

Broken Needle is an affectionate term for guild members who died or are lost to us because of poor health. Likely this list is not complete - the names came from the minutes and friends. Fortunately, Ev Buterman had interviewed some members so we have a bit of their story's, and some stories have been told with documented quilts. Irregardless of the amount of time these quilters were part of the guild, they all contributed in some way to its legacy - a generous welcoming community group.

Noreen Aikman (1936 - 2021)

Noreen was a founding member and guild President 1999-2000. Her quilting story started when her friend, Marion Hess, asked if she would like to take a beginners quilting class at the college - this was 1983, and the teacher was Mary Pagnucco from *Purcell Stitch'n Knit* in Kimberly. Noreen always set a high standard for sewing, starting from her high school days when she won a medal for the best garment. Her first project was two quilted cushions; one an *Ohio Star* and the other a *Sunbonnet Sue* appliqué.

Her quilting legacy is the *Cranbrook Centennial Quilt* (#080). From 2003 - 2005, Noreen chaired the work done on the Centennial Quilt (#080). She held weekly meetings at her home, supported by her committee: Judy Wright (#043), Donna Kovalevich (#051), Helen Ward, Sharon Petruk (#400), Ileana Hayes and Marie Kinghorn. Her basement space was where the quilt was pieced and quilted. Also, as a member of the Hospital Auxiliary, Noreen and Judy Wright created a photo quilt to record 100 years of the Auxiliary, starting with the Ladies Aid of the "old" St Eugene Hospital.

Her "personal best" work was a *Triple Irish Chain Watercolour*. A hand-quilted beauty. This quilt won the 'Viewer's Choice' ribbon at the guild's show in 2001 held at the College of the Rockies gymnasium: "Share the Love of Quilts". A photo of the quilt is in the "Canadian Quilter" Magazine, Fall 2001. It was the pattern used for the raffle quilt in 2000.

Noreen always felt committed to the Guild. "I am addicted to quilting. I do what I love."
(from interview with Ev Buterman)

Rosalie Augustine (1943 - 2021)

Rose was a guild member for a few years. She was a quiet soul known for her impeccable piecing. Rose was the feature quilter at *Sugar Town Quilts* first garden show in 2016. "Over the years, Rosalie gifted her quilts to many, and they can be found in various corners of the world."

Donna Cockwell (1940 - 2022)

Donna first joined the guild in 1986 with her mother **Jerry Purnell** (1919 - 2018 - see #078 Quilt Shops) and later with her sister Darlene. She had been around fabric most of her life as her mother owned *Sew & Sew* (#078), taught beginners quilting and hand-quilted. Donna's fabric and colour choices were the envy of many a member - she leaned towards the "shabby chic" designs. Like others, Donna worked, raised her children, dealt with life's issues, and participated when she was able. From 2012 - 2014 she took care of the Community Quilt donations with Beth Lenz (#126), Pat Skordal (#129) and Robyn Taylor (#034). And in those years Donna made sure there were items for the Canadian Mental Health Christmas party. Donna simply enjoyed being a member, brought treats to the meetings, and made donation quilts. She quilted regularly with a small group that included Bev Higgins, Audrey MacKinnon (#053), Shirley White (#300), Marilyn Barnett, Donna Lamond, Jeanette Oddy, and Wendy Litz (#055)

Arline Davis (1938 -)

Arline and Angus lived for many years in Fraser Lake, BC but "returned to Cranbrook" where Arline had her roots. Arline joined the guild in 1999, stayed for a few years and then sewed with

the Wasa Guild - that group held a weekly “day of quilting and community”. Arline was a storyteller - she greeted fellow quilters with a quick wit. No doubt that was the reason she took on the role of “Guild Sheriff” soon after joining (2001) and then moved into Hospitality (2003-2005). As Sheriff, Arline monitored the members’ compliance with the “name tag rule” - name tags were to be worn at each meeting; those caught without were fined 50 cents and “publicly roasted” for their transgression. The responsibility of the ‘Hospitality’ role was to arrange that three members brought ‘sweets’ to each guild meeting and to plan to Christmas and year end gatherings - Arline assailed in this role too. While she most often was relaxed, the album pictures show her deeply concentrating on the instructions given by workshop leaders such as Myrna Giesbrecht teaching “Press for Success” in 2001. Arline turned the Hospitality job over to another storyteller, Myrt Dent, when she moved to the Wasa Guild.

