

Linda Wesley - CQG # 041, 109

Linda is another member that uses a varied repertoire of quilting skills - patchwork, wool pieced hand work, traditional appliqué, art/free form, paper-piecing, thread play, machine free motion quilting, hand quilting. She has a fine hand to go with her fine eye for bringing colours and patterns together. She makes patterns that catch her eye, no matter the style. Linda enjoys the challenge of new techniques and finishes what she starts even if it doesn't turn out as she had hoped; "someone will love it."

Linda has been a key guild member since she joined in 1987. Almost immediately she was part of that years 'raffle committee' with Peggy Salvador (#021) and Shirley King choosing a *Log Cabin Sampler* pattern. It has an appliquéd border with 100 leaves and 25 birds! From there Linda became the guild's Art Council Rep, Publicity member (4 yrs), Newsletter producer (2 years), Workshop Committee for a total of 4 years. To organize the guild workshop she was joined by Sharon Petruk (#400), Lynn Zak (# 069), Juananne Wales (#106), Ilene Lowing (#067) and Ingrid Carlgren. Linda also took her turn as President (1997-98) and that same year as the Quilt Show Coordinator with Tammy Ekman (#110) and Fern Sweeting. In 1997 there were 44 members and the yearly fee was \$18. The other executive members were Wendy Litz (#055) as VP, Secretary Barb Alaric, and Treasurer Jackie Brennan. All of the past contributions Linda did while raising her two children, taking her LPN course (1992-93), and working. More recently, after the guild's stoppage for Covid and in her "retirement", she has been in charge of the Tuesday Morning Hand Quilters (#046), and on the committee to set-up the guild's display at the Library (October 2022) with Betty Wardle (#035), Mary Lindquist (#016) and Elaine Ransom (#136). In 2023-24 she was part of the History Committee and has helped with the quilt documentation since the fall of 2024. Now she delivers the community quilts (#046) to the local services with Deidre Gold and Jan Gordon Hooker (#038). Just for fun, she joined the Fort Steele Hand Quilters (#151) in 2022. Here she introduced her granddaughter to the art of hand quilting. The two of them have spent time creating simple projects - Anna has a definite interest in needle work.

Linda made a 'first quilt' when she was 18 and a college student in Lethbridge, AB. She gathered fabrics of all sorts, cut them into squares, sewed a top, sandwiched it with a backing and polyester batt in a pillowcase style, and then tied the layers together with yarn ties rather than quilting stitches. She knew about quilt making because her grandmother and grand aunt were quilters. This 'first quilt' served its purpose: to keep her warm in the Alberta winter. Linda wasn't new to sewing. She had started sewing dolls clothes for her "Barbies" at a young age. She used her mom's electric *Bernina* sewing machine (her mom sewed and knit). Sewing was also part of junior and senior high school through the Home Economics classes.

Linda didn't actually start quilting until about 1986. When she was a young mom and back in Nelson, she would often pass by the Nelson Guild Day-time Quilters who set-up a hand quilting frame in the local mall and held a quilting bee. Watching these quilters peaked her interest. Then after she and her young family moved to Cranbrook, she began a quilt for her daughter - without the aide of a rotary cutter and self-healing mat. The pattern was a nine block sampler from a magazine. She had trouble with the y-seams in one block, but her neighbour at the time, Linda Shaw (#400), quilted and helped her correct that block. She bought the fabric and hand quilting stencils at *Shannon's Fabrics*, then finished the quilt with two styles of cables - a significant undertaking for a beginner quilter. What solidified Linda's interest in quilting was seeing the Guild's first quilt show at the Cranbrook United Church, April 11, 1987. There were 68 quilts on display. Wendy Litz (#055) won the "Viewers Choice" award for her "Double Irish Chain", Lisa Sharpe took second place for her "Columbia Wood Lily", and the guild's first raffle quilt "Kootenay Life" took third. That quilt was won by Nan Fergie of Cranbrook. After seeing the guild's show Linda decided she wanted "to make quilts like that

for my family". That fall, 1987, she and her neighbour Linda Shaw joined the guild. Part of the appeal of the guild was the evening meetings. In 1987, Linda worked part-time and had two children, so her daytime hours were full. Plus she needed to work around her husband's schedule as a CPR Engineer.

