap to store her quilts. Jan Drass shared Hospice Quilts and Quilt of Valor information as well as possible ideas for a way to help celebrate our 250th anniversary which may be a good idea for a Quilt Show challenge. Colleen Biasco shared that Bikes for the World

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accepts older portable metal sewing machines in good working order that ship with bikes to low-income people in developing countries.

Committee Reports/Announcements:

Raffle Quilt Marketing chair, Maryjean Spencer mentioned that there are some additional guild meetings for which you may take out the quilt and sell tickets. Please contact her to find out how you can help.

Barbara Kilby announced that on Saturday, April 18 from 1-5 the Asbury Arts & Crafts Sale will take place. Setup is at 11:30am. FSQ members have been allotted 3 tables to sell wares. There are 6 slots available and you keep all your sales income.

Ellen Robinson, Raffle Quilt chair for 2027, announced that all the blocks for the quilt are done and that she was looking for a small group to put the blocks together. After that a long-armed will have to be chosen.

Program Presentation started at 7:50pm with Beth Ann Williams presenting “Heirloom Applique by Machine”. Her free blog is bethannwilliams.com. The program was very educational, covering threads, needles, sewing techniques, etc.

There was a 5-minute break.

Show and Tell was presented by Mary Ann Bruce. We have such talent!

The door prize was won by Ginny Leake.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm. See you in person in March at Asbury!



Programs

Mary Ann Bruce, Joyce Danzig, and Ihsia Hu

Reminder, beginning in March, we will meet in person again at Asbury Methodist Village. Looking forward to seeing everybody.

On Monday March 2, our speaker Nancy Hershberger will talk about her journey from traditional pieced bed quilts to art quilts. She will also touch on her work at various national parks and display several of her pieces inspired by them. Her talk will be followed by a lively question and answer period, and she will display her quilts for us to see up close.

Visit her website at <https://www.nancyhershberger.com/>.



Service Projects Update

Nance Brennan and Anne Weaver

Finally, the weather is warming, the snow is melting and we are starting to emerge from our warm cocoons. Despite the cold and snow, we've had wonderful attendance at Service Projects workshops and were able to make many deliveries around the county during January and February.

Project Linus – 44 quilts

Ryan's Case for Smiles – 25 pillowcases

Shady Grove Hospital NICU – 213 knit preemie hats and 37 preemie quilts

JSSA (Jewish Social Services Agency) – 20 quilts and 6 children's hats.

Thanks to all of you, including those who attended the guild retreat, for helping us provide warmth and comfort for babies and children in our community. We received quilt tops, pillowcases and fleece blankets from this generous group. Thank you!

Please join us, if you can, for our March Service Projects workshops. We will be meeting from 9:30 am until noon on Thursday, March 12 and Thursday, March 26, at Fairhaven United Methodist Church, 12801 Darnestown Road (Route 28), a mile from Quince Orchard High School.

For more information, contact Nance Brennan or Anne Weaver. Thanks, as always, for your support.



Jody Burghardt, Senior Director,
Volunteer Engagement, JSSA



FSQ Retreat

Jennifer Rossmere and Colleen Biasco

ANNUAL RETREAT AT BON SECOURS
FEBRUARY 13-16, 2026

Our 2026 FSQ Retreat was amazing. We had 31 quilters who helped make it a huge success. We all came with our projects in various stages and pieced, ironed, did lay outs on the design walls, made bags and cozies, hand quilted and cut lots of fabric. There was so much creativity in the room and a sharing of ideas, encouragement, tools and stories. The atmosphere was positive and full of enthusiasm, with quilters sharing their knowledge and expertise, and being supportive of each other. We all had a great time and many beautiful quilt tops and other sewing projects were completed throughout the weekend.

We hope that all of this entices you to join us next year when the 2027 FSQ Retreat will again be held at Bon Secours during President's Weekend, February 12-15, 2027. Registration for next year's retreat will open on August 1, 2026.

