

# Meet Our Quilting Artists



## Saluting our Founder -- Barbara Tolleson – she inspires us to share the love of quilts.

Barbara grew up in a farming community in North Alabama where quilting was an integral part of the farm wife's experience. Many quilts were made for the express purpose of providing cover for their families usually from printed feed sacks. Companies that provided feed for chickens and other animals used cloth bags and legend has it that some enterprising farm wife contacted the company to request printed sacks. This was extremely valuable as money was scarce and the sacks were used to make clothing, quilts, sheets, etc.

Barbara enjoyed playing under the quilt frames when her grandmother and other women in the community gathered to quilt. When she married, her mother-in-law was a gifted needle work artist as well as a quilter. She made beautiful quilts and tried to interest Barbara in learning. That was not Barbara's interest then. When she was in her thirties, however, she finally became interested in antiques and quilts. Barbara loved the old quilts. She did want to learn how to quilt, and she had an expert quilter to teach her. She made a few quilts but discovered that she was a bit bored with quilting.

Barbara's love of antique quilts developed into an interest in learning about older fabrics and patterns used in older quilts. From that interest she learned how to repair old quilts that suffered from neglect or just aging of certain fabrics. She now has a collection of fabrics from the 1940s til today that she uses in repairing quilts.

In 1988 when Barbara became a Senior Citizen Center Director in Algood she had to do fundraising to support the Center. Because of her love of quilts she started the Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival. The Tennessee Arts Commission supported the Festival almost from the start. There was only one other quilt show in Tennessee when the UCQF started. Since that time, we have seen almost every town in the Upper Cumberland (churches or quilt guilds) organize a quilt show. We are still the largest show in the area and this year will be the 30th. We have seen interest in quilting explode in the last 30 years.

Members of our Quilt Show Board have offered guidance to other areas starting shows. One of the areas was Rugby and their show went on for 7-8 years. Most recently we shared ideas with a group from Old Mulkey State Park in Kentucky for expanding their beginning quilt show. They used our plan of spreading out over the community in several sites and involving other organizations and businesses. We have also assisted the Granville Quilt Festival in recent years.

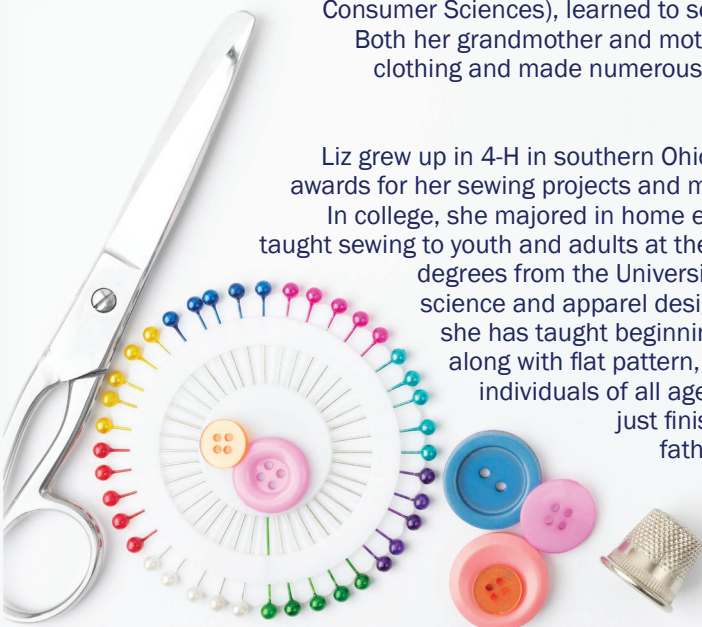
Through the years the Festival Board members have not lost sight that the purpose of the show is to provide a place to showcase the art of quilting from our area as well as from surrounding states. New quilts are encouraged by providing judging for the entries. Family collections are highlighted, classes are offered and programs on quilts are presented to local schools.

## Liz Mullens

Lizabeth (Liz) Self Mullens, Ph.D., CFCS (certified in Family and Consumer Sciences), learned to sew when she was 9 years old. Both her grandmother and mother sewed all the family's clothing and made numerous quilts that were used for warmth and comfort.

Liz grew up in 4-H in southern Ohio, where she won several awards for her sewing projects and made most of her clothes.

In college, she majored in home economics education and taught sewing to youth and adults at the YWCA. Liz has graduate degrees from the University of Tennessee in textile science and apparel design and construction, and she has taught beginning and advanced sewing, along with flat pattern, tailoring, and draping, to individuals of all ages. She loves quilting and just finished a quilt made from her father's old jeans and a t-shirt quilt for her granddaughter.



## Betty Robinson

She has been on the Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival board for ten years, and has even recruited her husband, Russ, to help out by hanging quilts for the displays. She looks forward to the festival every year & seeing the results of the hardwork of other quilters in the area.

Betty Chairs receiving, judging and hanging of all the quilts in competition each year at the Festival. She recruits volunteers to assist and her husband Russ even made many of the stands that are used for hanging the quilts for the show.

"I started embroidery back when I was 8 or 10 years old. I'd pick up my mother's stuff when she'd have to go to the kitchen to cook and she couldn't see what I was doing in the living room, so I would put some stitches in. She may have taken them out, I don't know," she chuckled.

From that early start, she kept learning as she grew, and when she married, she used her talents to make clothes for her daughter. Once her daughter outgrew the desire for homemade clothes, Robinson joined a quilt guild and continued learning. Then, in 1994, she and her family moved to Tennessee, and she immediately joined the Cookeville Crazy Quilters.

