

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Founding Members - Jan DeBolt



My first interest in the quilting process was while I was in high school in early 1950's when my parental grandmother arrived on our doorstep unexpectedly and planning on a lengthy visit. My mother asked for my help in entertaining her and I mentioned I would like to have a quilt. I selected the Dresden Plate design and the two women spent many happy hours cutting by hand and piecing using Mom's trusty featherweight that I had learned to sew on. The fabrics were feed sacks and scraps of my many clothing projects. This visit with my grandmother was a pleasant experience for my mother and must have laid the foundation in my mind that quilting was a happy and fulfilling experience.

I began my quilting journey in Hot Springs County in 1982 where a small group of women gathered to be taught the skills of hand piecing and hand quilting. Cardboard templates and pencil markings resulted in blocks of many traditional designs and became a sampler quilt assembled in the lap quilting technique. Several small quilts and another queen sized sampler resulted and then my quilting horizons took a leap. I moved to Wheatland and with Molly Wilhelm as my mentor I partook of the opportunities afforded to me through 10 years of Quilting in the Tetons instructors, fellow classmates and quilt shows.

I joined Nebraska State Quilt Guild and attended my first yearly state meeting in 1994. The strength of this guild is in evidence in the University of Nebraska's emphasis on quilt preservation and study.

I also joined Colorado State Quilting Council which holds 10 monthly state meetings. Most of these meetings are held along the front range and usually have a workshop available by a noteworthy presenter. Thusly my quilting world was broadening and I was beginning to use my newly learned knowledge to share with others.

My travels have allowed me to take workshops with more than 75 nationally known quilters and countless locally known quilters. Each workshop allowed me to learn something new or a different twist to an old way of doing it and every time the comradery of fellow quilters is the all time high.

I have entered several non juried quilt shows and the critiques of NQA judges has been a learning tool in my quilt progression. In recent years I became a judge with the CQC Competition Committee and this experience has afforded me to broaden my knowledge and visit

various venues.

I enjoy teaching and sharing with any age quilter. It is fun to see the regional influences in the style of quilting that is being done and also the variance of quilt shops. Look at the changes in available fabrics and threads since 1982! I make the statement that "quilting has progressed from a hobby to a booming business" and it has been fun to be a part of that process.

Thanks for the friendship, fellow quilters, and long may we stitch..

Jan DeBolt

Read about Sherry Fink in the February-March issue of Patchwords. WC

The Quick Quilt Retreat

The Quick Quilt Retreat in Cody October 23-27, 2013 was a tremendous success. We had 63 fun and happy retreaters who delighted us with the most wonderful show and tells after meals.

I have been telling the Holiday Inn manager that we intend to take over his hotel and we certainly did this retreat. We used all of the banquet rooms available and every table in the hotel!

Our next retreats are April 10-13, 2014 and October 23-26, 2014. Contact me for information. quicksfamily@gmail.com

Many thanks to the WSQG board for continuing to support our regional happening retreat. Our retreaters came from all over Wyoming- Lander, Riverton, Dubois, Cheyenne as well as the NW region and we also had four from Montana!

As a proud grandma, I am attaching a photo of the card table playhouse that Barbara Graham and I both made. We entertained all around us with our attempts to create these. (pattern available online) They took us about 30 hours to make. We thought it would be a 6-8 hour project!

Michelle Quick

