

LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Early in 2019, Quilters Above the Clouds revised their Bylaws to include recognition of outstanding members who have contributed above and beyond to the growth and excellence of our guild. In most cases, an Honorary Lifetime Membership is considered for someone who can no longer be an active participant in the guild due to health issues or because of the need to relocate to a distant area. In general, a member should have been an active guild member for 5 or more years and made significant contributions to Quilters Above the Clouds. Members of the guild may nominate someone for this honor either in writing or in person at a board meeting. The Executive Board will then consider the nomination and make the final decision. Lifetime Members pay no dues and receive the guild's newsletter via email. In addition they are welcome to attend any meeting or activity whenever they can.

REGINA BECHARD

In 2010 Regina, a relative newcomer to Teller County, adopted a new passion when her vet technician, who also happened to be a quilt shop owner, introduced her to the world of quilting. She took on a Block of the Month class at Nuts & Bolt as well as a paper piecing class, thereby meeting members of QAC. She hit the ground running when she joined the guild, attending Board meetings to assist in understanding the demands of a non-profit and she later assumed the role of Newsletter Editor to put to work her already proficient computer and photography skills. Besides exploring many different piecing techniques, she learned to long arm quilt using free motion techniques and computer designs, eventually teaching those classes at Nuts & Bolts. She happily volunteered to quilt charity quilts and Quilts of Valor as well as those of other members for no charge because she felt she learned from each quilt, adding to her skill set. She quilted the guild's 2015 Raffle Quilt "Where Rainbows Dance" which sold a record 3200 tickets and is still used in TV advertisements for the Rock Ledge Ranch's Folk Art Festival each fall. She also helped build up participation in the quilting exhibits at the Teller county Fair, the Colorado State Fair, Colorado Quilt Council's Quilt-A-Fair as well as our own Quilts in the Aspens quilt shows. Although Regina and her husband have moved to a warmer climate, her generous spirit and bright smile will always be a part of Quilters Above the Clouds.

ARLAN GERHARDT

Arlan, an organizing charter member of Quilters Above the Clouds, served as our first Newsletter Editor and social media guru. She encouraged group participation in our first community outreach efforts with Teller County Social Services and in 2008 helped organize the making of 4 quilts auctioned off to benefit breast cancer research. She helped organize the first quilt show in 2007 in the gardens of 2 local Woodland Park quilters. The entry fees from this show funded the creation of Quilters Above the Clouds in 2008. She continued to play an

integral part in annual quilt shows either as chairman or a vital committee member through 2012 when her health issues forced her to “slow down” somewhat. She opened her home and property for workshops on several occasions and hosted program presenters during their visits to the area. Last, but not least, despite no longer being able to maintain regular meeting attendance and activity participation, she continued to donate hundreds of yards of quality quilting fabric yearly to be used in our charitable efforts. Members of Quilters Above the Clouds have reaped the rewards of her love of quilting, fabric, and friends for over a decade. Her unfailingly positive and patient nature remains inspirational to all who know her or hear about her contributions.

NANCY DAVIS

Many of our members are unaware of the admirable example Nancy Davis gave our organization from the moment she joined in 2011. During her first year of Quilters Above the Clouds membership, she re-structured the quilt show’s publicity with exceptional and long standing results. For our annual Holiday Party and Auction, she recommended her neighbor, an actual professional auctioneer, to raise that event to another level of fun and effectiveness. Not only did she serve as Secretary and Quilt Show Co-Chairman in 2016, her legacy is one of being a member who participated in every aspect of our organization: precious Critter Quilts month after month, inviting boutique donations and stunning quilt auction donations every year, serving as a valued member of many committees, and last but not least, as a member who popped up at the close of every activity to grab the vacuum and start cleaning. Due to health issues, Nancy recently had to relocate to a lower elevation. However, her calm voice of reason and friendly thoughtful ways will continue to guide many of us as we work to fulfill the missions of Quilters Above the Clouds. (*Note: Nancy passed away in 2020*)

ANDREA KROENING

Andrea was an organizing charter member of QAC and in the second year started the tradition of an annual quilt challenge which she continued, with the exception of one year, until she recently had to move out of the area. She was also instrumental in our first quilt shows and the idea of a fundraising auction was also hers. She has always donated fantastic items for the auction and offered numerous quilting classes in shops or at her home—such things as the Mystery Quilt, One-Block Wonder, and the Civil Sisters all started with her. She has freely shared her enthusiasm and quilting expertise. She hosted several of the guild’s guest speakers in her home. She suggested the Bed Turning feature of our quilt show and continues to support every aspect of the show, even traveling here from Kansas City to display quilts and help out. She’s been a staunch supporter of charitable causes and often had a hand in making thank you quilts for outgoing presidents. The list could go on and on. We are fortunate to have had

Andrea as a member from the beginning and even more fortunate that she continues to support QAC.

BARB OLIVER

Another charter member, Barb is best remembered by many of us for her “Out of the Box” challenges to the rest of the members. Barb was a very artistic person with many talents and liked to apply those talents to the world of quilting in unique and interesting ways. One of her most enduring challenges has been the Crazy Quilt—she made up kits with bits & pieces of fabrics, buttons, etc., and taught us all how to make a Crazy Quilt square. That activity evolved into our first group quilt and now hangs in a place of honor at our quilt shows and holiday parties. Many viewers have asked how they can vote for that quilt at our shows! Barb also loved making critter quilts and came up with some really funky and fun ones. She taught herself to free motion quilt and demonstrated that at quilt shows, making bookmarks that were a hit in the Boutique. She would have so many things at Show & Tell we finally had to put a limit so others could show their creations too! Her irrepressible sense of fun is missed. We are privileged that she still keeps up with our activities and reads the Newsletters to keep up with all of us! She is truly our “Forever Friend”.

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