

Quilts and Rockway

In the fall of 1945, thirty-three students registered at Rockway Mennonite School which began in a farm house. The two classrooms, dining-room and kitchen were all on the first floor. Instead of having the pupils rotate from room to room the teachers went from one class to another. In 1946, fifty students registered and the house was not large enough for three classes, so the barn was converted into a school.

Two of the quilts in this display illustrate the ties the original students had to the traditional quilting of the Waterloo County Mennonites. The graduating classes of '49 and '51 each got together and pieced and hand quilted "class" quilts which were presented to the first female classmate to get married. Audrey (Sallans) Huber wrote this amusing memory of the class of '49 quilt, "Miss Salome Bauman was our class advisor and she was an enthusiastic sponsor for this project. Mrs. Burkhardt (Mary's mother) sewed blocks together and put the quilt up in frames at her house. We all got together on a Saturday and quilted it. Some class members were slower than others to get their blocks done. Murray never seemed to get around to doing his so, at the last minutes, some of the girls just embroidered "Murray B. Good" which was usually what the teachers were saying to him!"

All the students in the class contributed to the quilt. Several photos show the class of '51 at a quilting. The young men were in white dress shirts with either a tie or bow tie and were intent on their work.

In 1992 an extensive renovation was made to the school. To honour our Mennonite heritage and rural farming roots, the cement silo was built to serve as a unique meeting room. The first quilt display was hung in 1993 and is changed annually. The quilt displays create a warm and welcoming space and further celebrate our Mennonite heritage.

Judy Gascho Jutzi (Class of '72), a fibre quilt artist in Kitchener, captured the Rockway spirit with four quilts that she designed and created. These were donated to four of the annual fundraisers known as The Auction Extravaganza. To further celebrate the connection between Rockway and quilts, Judy has been commissioned to create a new pictorial quilt for the 70th anniversary. This quilt will be auctioned at a special fundraising dinner. Don't miss your opportunity to bid on this amazing work of art!

The other quilts in this display all have Rockway connections. Lynn Bergsma Friesen and Gail Snyder (Class of '79) are current faculty. Mabel Sauder is the mother of Gail Snyder. Judy Patton and Jackie Fackoury are office staff. Shirley Grove (Class of '86) is the parent of a current student. The oldest quilt in this display was made for Shirley's grandmother, Fanny Grove, who was married in 1931.



Rockway at 70

Rockway at 70 by Judy Gascho Jutzi



Celebrating the 70th Anniversary
of
Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
through quilts

"The Silo"

~ September 2015 to June 2016 ~

1 Ellie's Surprise - Judy Patton

65 1/2 x 77

Although I have had an interest in quilting for many years and produced a few baby quilts, this is my first full sized quilt. It is appliqued and pieced using a pattern called Ellie's Surprise which was intended as a baby quilt. I increased the size to fit a double bed. It is machine quilted by Jennifer Schumm using a daisy pattern in pastel coloured thread. From the book *Pinwheel Pandemonium* by Peggy Waltman of Hopskotch Quilting.

2013

2 Candlewick - Mabel Sauder

82 x 90

Over the past 20 years, Mabel has made candlewick quilts for relief and for her family. It is a technique that involves tying colonial knots and is generally done on unbleached cotton. This quilt was made for her daughter, Gail Snyder.

3 Geometric Stars - Shirley Grove and Wes Dyck

84 x 92

This quilt was made by Shirley (Class of '86) and Wes for their wedding. They chose the fabrics together and it is machine pieced and hand quilted.

1992



4 Auctioneer's Quilt - Judy Gascho Jutzi

87 x 88

Judy called on her quilting friends and Relief Sale supporters to help make this theme quilt come together. She supplied the fabrics and had quilters make the blocks for the border. They represented quilts that have sold at the sale. Always on the lookout for unusual fabrics, Judy found some depicting furniture and tools and then created two other vignettes of items that have been sold on sale day. The quilt was created and donated as a tribute to the auctioneers who are some of the many volunteers who make the sale possible every year.

2002

5 Batik - Gail Snyder

32 x 38 and 20 x 38

This piece was made after completing a summer course on printing fabric. Some of the material was done in the course. It has been mixed with purchased batik and colourful raw silk.

23 Memories of Rockway

4 x 75.5

This quilt created from t-shirts was presented to Terry Schellenberg by Rockway's office staff when he departed for a new position at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg. Created and pieced by Lois Cressman (Class of '82). Machine quilted by Koren Martin.

2009



24 Trinity - Lynn Bergsma Friesen

21 x 28

Someone once wrote that "the Holy Trinity was always meant to be a mystery, but that hasn't stopped people from trying to explain it." Some things are better contemplated than explained and I suspect there is a deep connection between geese in flight and the holy. Machine pieced and quilted by Lynn.

2005

25 Canadian Table Runner - Jackie Fackoury

28 x 46

I am a Canadian through and through, so when a "Canadian" quilting pattern comes my way, I usually don't hesitate to do it. This runner adorns my dining room table a few days before, during and after our Canada Day celebrations. Cardinal Street Secrets pattern designed by Pix Martin. Machine pieced and quilted by Jackie.

2011

21 Rockway Quilt #4 - Judy Gascho Jutzi**80 x 80**

This quilt continued the Rockway theme, as the fourth in the series of original quilts created and donated to Rockway's Auction Extravaganza. Judy decided it would be the final themed quilt done in the school colours. She wanted to use up many of the fabrics in this colour scheme that had been collected over the years.

