

DOROTHY SCHOLTEN'S QUILTS

I am a native San Franciscan, as were my mother and father. All my grandparents came from Ireland. I have always lived in San Francisco except for the one year in Oahu, Hawaii and one year in New York City when I was in the WAVES. My BA and MA degrees and my teaching credential were all received from San Francisco State College (now University), and I taught Technical English and Business at Cogswell College in San Francisco for 33 years. My husband, Bob, was also a teacher and we both retired in 1985.



Now about my quilting background—well, sorry to say I had no background in quilting before I joined a sewing group about 20 years ago. I don't remember seeing my mother or grandmother with a needle and thread except for mending clothes or linens.

Just before I retired, my sister-in-law, Helen Scholten, invited me to join her sewing group. I was really honored because there were only 6 ladies in this group--one of the members was going back to work, so I would take her place. I didn't know any of the other members who turned out to be Darlene Hartman, Louise Bacigalupe, Esther Henley, and Margot Buckley. They had all met when their children were in kindergarten, and they worked on various school projects together. As their children grew older and went their various ways, the women decided they really liked each other's company and wanted to continue meeting; they have done so ever since. Each week, we meet on Thursday afternoon at each other's houses. We now call our sessions "Thursday Therapy".

Darlene is a charter member of SFQG, and since the others were quilters also, I too joined SFQG. At first, I only went to the meetings and read the newsletter. When I attended the meetings and saw all of the beautiful quilts, I figured that the quiltmakers were retired and had lots of time to quilt. Of course, I found out that I was wrong; they had full-time jobs besides taking care of home, husband, and children.

After I retired, I started to take classes and attend the Saturday workshops. The person I remember most vividly from those workshops was Lynn Piercy. She was always so helpful, could solve any problems you might have, and always had brilliant suggestions on how to improve or finish a quilt.

Rec'd 4/10/06

I have taken short classes, one day to one week, from Darlene Hartman, Mary Whitehead, Yvonne Porcella, Joe Cunningham and Anna Chan. The instructors in longer classes I have taken are Sonia Barrington, Caroline Lieberman, and one summer class from Mary Whitehead.

The first quilt I ever put together was a group quilt (1982) for my niece, Diane who was pregnant. The quilt makers were her immediate relatives and a couple of friends. Relatives included her mother and father, two brothers, aunt and uncle (Bob and me) and grandmother. None of us had any experience. Each person could do whatever he or she wanted, as long as it ended up as a 12 ½" block. Some squares were appliquéd, one needlepoint, several embroidered. The quilt was sewn together like an envelope and then tied. Actually, it turned out pretty well considering the ineptitude of the participants. Anyway, Diane was surprised and happy.

My very first quilted quilt was an Amish wall hanging (1986) which was hand pieced. All of my projects have been hand pieced and hand quilted, except one which I had machine quilted.

I finished my first full-sized bed quilt in 1990. This was a friendship quilt, and the subject is birds; I still have it and fondly remember all those women who made blocks for me. In 2002, I made my only other large bed quilt, and this was machine quilted by Laura Lee Fritz. It was entered into our next SFQG show. The only negative remark was from a judge who did not like "having it bound with commercial binding." I had to laugh because I had made my own binding. (Caroline Lieberman had given us a refresher course on bias binding just before this.)

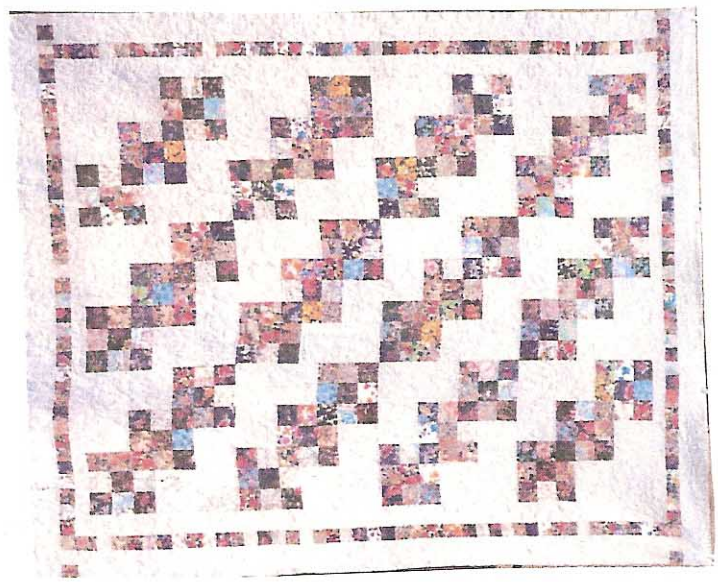
In between these two quilts, I have made many pillows, pillow quilts, wall hangings, and blocks for other quilters. I have given most of them away. My first love in quilting is the hand piecing part. I am not too keen on appliquéd, nor do I have a great fondness for finishing the project. I have several drawers full of projects in which the piecing is complete; they are just waiting for borders and quilting.

I like to have a project ready to sew when we are traveling by plane. The time goes by so much more quickly. Right now I am working on a baby quilt which has pieced rabbits running around the border; this is for a baby to be born in May 2006. I made this quilt once before in 1994, and it was given to friends in England.

