

Joy Colombo (1941-2024) - CQG #010, 011, 012, 013

Joy Colombo is another member that took up quilting and joined the guild “after she retired” - Joy retired from teaching at the elementary school level (Pinewood, Highlands, Steeples) and joined the guild in the fall of 2002. Though she was late for her first guild meeting, Joy only sat on the sidelines of the guild for that first year. From 2003-2005, she was the Vice-President while Audrey MacKinnon (#053) was President. Then Joy became President from 2005-2008. One noted event in Joy’s tenure was reported in the Kootenay Advertiser (December 2005): a group of members made 60 pillowcases¹ for the Chemotherapy Unit at the Hospital. Another event was playing host to the *Regional Quilt Conference* in 2008. Mary Lindquist (see #016) was the conference coordinator. The guild rented the gymnasium of the St Mary’s Catholic School for the event and commissioned *Dawn Hunt, a Certified Quilt Appraiser* (Canmore, AB), to be the keynote speaker on *A History of Quilting*. The guild took its turn as host of the conference every 6 to 10 years - 1989, 1996, 2002, 2008 and 2023 (there was an interruption because of the Covid 19 Pandemic that resulted in a postponement from 2020 to 2023). Meetings Joy chaired were always opened with a joke or a funny story. She entertained members at the Christmas and year-end functions with hilarious skits often enlisting Betty Wardle’s (#035) help. Betty was one of Joy’s sorority sisters.

Joy was the guild’s Workshops Coordinator with Ingrid Carlgren for 2009-10. And of course she did her part in teaching in-house workshops like *Christmas Banners* where members made a pieced/appliquéd Santa, Snowman, Angel or ‘Bless Ewe’. And Joy always brought home-baked buns to the many potlucks - cooking was another of her talents.

Joy’s teacher colleagues helped her adopt the quilting habit. They gifted her a rotary cutter and mat, plus the book “*Better Homes and Gardens Complete Guild to Quilting*” (2002). Joy had sewn clothes so the transition to quilting was smooth. The nice thing about quilting over sewing is that nothing had to be shaped to fit a body; quilts are flat and mostly rectangle or square patches. Apparently her interest in quilting came from seeing Peggy Salvador’s (# 021) quilts. Joy and Peggy were in the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. Joy’s first quilted piece was a table-runner for her daughter. In an interview with Ev Buterman ~ 2010, Joy told how she met Darlene Purnell at the mailbox, and Darlene offered to get her started. Darlene, Helen Ward, and Ruth Rutledge, all guild members, were her early mentors. Myrt Dent, Debbie Shaw, and Joy did a couple of projects at Ruth’s home. She quickly learned that “those seams have to marry” and from then on accurate points became her quest. She often commented that she was happy those first baby/lap quilts didn’t live in Cranbrook as the seams sometimes didn’t “marry well”.

Joy became an avid quilter making well over 125 quilts - most were gifted to new babies, folks who were ill or grieving, colleagues who retired or married... She represented generosity in quilting. From a record of her gifted quilts, 61 quilts went to grand-babies, 34 lap quilts to seniors, 6 queen bed quilts to family and friends, 24+ wall-hangings and 11+ table-runners for herself, family and friends. Often her front door had a banner to welcome guests - e.g. Bless Ewe. She also donated quilts to the *Cranbrook Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop* to help that organization raise funds.

Her quilting space was the entire family room including the pool table for cutting and layout, with the bathroom cupboards and hall shelves for fabric storage. *Fabricland* was a great source

¹ The guild members that made the 60 pillowcases were: Bev McDonald, Lynette Eliason, Joy Colombo, Marg Delamont, Peggy Salvador, Karen Clark, Ollie Evans, Betty Wardle, Ingrid Carlgren, Doreen Peebles, Judy Wright, Erika Schulz, Trudy King, Daisy Gunson, Pat Skordal, Kathryn Shannon, Audrey MacKinnon, Ilene Lowing and Noreen Aikman.

of the prints she used for the baby/toddler quilts. And, being that she preferred earth tones and green she found a lot of fabrics at *Donna Lawson's* Gold Creek home-based business and *The Cotton Tree Quilt Shop*. She initially used a *Bernina* sewing machine, graduating to a *Janome Horizon*. Joy quilted the smaller pieces on her domestic machine. She did, on occasion, rent the Gammill longarm at *Sew Creative Chalet* in Kimberley. She exhibited a few pieces in each of the guild's quilt shows and once in the *Kootenay Country Fair* at Fort Steele Heritage Town (2015). There she won a 1st prize ribbon for a baby quilt and a 3rd for a piece in the "Machine Quilting" category.