Photos from this year's retreat will be on the FSQ website. A big thanks to Elaine Villforth for taking most of the photos.



April FSQ Sew-in

Anne Flaggs

What is the April Sew-in?

Hi all, we are trying something new, well a bit of a resurrection of something we used to do many years ago. I thought it might be fun to have an opportunity to get the guild together to sew and spend time together outside of our meetings and service projects. FSQ used to do Sit and Sews a few times a year where we would rent out space, pay a small fee and then sew together for the day. It was a lot of fun and I got to talk with some of the members that I wouldn't normally have a chance to interact with. We also hold an annual retreat at Bon Secours where we pay a larger fee, spend a few nights and sew together for a long weekend while being pampered with food and a room of our own to sleep in. Both of these are great and I'm hoping the Sew-in will fit in between a full blown retreat and our historical Sit and Sews.

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The basic idea of the Sew-in is to have a weekend sewing event for the day on Saturday and Sunday. We rent the community room in Asbury with tables for sewing (both machine and hand). We also will have a snack table, fabric sharing table, door prizes and maybe demos. You can work on your own projects or perhaps help out Service Projects by working on one of their kits. Everyone would bring their own lunch or pop out to a local café. The cost is still being determined and will depend on whether Asbury charges a fee, if we need to rent extra tables and other things but I'm hopeful it's somewhere between \$0 - \$25 along with an item for the door prize table. It would be a 2-day event April 25th-26th from 9am-5pm each day and you can come for the whole time or just pop in for a bit to chat. Look for a Signup Genius in late March to help us plan out the space.

This is still all being planned and I'm hopeful it's an event we can duplicate and improve upon as we go along. I chose this weekend as it's the same weekend we will have our Quilt Show in 2027. If you have any ideas on the planning of this or just want some additional information, please let me know.

Anne Flaggs

Anne.f.flaggs@gmail.com



2026 Summer Quilt Challenge

JoAnne DuChez

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

SERVICE PROJECTS 2026 SUMMER QUILT CHALLENGE

At the risk of sounding redundant, I would like to announce that the Friendship Star Summer Challenge this year is the Friendship Star challenge. Yes, our Guild name has provided the perfect topic for a challenge. Although, I would really like to know why the Guild logo looks like a Carpenter Star to me. Maybe someone who has a better knowledge of Guild history can explain.

The guidelines for this challenge are quite simple. The quilt must include at least 1 Friendship Star. Of course, multiple stars would be nice, just so the one star is not so lonely. Every star should have friends, after all. The quilt size may be 36" square to twin size. The 36" size is a change from previous years, as that is the requested minimum quilt size of several of our recipient organizations. Quilts must be sandwiched, quilted and bound. All challenge quilts will be donated to Service Projects for distribution.

Take the challenge and use up a lot of scraps or stash. You will be helping FSQ support our Service Projects mission to provide quilts to hospitals, Comfort Cases, Project Linus, A Wider Circle and other worthwhile organizations.

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Fabric bundles will be available at the April and May meetings. You may also select fabric bundles at the Service Projects Workshops beginning in April. If you'd rather, feel free to use fabric from your own stash.

Finished quilts are due at the October meeting by 7:15 pm. Voting will take place before the meeting and during the first 5 minutes of the break. \$10 gift certificates from Capital Quilts will be awarded to the three quilts with the most votes.

We can't wait to see what your imaginative spirits create. Have fun!



Facebook

Suma Glassman and Ellen Robinson

We have a Facebook Group in addition to our regular page on that platform. Please like the page and join the group. The group will allow you to share pictures of your work with other members. Both pages are public so you can still view them just by going to the links. We post various items of interest in both areas.

The regular Facebook page is located at <https://facebook.com/FriendshipStarQuilters/>.

The Facebook Group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/421870746339372>.

If you have any questions, you can contact either Ellen or Suma individually or send an email to facebook@friendshipstar.org.



