

VALLEY QUILT GUILD HONORS CINDA POTTMEYER AS FEATURED QUILTER AT THE 2024 SHOW

Kaleidoscopes of color, embellishments for enhancement, and intricate pattern designs are just a few elements that go into making a quilt. These quilts will be displayed when the Valley Quilt Guild of Tuscarawas County holds its quilt show on October 11 from 10 AM- 5 PM and October 12 from 10 AM - 3 PM. The location for the quilt show is Sacred Heart Church Parish Center located at 320 Fair Avenue NE, New Philadelphia, Ohio. Admission is \$5.00 and 12 and under are free.

The show will feature a vast array of quilts in various colors, designs, and sizes made by guild members. In addition, there will be quilting demonstrations, bed turning, raffle baskets, a boutique, a raffle quilt, and a Quilters' Cafe. Visitors will also be able to view the many community service projects that the guild members work on throughout the year. Visitors will have the opportunity to sign up to join the Valley Quilt Guild at the membership table. Parking is free and the entire location is handicap accessible.

Each year the guild honors one of its members as the "featured quilter." This year, Cinda Pottmeyer, is the recipient of this title. Cinda Pottmeyer has been a member of the guild since 2006. She has served in various leadership positions which include president, vice-president of programs, treasurer, constitutional committee member, and the responsibility of putting out the newsletter every month.

Cinda states that her first experience sewing was in Junior High Home Economics class where she made a 4-panel skirt. Upon showing an interest in quilting, Cinda says that Barb Exley, one of the founding members of the Valley Quilt Guild, encouraged her to join the Valley Quilt Guild. Thus began Cinda's journey in quilt making.

Since Cinda began quilting in 2003, she believes that not much has changed in the world of quilting. She says that much of her inspiration for her quilt designs comes from magazines, kits, patterns, and friends. She doesn't have a favorite palette of colors, and her favorite quilting technique is piecing.

Shortly after Cinda began quilting in 2003, her second son asked her to make a quilt based on the Tetris video game he had seen on the internet. She states that this project did not come to fruition until five years later. There were no patterns available, so she studied the game and created her own pattern (design). She put much time into making sure the blocks had the correct colors and shapes. Each block contains five graduated colors and it has a 3-D look.

Cinda shared that she has made a quilt for her sister and brother-in-law that has a special meaning. Her brother-in-law is a large animal veterinarian and most of his clients are Amish. Cinda used a panel of drawings featuring Amish farm life to create a keepsake for her sister and brother-in-law. Lori Kelly, a local longarm quilter, turned it into a work of art using her longarm quilting skills.

Cinda has made 123 quilts. She recommends that if you are interested in quilting ask an experienced quilter for help and for answers to questions you might have. You can also take classes that demonstrate techniques and patterns. Cinda says that the most rewarding thing about quilting is looking at her finished quilts and realizing she did a good job.

To improve her quilting skills, Cinda has enjoyed taking classes for specific patterns, use of fabric, and fabric art projects. Some classes she has taken to improve her skills include free motion quilting with Shirley Stutz, Underground Railroad, and certifications in several quilting techniques. Cinda says that she enjoys taking classes because she always learns something new to apply to her quilting.

Besides taking classes, Cinda has passed on her love of quilting through the classes she teaches. She teaches various classes at Anything Sews in Dover, Ohio, which include Multiple Madness, free motion quilting, quilting 101 for beginners, T-Shirt quilts, and Log Cabin Cross, to name a few. However, she is willing to teach any pattern if people are interested in learning.

Her teaching of Multiple Madness led her to co-author a book with Chris Brauning. Cinda enjoys using the Multiple Madness technique, and neither she nor Chris wanted to see it disappear once a former member, Pat Harmon, was no longer able to teach it.

Cinda was born in Pennsylvania. She moved to Middlefield, Ohio, when she was 13 and in 1974 to New Philadelphia where she

married Jack, her husband, (of almost 50 years on October 19th). She has three adult children: Victor, Ian, and Amber.

Cinda attended college at Kent State University receiving a BA degree in French, Spanish, and education. She has been a high school teacher at Central Catholic High School in New Philadelphia, Ohio. She has also served as Director of Christian Education at First United Christ of Church in the same city. Cinda has been a cook at a high-end restaurant and has served as an aide in a nursing home.

In her spare time, Cinda enjoys singing with the Senior Center's Forever Young Singers, the Tuscarawas Philharmonic Chorus and her church choir. She has also participated in the Little Theater since 1982. She enjoys being part of the chorus, although she has had several speaking and/or singing parts. Some of the productions she has been in include: Fiddler on the Roof, The Drowsy Chaperone, Mighty Python's Spamalot, The Music Man, Once Upon a Mattress (twice), Annie (twice), and various others.

The Valley Quilt Guild is a nonprofit organization that meets the third Wednesday of every month, (except December) at 6 PM in the Sacred Heart Church Parish Center located at 320 Fair Avenue NE, New Philadelphia, Ohio. Meetings usually include speakers, show and tell, and a short business meeting. There are several special sessions (learning new quilting techniques) each year available to the membership at a lower cost.

The guild participates in several community service projects throughout the year. These include Snuggled in Hope Quilts, the Valentine Project, Meals on Wheels, Hospice, Jobs and Family Services, Union Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, and Birthright to name a few. For more information view our Facebook page or visit our website at <http://valleyquiltguild.org>.

We invite everyone to visit the quilt show, talk with Cinda, and enjoy her beautiful creations.