

INTERVIEWS – NEWS – EVENTS (INE) ©2018

INE: Welcome all. Today I'm happy to interview Dolly Talmadge, public relations at Quilters Crossing, Inc., a not-for-profit association that offers activities in the world of quilting and in community projects.

INE: Hi Dolly. Thank you for agreeing to this interview. Tell us more about Quilters Crossing, Inc. and its purpose.

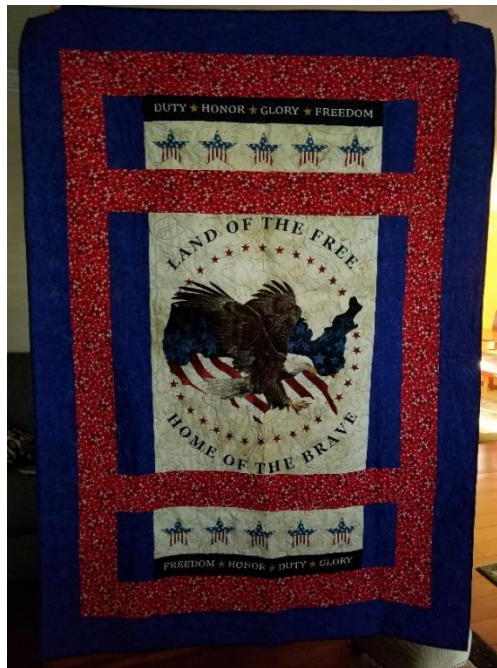
DT: Quilter's Crossing, Inc. is the center of many exciting activities in the world of quilting and in community projects. Every member can be justifiably proud of the contributions to the art of quilting and to the community.

Foremost, we are a quilt guild, providing support and assistance to quilters at all skill levels. Many friendships develop, and social activities are a pleasant part of the guild's function.

The purpose of the guild is to:

- Promote cooperation and the exchange of ideas among those who love quilts and quilting.
- To encourage high standards of design and technique.
- To stimulate interest within the general area through quilt shows and demonstrations.
- To forward the club's philanthropic endeavors toward the community

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Quilts of Valor like this one are awarded to our veterans

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INE: Can anyone join, or do members need experienced level quilting skills?

DT: Anyone can join but we are limited to 90 members due to the size of the venue used for our meetings.

To benefit from Quilter's Crossing, Inc., one needs to have basic quilting skills. Membership consists of quilters at all levels of expertise. Members are interested in every facet of the art; traditional, pictorial and modern techniques are all explored. Many members are also involved in the wearable arts.

INE: What is the cost to join?

DT: The fee for a new member is \$46 to cover the cost of the badge, a member's guild notebook, and fabric for a vest that is worn to special guild events. After the first year the fee is \$30/year.

INE: Are quilting classes offered to members?

DT: Quilting workshops are offered once a month and usually concentrate on a particular quilting technique. Examples of classes are tumbling blocks, thread painting, double reverse applique, attic windows, and cathedral windows. The cost of the classes depends on the class, but can be as inexpensive as \$2 per class plus supplies.

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Landscape quilt workshop

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INE: How often do the members meet?

DT: Meetings are every Wednesday morning.

- 1st Wednesday of the month - Guild Business Meeting - 9:30 A.M. -12 noon.
- 2nd Wednesday of the month - Workshop - 9:00 A.M.
- 3rd Wednesday of the month - Educational - 9:30 A.M.
- 4th Wednesday of the month - "Sister Sit and Sew", Dollicious Divas, Creative Corner - 9:30 A.M.

INE: What should members bring with them when attending a meeting?

DT: Members need to wear their name badges at the meeting. This helps everyone get to know one another. They only need to bring their sewing machine and supplies if signed up for a class. They can also observe a class.

INE: Are there invited speakers or teachers?

DT: The third Wednesday of each month is the Educational meeting. Sometimes we host nationally known quilting speakers such as David Taylor, Ellen Lindner, and our own nationally known guild member Melissa Kruschwitz. Local instructors or our guild members also provide information as the speaker of the month.

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Double reverse appliqué class by Ellen Lindner

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INE: What are some of the philanthropic activities Quilters Crossing supports?

DT: We support the following:

F.E.A.S.T. (Food Emergency and Services Team) Canned food items and monetary donations are collected at each business meeting for F.E.A.S.T. A 50/50 raffle is also held at each business meeting. Tickets are \$1.00 and the winner receives 50% of the money collected, while F.E.A.S.T. receives the rest.

Clothes to Kids - New underwear and socks are collected in October for the "Drop Your Drawers" clothing drive. Girl's underwear sizes 4-16, junior girl sizes 5-16 (especially bikinis), boy sizes 4-16 (briefs and boxers), young men's sizes 30 and up (especially boxers) and children and young adult sized socks are welcome.