Margaret Delamont (1928 -)

Margaret began quilting in 1995, joining her step-daughter and her girls. She joined the guild in 2003 and is a lifetime member. She was Vice President in 2008 when June deGroot was President, and chaired the Quilt Show committee in 2011 with Bev Higgins. Margaret and Ed wintered in Palm Springs where she met with a group of quilters. Their process was to each make a square and then gather to complete the quilt. The quilt would be raffled for funds to support the park.

Margaret’s first quilt was a sampler with 25 blocks. When interviewed by Ev Buterman ~ 2010, Margaret had made 95 pieces. Her favourite piece was “The Giesha”, which is an appliqué with an oriental theme, that had pride of place on a living room wall. She won five Viewers’ Choice Awards at the guild’s quilt shows - “The Giesha” took the prize in 2005. The last VC Award was for a McKenna Ryan pattern, in 2009: “A Day at the Lake”. At the close of her quilting adventures, Margaret had moved from making bed-quilts to making wall hangings. She arranged for Leona Larsen, a Canadian landscape “art” quilter, to teach a two day course here. Margaret’s pieces were shown in the guild’s *I Quilt* exhibit in 2022.

“It’s been a relaxing hobby for me. It’s a comfortable other world where time has no meaning. it takes you out of everyday to a great space.”
(from an interview with Ev Buterman in 2010)

Judy Denny (1943 -2019)

Judy was active with the guild from 2013 until her death. When she joined, the guild was in need of a secretary and Judy was soon recruited. Her friend, Donna Bernhardt was President. Her talents were above those of the ‘usual’ secretary - she organized the minutes to be like those of a corporation, and kept the group from faltering with running lists of motions, and items to bring forward. Judy also pitched in where needed for the quilt shows and made her share of community quilts.

Judy was an exacting quilter according to the “Thursday Quilters” that met weekly at the United Church. This group created the Anniversary Quilt (#077). They also called her the “Mother Goose” of the group - “she would touch your shoulder and say ‘oh honey, you never cease to amaze me’ or share a story that made us laugh or gasp at her honesty.” She had an adventurer’s spirit; she took up kayaking at 72! despite her sore limbs. “She was generous and compassionate; she was joyful about life.”

(from a ‘Eulogy’ read at the guild meeting by Tracy Garvin, one of the Thursday Quilters)

Myrt Dent (1936 - 2006)

Myrt had joined the guild in 2002. According to her quilter and sorority friends (Beta Sigma Phi), she had a wry sense of humour and was a fantastic storyteller. Her story of failing to stop

at the border crossing entering the United States, while on a shopping trip for fabric, could be published in a “‘who would believe it’ comedy column.” It starts with border guards drawing their guns and ends with the guard directing them to better shopping in Colville, WN (USA).

Myrt's Quilt was made in 2006 from blocks she donated. It was hand-quilted by the Tuesday Morning Quilters, then sent to Ontario to be part an auction to raise funds for breast cancer support and research. Any funds raised would be given to the Cranbrook branch of the Cancer Society. In 2008, it was on display at the *Stratford Ontario Exhibit of the Breast Cancer Support Project: Quilting Project for People Living with Cancer*, for an opening bid of \$475. It did not sell at the auction. It was returned to the guild and donated directly to the local Cancer Society group to raffle.

Lorraine Donovan (1925 - 2019)

Lorraine professed to be a “better ripper than a sewer”. She started her hobby while wintering in Mesa, Arizona in 1993. The group started with 8 members and grew to 102 by 2010 - evidence of the blossoming interest in quilting at the “turn of the century”. Lorraine approached her quilting with a sense of humour. When asked to describe/show her best work, her response was “I haven’t made it yet.”

In the guild - she joined in 1999 and became a lifetime member when she turned 80 - Lorraine was ‘famous’ for the *Stack’n Whack* workshop she taught “more times than I care to remember.” With the help of her husband’s computer skills, she maintained the Membership List 2003-2009. In 2010, her arthritis had escalated, so she donated her quilting fabric and notions to the guild.

Lorraine served in Ottawa with the CWAC (Canadian Women’s Army Corps) during WWII, then went on to teacher education at UBC. This lead to teaching exchanges in Penzance and Cornwall (England), and Soest (Germany). She and Dennis retired in Cranbrook after 17 years in Fort Nelson where she was active in the music scene.

About the guild, Lorraine commented: “the guild is one of the most selfless organizations I’ve ever belonged to... You can simply ask a question and someone will step forward to help you.” She was thankful for the help from Audrey MacKinnon (#053), and appreciated Peggy Salvador’s (#021) handwork, plus everything that Donna Kovalevich (#051) and Margaret Delamont (#400) created.

