

Pomeroy, Judith - December, 2007

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Quiltmaker story

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1. I learned to sew in my Junior High School home economics class and have enjoyed it ever since. In my teens, I made clothing and loved shopping for fabric. I made wool skirt suits which I wore to church with nylons and pumps and a hat! I made dresses for wearing to dances, especially velvety ones. I also made my wedding dress since I thought the store-bought ones were too fussy.

I graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont with a degree in English and a teaching credential which California wouldn't accept; so I did my fifth year at San Francisco State and then couldn't get a job due to the declining birth rate at the time.

I then had my own two children and didn't work for some years. I made a lot of Stretch and Sew t-shirts at that time! Around 1980, I went to the Oakland Museum quilt exhibit and found a passion. I loved the history, the colors and the patterns of the quilts immediately. Caroline Lieberman lived in my neighborhood, and I heard that she was selling quilt kits. I thought I like to try making a quilt. I remember meeting her in the Diamond Heights Safeway and asking her if there was anything going on about quilts. That's how I found my way to SFQG! It was an important part of my life until I moved to Novato in 2002. I still miss it!!

2. My work experiences include, some dabbling in the elementary, middle and high school teaching; tax preparation, property management, and my favorite of all - managing a shelter and transitional program for homeless women.

3. I lived for more than 30 years in San Francisco and thought I would never want to leave. After my divorce I moved to Noe Valley, a lovely neighborhood (the "real" San Francisco?), but eventually felt hemmed in with buildings and

concrete. Ron and I moved to Novato in 2002 and love the beauty of the land and the flora here. There are even autumn leaves which I had missed so much from my childhood on the East Coast. (I made an "Autumn Leaves" quilt for my son and daughter-in-law.) Now that we are retired, we're considering moving even further from "civilization".

4. My work at the shelter meant a great deal to me. I had worked at "bread and butter" jobs for so long. I was so happy to do work that I thought was meaningful. Also St. Anthony Foundation was a very nourishing place for staff as well as the people we served. My spirituality grew so much there. Several of us in SFQG got together and made a large quilt for the lobby of the new shelter at 8th and Mission St. that opened in 1996. The manager who preceded me wanted something uplifting for the women - to inspire them. We included the sun, a rainbow, and butterflies as a metaphor for transformation. This was a wonderful group experience with a beautiful product.

6. I made my first quilt in the early 1980s for my brother's first child. Most of my quilts are made for a special occasion of a family member. I made graduation quilts for my children, wedding quilts for my two nieces, a wedding tablecloth for my son and daughter-in-law and most recently a custom quilt for my daughter and Klaus' country house in Berlin, Germany.

7. I like colorful quilts. Other than that I like almost any kind of quilt. I haven't had much time in the last ten years to take classes so I'm a bit out of date with the latest techniques, but I'm anxious to get back into it!

8. A quilt that helped me get through a difficult time was one that I made from blocks that I won at the 1993 Quiltaway. I was in the midst of a divorce at the time and the support of the wonderful friends in SFQG was heart-warming to me. I still use it to wrap up in in the evenings! I also made a small free form mourning quilt when my father died which helped me get the grief out.

9. I've made about a dozen bed-size quilts and probably the same of smaller ones. Most I've given away to family and friends. I was thrilled to be asked to exhibit my quilts at my church in San Rafael recently.

10. I always give my quilts away and look forward to using up my fabric stash to make small quilts for individuals and families that go to St. Anthony Foundation for assistance.

11. I always have a quilt hanging in my hallway at home. I like to rotate them with the season. I have some antique quilts and blocks which I need to assemble. One of them I inherited from my godmother, Hazel Wall who was also a member of SFQG. Two of my bed-size quilts are friendship quilts from SFQG!

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For the remaining questions, I am very much an amateur quilter. Also I haven't had time in almost ten years to take classes or do much quilting. I look forward to taking classes and making quilts now that I am retired. I generally make quilts for special people in my life, mostly family. I have a huge supply of fabric which I look forward to using to make quilts to give away (via St. Anthony Foundation where I used to work) to children and families in crisis. I enjoyed the quilt workshops we did at the Guild to make quick quilts to give away to people in need. Also I have fond memories of the early Quiltaways - especially of Lorna Phoenix dancing on a table in a pick tutu and red sneakers for the talent show!! I never laughed so hard in my life!! I especially loved Mary Whitehead's classes. Her techniques saved so much time, and her patterns were simple and beautiful. In addition, she was a kind and cheerful person.

I am currently getting updated on quilting techniques by watching "Simply Quilts" on HGTV! For me, quilts are about feelings - happiness, sadness, but mostly love given to others.

J. Pomeroy