

A Message from Bonnie

September is a meaningful month at The National Quilt Museum as we join people across the country in remembering the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Among the Collection quilts currently on display is Claire Gardner's ***9.11.2001***, a powerful work created in remembrance of those who lost their lives that day. This month, the quilt also provided a particularly moving connection for members of Market House Theatre's cast of *Come From Away*, who recently visited the Museum. You'll read more about their visit in this issue.

September also brings much to celebrate. We're excited to open ***Pigment, Dye, & Thread***, featuring 19 remarkable works from our Collection, with the entire exhibition also available to explore through our online gallery. You'll also discover Collection quilts newly on display, upcoming classes and the School Block Challenge, highlights from our Alphabet Adventure, and our limited-edition ***Corona II: Solar Eclipse* silk scarf**.

This summer also reminded us just how quickly the unexpected can happen—and how important it is to be prepared. In this issue, you'll learn how supporters of our newly launched Preservation Society stepped forward when we needed them most, helping us respond to an urgent situation and protect the extraordinary quilts entrusted to our care.

And as you make your September plans, don't forget that time is running out to experience two very special exhibitions. ***Twenty Years of Tula Pink*** closes September 15, and Janet Stone: ***And Now I Know MY ABCs!*** closes September 22. We hope you'll visit before they're gone—and enjoy special videos from both artists featured in this issue.

There's a lot happening at The National Quilt Museum this September. Read on, enjoy—and thank you for being part of the community that makes it all possible.

Happy Quilting!

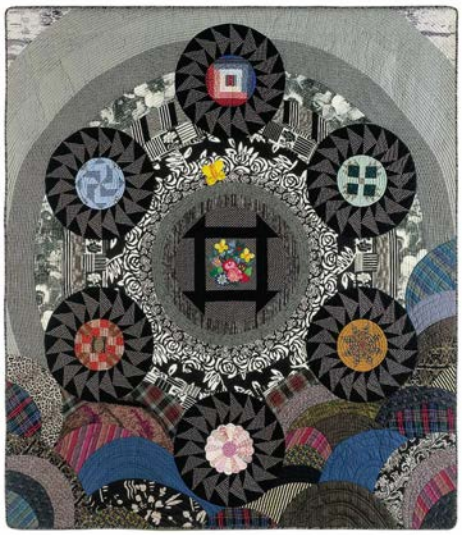
Bonnie



Bonnie Schrock
Executive Director
Email Bonnie

When Preservation Became Urgent

This summer, just as The National Quilt Museum was preparing to launch its new **Preservation Society**, we were reminded how quickly preservation can become urgent.



Escape From Circle City *by* Sylvia Pickell

During the sweltering July heat, one of the Museum's HVAC units failed and could not be repaired. It had to be completely replaced—a critical situation for a collection of more than 700 quilts that depends on carefully controlled temperature and humidity.

And then something remarkable happened. Within weeks of launching the **Preservation Society**, more than 90 donors stepped forward to help protect the Museum, its facilities and its extraordinary collection. They could not have known when they gave just how timely their support would be.

Created by Director of Development Laura Grimes, the Preservation Society is dedicated to protecting not only the quilts in the Museum's care, but also the building and essential systems that safeguard them—from climate control and gallery lighting to moisture protection, storage and preservation materials.

For the artists whose work has been entrusted to the Museum, that commitment has special meaning.

Sylvia Pickell began sewing 75 years ago on her grandmother's treadle machine and has seen firsthand the damage improper storage can cause to textiles. Her quilt ***Escape From Circle City*** was an early Museum acquisition. Today, she is encouraging others to help preserve the collection for the future:

“As an avid conservationist and lover of old textiles, I believe we have an obligation to help protect our present fibers for the future. I encourage you all to help support this Museum endeavor in whatever manner you are able.”

That spirit is at the heart of the **Preservation Society**.

Gifts at every level help provide the resources needed to care for the collection and the Museum that protects it. Whether helping provide archival-quality materials for a single quilt, supporting year-round preservation, or helping fund major infrastructure improvements, every donor becomes part of safeguarding these remarkable works for generations to come.

Every stitch counts. And so does every gift.

We invite you to join the growing community of Preservation Society supporters and help preserve quilt art for the next 35 years.

Join the Preservation Society

Discover Pigment, Dye, & Thread

Opening September 18, ***Pigment, Dye, & Thread*** explores the remarkable ways artists use color, surface and stitching to transform cloth.