FSQ Workshops for 2027 Raffle Quilt

Ellen Robinson and Trish McTighe

2027 Raffle Quilt Chairs

We were having some challenging weather in the middle of January with abnormally cold temps and "Snowzilla" dropping everything Mother Nature had to give us, and then some. But the quilters came out to our two Sit and Sews to work on the blocks for our 2027 raffle quilt. We cannot say THANK YOU enough. It takes a village.

They got a sneak peek as to what this quilt will look like. We are happy to report that all the blocks are done and are being trimmed. We will be assembling the top in the near future, and then it's off to a longarm.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Ellen and Trish



FSQ 2026 Opportunity Quilt Tickets

Karen Moss

The 2026 FSQ Opportunity Quilt, **Jubilation**, is a design by Deb Tucker and pieced by Joy Dorman, who graciously donated it to the Guild for our raffle. It was long-arm quilted by Karen Moss and the handwork was completed by Anne Weaver.

The drawing will take place at our June 1, 2026 Guild meeting. A portion of the profits will go to our chosen charities, Comfort Cases and Manna Food Center.

In addition to selling tickets when we take the opportunity quilt to other guilds or venues, we ask each member to either sell or purchase 15 tickets. Although participation in ticket sales is voluntary, this is a major source of funding for the Guild, and your support is appreciated. Tickets are \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. If you buy all your own tickets, it's only \$25.

Ticket stubs and money are to be returned to Karen at a guild event or other arranged drop-off. If you don't yet have your tickets or you would like additional tickets, those are all available from Karen. The seller of the winning ticket and the top three ticket sellers will be rewarded with a prize. We look forward to your support for this endeavor which supports Guild activities. Please let Karen know if you have any questions.



FSQ 2026 Opportunity Quilt Sales

Maryjean Spencer

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND THIS NEW YEAR

Don't miss your **opportunity** to visit area quilt guilds with the wonderful **opportunity** quilt Jubilation! Sign-up genius notification notices went out recently giving you the **opportunity** to volunteer to take

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our lovely **opportunity** quilt to area guild meetings to sell raffle tickets. The sale of these raffle tickets contributes to all the opportunities we have as a guild to help others and to keep our guild running smoothly.

Opportunities like this are special, so please take a few minutes to review the sign up genius and sign up for your **opportunity** to help the guild and have a good time in the process!

[2026 Opportunity Quilt Signup Genius](#)

Maryjean Spencer
240.401.9950



Membership

Carrie Horton and Jan Drass

Since our last newsletter, we added 1 new member, Nancy Walsh! A warm welcome to Nancy! FSQ is currently 128 members strong.

We will return to meeting in person at Asbury Methodist Village on March 2, 2026. You can also join the meeting virtually. Guests are welcome if space is available. Please let membership know if you have a guest who would like to attend.

The updated FSQ Member Directory was sent out via email to all members in February. Please let membership know if any of your information on file (i.e., address, phone number, email address) needs to be updated.

If you are **new to FSQ and want to join the guild**, please [fill out the form online by clicking here](#). Print the completed form and mail it with your membership fee to the address on the form, which is:

Carrie Horton
FSQ Membership Co-Chair
[432 Girard St. Apt. 103](#)
[Gaithersburg, MD 20877](#)

Happy Birthday to our FSQ friends with March Birthdays:

Carmen Contreras-Sesvold	March 3	Heidi Oestreicher	March 16
Laura Markus	March 3	Lisa Wells	March 16
Elizabeth Brigham	March 8	Linda August	March 18
Nancy Debnam	March 9	Kathy L. Hayes	March 18
Lorie Coston	March 10	Karen Kehl	March 21
Carol Carrier	March 12	Kathy Strong	March 23
Diane Heller	March 15	Elaine Villforth	March 28



FSQ Guild Pins

Linda Belecki

PINS FOR SALE

I will be at the March FSQ Meeting with a good supply of pins for sale. All Show Pins are \$1.00 and the FSQ Pin is \$5.00. I hope you will consider adding these to your collection.