These 5 quilts were mentioned in the article.



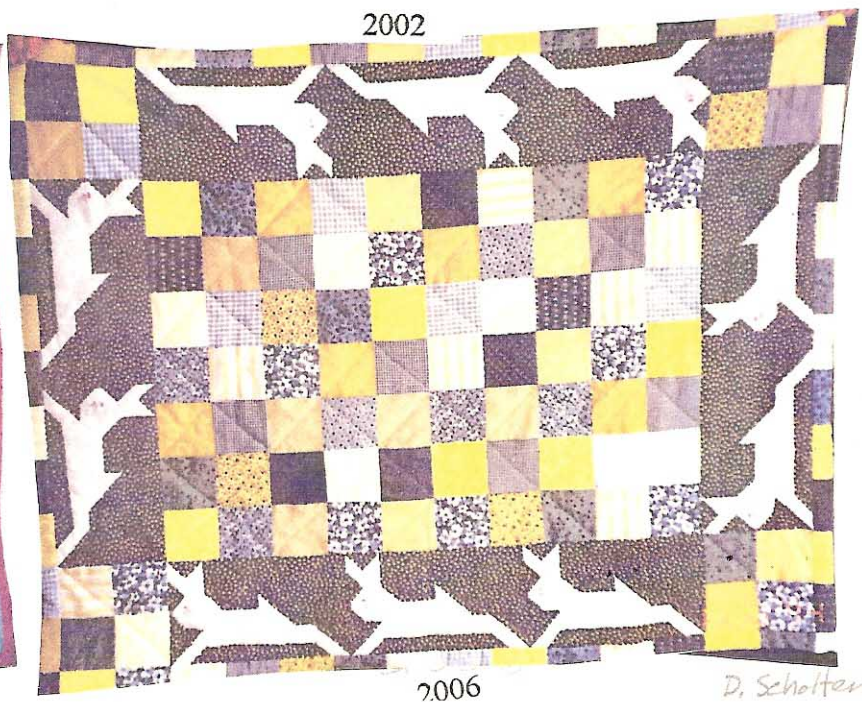
1990



2002

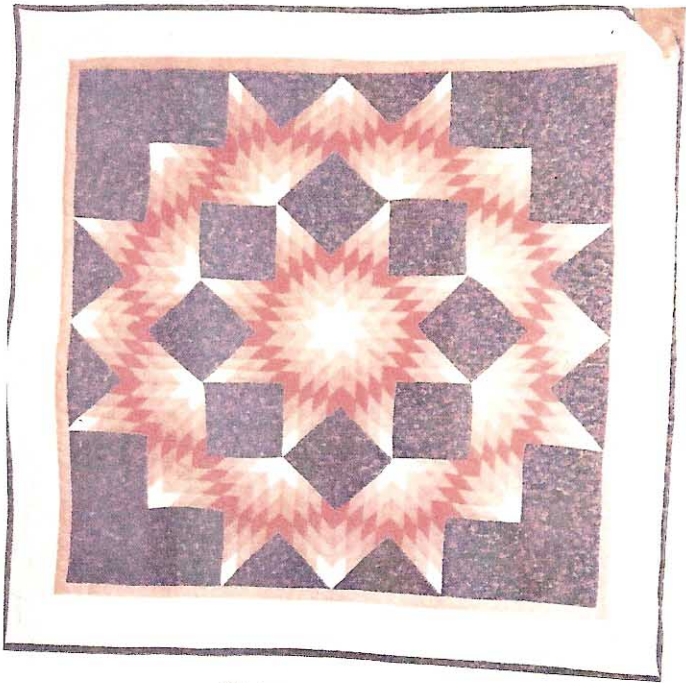


1982

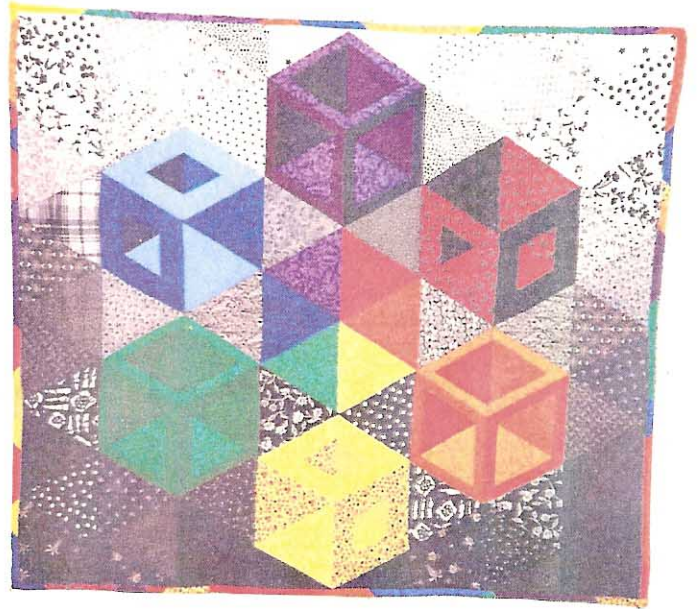


2006

D. Scholten



2003



2004



2005