

Snapshots in Time from

THE VALLEY

QUILTER'S GUILD

1986-1996

Friendship,
quilts, service
and community
connections!

All imagery kindly
given to us by **Gloria
Snodgrass.**

Thanks for your
commitment to the
Valley Quilters!

Jeannie Snodgrass's quilty
clothing featured in a magazine
in the 1990s!



Given on behalf of
Mary Snead, Historian
October Member Meeting
Valley Quilters Guild
10.6.2023

Valley Quilters in the News (1990s)



VQG sewed quilts for a community theatre production of "The Quilters" in 1991.

VQG hosted Georgia Bonesteel in 1991. VQG Member Jo Werner (right)



Quilt salutes ferris wheels

Donna Mittler and Sherri Donohoo of Palmer put the final touches on a quilt they designed and hand crafted for the 1993 Alaska State Fair. Taking this year's state fair theme, "Homespun Fun," the two Valley Quilters Guild members designed and stitched the 90" X 90" quilt. At the quilt's center, a ferris wheel overlays a pinwheel, all surrounded by a "critter border" which reflects Alaska and fair entries. The quilt will be on display at Pacific Fabrics in Wasilla, Carrs Palmer and Carrs Wasilla before going to the Hoskins Building at the fairgrounds where it will be shown throughout the 1993 state fair. According to Dean Phipps, fair marketing director, the quilt represents the fair theme and the 100th birthday of the ferris wheel. The quilt will be entered in the International Western Fairs Association 100th birthday ferris wheel contest.



Photo by Ron Caldwell

**Valley
Quilters in
the News
(1990s)**

Donna Miller and Sherri Donohoo working on the "Homespun Fun" Fair quilt! (1993)

Valley Quilters in the News (1990s)

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Flaws leave holes in 'Quilters'

By GORDON M. BOLAR
Daily News theater reviewer

"Quilters," the current Alaska Festival Theatre production, entertains and visually engages its audience with a tapestry of music, dance and stories based on the lives of 19th-century American women.

Despite the best efforts of seven able actors, this musical by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek is merely a loose patchwork that yields little insight into the many characters who form the fabric of the play.

The cast is led by Laura Treacy as Sarah McKendree Borham, who in her final years produces a quilt that will be a legacy for her six daughters, portrayed by Cynthia Elek, Judy Dossett, Mary Western, Jenni Oakes, Shanon Sidell and Kristina Austin.

The quilt, an enormous and beautifully striking panel heisted aloft in the finale, is composed of sixteen "blocks," each representing a story of one of Sarah's friends, as portrayed by Sarah herself and the daughters.

Regrettably, the resources and depth of this gifted cast are not fully tested by the play. Treacy commands the stage with her presence at the beginning, but the script

□ "Quilters," by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, will be presented through April 13 by Alaska Festival Theatre in the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$16 to \$21 and are available at the Center ticket office, Carrs Tix outlets, or by calling 263-2787.

never allows her to identify with any of the characters. Newman and Damashek offer few clues concerning Sarah's relationship with the women depicted. Her character is a framing device that begins and ends the show and introduces each of the blocks.

Treacy is a talented performer with countenance and bearing that convey the wisdom and gallows humor of her station late in life. "Quilters" is not meant to tell Sarah's life story, but by the time she bids a farewell admonition — "Don't bury me in my best quilt" — we wish we had seen more of her.

"Quilters" does paint the stage with color, and it fills the air with harmonious sounds that range from folk songs to hymns, under the musical direction of Gloria Allen, with the accompaniment of Darcy McMullen Kreger, Mary Anne Schallert, and Rick Miller.

Treacy and her supporting ensemble mark the rites of passage for women in the 1800s with milestones that include birth, puberty, courtship, marriage, child-bearing and death.

Several of these, including a hilarious baptism scene, are supported vividly with bright bolts of cloth, scraps, and patches used in the quilts around which these yarns are spun.

Director Patricia Blem has staged "Quilters" with fluidity and economy. Designer Fred Sager's clean, functional wooden skeletal set becomes a windmill, a log cabin, or a house on fire at a moment's notice.

Too many of the "Quilters" characters seem to be nameless cut-outs from the broadcloth of another century, with generic pioneer experiences and slightly archaic speech. They are not allowed time to set up or develop because of the script's rapid transitions from block to block.

Nevertheless, the production is an unusual combination of storytelling, music and the art form contained in its title, and should draw an expanded audience for Alaska Festival Theatre.