Thank you,
Linda Belecki



FSQ and the Asbury Arts and Crafts Sale

Dear FSQ members,

Do you have a few of your creations you'd be interested in selling? Here's your opportunity!

We have been invited to join as partners with Asbury in an Arts and Crafts Show and Sale on Saturday, April 18. You can sell quilts of any size, table toppers, coasters, bags—you name it. They don't even have to be quilts. Ceramics, toys, embroidery, all arts and crafts are welcome!

If you can bear to part with some of your excess Inventory, please register by March 6. You can contact me or Anne Flaggs to reserve a spot at the Friendship

Star Quilters tables near the entrance to the Community Rooms, where we have our monthly meetings (and Quilt Shows!).

If you simply want to see what other artists and crafters are making these days, come and browse from 1 to 5 pm on Saturday, April 18. Many of the things for sale will be by Asbury residents whose work you have seen in the gallery. (Some vendors may be Cash Only, but there is an ATM in the Rosborough lobby.) There will be paintings, photos, jewelry, handmade greeting cards, books, handbags—lots of beautiful things you can have for yourself, or give as gifts! That's why we are calling it *Hidden Treasures*. Bring your friends and family; we hope to see you there!

Barbara Kilby

301-216-4458

bkilbyfoto@gmail.com

ASBURY METHODIST VILLAGE PRESENTS

HIDDEN *Treasures*

A Community Art Showcase & Arts + Crafts Sale

With art created by Seasoned Artists | Skilled Makers | Community Artisans



Saturday, April 18, 2026



1pm - 5pm



**Rosborough Community Rooms
Asbury Methodist Village
301 Odendhal Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

**FREE
ENTRY**



Artistry Lives Here

Discover an inspiring collection of original artwork created by talented resident artists and makers of Asbury Methodist Village and community partners:

- » Gaithersburg Camera Club
- » Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association
- » Friendship Star Quilters



Showcase May Include

- » Paintings
- » Needle Work
- » Sculptures
- » Woodworking
- » Jewelry
- » Photography



To learn more, contact Patty Parenti, Arts Administrator at Asbury Methodist Village: (301) 987-6408 or email: PParenti@Asbury.org

**Vendors may be cash only | ATM on site
All sales are final**

ASBURY
Methodist Village
Anticipate More 



Quilty News & Stuff

News from other Guilds

Southern Comforters Quilt Bingo 3/14

Mark your calendars for our very popular annual Quilt Bingo!
Saturday, March 14, 2026. Doors open at 11:00
Knights of Columbus Hall 611 Columbian Way, (Rt. 3 N) Bowie, MD 20715

- 20 Gorgeous Quilts to win
- Lovely Encore prizes
- Tempting Raffle Baskets
- Silent Auction!!
- Bake Sale

*This will be your last chance to get tickets for our **Raffle Quilt** as the winner will be drawn at the end of Bingo. Lunch available and benefits Knights of Columbus. **Get your tickets at the door- \$20!**

Southern Comforters of Bowie, Maryland
presents



Saturday, March 14, 2026

Doors open at 11:00—Games start at 1 pm

Food service available

Knights of Columbus Boswell Hall

Rt 3 north (north of Rt 50)

6111 Columbian Way, Bowie MD 20715

\$20 admission—Tickets available at the door

No one under 18 years of age permitted

Kim Jalette

The *Scrap Happy Thrift Shop at Black Rock Center for the Arts* in Germantown is planning a “Quilting Special Sale” on Saturday, March 28. It will take over a whole extra room and feature everything they have in inventory that supports the art of quilting. If you have any donations you’d like to drop off, it would be helpful to have them a couple of weeks ahead so that the volunteers have time to process them. And you should certainly plan to shop the event!