Linda joined the guild to connect with the quilting world and is still inspired by seeing the pieces her guild colleagues create. In 1989, Linda started a "Trip Around the World" (#094) quilt at a workshop taught by Grace Penn of Golden. The course fee was \$15 for two days. During the Covid Pandemic, Linda decided it was time for that quilt to comfort someone else and donated it to the Salvation Army. Despite having a few years of quilting experience, when Lisa Sharpe (#023) started teaching her beginner's course through the city's Parks and Rec Department in 1990, Linda took the course. She still has that sampler quilt. Her daughter's quilt and these two were hand quilted so they took a fair amount of time to complete. From those courses and the guild demonstrations, she learned all the basics of quilting. To hone her hand quilting skills she took advantage of the guild's community quilt program where panels bought by the guild could be used to make your yearly donation baby quilt. Linda found these perfect for practicing her hand quilting. A fun early adventure with the guild was the bus trip to the *Sisters Outside Quilt Show* (sogs.org), in 1998. Jean Swalwell of Creston's *Quiltview Corner* arranged the bus trip, and a number of Cranbrook quilters jumped at the opportunity to see the show (Barb Alaric, Shirley King, Juananne Wales, Sharon Petruk, Icille Pighin). Linda has returned to the *Sisters* event four times since and taken workshops from some of the renowned teachers, like Sue Spargo, Karla Alexander, Kelly Rae Roberts, Laura Wasilowski, and Jean Wells. Linda's grey tone-on-tone, stitch sampler wall hanging - *Circle Play* - from the Sue Spargo (suespargo.com) workshop won second place in *Quilted Treasurers* in the 2017 quilt show. Another adventure closer to home in 2008 was the workshops with Phil Beaver hosted by the *Cotton Tree Quilt Shop* in Fernie. Phil Beaver was a renowned quilter of the day and to have an accessible workshop so near was a quilters delight. His style for "Sunflowers" involved painting on fabric, raw edge appliqué, and thread painting/ free motion quilting, which were all novel techniques (see Pinterest images).

Linda quilts in a spacious guest room/sewing room. Her sewing machine's are *Bernina's* - an older model and a recent upgrade to a *Bernina 770 Quilters Edition* (MSRP \$8299.00). For her first machine, she surprised the salesman by paying cash for what was an expensive machine at the time - ~\$500. For workshops and retreats, Linda has an easily transportable *Janome*. About 10 years ago, she added an *HQ16 (Handi Quilter)* sit-down machine to make machine quilting easier. She still hand quilts - both traditional and big stitch - but has the option of machine quilting for a more efficient finish. Her "5'n dime quilt" - "Journey through Nepal" - won second place in the domestic machine quilting category at the guild's 2015 quilt show. When buying anything for her quilting habit, Linda has a rule: she doesn't want anything that will be used once and then languish in her sewing room. A "good pattern" will make a quilt, plus maybe a block or two will make a table runner, placemats, an art piece or a wall hanging, or at least a postcard! She keeps her scraps as she does many small projects so even a 1½" scrap could work in a project. She has a stash sorted by colour and motif such as batiks and novelty prints. Her favourite thread is *Aurifil* a 50 wt cotton. It's is great for piecing and machine quilting.

Besides taking many workshops, Linda enjoys the local retreats that started as guild events in the 'off-season' at *Three Bars Ranch*, and that are now 'independent' of the guild and usually at the *Bull River Guest Ranch*. For a number of years she was part of a small "challenge group" with a few other members (# 108). Over the winter 2023 -24, Linda hosted a group to hand quilt Lisa Sharpe's last quilt (#023) and recently added the binding to this stunning appliqué quilt. Outside the guild, Linda is part of a "Fibre Friends Group" with other locals that enjoy a variety

of textile arts. She also knits hats for charity, volunteers at the Thrift Shop, and enjoys many trips to see the grandchildren or to escape the winter in Palm Springs or just to see the sites - Newfoundland was her and Norm's last adventure - spring 2025. Linda is a master at finding convenient "AirB&Bs".

Quiltmaker	Linda Wesley (nee Martin)
Date and place of birth	September 7, 1956 Winnipeg, MN
Father Occupation Birthplace	Fred Martin Pressman (Nelson Daily News) Winnipeg, MN
Mother Occupation Birthplace	Ruth Martin Hospital Admissions Clerk
Date and place of marriage	1976 Nelson, BC
Spouse	Norman Wesley Train Engineer (retired)
Quiltmaker Occupation	Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Medical Clinics, Nursing Program Lab Instructor
Children	1 daughter, 1 son
Education of Quiltmaker	Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Program, East Kootenay Community College (1992-93)
Where quiltmaker lived	Winnipeg, MN; Nelson, BC; Leithbridge, AB; Cranbrook, BC
Ethnic/Ancestry Background	German

CQG #014 - *Hawaii Blue*

Quiltmaker/Owner: Linda Wesley

Linda bought the pattern for *Hawaii Blue* while on vacation in Hawaii with her family in 1997. She had been quilting for over 10 years and had joined the guild in 1987, so visiting quilt shops was an established part of her vacation plans. She made the quilt "for no special reason" other than she loved the pattern. The appliqué method is "needle turned" where the quilter turns under only ¼" of fabric immediately in front of the needle and tacks it to the background using a blind/slip stitch (10 to 12 stitches per inch). Linda completed the hand quilting in 2017 - she uses both a lap hoop and a home-made wooden quilt frame (a gift of her father-in law). Linda's daughter will likely inherit this quilt.

