

Linda Shaw - CQG#305
[1953 - 2023]

Linda is remembered for her quilting prowess: “she knew so much about every aspect of quilting and she could explain what to do in a way you could easily understand. She just had that way... she had a beautiful, wonderful, warm personality. She was a great golfer too!” (Betty Wardle, #035).

Linda joined the guild in 1987 with her neighbour Linda Wesley (#041). They connected through their children playing “on the street”. When Linda Wesley was having difficulty with the Y-seams on her first quilt, Linda Shaw easily helped her correct the block. It seems those early members accepted that they would have to take a turn at being on the executive and Linda did her fair share: she started as Secretary in 1987-88 when Judy Wright (#043) was President. That year (January 1988) Linda started the guild’s first newsletter, which was mailed to members, area guilds, as well as to a few out-of-town quilt shops like the Quilt Gallery, Kalispell, MN (USA) and Muriel Neade, in Grand Forks, BC. Her guild contributions continued: Historian 88-89, Workshops 89-90 and again in 92-93 with Lisa Sharp (#023), Raffle Quilt committee 1990 (#500), Books 90-92, and then Vice-President 1996-97 (Debby Pettypace was President). Linda was President, 1996-97, with Vice-President, Wendy Litz (#055); Secretary, Betty Wardle; and Treasurer, Janet Leggett (#400).

Linda frequently used her talents teaching guild workshops like paper-piecing, Celtic design (see Raffle Quilt Gallery #500-12 - Red Celtic), design with lines following Pam Clark’s¹ methods, a Quilter’s Carry-all. At the same time, she operated *Mountain Threads* (1988 - 1995) as a home-based business (#078), initially with Judy Wright. The “shop” and her quilting space took up most of the basement. Now 37 years later, the families can’t really recall the beginnings of *Mountain Threads*. Linda had joined that guild in 1987, a year after Judy. It seems some synergy happened and the two became business partners. Both were talented quilters and both had business experience. In 1995, Linda sold the business and all the stock to another of her quilting connections: Jean Swalwell of Creston who opened *Quiltview Corners*. Jean and Linda would have met at one of the yearly Regional Quilt Conference², which by 1995 had been held in Beaver Valley, Creston, Nelson, Cranbrook, Fruitvale, Fernie, Creston, Nelson and Kimberley.

In ~1996, Linda started teaching a beginner’s and intermediate quilting course through Cranbrook Parks and Rec Department. The classes were offered at Laurie Middle School. Her husband, Ed, made and delivered large wooden tables for the classes because the school’s Home Economics rooms didn’t have what was needed. At least two members learned through Linda’s classes: Darlene Purnell and Ev Buterman (#138). (see #305 - picture of the sampler quilt Linda taught). Also, Linda taught ‘learning to quilt’ sessions at the women’s artisan co-operative of the St Mary’s Indian Band³, and she, like other mom’s, took quilting into the classroom at St Mary’s Elementary School.

¹ Pam Clark, “*Design with Lines*”. Spokane, Washington, www.homestitches.com

² See “Social Society of Quilters - Quilt Conferences” on the website: cranbrookquiltersguildhistory.ca. Or access it through basinorg.ca

³ The artisan co-operative was aligned with the Community Healing and Intervention Program (CHIP) of the Ktunaxa Independent School System (KISS) to support children and adults affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects (1991 ~2001).

Linda “loved quilts”, especially tessellating designs, Celtic patterns, and landscapes. Linda Wesley remembers a quilt with birds where you could see the birds in flight regardless of how you approached the quilt. Her husband recalls a particularly intriguing ‘Attic Window’ pattern that seemed to move with you, and the ‘landscape’ she made for his office. Linda was inspired to quilt by her paternal grandmother who lived in Perth, ON. She didn’t see her grandmother often, but she was captivated by her ‘utility quilts’ made from the fabric at hand. (see attached photo of Logcabin quilt made by Linda’s grandmother).

Linda was a “self-taught”quilter - no classes, just books. She started actively quilting when the family moved to Cranbrook in 1985. By the time she joined the guild in1987, she was already proficient and became more so through all the workshops that came with being a guild member. Like the other members, Linda made quilts for home and many for gifts - “Everyone with a child got a quilt from Linda.” Some quilts had a personal label and others were “signed” - front or back- in pen with her name and the year; like the true artist she was. She always showed her creations at the guild’s biennial quilt shows. Ed, was always ‘commandeered’ to help set-up the shows and even made some of the wood frames.

Fabric wise, Linda liked Robert Kaufman® prints and solids. Besides using her Mountain Threads stock, Linda shopped locally or in Creston at ‘Quiltview Corners’, and in Victoria when visiting family. Yes, she did have a large fabric stash! She was a ‘traditionalist’ in her approach: she pre-washed fabrics, she finished her bindings with hand-stitching, she hand-quilted. She did quilt some smaller pieces on her *Bernina* domestic machine, and she sent a few large quilts to Juananne Wales (#079) to be longarm quilted, but most pieces she hand-quilted. Ed made Linda a frame that ‘lived’ in there living room under the picture window, where the light was best for hand-quilting. This frame had a gear attachment so Linda could easily roll the quilt without help. She continued to enjoy quilting until she developed arthritis in her hands. Her last guild year was 2005 when she helped hand-quilt the Cranbrook Centennial Quilt (#080).

Quiltmaker	Linda Marie Shaw (nee Moore)
Date and place of birth	December 4, 1953 Winnipeg, MN
Father Occupation Birthplace	Doug Moore BC Hydro - Power Commission Perth, ON
Mother Occupation Birthplace	Beverly Spier Bookkeeper & Homemaker Regina, BC
Date & place of Marriage	August 30, 1975 Quesnel, BC
Date & place of Death	November 10, 2023 Cranbrook, BC
Spouse Occupation	Ed Shaw BC Government, Ministry of Environment

Quiltmaker's Occupation	Hairdresser, Bookkeeper Owner: Mountain Threads Quilt Shop (home-based)
Children	2 sons
Education of Quiltmaker	Trade School (Nanaimo, BC)
Where quiltmaker lived	Manitoba, British Columbia: 100 Mile House, Stewart, New Westminster, Port Alberni, Hazelton, Quesnel, Naramata, Kamloops, Cranbrook
Ethnic/Ancestry Background	Irish, Welsh, European Canadian