□ Gordon M. Bolar has a doctorate in theater from Louisiana State University. He is development director for the public television station KAKM.

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By Molly Newman & Barbara Damashek

Based on the book: "The Quilters: Women & Domestic Art" by Patricia Cooper & Norma Bradley Allen

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Alaska Festival Theatre

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THE BREEZE

Raffle quilt from 1991!

The beautiful Amish quilt displayed in the lobby, and 16 of the smaller quilts which make up the "Legacy Quilt" will be available by raffle on April 15, 1991. Raffle tickets (\$2.00 each) can be purchased during intermission from the Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters at their display in the lobby. The Legacy Quilt and all the quilted goods used in *QUILTERS* were made by the Valley Quilt Guild in the Mat/Su area. For further information, call Alaska Festival Theatre at 344-2282.

You are cordially invited to observe the Legacy Quilt more closely after the play's conclusion.

...Well, at least the quilts got rave reviews! ;)

A letter to an interested (future) member!

June 16, 1992

Dear Karen,

I must apologize for the delay in answering your letter requesting information about our Guild. When it arrived I was on a two week trip to Kentucky and Tennessee with six other members of our Guild. We traveled all over stopping at quilt shops, antique shops and quilt shows - ending with the AQS show in Paducah. It was a really fun trip, especially since we're all into quilting - the shows were great and it was fun getting new ideas. Shortly after arriving home, Sharyn Craig came up from San Diego for a lecture and two workshops and stayed at my home. She's a great teacher if you ever have the opportunity to take a class from her.

The end of May was our statewide Greatland Quilters Conference at a local camp where we took classes, ate and quilted for four days. The Anchorage Guild sets up all the classes, teachers, door prizes, activities, etc. and gals from guilds around the state come - not much sleep, but lots of fun!

Now I can finally try to catch up on my correspondence before our guild's "All-Nighter" on June 19th. We start at 2:00 p.m. and go until 4:00 a.m. or later, possibly out to breakfast if we stay late enough! We are all going to work on individual projects this year - in past years we've had classes but we all have so many "works in progress" that we don't have time to make a quilt.

Our guild has a lot of fun projects going on. We have some type of program. We also have Quilt 'n Chats on Tuesdays from 10:00-2:00 at a local church. We try to have at least one Saturday class each month, usually taught by one of our members, sometimes we bring a teacher from

donated quilts to the American Cancer Society for them to raffle off.

At various times throughout the year we put on quilt shows at the local schools, the Pioneer Home (for senior citizens) and the Mall. We annually put on a quilt demonstration at the Alaska State Fair in August.

The Guild has a library with lots of books, magazines, stencils, etc. that members may check out for their own use. We also have three sizes of quilt frames to tie or baste quilts on and have recently purchased frames to hang quilts at the shows we do.

I have enclosed a copy of our by-laws - these have been changed to reflect a change in dues to \$20 per year as well as adding a Librarian/Education person to the Board. I hope you can still use the information. It sounds like you're already on a roll with projects - that's a lot to tackle for a small guild like yours - Congratulations!

We also have done two challenge quilts and are in the middle of our third one. All of the members who want to participate purchase the same packet of fabric, make a quilt with certain specifications, keep it secret until the due date and then share with the other members. It's fun to see the various patterns, all different, yet with the same fabrics.

Hope this information is helpful to you and your guild members - don't hesitate to ask if you have any further questions. It's also fun to hear about what other guilds are doing so we can get new ideas. Some of the things we do at our monthly meetings are to exchange shaded triangles, 5" squares, nine-patches, four-patches, etc. We bring stacks of 20 and exchange them with each other. The Board also picks out certain colors or themes each month and members who wish to participate make a 12 1/2" block - then we have a drawing among those members and one person wins all the blocks. The Christmas one is extremely popular! We also have a Quilt-Go-Round with 12 members - each month one member will cut out the fabric for a quilt and the other gals will get together at her house and sew the blocks together for her. She provides the meal and ends up with the quilt. We have a lot of fun making a quilt.

We would love to know how your guild is progressing and what you're getting involved in - would also be fun to see some pictures!

Happy Quilting,

Gloria Snodgrass
President, Valley Quilters Guild

Written by Gloria Snodgrass, President 1992

BREAKING NEWS: RETRO MEETING MINUTES!



