

FEATURED MEMBER GERALYNN WEST

How long have you been quilting? My mother taught me to quilt, so for thirty years I've made many tied and hand-quilted quilts with whole cloth or panels, but I didn't start learning to piece until last year when I took a class in the women's Relief Society at my church. I don't envision becoming an intricate quilter, but I do enjoy the simple quilting that I am learning.

Who taught you how to quilt? My mother taught me actual hand-quilting, but I learned to piece quilts from Sarah Yarborough. Now I enjoy learning more techniques through the Guild and the wonderful quilters who are so willing to share

What are your favorite quilting techniques? Anything oriented to the more simple patterns. I learned with the Eleanor Burns method, and I'm learning more all the time; but so far I've never used templates or set-in piecing. . .still out of my comfort zone. However, I'm enjoying practicing more of free-motion quilting and hope to become better at it.

What are your favorite colors to work with? I like all colors, but I seem to lean toward bright colors because I usually make quilts for children who like color!

What are your favorite fabrics to work with? I haven't had much experience with anything but cotton, so I guess it is my favorite.

What is your favorite quilt shop? I like them all, but Kiwi Quilts is so convenient for me, and I love Tracy's personalized attention! And, of course, Phyllis Smith's fabrics are a great value and she lives close to me as well (and she introduced me to Cherokee Rose!).

If you sew by machine, what kind(s) do you use? My parents gave me a Bernina 830 when I graduated college, and I still use it; but now I have a Bernina Artista 180 and enjoy simple machine embroidery. Mostly I use it now for piecing and free-motion quilting.

What inspires you to make a particular quilt? Pretty colors, interesting but simple patterns, and an idea for whom to make it.

What is your favorite quilting book or pattern? I enjoy getting ideas from looking at many books and magazines.

On average, how many quilts do you make in a year? About four on average; but keep in mind—they are of the simple variety!

Do you quilt your own quilts or do you send them out? I've always quilted my own quilts and don't foresee spending the extra money to send them out; but I've learned never to say never because I used to vow that I'd never piece a quilt!

What quilt-related item(s) are you working on right now? A topper for my guest bed with matching pillow shams, two Christmas wall hangings and a Christmas quilt for a deacon's bench cover.

What other hobbies do you have? Sewing, quilting and reading are tops, but I also love to read and study scriptures and I volunteer a lot at my church. I'm now enjoying teaching sewing to my granddaughters.

Tell about one way that quilting has changed your life. First, I've met some wonderful people and I feel more creative. I never thought I was the creative type, but quilting has become my therapy. I am very busy helping care for elderly parents as well as helping with my grandchildren, so when quilting fits into my busy daily schedule, it becomes a necessary remedy for stress! Sometimes my family will say, "You need some therapy. . .go to your sewing room and quilt!"

Are you on any committees with the CRQG? I will be on the membership committee next year.

Feel free to tell us more about yourself and your family. I grew up mostly in California as the oldest of eight children. I met my husband at Brigham Young University when I was a senior studying speech therapy. I worked as a speech therapist when we were first married, but stopped working outside the home when our first baby was born. My family, my God, and my country are very sacred to me. My joy is full because I have a wonderful husband who is a faithful patriarch of our home, and six loving children who are raising their children in the Lord. What could bring greater happiness? The stresses and trials of life are made light when I feel such love and support. Here is a family photo from 2009. We've added two grandchildren since then and have another one the way, which will make 16! I make quilts and blankets for each new baby and then a larger quilt when they turn 12, so there is never a down time in my sewing room! I thank all my new quilting friends for inspiration and encouragement.