Two favourite patterns were *Anna's Butterfly* (2005, Laundry Basket Quilts) and *Feathered Finery* (2001, Berry Patch Design). Joy probably made "Anna's Butterfly" six times either as a wall-hanging or table-runner. The pattern has 5 names listed and surely she would have made one for herself as she loved anything 'butterfly'. In her elementary school classrooms, Joy would incubate chrysalides to show the students the process of metamorphosis. "Feathered Finery" hangs in the family room where she quilted.

A highlight of quilting for Joy was the twice yearly quilt retreats at *Three Bars Ranch* and *The Bull River Guest Ranch*. Through the winter months, Joy spent most evenings in her sewing space. She often welcomed like-minded quilters to join her for a day or afternoon. Her son and daughter have some of her fabric and notions so maybe they will enjoy quilting too.

Quiltmaker	Joy Eileen Colombo (nee Robertson)
Date and Place of Birth	May 29, 1941 Williams Lake, BC
Date and Place of Death	January 29, 2024 Cranbrook, BC
Place of Marriage	1964 Williams Lake, BC
Spouse Occupation	Russ Colombo Construction Manager
Quiltmaker Occupation	Teacher (Elementary)
Children	Leanne & Greg
Education of Quiltmaker	Provincial Normal School, Victoria, BC
Where Quiltmaker lived	McLeese Lake, BC; Williams Lake, BC; Victoria, BC; Chetwynd, BC; Cranbrook, BC; Invermere, BC; Castlegar, BC; Cranbrook, BC; Sparwood, BC; finally settling in Cranbrook, BC in 1972.
Ethnic/Ancestry background	Scottish/Canadian

CQG # 010 - "Borders Quilt"

Quiltmaker: Joy Colombo

Owner: Russ Colombo

Joy affectionately referred to this quilt as “The B Quilt”. She found that completing some blocks was “very frustrating”, hence the adopted name for the quilt. She made the quilt to learn new patterns/techniques as “I might as well try that too.” The colours reflect Joy’s love of anything green. Gisele Brunelle, a longtime friend and early guild member (1987), longarm quilted this gem.

In the guilds 2012-13 year, Ilene Lowing (#067) the guild’s Workshops Coordinator, organized a “*Block of the Month - Borders Sampler*” pattern by Dianne Jansson of *Di-Versity Quilting Supplies*, Pritchard, BC. For \$100, the guild purchased the pattern. There was no limit to the number of members who could use the pattern. 35 members initially signed up for the project, each paying \$10, and about a dozen made the quilt. An overview of the pattern by Dianne states: *As quilters become more skilled and the number of finished quilts grows, more thought is given to the borders that surround the main design. Early quilts are bordered by bands of fabric related comfortably with the body design. As skills grow, more creative border solutions are considered. This border sampler teaches 10 different border designs that can be adapted to full size quilts...*

The pattern directions told quilters that the finished block each month will not be the same size or shape as the other blocks, but will be worked into the final design of the quilt. The fabric requirements were a ‘Diva’ design fabric that would act as the quilt top that the sample border would frame, and a selection of fabrics in two colour-ways that complement the design fabric. There were 11 different borders. The names quilters gave the borders were: Checkerboard, Zig-Zag, Mountains, Flying Geese, Braid, Chain/Semicircle, Piano Keys, Seminole, Pinwheel Star, Cable and Pinwheel Tessellation. The pattern made a double size quilt, approximately 65” x 80”.

Pattern	<i>Border Sampler</i> by Dianne Jansson, Di-Versity Quilting, Pritchard, BC: circa 2011
Subject	Quilt borders
Date	Specific date: 2013-2023
Size	L 90½” x W 77
Overall style	Finished quilt Non-square, varied blocks Sash & Block Multi-borders
Blocks	Varied sizes: L 10” x W 12”; L 10” x W 18”, L 12” x 12”, L 12” x 10”, L 14” x W 14”, L 40 - 44” x W 7½” 11 Rectangle or square blocks Floating/Random Sashing Patterns: Unnamed (see above)
Sashing	Plain straight strips W 2” to 4” Colour: black

Border/Frame	Straight Border 1: W 6¾", pieced (tessellation), Colour: black, yellow, coral, green, rust Border 2: W 1½", Colour: yellow Border 3: W 5⅜", pieced (piano key), Colour: floral print, coral, green, rust, cream Border 4: W 3", Colour: yellow
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¾", straight double fold, machine front/hand back Colour: black
Batting	Unknown, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: Flowers, geometric, novelty, plain/solid, polka dots, mottled Feature colour: floral print, coral, green, rust, cream, yellow Background colour: Black
Top - piecing method	Machine
Backing	Cotton, plain weave One fabric Feature colour: black, green Motif: leopard print
Quilting	Mid/Longarm Machine Thread colour: cream Pattern: edge-to-edge pantograph swirl
Condition	Unused

