

Esther Henley

Esther L. Henley, longtime guild member, passed away February 19th. She was a retired dietitian who previously worked at the Stanford Hospital, San Francisco. She moved here from back East in 1943–44. Her Thursday sewing circle started in 1968 with five other women after working on a school fundraiser that included Darlene Hartman and Dorothy Scholten. Esther joined our guild shortly after it was formed in 1981 and volunteered at our quilt shows.

During our 2001 Prisms of Time quilt show, Esther kindly loaned her historic family quilt, “Star of Bethlehem,” as one of our special exhibits. “Star of Bethlehem” was made by her grandmother Emma Shafer during 1870–1880, and is on the cover of the book, *Ho for California: Pioneer Women and Their Quilts* by Jean Ray Laury and the California Heritage Quilt Project. The quilt’s story is on pages 71–74. In the interview about that quilt, Esther said “It is the only tangible from a grandmother I never knew. It is family . . . into the past and the future.”



A few years ago, Esther moved to Delaware to live closer to her son. On a visit back to San Francisco in 2012, she re-discovered a stack of appliqué flower blocks made in Caroline Lieberman’s quilting class. Her sewing circle took the blocks and made them into a quilt. Diane Torres did the machine quilting. A second-place ribbon was awarded for it in our 2015 quilt show. The quilt was returned to Esther to enjoy.