2004**22 Rockway Mennonite Collegiate 70th Anniversary Quilt****- Judy Gascho Jutzi****60 x 60**

This quilt was commissioned to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. From its humble beginnings in a barn and farmhouse to the large modern school buildings of today, Rockway has provided generations of students, both local and international, with a personalized faith based education. The centre panel depicts the original barn building contrasted by the main school buildings of the present day. Rockway's first principal, Harold Groh, and founding teacher, Salome Bauman, are also featured. The last apple tree is shown just before its removal making way for the large addition. A world map highlights popular school trip destinations. The framing blocks provide a trip over the years: students, teachers, principals, classroom settings, chapel, concerts, sports, plays, environmental trips; also service projects such as the thrift shop, yearly food drive, bikathon/servathon and the Rockway auction. Themed fabrics framing these images add visual interest while accentuating Rockway's red, black and white school colour theme. Take a closer look to see people and places you may recognize.

2015**6 Sawtooth Stars - Shirley Grove****50 x 50**

Shirley began this machine pieced quilt at a retreat. It was hand quilted by Shirley and a group of her friends.

2004**7 Rain Forest - Lynn Bergsma Friesen****41x 47**

I made this for my son, Simon Nathaniel Friesen. Pattern from *Quilt-maker's All-Time Favorites, Fall 2002* and modified using techniques from Gul Laporte's *Quilts from Europe: Projects and Inspiration*. So much work and so much fun... Machine quilted and pieced by Lynn.

2004**8 Pinwheel - Lynn Bergsma Friesen****28 x 36**

Inspired by Starburst Scrap Quilt by Camille Remme and featured in *Miniature Quilts Feb/Mar 1995*, this quilt was designed by Lynn and her children, Simon and Allegra Friesen. Lynn loves the inherently collaborative nature of quilting and the interconnected design of these pinwheels -each pinwheel contains parts of others. First place in Reichard's (Elmira) quilt contest. Machine pieced and hand quilted by Lynn.

2005**9 Sam's Quilt - Jackie Fackoury****38 x 42**

This quilt was pieced by Jackie while spending time at the trailer during her husband Sam's cancer treatments in London, Ontario. The inspirational poem "Thinking" by Walter D. Wintle is on the back. The pattern is Facets Quilt, a Jinny Beyer Studio Design. Machine quilted by Jennifer Schumm.

2014**10 Hope for a Unified Theory - Lynn Bergsma Friesen****34 x 34**

This quilt reminds me of some of the gorgeous pictures taken by the Hubble telescope. The name reflects my abiding interest in both theology and physics, and my conviction that they are one and the same. Machine pieced and quilted by Lynn.

2008

11 Class of '49 Graduation Quilt 65 x 80
This quilt is one of two that we know of, which were made by a graduating class and presented to the first class member to be married. Audrey (Sallans) Huber was the original recipient of this quilt. 1949

12 Butterfly Quilt 66 x 78
This vintage quilt is hand appliqued and hand quilted. It is believed to have been a wedding quilt for Fanny Grove, Shirley's grandmother who was married in 1931.

13 Class of '51 Graduation Quilt 64 x 78
This is the second quilt made by a graduating class and was presented to Alice (Good) Brubacher. Each class member appliqued a butterfly with a piece of fabric which had some significance to him/her. The class got together at the home of class members Jean and Lowell Shantz to have a quilting. What a remarkable group effort. 1951

14 Garden Time - Shirley Grove. 12 x 12
Paper pieced and hand quilted by Shirley Grove. 1999

15 Cardinal (No.2) - Lynn Bergsma Friesen 12 x 12
My dad who is a tremendous source of support and inspiration for me owns Cardinal (No.2). I owe my love of birds to him. Machine pieced and quilted by Lynn. 2008

16 Little Houses - Lynn Bergsma Friesen 12 x 12
Made sometime between 2005 and 2008 when my obsession with miniature quilts was at its peak. The little house featured in the quilt reminds me of the one I grew up in. Machine pieced and hand quilted by Lynn.

17 Rockway Spirit - Judy Gascho Jutzi 53 x 94
This quilt is Judy's first attempt at quilt making. She wanted to create and donate a unique quilt for the annual Rockway Auction Extraganza fundraiser. Themed fabrics were used in the simple design along with the school colours of red, black and white. Unbeknownst to Judy, fellow classmates from the Class of '72 were contacted to donate to the purchase of the quilt. It was donated to the school and hung in the hallway for many years. Original design, machine pieced, hand quilted.



18 Rockway, Then and Now - Judy Gascho Jutzi 60 x 80
This quilt was the second quilt that Judy designed and donated to the Rockway Auction. Pictorial quilts had caught her interest and this is her first attempt at this type of quilt. The vignettes depict Rockway as it looked in the late 40's and then again after an extensive addition in the late 90's. Revisiting this quilt brings back the early eagerness to create quilts even when there was much to learn about the technique. This quilt is a visual reminder that much has been learned and explored since this early attempt at pictorial quilt storytelling, but the initial joy of creating with fabrics remains constant. Original design, machine pieced and appliqued, hand quilted. 1999

19 Vancouver 2010 - Jackie Fackoury 42 x 44
Volunteering at the Olympics was an amazing adventure and I thought that there could be no better way to preserve my experience than by making a quilt. Of course the Inukshuk had to be the focal point as well as the five Olympic colours. The photos cover the complete experience. Original design, machine pieced and quilted by Jackie. 2010



20 Play it by Ear - Judy Gascho Jutzi 81 x 82
The third quilt that Judy designed and donated to the annual Rockway Auction Extravaganza. This time Judy asked her many quilting friends and Rockway supporters to help create some blocks. She supplied the fabrics and said, "make the blocks whatever size you'd like and let's see what happens". By now, Judy wanted to create quilts that were "outside the box" and had fun with the guitar and its 3D embellishments. She even hid a music box in one of the blocks that plays a tune. 2002