<https://www.blackrockcenter.org/scraphappy>

Sheryl Walker

Here is a poem that truly resonates with me, as I'm sure it will with many of our guild.

~~~~~  
Early spring is the time  
I begin to gaze out the window  
looking for the promise of flowers;  
and the first daffodil sighting  
is cause for celebration.

I am almost embarrassed  
by how little self control I have  
when shopping for flowers.

My neighbors bear witness  
to my gardening addiction.  
My fabric addiction is kept indoors  
and remains a better guarded secret.

~ Author unknown, but a kindred spirit to many

**Suma Glassman**

**Actor and Quilter**

I just recently found out that well known actor Harvey Fierstein is also quite an accomplished quilter. I have been following him on FB. He is soooo talented in all his endeavors. I have shared one of his posts to the FSQ FB group so be sure to check it out.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/421870746339372/?multi\\_permalinks=1406930004500103&notif\\_id=1771512771880400&notif\\_t=feedback\\_reaction\\_generic&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/groups/421870746339372/?multi_permalinks=1406930004500103&notif_id=1771512771880400&notif_t=feedback_reaction_generic&ref=notif)

**Ellen Robinson**

A recent post to the Friendship Star Quilters Group on Facebook, a question was asked: “What’s the most underrated sewing tool you own that you think everyone should try?” There were a lot of great suggestions:

1. Post-Its are invaluable. My favorite use is to mark on my sewing machine bed where a non-quarter inch seamallowance would be (my throat plate does not have markings). Another use is also on the throat plate: Put a short stack (3-4) of them at the quarter inch seam as a bumper when I am using a foot that does not have a seam guide on it. And of course for just jotting notes to myself and marking spots on my pattern so I know where I am.
2. Painters tape! Mostly for marking straight quilting lines. Also good for taping a little trash bag to the table to collect thread clippings.
3. I use candy apple sticks (sold in the produce section in the Fall) as stilettos. They are inexpensive and work beautifully guiding the fabric. If the needle hits them by mistake, no harm done! My absolute favorite!
4. Cuticle sticks work well as stilettos too!
5. Chop sticks work as stilettos too. I sharpen them in a pencil sharpener to a dull point. They also are great for poking out corners in bags, bowl cozies, stuffies and the like.
6. My 60mm rotary cutter. I prefer that to the 45mm which to me is too small.
7. Rubber floor mats (or interlocking rubber tiles) I have by the cutting table and ironing board.
8. Seam ripper! (Another member replied “I prefer to call it ‘reverse stitcher!’”)
9. At the retreat someone had a chunk of coarse, stiff foam that worked wonders as a rotary mat scrubbie that did wonders on removing fuzz on the mat.
10. I have a package of command hooks that I use to wall-mount my Fons and Porter design wall (which has grommets) at retreats.

Along similar lines, at our recent Sit and Sew to work on the 2027 raffle quilt blocks, there were a few great Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP) tips that were shared:

1. When pressing, use a dry iron. Do not use steam and do not spray with water. Water is not good for the paper foundation.
2. I like to pre-sew each line on the foundation paper WITHOUT thread. This helps to fold back right on the line when you go to do a trim up before the next piece. It also helps later on when you go to de-paper the block because there are more perforations. You don’t need to do the pre-sew with a small stitch length, although you still should for the actual sewn seams.
3. A lot of FPP’ers like to use a cardstock weight card to do the fold back on the line. This can be one of those heavier advertisement cards you get in the mail. If you like this method, you don’t need to do the one in tip #1, and if you like tip #1, you don’t need to do this tip.

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4. This one applies to ALL piecing methods: Working with White-on-White fabric it can be hard to find the “right side” of the fabric. The tip is if you have dark pants on, you can lay the fabric on your pant leg and more easily see which is the right side. The right side print will look “crisper” than it is from the back side.

5. Never press the block from the printed paper side (in case the ink/toner will melt and come off on the iron). And, unless you know that the ink/toner will not come off on your ironing board, use a pressing sheet between the board and the printed side of the foundation.