Harmony by Erika Carter

Featuring 19 quilts from The National Quilt Museum’s permanent Collection of more than 700 works, the exhibition brings together artists who use painting, hand-dyeing and threadwork to create richly layered compositions. Pigment and brushwork introduce expressive movement, hand-dyed fabrics create depth and atmosphere, and stitching and thread painting add texture, dimension and intricate detail.



Terraced Landscape by Hollis Chatelain

From abstract compositions and geographic terrains to works inspired by the natural world, the exhibition demonstrates the extraordinary versatility of contemporary quiltmaking.

Can't make it to Paducah? You can experience the **entire exhibition online**. The Museum’s online gallery allows you to explore all 19 quilts featured in *Pigment, Dye, & Thread* from wherever you are.

Pigment, Dye, & Thread
September 18, 2026–March 2, 2027

View All 19 Quilts in the Online Gallery

A Quilt, a Story and a Shared Remembrance

As the 25th anniversary of September 11 approaches, members of Paducah's Market House Theatre's *Come From Away* cast visited The National Quilt Museum to spend time with Claire Gardner's *9.11.2001*, created with 3,052 different fabrics representing those who died at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and aboard the four airplanes. The visit was especially meaningful because two people remembered in the quilt, Captain Charles Burlingame and FDNY Firefighter Kevin O'Rourke, are connected to real people whose stories are part of *Come From Away*, offering a moving reminder of how art and storytelling preserve memory and connect us to history.



(L–R): Tom Dolan, Laura Grimes, Tony Bohannon, Kimberly Patterson, Hadley Pierce, Ash Terry, Tony Kitchen, Victoria Kitchen and Anna Tamaoka with Claire Gardner's Quilt *9.11.2001*.

Go Behind the Quilts with Tula Pink

In Part 4 of our six-part video tour, Tula takes a closer look at *The Queen of Diamonds, Alchemy & Tiny Stars*, sharing the inspiration behind the works, favorite techniques, practical quilting tips and insights into her creative collaborations.

Then make plans to see ***Twenty Years of Tula Pink*** at The National Quilt Museum. September 15 is the last day to experience the exhibition, so don't miss your chance to see these remarkable quilts together in Paducah.

Watch Part 4 of the Tula Pink Tour



An Alphabet Adventure at the Museum

Families filled The National Quilt Museum with stories, movement and creativity during our Alphabet Adventure on August 22. Young visitors enjoyed Story Time surrounded by Janet Stone’s colorful alphabet quilts, alphabet yoga, a gallery scavenger hunt and hands-on activities presented with the McCracken County Public Library and Paducah Bank.



The ABC fun continues, but time is running out! September 15 is the last day to purchase **raffle tickets** for a chance to win Janet Stone's one-of-a-kind baby quilt, *I Wooly Love Ewe*. Tickets are just $10 each.

Watch Janet Stone share how she created *I Wooly Love Ewe*, then get your **raffle tickets** before the September 15 deadline!

Watch Janet Stone's Video



Fall Is a Great Time to Learn Something New

There’s still time to make The National Quilt Museum part of your fall creative plans. From an exclusive three-day workshop with internationally acclaimed quilt artist Paula Nadelstern to Longarm Quilting Classes with Handi Quilter, fall brings exciting opportunities to learn, create and strengthen your quilting skills at the Museum.



Kaleidoscope Sunstar by Paula Nadelstern

Whether you're an experienced quilter ready to explore a new technique or just beginning your quilting journey, there’s something to inspire you at The National Quilt Museum.

Explore Adult Classes & Workshops

Inspiring the Next Generation of Quilters

Creativity has no age limit, and The National Quilt Museum's **School Block Challenge** gives young artists across the country an opportunity to discover quilting while creating something entirely their own.



Sponsored by Moda Fabrics, the annual competition is open to students in grades K–12 nationwide. Each participant creates an original quilt block incorporating three challenge fabrics provided by Moda.

And every student who participates gets something particularly special: all submitted blocks are exhibited at The National Quilt Museum. Last year's challenge brought together 348 students from 25 states, demonstrating the creativity and growing enthusiasm of the next generation of quiltmakers.

The deadline to submit blocks for the 2027 **School Block Challenge** is November 2, 2026, and the completed works will be exhibited at the Museum from December 4, 2026 through March 2, 2027. Teachers, parents and young makers, now is the time to get creative!

Learn More About the School Block Challenge

Wear a Piece of Quilt History

Celebrate one of quilting's defining moments with The National Quilt Museum's limited-edition *Corona II: Solar Eclipse* silk scarf.