Hawaiian quilts typically consist of motifs of the island vegetation. Most quilts are only two colours of either solid or near-solid coloured fabrics. There is one colour for the background,

and a contrasting colour in the foreground and border. They were historically made from the fabric colours that were readily available, which was often red and white. The graceful flowing quilting lines surrounding the designs on Hawaiian quilts are often an echo or outline quilting style. This quilting style mirrors the relationship Hawaiian people have with nature and the islands (kapaistitchery.com).

The “snowflake art of paper cutting” to create the appliqué patterns was probably taught to the Hawaiian people by the missionaries. The early artists likely didn’t use that term, however, they used a similar “unnamed” method: folding the design in eights or quarters, then cutting the entire appliqué out at once to create a truly symmetrical pattern (Root, *Hawaiian Quilts*, 1989) Today, the patterns can be purchased as “die cut” motif patterns.

Pattern	Elizabeth Root, <i>Hawaiian Quilting</i> : Dover Publications, New York, 1989. Patterns: <i>Anthurium, Calla Lily, Bread Fruit Tuber Rose, Hibiscus, Maile Blue Jade, Pineapple, Orchid Red Ginger, Plumeria, Water Lily</i>
Subject	Hawaiian Island vegetation
Date	Specific date: 1997 - 2017
Size	L 83 ½” x W 65 ½”
Overall style	Finished quilt Hand Quilted Sampler (Hawaiian) Varied blocks, Appliqué
Block	L 18” x W 18”, square Appliqués (16” x 16”) Number of blocks: 9 Spacing: side-by-side
Border	W 5 ½”, straight, one fabric Colour: white
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¾”, straight, machine front/hand back Colour: white
Batting	Medium weight
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave (Percale) Motif: mottled Feature colour: blue Background colour: white
Applique	Motif: vegetation [‘snowflake’ art of paper cutting] Method: “snowflake art of paper cutting”, needle turned hand appliqué
Backing	One fabric, cotton, plain weave Feature colour: white

Quilting	Traditional Hand Quilting (8-9 stitches per inch) Thread: cotton, white Patterns: echo ½" spacing, outline
Condition	Unused
Comment	Winner: Cranbrook Quilters Guild Quilt Show 2017 "Judges First Place Overall" & "1st Place Hand Quilting" (Cranbrook Alliance Church Gymnasium)

CQG #109: *Miniature Baltimore Album*
Quiltmaker/Owner: Linda Wesley

Linda joined a small group of members interested in making Baltimore Album style quilts. Elaine Ransom (#136) was the experienced leader. Linda used fabric scraps from her stash and bought the silk ribbon from the Sue Spargo website (suespargo.com) as it wasn't available locally - cost \$40. The project soon became a favourite to work on at her leisure. Her experience: "it was a challenge to make dealing with such small pieces and learning to do silk ribbon embroidery, but it was very enjoyable and rewarding to see the end result". It only took Linda about an hour and a half to do the hand quilting, after two years creating the blocks and the lovely swag border. Her daughter Karen will inherit this piece as "she is very appreciative of hand work and is one of my biggest fans !!".

Pattern	Jennifer Buechel, <i>Miniature Baltimore Album Quilts</i> : The Patchwork Place, Inc, 1997 <i>Cherry Wreath, Oak Reel, Bouquet of Roses</i> <i>Roses with a Peacock, Heart Wreath, Country Cabin, Featured Heart, Cactus Reel, Grapevine Wreath</i>
Subject	Floral arrangements, patriotic symbols, scenes of mid-nineteenth century Baltimore, Maryland (USA)
Date	Specific date: April 2022 - April 2024
Size	L 19" x W 19"
Overall style	Finished Wall Hanging Traditional Sampler Varied blocks, Appliqué/Embroidery
Block	Block; L 4" x 4", square Appliqués Number of blocks: 9 Spacing: side-by-side
Border	W 3", straight, appliquéd, Colour: white-on-white
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¾", straight, machine front/hand back Colour: white

Batting	80/20, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Motif: flowers Feature colour: appliqué patches - red, blue, green, yellow, brown Background: off-white
Top piecing method	Machine Piecing Raw edge applique
Embellishments	Embroidery Materials: ribbon, french knots, stem/outline Thread: Cotton embroidery floss - green, white, red, blue
Appliqué	Motif: flowers, leaves, cabin, swag (border) Method: raw edge fused, hand decorative stitch
Backing	Hanging sleeve One fabric, cotton, plain weave Specific fabric: muslin Colour: off-white Motif: plain/solid
Quilting	Traditional hand quilting: 5-6 stitches per inch Thread: cotton, off-white Motif: in-the-ditch, outline
Condition	Unused