

McFadden, Patricia

**Patricia A. McFadden**  
SFQG Member since 2002  
Daughter of a founding member of the SFQG  
Received by email 10/11/2006



**1) Tell us a little about yourself, education, work, and family.**

I was born and raised in SF and got an environmental engineering degree. I met my husband in college through friends and we have two boys ages 4 and 2. I am the ninth child out of ten and my mother is a founding member of the SFQG.

**2) Describe your work experiences.**

I work for the Navy cleaning up the closed Navy bases and preparing them for transfer.

**3) Where have you lived and has it influenced your life?**

I've lived in SF for most all of my life and will always consider the SF Bay area home. I lived in a rural part of Washington State for 3 years and it was wonderful to be amidst the trees and mountains.

**4) What other events have influenced the direction of your life?**

Growing up in a large family has certainly shaped me in many ways. Having a large family has made SF seem less of a big city.

**5) Describe your earliest memories of quilts and/or quiltmaking, other sewing or needlework experiences...person or people who influenced your quilting.**

I recall my mom teaching me to sew pillows early on. I attended some of the early SFQG meetings when they were up in Diamond Heights, but mostly remember the cookies. My Grandmother would make blankets out of the scraps of fabric and they were always around our house. My mom has taught me embroidery and knitting and helped me with many projects over the years. My mom and I have bonded through our shared love of quilts and fabric and I will always treasure those times.

**6) When did you make your first quilt?**

I made my first quilt in college around 1990. It was many squares of fabrics that don't go together and batting that was really fluffy. I burped it, which was my Grandmother's word for tying a quilt.

**7) Describe your favorite quilts...the type of patterns and designs you use...any special techniques...why and for whom the quilts were made?**

I like stars and triangle designs and typically prefer the traditional designs, but I also like to see variations on tradition patterns. I've always loved the Amish quilts in both their simplicity and their color.

**8) Have you ever used quiltmaking to help you through a difficult time in your life?**

Quilting has always been something that satisfies me and fulfills my creative needs. I get so much joy from working on quilts and seeing it come together.

**9) Throughout your quilting experience how many quilts have you made? Do you make quilts for others...or family...to celebrate events?**

I've started about as many as I've finished, but I've finished the ones that were really important to me. Almost all my quilts have been given to family and friends and I just finished a quilt for me.

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that I really, really love. Most of my quilts lately are baby quilts because I can finish them in less than a year.

**10) Do you donate or sell your quilts? Please explain.**

I give them away to family and friends.

**11) Is your home decorated with quilts? Do you receive or collect quilts that others have made...do you share blocks...exchange fabric... Please explain.**

I have quilts on the beds and quilt books. I have bought some quilts on ebay and I have many quilt tops I've picked up at sales. They'll all be finished or given away someday.

**12) Do you select fabric for a particular project or because you like it?**

I definitely pick a fabric because I like it. I can always find a use for it, or I can get joy from just looking at it.

**13) Have you participated in group quilt making activities?**

I've quilted with my mom, but mostly I like working alone so I can process things and get things done.

**14) Have you taken quilt making classes...if yes, from what teachers...what techniques did you learn about?**

I've taken some classes including crazy quilting, machine quilting, mystery quilt classes, paper piecing, and a few others.

**15) Do you teach quilt related classes..? Where do you teach...in a shop...books, etc?**

Don't teach, except I hope to teach my nieces and nephews and my sons will at least learn how to sew.

**16) Do you enter quilts that you have made in quilt shows...or display them in public - at guilds...museum...galleries...fairs...public buildings, etc.?**

Don't enter

**17) What specific ribbons, awards, or prizes have your quilts earned?**

None

**18) What other public recognition, received for your quilting, would you like to share?**

None

**19) Have you written articles...patterns...or books relating to quilting? Please explain.**

None

**20) Do you have any advice for future quiltmakers?**

Start simple and go with your inspiration. Try not to work on quilts you don't like. Don't be afraid to undo parts to make the quilt better.