(from and interview with Ev Buterman in 2010)

Janet Leggett (1952 - 2021)

Janet joined the guild early - in 1986 - and stayed with the group until 2008. She was Treasurer twice - 1987-90 and 1995-1997 - and also part of the planning group for the Regional Quilt Conference in 1996. Plus she took her turn on the telephone committee to keep members informed, the newsletter in 1995, and planned a few of the retreats. She was the raffle quilt committee in 1987 with Wendy Litz (#055) - “Amish Schoolhouse” quilt (#500). Janet lead the Mystery Quilt Challenge as a program in 1997. A member commented that Janet was always there to help out as needed.

In the minutes it seems that Janet’s husband Terry, was often commissioned to work for the guild. The first quilt frames, for hanging the quilt show, were made by three husbands: Terry, Ed Shaw (wife Linda #305), and Paul Sargent (wife Bernice #091). When another six frames were needed in 1999, Terry did the work. The ‘library cupboard’ that is still in use, was another piece made by Terry. In 1999, the cost was \$275.

Lenore Neads (1931 - 2007)

Lenore Neads was a good friend of Noreen Aikman and joined the guild early on in 1986. She was a master seamstress and spent a lot of hours making heirloom style quilts for her family. For the guild she acted as the Senior Citizen Hall rep and she demonstrated "Lace Angels". She was an active member of the Moyie Guild.

Dianne Nightingale (1950 - 2020)

Dianne joined the guild in 2018 as she knew a few of the members, and she and her husband were the resident caretakers of the Seniors Hall, so attending meetings was rather convenient. She had been actively involved with other groups at the Hall before joining the guild. Immediately on joining, she took on the Hospitality job with Carol Patton.

Catherine (Kay) Meeks (1927 - 2024)

Kay was an active guild member for seven years from 1990 - 1997. She was on the telephone committee and generally enjoyed the meetings and workshops. She worked as a maternity nurse until she retired.

Grace McGregor (1929 - 2009)

Grace was a guild member from 1989 to ~ 2001. In that time she was known as "the driver" mainly because she drove the van for the members escapades to the Regional Quilt Conferences. She was the Treasurer from 1994-95, the Seniors "Rep" in 1996 and again in 2000, on the nominating committee in 1998, and the Baby Quilt/Community Quilt distributor on 1999-2000. It's her "Kite & Balloons" quilt that was lovely given to young Nicolas Moorish in 2002.

Sharon Petruk (1947 -)

In 1996, when quilting was surging in our area, Sharon, already accomplished in sewing, took Lisa Sharpe's beginner classes through the Cranbrook Parks & Rec Program, along with her sister-in-law, Icille Pighin. The pair joined the guild in 1997. Sharon had completed her first quilt, including the hand quilting, before these classes: "Coyote Quilt" by *Misery Loves Company*. Her "Singer Sewing Book on Quilting" was a valuable resource. She liked the 'country look', or what she called a "folky feeling in my patterns." She always preferred traditional and pictorial designs, which may be why she took on the role of 'quilter guide' for the *Thimbleberries Club* at the Cotton Tree Quilt Shop - 2008 - 2011.

Sharon got right into the guild activities. She completed a block for the *Oak & Reel* quilt that was the guild's contribution to 'enhancements' of the North West Mounted Police barracks at Fort Steele (#001). Sharon was known for her fine needle-work, hence she was one of the appliqué artists on the Cranbrook Centennial Quilt (2003-5). She also organized workshops in 1999 - 2003 and taught a few through the years: Logcabin Pineapple, adding hanging sleeves, paper piecing. And she frequently attended the Tuesday morning quilting time to hand-quilt or work on her own pieces.

The sewing notion she liked was the 'foot lifter' on her machine - it freed her hands so "I could hold onto the project" making a neater finish. She had no interest in being experimental in her work - she preferred a fine finish.

(from an interview with Ev Buterman in ~ 2010)

Chris (Czeslawa) Sobie (1947 - 2022)

Chris was with the guild for a short while 2011-12. "She showed her creativity and love for her family by sewing quilts, and other special projects, just for them." Chris donated a quilt to the local Canadian Arthritis Society group to raffle.

Bonnie Wright (died 2018)

Bonnie found friends in the guild. She joined in 2014 prior to moving to Marysville. Bonnie took part in the activities with Donna Bernhardt on “Tuesday Mornings” and came out to the evening meetings. Her family donated her stash to the guild for community quilts. A few pieces are in the *Scrappy Heart Quilt* (#048).