

Shiner Heritage Quilters

present MJ Kinman
maker of giant gem quilts



June 3, 2025

First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, Shiner TX

Lecture & trunk show!

during our regular meeting

5:30 pm social time

6:00 pm meeting starts

Free to attend

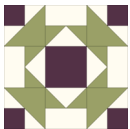


All day workshop!

Learn MJ's freezer paper piecing techniques
to transform your ideas into reality

10:30 am - 5:30 pm

\$55 members / \$65 non-members
(includes \$5 non-refundable registration fee)



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Supply List

Note: MJ will bring freezer paper for members to use. However, if students wish to purchase their own, they can do so by purchasing it at their local grocery store OR from Amazon. The freezer paper should be 18" wide.

- Colored pencils in the colors of the gem they want to create.
- Highlighter
- Regular pencils
- Ball point pen or permanent markers
- Eraser
- Bic Wite-Out tape or similar brand (Please do not purchase a bottle of Liquid Paper/Liquid Wite-Out since it will make a mess on your iron.)
- 18" ruler & Small ruler with a 1/4" measurement
- 6-8 business-size envelopes
- Domestic sewing machine and thread assortment (neutrals or colors that match your fabrics)
- Scissors and rotary cutting tools (cutter and mat) Bring 2 rotary cutters if you want to cut paper with one and your fabric with another.
- Iron and ironing pad (or board)
- Fabric – Fat Quarters of cotton solids or gradients. Consider bringing a range of values (light, medium, dark) within one or two colorways. This project works best when you have a very dark value, a very light value, and a range of 2 or 3 medium values. White and black also work well to bump up the "bling" in your gem. (MJ will have kits available for purchase at the workshop.)





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LECTURE/TRUNK SHOW • Gems & Joy: Featuring the Gem Quilts of MJ Kinman

The most beautiful gemstones capture light and reflect it back to us with unique brilliance, revealing their fiery personalities. Every gem has a story to tell...just like people.

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.

FULL-DAY CLASS (6 hours) • “Bite-Size Gems”

MJ Kinman, maker of giant gem quilts, will show you how to create sparkling gem blocks using the design and piecing techniques she relies on to create her signature quilts. During this fast-paced class, students will create their own singularly beautiful work of faceted light.

Freezer paper piecing techniques are powerful techniques that can transform any quilter's ideas into reality. MJ's inspiration is gemstones, but yours might be landscapes, florals, portraits, abstracts, or any other kind of inspiration. The technique works for all!

MJ is quick to point out that this technique is NOT foundation paper piecing. There's no sewing to paper or tearing paper out of the back of your quilt block when finished. Instead, this is traditional piecing using freezer paper as your templates. If you can put two pieces of fabric, right sides together, with a quarter-inch seam allowance, you can do this!

Over the course of a single day-long session, students will learn how to create a freezer paper pattern, understand how different types of fabrics impact the flow of light and color across their design, and assemble the fabric facets to create their own block of faceted color.