CQG #011 - Colours of Tuscany

Quiltmaker: Joy Colombo

Owner: Russ Colombo

Joy made this *Twisted Bargello* style quilt for Russ following a trip to Tuscany for the couple's 44th wedding anniversary. It graces the wall at the top of their stairwell making it even more eye-catching. Joy purchased the fabrics at Donna Lawson's home-based business in Gold Creek (outskirts area of Cranbrook). While the colours are reminiscent of Tuscany, they were also Joy's favourite colours - especially the greens. This piece was "lots of cutting" as the bargello quilt style uses strips of fabric sewn together to create the appearance of movement. It is the colour value of the fabrics, the transition from dark to light, that creates the illusion. The strips are all the same height (length), but different widths. The general pattern takes the name from a series of upholstered chairs in the Bargello Palace, Florence, Italy. The pattern started as an embroidery stitch style for peasants around 1383, which produced zig-zag lines. It became popular in other needlework textiles, and began to show up in patchwork around 1990.

Joy started *Colours of Tuscany* at a workshop offered at *The Cotton Tree Quilt Shop* in Cranbrook in 2007. The instructor for "Twisted Bargello" was Jean Swalwell, of *Quiltview Corners Quilt Shop*, Creston BC. Joy and eight other quilters took the workshop including

fellow guild members Linda Wesley (#041), Judy Wright (#043), and Betty Wardle (#035). Cost \$50/participant. Linda Wesley recalls that she and Norm hosted Jean and that Norm was left in charge of supper. He made a pot roast in their new crock-pot.

Pattern	<i>Twisted Bargello</i> , Jean Swalwell, QuiltView Corners: Creston BC (2007)
Date	Specific date: 2008
Size	L 71½" x W 47"
Overall Style	Finished wall-hanging, Art Strip Non-traditional Frame
Blocks	Centre, One block, Strip pieced 35 strips cut into patches of the same length (1½" finished) and various widths (½", ¾", 1", 1½", 2", 2½")
Frame	Frame 1: W ½", straight, one fabric, Colour: maroon Frame 2: W 2", straight, one fabric, Colour: rust Frame 3: W 3½", straight, one fabric, Colour: green
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¼", straight, machine front/hand back, Colour: green
Batting	Unknown (probably polyester), low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: flowers, tonal Feature colours: green, rust, yellow, maroon
Top piecing method	Machine, Strip piecing
Backing	Cotton, plain weave One fabric, vertical pieced Hanging sleeve Feature colour: green Motif: tonal
Quilting	Domestic Machine Thread colour: green (back), matching colours (front) Patterns: in-the-ditch, graceful curves by going diagonally point-to-point through the patches.
Conditon	Unused

Label	Printed/purchased label <i>Made with Love</i> <i>Sept 26, 08</i> <i>Colours of Tuscany</i> <i>Happy Anniversary Russ</i> <i>Love Joy</i>
Comment	The quilt was exhibited in the Guild's 2008 Quilt Show. A comment from a viewer was "I've seen many bargellos, but this is the best"

CGQ#013- Baby Hearts
 Quiltmaker: Joy Colombo
 Owner: Russ Colombo

Joy delighted in hearing of the pending arrival of a baby. She gifted many, many quilts to friends' and relatives' grand-babies. Joy liked appliqué - so this baby quilt, *Baby Hearts*, has been kept by her family as a memory piece. Joy used colouring books to gather shapes for her baby quilts - hearts, ice-cream cones, animals. Making these gifts was 'Joy-ful' and fun. Joy was fun to be around, so often her name is repeated in the choice of words in the stories.

Pattern	Designed by Joy Colombo. A common sash and block pattern for a child's quilt. A vintage name for this size quilt is "crib quilt".
Subject	Hearts
Date	Specific date: 2018-2023
Size	L 42½" x W 28½"
Overall Style	Finished 'baby' size quilt Sash & block Appliqué, Varied heart patches Scrappy
Block	Repeated blocks, L 5½" x W 5½", square Number of blocks: 15 1 appliquéd heart/block
Sashing	W 1½", straight, one fabric Colour: marbles blue/green/yellow print
Border/frame	Border: W 3", one fabric, straight Colour: pale green. Motif: hearts
Edge finishing	Binding: ¾", straight, machine front/hand back, double fold Colour: pale green border fabric
Batting	Unknown, likely polyester

Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: novelty, plaid, marbled print, lacquered print Feature colours: blue, green, yellow, orange Background colour: white
Top piecing method	Machine piecing Machine appliqué
Backing	Cotton, plain weave, one piece Feature colour: pink Motif: baby themed zoo animals
Appliqué	Variety of heart shapes (novelty) Raw edge, Machine-Blanket stitch
Quilting	Domestic Machine Pattern: in-the-ditch
Condition	Unused