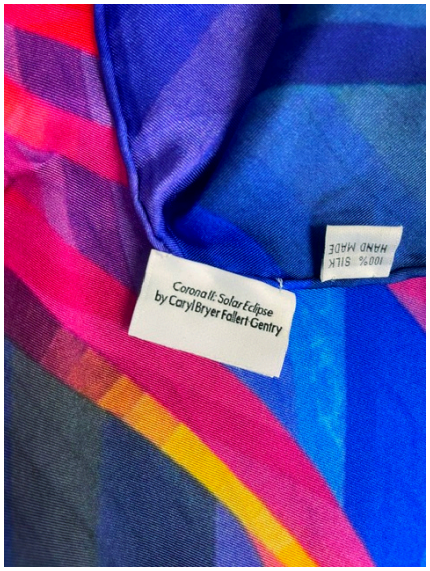


Inspired by Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry's groundbreaking quilt—named one of the 100 Best Quilts of the 20th Century—the elegant 36" x 36" scarf is crafted in the United States from Italian Mulberry silk, double-sided and finished with a hand-rolled hem.

Wear it, frame it or give it as a special gift. This beautiful scarf transforms an iconic work from the Museum's Collection into a wearable work of art.

Quantities are limited, and once this special edition is gone, it will not be reproduced.

[Purchase your silk scarf here](#).



Don’t Miss These Exhibitions Before They Close

September is your last chance to experience two special exhibitions at The National Quilt Museum.



Muttons & Buttons & Pearls, Oh My!
by Janet Stone

Janet Stone: *And Now I Know My ABCs!*
Through September 22, 2026

See all 26 of Janet Stone’s extraordinary alphabet quilts together before this special exhibition closes.



Rattled by Tula Pink

Tula Pink: *Twenty Years of Tula Pink*
Through September 15, 2026

Don't miss the final days of Tula Pink’s first exhibition at The National Quilt Museum.



KALEIDOSCOPIC XLIV: Continue to Continue by Paula Nadelstern

Paula Nadelstern: *Master of Symmetry*
Through December 30, 2026

Experience the breathtaking color, geometry and kaleidoscopic designs of internationally acclaimed quilt artist Paula Nadelstern.

Upcoming Exhibitions



13 by Pamela Studstill

Pigment, Dye, & Thread
September 18, 2026–March 2, 2027



What Are Her Origins? by Szilvia Kerékgyérté

Carrefour Européen du Patchwork:
Avant-Garde
September 25 – December 1, 2026

Collection Quilts on View

There's always something new to discover at The National Quilt Museum. Our curatorial team recently refreshed the Main Gallery, rotating new works from the Museum's Collection onto display.

The following Collection quilts are currently on view:

9.11.2001 — Claire Gardner
… and Our Flag was Still There — Melinda Bula
Big Bang — Gail Garber
Escape from Circle City — Sylvia Pickell
Growing Into the Light — Louise Harris
Hollyhocks — Velda Newman
I Love Summer — Judith Larzelere
Infinity — Danny Amazonas
Stars & Stripes Sampler — Marianne Fons and Liz Porter
Summer Fun — Marina Landi and Fabia Diniz
Summer Lake Log Cabin — Judy Martin
The Honeymooners — Karen Sistek and Nancy Sterett Martin
The Mountain and the Magic: Night Lights — Judi Warren Blaydon
Tree of Life: Spring — Jane Sassaman
Tumbling Blocks — Geraldine Warner
Lilies of Autumn — Juanita Gibson Yeager
Neon Radial — Audrey Esarey
Cityscape — Lucretia Romey
Celebration of Autumn — Karmen Streng
Dreamcatcher — Becky Brown
Soigné — Victoria Findlay Wolfe
Fire on the Water — Judy Dales
New Directions — Judy Mathieson

Please note that our curatorial staff may occasionally rotate Collection quilts on display to accommodate visits from Collection artists or scheduled programs.

You can also **view the Museum's Collection online** and learn more about the quiltmakers. If you have a favorite Collection quilt you would like to see displayed, contact **Bonnie Schrock** to inquire about the Museum's Collection Quilt Sponsorship Program



Fire on the Water by Judy Dales



Cityscape by Lucretia Romey

Friends of The Museum

Thank you to everyone who recently renewed a Friend of the Museum membership or became a new Friend. Your support makes our exhibitions, programs and events possible.

We love celebrating our new and renewed members.

Renew Your Membership or Become a Friend.

Mary Anthony
Leesa & John Bingham
Lisa Brothman
Cheryl Chapman
Ginni & Chris
Colorado Quilting Council, Inc
Julie Colvin
Karen Cronin
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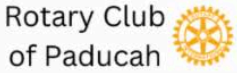



















September 2026

The National Quilt Museum | 215 Jefferson St | Paducah, KY 42001 US

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