

SHIRLEY WHITE

Shirley White 'saved' the guild by accepting the position of President-elect in June 2000, taking over from Noreen Aikman (#400). Shirley is a 'Lifetime Guild Member' being that she is over 80. She joined the guild in 1999 after she retired from her medical office management position. Shirley 'offered' to be President the following year when, at the wind-up dinner, she sat across from Wendy Litz (#055) and heard that the guild might be without a President. To be a *guild* under the *Canadian Quilting Association (CQA/ACC)*, the group must have three officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer. In 2000, the Secretary was Judy Beaulac (084) and the Treasurer was Bernice Sargent (091). The nominating committee was not able to find a member willing to be elected as President. The quilters could have continued to meet, but the Guild would lose its membership with CQA. Shirley was experienced in group leadership and on talking with Wendy thought: "Well I could do that !" So she was 'elected' and served as President for three years - 2000-2003. Shirley's successor was Audrey MacKinnon (#053)

In Shirley's term the guild sent quilts with Dr. Cutler to his medical mission in Haiti and to the *World Trade Centre Relief Program*, now known simply as "9/11". And members started to donate quilts to the Oncology Unit at the hospital, expanding from the baby quilt size to a lap size for donation quilts. In 2002, the guild hosted the *Kootenay Quilt Conference* with speaker Myrna Giesbrecht, from Salmon Arm, on "My Life As A Quilter". Ruth Rutledge headed the conference committee. Also the guild accepted its first quilt commission: the cost of the fabric plus \$600 to make a queen size quilt for a raffle at the *Draft Horse Show* in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Shirley came to learn the basics of quilting through a course taught by guild member Linda Shaw (#400), as part of the program offerings of Cranbrook 'Parks and Rec' department. Linda ran a home based quilt shop, *Mountain Threads*, initially with fellow quilter Judy Wright (#043). Linda taught eight basic block patterns and techniques. Shirley knew from viewing some of the local quilt shows that quilting would fit the bill as an activity when she retired. One of the first things she learned on a paper-piecing block was that quilting seams were 1/4 inch, not 5/8 inch as she had assumed from her days sewing clothes!

Shirley took the beginners course with Peggy Mahon and Julie Johnson; the three friends joined the guild together. She tells that at the meetings she would ask for help from anyone who happened to be sitting next to her.

At home, Shirley created a dedicated quilting space equipped with lots of shelving, her computer and even a couch for relaxing. She tried the gamut of techniques - from simple patchwork, to paper piecing (not a favourite), to hand-quilting, machine quilting and appliqué. Shirley had an avid interest in how blocks and patterns came together so precisely. She read extensively, paying attention to the details so that she could share the techniques. One 'tip' appreciated by fellow quilter Ev Buterman (#193), was to cut thread on a diagonal angle to create a 'point' that made it easier to thread a needle. When interviewed by Ev in ~2009, Shirley felt that her best work was "Bugs in a Jar" made for her grandson. Others still recall her "Japanese Kimono" wall-hanging that was hung 'in pride of place' in her living-room. Another favourite of Shirley's was a 3-D wall-hanging of "Hydrangeas". Shirley taught her Kimono pattern at a workshop in 2003 and often taught beginner quilting lessons to new guild members. Apparently she shared that you could use a rotary cutter to help prepare the fruit for marmalade!

Shirley welcomed the friendships she made through the guild. Being President expanded her circle of quilting companions. To encourage new members to get to know other quilters, she

often hosted luncheons. Some special early connections were with Darlene Purnell, Jan Neidermeyer, and Arline Davis.

Shirley's lingering advice: "Pay attention to the details. Get to know your fellow quilters. The friendships last a lifetime."

Quiltmaker	Shirley White
Date of Birth	February 1935
Occupation	Medical Officer Administrator
Where quiltmaker lived	Cranbrook , BC; Creston, BC.

CGG #300 - Japanese Kimono
Quiltmaker: Shirley White

Pattern	<i>Stripped Kimono Quilt Pattern</i> #4000-1: Designed by "Castilleje Cotton" (castillejecotton.net); Calgary, AB, 2003
Subject	Japanese Kimono
Size	L 30" x W 23½"
Date	2003
Top Fabric	Oriental prints

CGQ#300 - Hydrangeas
Quiltmaker: Shirley White

Pattern	Joan Shay: <i>Love to Quilt Petal by Petal</i> , American Quilter Society; Paducah, KY, 1998.
Top piecing method	3 D Appli-bond technique (water soluble stabilizer) [Joan Shay]