

Catherine Canfield Sherman
Quiltmaker Story
SFQG
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1. I grew up in Texas. I was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma and lived for a year in Billings, Montana before my Texan parents felt the pull of the “motherland” and took my two brothers and I back to the small town where my dad grew up – George West, Texas. After graduating from the University of Texas in 1990 with a communications degree, I moved to New York City where I met my future husband, Scot Sherman at church! We spent 10 years in Manhattan and then 7 years in Atlanta, Georgia close to my husband's family. We have four sons – ages 16, 13, 10 and 9. They are very familiar with the rattle and hum of the sewing machine.
2. My work career was short-lived, but quite dramatic! I did quite a bit of temporary work in New York City for a variety of companies in the entertainment industry. I worked for publicists, Viacom, and even landed my first permanent job at The Lamb’s Theatre – Off Broadway. It was lots of fun and very exciting! I eventually ended up working in Human Resources at Showtime Entertainment.
3. Living in a small town gave me a great love of history and a chance to experience the power of community. Each of my four grandparents and many aunts and uncles are tremendous influences in my life. Living close to extended family was such a gift. Living in New York gave me an appreciation for the many cultures in our world.
4. The experience of making things and playing with paper and crayons as a child awakened me to creativity and color. Being in the 4-H program gave me tools for life. I learned how to cook, to sew, and to raise animals. I also learned how to be part of an organization as a member and then a leader.

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5. When I was in 7th grade, my mom joined a group of 4 ladies willing to drive 90 miles to a local quilt shop and commit to a monthly sampler class. A few years later, I was making a comforter for my 4-H project. I grew up watching my mother sew clothing, Christmas ornaments, dolls, anything she felt like trying. And she encouraged me. My barbies once slept on pillows I made out of fabric scraps, cotton balls and staples. Somehow I began to see fabric could be like crayons or clay. My mom and dad were generous with their creative supplies and always encouraged me. My mother once had me draw a pattern she turned into a quilt.
6. I made many "projects" but my first actual pieced quilt happened after I took Nancy Clock's batik basket class for my 39th birthday present to myself. The quilt evolved and was given to our friend Caroline Higgin's for her high school graduation present.
7. I really love memory quilts and my favorite maker so far is Mary Lou Weideman. I also like Kaffe Fassett. His bright colors and knowledge of textile history makes him an amazing designer.
8. Quilting helps me through anything! If I'm happy, it makes me happier. If I'm sad, it makes me feel better. Every piece of fabric tells a story and reminds me that just as scraps come together for something beautiful, in God's hands, our chaotic lives are actually always headed toward something beautiful.
9. I haven't made nearly enough quilts! I hope to make many more.
10. I haven't sold any quilts, but I love to give them away. As long as my family can eat, we're good! Someday, I may have to try to sell some.
11. I don't really decorate with quilts, but I try to USE quilts. I've started making picnic quilts for wedding gifts. I believe things should be useful.
12. My eyes are always hunting for fabric treasures. I like to use old fabric or other peoples remnants. I like to combine fabric from different time periods.
13. I participated in making our 2009 Opportunity Quilt – Gypsy Shimmer. It was a great experience and the quilt raised over \$8,000 for our guild. I have participated in community outreach and enjoy group quilt projects.
14. Nancy Clock's Batik Basket Class, Dale Fleming's Saturday Sewcial
15. No

16. I entered a piece in the 2008 East Texas Quilt Guild Show and entered a quilt in the 2009 Symphony of Color Quilt Show. It was fun!
17. So far, no ribbons, but much happiness for myself and the recipients.
18. It's a pleasure and honor to be a member of our guild.
19. No
20. Have fun playing with your fabric! Have fun making things to bring joy to our world and to keep people warm. It's all about the joy in the journey.