Circa 1992

Small Quilt Auction

Feb. 1 - Meet at Cottonwood Mall at 10:00 to set up window display
 Bring country display items - quilt stand - washstand tub - painless borders quilt, etc!

Saturday - 10:00 - 6:00

Sunday - noon - 5:00

Pickup time - 4:00 - 5:00 Sunday

Prize categories -

Best of show - Auction quilt
 1st, 2nd, 3rd - Best of show quilts

Best

**Shout out to our Secretary, Juli Comer!
 Thanks for keeping our (current) records!**

1st 2nd 3rd - Show quilts (best of show)

1st 2nd 3rd - Wallhangings

What were we up to in 1992?



March - 11th Applique (Hawaiian)
 Small Quilt Auction - March 3, 4, 5th
 Quilter's play - March 24th
 April - April 1st
 April 22 - Beyond Basics for intermediate quilters
 May 6th and 20th - Alaskan Sampler - Debbie Caffrey
 June - All-Nighter June 16th or 23rd
 John Flynn June 26, 27th



Turn in show quilts to Donna or Ruby - have title and name on quilt
 Write to Sally Schneider - look for class in Spring 1995
 Ask Fairbanks if they would like to share expenses
 Write to John Flynn - request workshop, lecture sometime between Sept. 15-30, 1995 or available date in early 1996.
 Auction - help decide on which quilts receive awards, set up banquet - clear date with Church
 Feb. board mtg.
 March program - local teachers
 March 6 - Pepper Corey lecture - 7:00 - Anch. Museum
 * John Flynn in Fairbanks in June '95 - ask if he can come here
 Stained Glass class - money due at March mtg.
 March 24th - Board mtg. + ...

Hot off the Presses: Valley Quilters in the Magazines!



Vintage quilt owned by N. Leferve, Anchorage

**"Ladies
Circle:
Patchwork
Quilts"
1992**



Challenge Quilts by VQG Members featured in this 1992 issue. Also featured, G. Snodgrass's homestead cabin



The Valley Quilters Challenge quilts and their makers, (left to right): Feathered Star and Ribbon, by Jeanne Nichols; Bursting With New Life, by Jody Johnson; The Challenger, by Nancy Wobser; Mariner's Compass, by Ruby Otto; Alpine Summer, by Jeannie Snodgrass; Airing the Quilts, by Gloria Snodgrass (complete with tiny clothespins); Tumbling Stars, by Deanna Eaker; and Milky Way Hearts, by Christy Frisby.

CABIN FEVER MY LIFE AS AN ALASKAN QUILTER

A year in the life of a quilter is influenced by the seasons. In Alaska, the long winter is a perfect time for making quilts—a great way to avoid cabin fever. Julie Scott tells us about a year in her life as a quilter living in Fairbanks.

Our Legacy...Membership in the Valley Quilter's Guild!

