

Chamber Member Spotlight

A Patch of Lakeshore Quilters

Sometimes it seems as though A Patch of Lakeshore Quilters has been around forever. It is true that quilting has been around for thousands of years, but the quilting guild, Patch of Lakeshore Quilters, began 18 years ago in the spring of 1993.

Prior to 1976, it seemed as though quilting was one of those dying arts. With the bicentennial, the country saw a resurgence of quilting, growing steadily to what it is today. In those days you found very few quilt shops. By the 1990s they were popping up in every town in America. Groups like A Patch of Lakeshore Quilters made that happen. The local guild began with 3 quilters who loved quilting and wanted to learn more. The 3 individuals reserved a room at LTC in May of 1993, and put a notice in the newspaper inviting interested quilters to a meeting. Five people came to the first meeting. The group continued to meet over the summer. Later that fall, several quilters from Manitowoc attended. They were interested in the group, but wanted to meet in Manitowoc. The group began meeting at St. Mary's Home in January. Each meeting after that, attendance grew. At the end of that first year, the group decided to organize more formally. Officers were elected, a name was chosen, and the group was off and running.



In addition to enrichment activities for guild members through programs, shows and trips; a charitable spirit was developed in the group. The group made 20+ baby quilts for the Domestic Violence Center, quilted wall hangings for the Alzheimer's Unit at St. Mary's Home, donated a quilt for St. Mary's to raffle, wall hangings for the Manitowoc Health Care Center and Hamilton Home, quilts for St. Joseph's Children's Home, holiday placemats for Meals on Wheels, and quilts for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. The guild members made and donated several hundred scarves/hats for cancer patients. The guild also takes quilt shows to the area nursing homes. We work with and assist young people with their projects by giving supplies and guidance. We have assisted teachers with quilting classes at the local middle schools. Our members have served as artists-in-residence for the local high school, doing presentations on quilting as an art form.

The guild has consistently strived to educate members and other interested quilters about quilting. The group has monthly programs, with speakers on every topic related to quilting.

We have published a cookbook entitled *Cooking Between the Stitches* and are available from any member of the quilting guild.

A Patch of Lakeshore Quilters has a solid foundation in Manitowoc County and will continue in the future. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m. at the Manitowoc Senior Center. Meetings are open to the public and membership is open to anyone interested in quilting. Come and join us!

Come to our quilt show at the Manitowoc County Expo on March 26th and 27th. The show is entitled "Quilting, We are the Stars." The show will display several hundred quilts and quilted items by local quilters. The quilt show is a wonderful experience for all ages. A discount coupon will be available during February and March in the Tuesday Tidbits.