CQG# 012: Friendship Quilt
 Quiltmaker - Joy's quilter friends
 Quilt Owner: Russ Colombo

Joy was a vibrant, welcoming member of the quilting community of Cranbrook. When she was 'deeply ill' in November 2023, Joy's longtime friend, Ingrid Carlgren, approached the guild and other friends of Joy, with the idea that "we should make her a quilt". It was to be a 'comfort quilt'. Sadly, Joy passed before it was completed. The chosen block pattern is locally referred to as *Friendship Star*². Ingrid arrived at the guild meeting with bags of fabric from Joy's stash - each bag had enough fabric for a block. Joy made many baby quilts so a lot of the fabric was cheery, novelty prints. The maker was to create the block and sign it. The idea behind using Joy's fabric was the hope that Joy would recognize her fabric and remember the good times. The borders and backing were also Joy's fabrics and her favourite colour: green.

The members who made the blocks and who created the top, shared memories of Joy. She had a keen (and sometimes 'wicked') sense of humour. A small group arranged the blocks and pieced the top at a "Crop Weekend" at the Library - Wendy Litz (#055), Ilene Lowing (# 067), Jan Gordon-Hooker (# 038), and Dawn Pelton (#141), who had been left in charge as Ingrid travelled to Mexico. Robin Taylor (#034), in her neat printing, added names of well-wishers to blocks. Susan Little (# 020) longarm quilted it and Betty Wardle (035) attached the binding. Dawn, a longtime friend and co-worker of Joy's, delivered the quilt to Joy's husband Russ and son Greg. Dawn tells that "a few tears escaped". They spent time looking at all the signatures and remembering. Joy would say "why would anyone do that for me?"

Pattern	Common sash and block layout for a signature quilt.
Subject	Keepsake Quilt/Friends *

² According to Breyer and Kiln, in the 1970s the popular name for the block was the *Friendship Star*, though Barb Brackman lists it a Simplex Star #1717.

Date	April 2024
Size	L 64" x W 46½"
Overall Style	Finished quilt Sash & Block, Repeated block Scrappy
Block	Number of blocks: 56 L 6" x 6" square Block Pattern: Brackman #1717 (Simplex Star, The Pin Wheel, The Lost Goslin, ~ 1930) Sashing & Cornerstones
Sashing	W 2", strips, Colour: green Cornerstone: 2" square, Colour: green
Border/frame	Border: W 1¾", one fabric, Colour: green
Edge finishing	Binding: ¾", straight, double fold, machine front/ hand back Colour: green mottled
Batting	80/20, low loft
Top Fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: novelty Feature colours: blue, green, purple, turquoise, orange, yellow Background colour: white prints
Top piecing method	Machine
Embellishment	Embroidery (machine) (name) Pen (black/coloured ink) (name)
Backing	Cotton, plain weave One fabric, horizontal pieced Feature colour: green Motif: batik
Quilting	Mid/Longarm Machine Thread type: Glide polyester Colour: military gold Patterns: edge-to-edge panto (dancing leaves), freehand stacks
Condition	Unused
Label	<i>2024 Joyful Quilt</i> <i>A 'Big Hug' for Joy's family filled with Friendship Stars. All the Joy she brought us.</i>

* Names by row L-R:

1. Pat Skordal, Ingrid (Carlgren), Judy Beaulac, Ilene Lowing & Ruth Ellington, Wendy Litz, Darlene Purnell
2. Helen Ward & Hasi Oates, Deidre Gold, Brenda Maudie, Trudy King, Lynn Zak, Linda Wesley, Jan-GH (Gordon Hooker)

3. Betty Valin, Sandra Martin, Joan Sterk, Mary Hines & Noreen Aikman, Enid Holloway & Marg Hall, Carol Hoodicoff,
4. Terri Brogan, Betty Wardle, Linda Holm, Donna Bernhardt, Adelle Dupuis, Doreen Peebles, Elaine Ransom
5. Muriel Steidl, Jan G-H (Gordon Hooker), Juananne Wales, Wendy Hogg & Peggy McGowan, Robin Taylor, Donna Dion H.F.B.I.T.D., Joy French
6. Dawn Pelton, Maxine Adshead, Tracey Vanderlaars, Cathy Guildo & Judy Guildo, Shirley White & June de Groot & Ev Buterman & Dorothy Hinton, Mary Lindquist
7. Peggy Salvador, Barb Chadowski, Rosemary Baverstock, Belinda Luke, Susan Little, Erika Schulz, Tootie Gripich
8. Shirley Neil, Donna Lamond, Jennifer Martin (Steeple School alumni 1995-2004), Joan Parsons, Jeanette Oddy, Ev Buterman, Barb Olson, Louise Dunn