Official VQG Membership List from 1991

VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD
MEMBERSHIP LIST
May 1991

Avery, Carla	376-0259	800 Win Circle/Wasilla, AK 99687
Baggett, Jennifer	892-6659	P.O. Box 328/Huston, AK 99694
Behnke, Peggy	892-6226	HC 34 Box 2160/Wasilla, AK 99687
Boyle, Sue	376-5221	2600 Whispering Woods Dr./Wasilla, AK 99687
Budnik, Barbara	745-8926	320 E. Caribou/Palmer, AK 99645
Buzby, Ann	745-4052	P.O. Box 2722/Palmer, AK 99645
Carrison, Darlene		1317 New Ridge Ct./Lexington, KY 40514
Carriser, Lynnette	373-2956	P.O. Box 871236/Wasilla, AK 99687
Dinkel, Bonnie	376-2321	HC 31 Box 5193/Wasilla, AK 99687-9703
Esker, Deanna	376-5947	P.O. Box 870554/Wasilla, AK 99687
Elkins, Grace	376-2670	HC 30 Box 12860/Wasilla, AK 99687
Esler, Marjorie	376-6870	850 Lochness Ct./Wasilla, AK 99687
France, Bonnie	745-5455	1053 Honda Way/Palmer, AK 99645
France, Karen	745-3872	P.O. Box 522/Palmer, AK 99645
Frisby, Christy	745-3463	HC 04 Box 9587/Palmer, AK 99645
Frisby, Eleonora	745-3497	HC 04 Box 9598/Palmer, AK 99645
Goodwin, Sue	745-5943	P.O. Box 1265/Palmer, AK 99645
Gronewald, Ricky	376-5985	961 North Shore Dr./Wasilla, AK 99687
Hermson, Marianne	745-3558	P.O. Box 451/Palmer, AK 99645
Hill, Carol	376-3681	HC 31 Box 5215-J/Wasilla, AK 99687
Hill, Mary	745-8322	HC 04 Box 9722-A/Palmer, AK 99645
Holler, Jane	376-3389	P.O. Box 871085/Wasilla, AK 99687
Hornal, Kit		P.O. Box 500/McEwen, TN 37101
Horvath, Ruth	376-6093	P.O. Box 872493/Wasilla, AK 99687
Hubbard, Erica	746-4383	P.O. Box 1576/Palmer, AK 99645
Hunt, Paula	746-2645	P.O. Box 1983/Palmer, AK 99645
Jaekel, Seatta	892-6677	Box 520591/Big Lake, AK 99652
Johnson, Jody	376-3593	P.O. Box 876065/Wasilla, AK 99687
Kangas, Hana	745-2435	P.O. Box 1516/Palmer, AK 99645
Kasmar, Marilyn	248-2714	3620 Clay Products/Anchorage, AK 99517
Kilmain, Pat	745-2365	P.O. Box 2738/Palmer, AK 99645
King, Marjorie	745-7525	P.O. Box 2054/Palmer, AK 99645
Kuhn, Carol	745-3695	P.O. Box 642/Palmer, AK 99645
Lee, Marie	745-1664	P.O. Box 1046/Palmer, AK 99645
Livingston, Melodye	373-1005	HC 31 Box 5223-C/Wasilla, AK 99687-9704
Luce, Jan	745-4419	P.O. Box 1223/Palmer, AK 99687
Manual, Ruth		P.O. Box 870376/Wasilla, AK 99687
Mayse, Mary	376-3592	HC 31 Box 5230-P/Wasilla, AK 99687
McIver, Mary	376-5387	HC 31 Box 5219/Wasilla, AK 99687-9704
Meinhardt, Karen	522-1341 w	4011 North Point Drive/Anchorage, AK 99515
Miller, J. Lanelle	376-139	P.O. Box 874475/Wasilla, AK 99687
Moddison, Velma	373-6204	P.O. Box 878022/Wasilla, AK 99687
Moore, Bobbi	376-0467	P.O. Box 872882/Wasilla, AK 99687
Myers, Helena	745-2870	P.O. Box 1283/Palmer, AK 99645
Nehar, Lois-June		HC 02 Box 7554/Palmer, AK 99645
Nichols, Jeanne	745-3678	HC 04 Box 9587-E/Palmer, AK 99645
Ott, Susan	745-6391	P.O. Box 901/Palmer, AK 99645
Otto, Ruby	376-3156	3233 Naomi Drive/Wasilla, AK 99687

(over)

Pake, Kimberly	373-4048	
Percak-Dennett, Mary	376-1223	124 Heritage Dr. #
Pollock, Carolee	373-0886	P.O. Box 872763/W
Pownall, Bev	376-4771	P.O. Box 876353/W
Pinquoch, Edith	376-5648	2931 Brenna's Wa
Robinson, Sheila	376-3936	P.O. Box 870315
Rogan, Isabelle	745-4375	P.O. Box 2998/P
Rudisill, Becky	376-8105	380 N. Eklutna
Ryan, Kathy	745-0686	1300 Sands Dr.
Schreiber, Marianne	376-5696 m	P.O. Box 184/P
Selin, Bonnie	349-1210	P.O. Box 87053
Simasko, Kathy	745-2713	P.O. Box 19042
Snodgrass, Gloria	745-3866	HC 01 Box 6010
Snodgrass, Jeannie	745-4065	P.O. Box 1401/B
Soule, Marsha	376-0152	840 S. Colony W
Todd, Elizabeth	376-2859	P.O. Box 873394
Trimble, Nancy	745-5524	P.O. Box 871395
Voorhis, Lora	376-7276	200 Gloria St./P
Watenpaugh, Darlene	376-4466	HC 31 Box 5230-L
White, Sonya	696-1569	P.O. Box 876013/W
Wince, Lynne	243-6013	9349 Agattu Circle
Wobser, Nancy	373-3140	2414 Douglas Dr./Anc
		P.O. Box 873616/Wasill

Carol Hill
Pat Kilmain
Jan Luce
Gloria Snodgrass
Jeannie Snodgrass