

Betty Valin - CQG#127

Betty joined the guild “to stay” in 2012 with Barb Olson (# 044). They had come to a few meetings years earlier, but weren’t enticed to join then. In the spring of 2013, Betty helped with the set-up/take-down of the guild’s 2013 show, but didn’t add one of her quilts to the exhibit! And for 2014-2015 year, she joined Barb Olson, Linda Wesley (041) and Isla Collinson to plan the monthly programs for the social night meeting. In 2016-2017, she teamed up with Carol Hoodicoff (#156) and Linda Holm to help increase the guild’s funds by applying to the *BC Gaming Commission* for a license to run 50/50 draws at the meetings. The funds raised were used for supplies for Community Quilts. Betty, Carol, and Linda took over the planning and delivery of Community Quilt donations in 2017 through to 2019, when the guild closed because of the *Covid 19 Pandemic*. Then Betty made masks for community members and even some PPE gowns needed by hospitals¹.

Betty has been part of the *Worker Bee Wednesday* group since its inception in 2016. She’s responsible for the construction and quilting of the scrappy star quilt (#048). For the past three years, Betty has organized the *Quilt-Till-You-Wilt Saturdays*. Betty was part of the planning group for the guild’s gallery exhibit in the summer of 2022 - *I Quilt* at the Cranbrook Arts Council. Since the fall of 2023, she has held the executive position of Secretary - in 2025, President is Donna Bernhardt (#009), Treasurer is Sandra Martin (#072), and Vice-President is Belinda Luke.

Betty “honestly can’t remember” when she started quilting - “sometime in the 90s”. She watched a lot of learning channels on TV - Kaye Wood & Fons and Porter were two. She took Lisa Sharpe’s beginning quilting course through the *Cranbrook Parks & Rec* program in 1994. That was her “first quilt” and it is still unfinished! She has sewn clothing for years, so the move to quilting wasn’t difficult. In the guild, Betty is noted for her very precise and methodical piecing, and especially for being able to apply bindings totally by machine with great accuracy - she is the envy of many members who have failed to master the technique despite Betty’s instruction. She joined the guild “to learn, to see what other quilters were doing, and to better and challenge herself” and she has stayed a member because she is “still learning ... it amazes me that I can be sewing for so long and still learning”. The ‘show and tell’ at each meeting is “definitely inspiring”.

For the past years Betty has quilted with Barb Olson, Carol Hoodicoff and Linda Holm. Initially they met at each others’ homes, but since ‘Covid’ they meet online on Thursday afternoon using *Google Teams*. This group sewing gathering is still a favourite activity. At home she sews in a spare bedroom but “of course it’s not large enough”. She has acquired a stash over the past 31 years. She mostly shops in her stash now and adds what she needs. It’s full of “a lot of blue and a lot of flowers” - a gardener’s palette. She only pre-washes flannel. Her machines are: a Janome (cost ~\$2,500), a Husqvarna (~\$1800) and an “invaluable Singer Featherweight that was my mother’s”. Betty’s a machine quilter and a machine binder - she’s perfecting her free motion and walking foot quilting² on a domestic machine. She has made over 50 bigger quilts and some placemats, and bags. She hasn’t found a favourite pattern “yet”, but does like *Henry Glass* fabric designs.

¹ See the article: Joanna Dermenjian, “And the Women Sewed On”: Canadian Quilter Magazine, Spring 2021, pp 74-76.

² The guild sponsored a session on Zoom with Melissa Marginet in 2021 and Betty subsequently took one of her online courses. melissamarginet.ca

Betty did show a quilt, *Pandora's Box*, at the Guild's 2019 Quilt Show held at *Bridge Interiors* a local furniture store. Hanging a quilt show in an auditorium/gymnasium was labour intensive and had involved members and their husbands. By 2019 most of the usual helpers had aged, so the quilt show committee came up with an alternative that was welcomed by Ken Bridge and the staff of *Bridge Interiors*. The plan was to display the quilts, wall-hangings and table runners in home like settings where they would be used. There were more quilts than bed's so *Pandora's Box* was hung from the balcony railing. The pattern of Pam and Nicky Lintott (pamandnickyquilts.co.uk), essentially a four-patch with a border, is jelly-roll friendly - Betty's had a Christmas/Winter theme. This style of quilt - jelly roll style with log cabin frame - was something that Betty taught.

For Betty, the guild and quilting is "enjoyable, keeps me busy and interested... good friends and helpful group."

Quiltmaker	Betty Lynn Valin (nee Ferguson)
Date of Birth	June 8, 1950
Father Occupation Birthplace	Samuel Clarence Ferguson CPR Conductor (Canada Pacific Railway) Castor, AB
Mother Occupation Birthplace	Elizabeth Maude Godley Housewife Claresholm, AB
Date and place of Marriage	May 15, 1971, Leithbridge, AB November 11, 1996, Las Vegas, Nevada
Spouse	Roger Norman Plato Clifford Ivan Valin
Quiltmaker occupation	Radiographer (retired)
Children	2 daughters, 1 son
Quiltmaker education	Radiology Technician
Where quiltmaker lived	Fort McLeod, AB; Lethbridge, AB; Invermere, BC; Cranbrook, BC.
Ethnic/Ancestry background	English/Scottish

CQG#127 - *Twirling Swirling Dance* or *Shane's Quilt*

Quiltmaker: Betty Valin

Owner: Shane Plato (quiltmaker's son)

Brackman lists this pattern style as a "whole-top design", where a traditional block is upscaled to be the whole top of the quilt (see #003 & #048). This pattern features strip piecing and only three fabrics. The description describes "the swirling is created by using the background fabric as part of the star as well as the shifting of the fabrics in the lone star block layout" (delightfulpiecing.com). Betty had never made a star pattern before; "this was fun to make; I would make it again".

Shane picked the colours from Betty's stash. It's to be an "everyday quilt". Betty extended the pattern to a twin bed size by artfully using left-over star strips and background fabric to make decorative frames.

Pattern	<i>Twirling Swirling Dance</i> - Barbara H Cline of "Delightful Piecing" (www.delightfulpiecing.com) or free download "QuiltingGal Barbara H Cline (Pinterest)
Subject	Lone Star (8 pointed star)
Date	Specific date: Sept 2019 - March 2020
Size	L 79 1/2" x W 61 1/2"
Overall style	Finished quilt Whole-top design/Medallion
Block	Medallion L 48" x W 48" Feature block shape: square w 8 point star Brackman #4005 (V) (Lone Star)
Border or Frame	Frame 1: 2" one fabric, straight Colour: burgundy Frame 2: split - 2 - pieced strips W 2" x 49" - 2 - pieced strips W 2" x 68" Colour: burgundy, grey white Piecing: diagonal strips (star strips) Frame 3: W 3" (sides) & W 9" (ends), one fabric, straight, Colour: burgundy
Edge finishing	Flange binding: W 1/2" + flange 1/4", straight, mitred Colour: grey, white Machine front & back
Batting	80/20, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: geometric Feature colours: grey, white Background colour: burgundy
Top piecing method	Machine piecing Strip piecing
Backing	One fabric Cotton, plain weave Specific fabric: Flannel Feature colour: grey Motif: modern, floral

Quilting	Domestic Machine Patterns: cross hatch, in-the-ditch Thread: cotton, Colour: red
Condition	Used (has been laundered)