6. This one was not shared at the sit and sew, but for more complex FPP foundations, I have copied an extra foundation and then colored in each shape with either crayons or colored pencils. This made for a color coded cheat sheet to refer to as the blocks was sewn. Warning: DON'T use this foundation for sewing a block because the crayon or pencil will probably melt onto your ironing board.

### ***Mary Ann Bruce***

#### **Help an MCPS Teacher with Donated Sewing Basics**

Here's a terrific opportunity to support future sewists.

A teacher at Northwood High School is working to get the Fashion Production Classes & Program up and running. I have met with her once to drop off the first load of donations. Her students have now received their new sewing machines! The students are enjoying the class so much that ask to stay in the sewing room during lunch. Plus, more students are asking to join the class.

Below is a list of items to support her endeavor:

- Patterns for: tops, shirts, dresses, pants, pj's, hats (beginner to advanced)
- Seam rippers
- Scissors
- Thread
- Beads
- Buttons
- Needles & pins
- Zippers, and any hardware for bags
- Thimbles
- Trims and decorative bobbles
- Magazines (for collage & mood boards): Nat Geo, crafting, travel, & music
- Fabric

You can bring donations to our first 2026 in-person meeting on March 2nd. Donations can also be dropped off at Service Projects. My information is in the directory if you have any questions.

I believe helping foster a love of sewing in a younger generation is so important.

One day, these current students may become members of FSQ!

**Congratulations to Carrie Horton!**



The American Quilter's Society put out a call for entries to their challenge last year: Create a one-of-a-kind 8" x 10" quilted wool appliqué quilt inspired by any U.S. state using a kit curated by WonderFil Specialty Threads. Carrie designed a beautiful entry which was chosen to be displayed in a special exhibit at the 2026 AQS QuiltWeek shows. Carrie and her mom plan to attend the New England show in April.



We are so happy for you, Carrie!

**Cathy Miller**

**Blessings sent to the Congo and Ethiopia**

Because of the generosity of Friendship Star members, Poolesville Village Piecemaker guild and members and Truth and Hope we were able to send 3 large suitcases of items to Kandale. These items (51 infant care bundles, 26 handmade dresses, 4 handmade skirts and 51 verses of hope in Kikongo, their native language) will help care for mothers, newborns, & school girls in a very remote area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They will arrive in early March.

Also on their way are 3 suitcases of age-specific clothing packages prepared for children living in Ethiopian prisons. So far, 85 clothing packets have been completed for Minte's 2026 ministry travel to Addis Alem, Nazareth, Ambo, and Sheger Prisons. We hope to provide for additional prisons as clothing supply and transport opportunity allow. Many thanks to Friendly Thrift Shop for sharing children's clothing, suitcases, and women's scarves with us, week after week.

## The Quiltline – March 2026



Clothing packets contain 2-3 outfits, underwear, soap, washcloth, Smarties or Sweetart candies, and a verse of hope in Amharic. Many of the girls' packets include a handmade reversible dress (these dresses were made by members of FSQ including JoAnne Ducheze and Wendy Baumann's friend Sandra Schwartz). The need for clothing for these children is great, as resources are very narrow.



| <b>Elected Officers</b>               |                                        |
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| <a href="#"><u>Membership</u></a>            | Carrie Horton and Jan Drass               | <a href="#"><u>Small Groups Coordinator</u></a> | Peggy Weidman                              |
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| <a href="#"><u>Publicity</u></a>             | Michele Barnard                           | <a href="#"><u>Yard Sale</u></a>                | <b>Volunteers needed</b>                   |
| <a href="#"><u>Raffle Quilt Marketer</u></a> | Maryjean Spencer                          | <a href="#"><u>Zoom Coordinator</u></a>         | Kathy Swartz                               |
| <a href="#"><u>Raffle Ticket Sales</u></a>   | Karen Moss                                |                                                 |                                            |