Pinellas County Sheriff's Victims Advocacy Program - Quilter's Crossing members sew quilts and donate them to Pinellas County Sheriff's Advocate to put in police cars to be given to children and adults for comfort as needed.

Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor – In 2017 Quilter's Crossing members made quilts for each of the 30 resident children at the Sheriff's Youth Ranch for Christmas. The project is being continued this year as new children move into the group homes.

In addition to the quilts provided, our members have created an **Opportunity Quilt** that will be given away at the **2019 Biennial Quilt Show**.

All of the proceeds from the ticket sales for that quilt will be donated to the **Sheriff's Youth Ranch**.

- **Anyone can purchase a ticket**
- **Cost is \$1.00 each, or \$5.00 for 6 tickets**
- **You need not be present to win**
- **The drawing will be held at the closing of the quilt show**
- **The quilt can be mailed to the winner but the winner will need to cover the cost of postage**

(INE Note: contact information for those listed below is provided at the end.)

For Raffle Tickets contact Tammy Peters

Winner will be drawn at the end of the quilt show in January 2019

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2019 Opportunity Quilt - raffle to raise money for the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch

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Quilts of Valor - Different patterns have been supplied each month for members to make a quilt block out of red, white, blue, cream and/or gold fabric. Blocks are collected at each business meeting and made into Quilts of Valor that are awarded to our veterans.

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Quilt of Valor

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Philanthropic Donations Summary - In addition to our many Philanthropic Projects, Quilter's Crossing, Inc. donates regularly to the following:

- National Quilt Museum
- WUSF-TV
- The Community Center for the use of Harbor Hall

INE: Do the members participate in any quilting exhibits or events?

DT: Yes.

Quilting Under the Palms Biennial Quilt Show. In the odd numbered years, Quilter's Crossing, Inc. holds a Quilt Show near the end of January that showcases the beautiful creations of the members of the guild.

Quilters Crossing, Inc. Biennial Challenge Quilts. In the years when there is not a quilt show, the members participate in a creating Challenge Quilts, and the theme of the challenge changes from year to year. A fat quarter of fabric is provided to each participant that must be used in the quilt.

In 2018 the Challenge theme was "Telling Tales". Members were asked to let their creative juices flow and step outside their quilting comfort zone to tell some kind of tale, while incorporating the challenge fabric. Quilts were displayed at the Dunedin Fine Arts Center during the month of February.

INE: Are there any events coming up that readers should know about?

DT: Yes. We are proud to announce:

Quilter's Crossing, Inc. presents their 16th biennial Quilt Show

Quilting Under the Palms 2019

January 25th & 26th, 2019

9 AM to 4 PM

Location: COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION CENTER

2640 Sabal Springs Drive

Clearwater, FL. 33761

Admission is \$8 for one day, or \$10 for both days.

Free Parking

Buses & Large Groups Welcome!

The show will include:

- Over 200 Beautiful Quilts ~ Traditional to Contemporary "Couture, Décor & More"
- Boutique
- Door Prizes
- Vendors
- Drawing for a **FREE** Sewing Machine Courtesy of Sue's Bay Area Sewing
- Classes by Happy Apple Quilts on Friday & Saturday – more information available at Happy Apple Quilts
- Demonstrations
- Raffle Baskets including one with a Featherweight Sewing Machine
- Block Party (quilt block auction/sale)

INE: Is there anything else you would like to add that I haven't included?

DT: National Quilt Day, which was March 18th, benefitted the Pinellas County Sheriff's Victims Advocacy Program. It was held at the Palm Harbor Museum and featured quilts, and demos, as well as members creating quilt tops.

INE: How can readers discover more about Quilters Crossing?

DT: Website: quilterscrossing.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/QuiltersCrossingQUILTSHOW/>

The following individuals may be contacted for specific information at QCQuiltShow@gmail.com

- Information on group rates to attend the Quilt Show contact: Katy Gerritt
- General Information contact: Cathy Johnson or Tammy Peters
- Vendors contact: Carrie Shelby
- To advertise in our program, submit a form to, or to email us use the link above
- To request a flyer and bookmarks for your store, guild, your quilt show or shop hop contact: Dolly Talmadge with Flyer and Bookmark Request in the subject line

INE: To suggest more interviews for INE – provide event news – or suggest a general topic you would like to read on this blog, please add your name to our contact form with a brief note in the comments box found at www.lcoakes.jimdo.com.

Please follow us on Twitter by selecting the 'follow me' button on our website, or by logging onto Twitter at @oakes333.

We are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/laara.oakes.9>

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INE Note: answers are provided by the interviewee and are not altered by INE unless the response is deemed inappropriate for a general audience.