"You just learn so much in a guild," she said. "We had classes, we had teachers from out of town, and anybody who knew how to do anything would teach everybody else."

These days, she keeps busy with the Golden Needles quilting guild in Gainesboro, working on pieces for family and friends, and working on prayer quilts for her church, Washington Avenue Baptist, to give to those in need of comfort.

"I think people are surprised that people still quilt. People tell me, 'It's a dying art.' It's not a dying art. Now, a lot of us don't do the artsy quilts, we still do the old patterns, but we're still quilting up a storm."



## Cindy Rux

Cindy Rux learned to sew when her mother taught her to make doll clothes at eight years of age. She went on to sew most of her wardrobe and eventually that of her four children as well as many gifts and household items. Forty years ago she started making pieced and appliqued items. She has been making, and sometimes designing, quilts for 25 years, winning several awards.

Cindy has taught quilt classes and taught quilting to her Self-Contained Special Education students as well as to other teens. Other accomplishments including convincing her husband that it is normal to own several sewing machines and that fabric can be something one collects. Her sewing stash spans two states.

In September 2017 Cindy moved to Tennessee from Montana where she was active in the local quilt club and their annual quilt show. She attended events at the 2017 Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival and joined the board shortly after the Festival.





# The Ladies Who Quilt at the Algood Senior Citizens Center



**Vickie Matheny**'s mother taught her to sew at the age of 13. She loves crafts and needlework. She was interested in quilting and taught herself to quilt. She made her first quilt at age 16. Vickie has been quilting for 43 years. Vickie joined the Algood quilters in 2017.

**Marie Wilmoth** was a late bloomer to quilting. After she retired from teaching she came to the Algood Senior Center. She attended the Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival where I enrolled in a quilting class "Teeny, Tiny Stitches" and made her first wall hanging. She was hooked and the rest is history. She is now one of the Algood Senior Center Quilters.

**Peggy Finger** has been quilting for 75 years. She is self-taught and became a Certified National quilt teacher. She has also judged quilt shows.

**Cathy Ferrell** started quilting 18 years ago and her instructor was Vickie Matheny. They were part of a quilting group at Washington Avenue Baptist Church. They quilted quilts for the Cookeville Pregnancy Center and local nursing homes. She joined the Algood quilters in 2017.

**Fannie Mae Harris**'s grandmother taught her to quilt at the age of 12. She joined Algood Senior Center Quilters in 1988 and has been quilting ever since.

**Lee Nora Henry**'s sister taught her to quilt in 1972 in Pontiac, Michigan. She joined the Algood Senior Center Quilters in 2002.

**Mildred Judd** has been quilting since she was 10 years old. Her mother taught her to quilt. As a child she had a choice of picking garden vegetables or quilting, she chose quilting. She became an Algood Senior Center Quilters in 2002.







## Ann Barrett

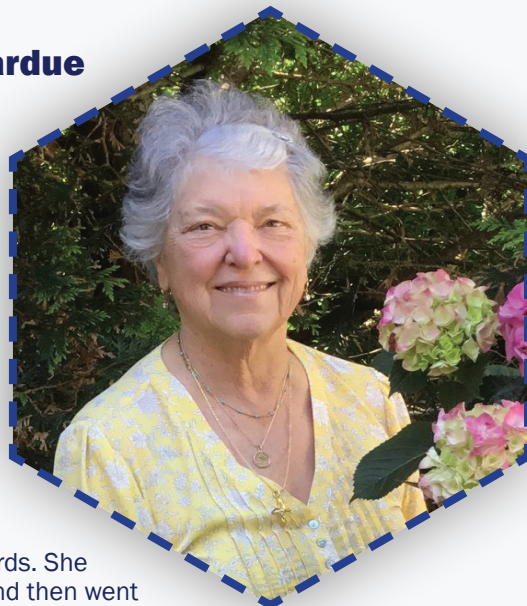
Ann Barrett is a phenomenal quilter who creates and brings several quilts to our festival annually. Her works is first class – in 2018 she entered three quilts and a quilted item (a rocking horse) and took home three first place awards. Ann quilts by hand and her stitches and quilting skills are truly outstanding. We are honored to have her share her art work with our festival and our guests.

## Nancy Pardue

Nancy Pardue has been sewing since she was nine years old and won the “Singer Sewing Contest” in Providence, R.I. for her dress. She then took up embroidery and won numerous awards from the Embroiderers’ Guild of America – the Educators Award of Excellence and the Golden Needle Award.

Two of her embroidery pieces have been selected to be in the National Tour – “Through the Needles Eye.” She is a member of the American Needlepoint Guild and has won “The Princess Grace Award in 2007.”

Nancy moved to Tennessee thirty years ago and began quilting shortly afterwards. She was a volunteer for the Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival and joined the Board, and then went on to be Coordinator for three years. She continues to serve on the board today giving leadership to marketing and overall coordination of festival logistics. Her love of the festival comes first and she also loves Algood where everything is All Good in Algood.



## Peggy Green

Peggy says, “I made my first quilt top at age 16 but only began quilting in earnest in 1990 when I completed a Double Wedding Ring that my Mother was working on at the time of her death in 1989. By the time I finished that quilt I was completely “hooked” and haven’t slowed down since. I enjoy sharing my quilts by entering them into shows, both locally and nationally.

I have had the honor of having three of my quilts show at the AQS show in Paducah, KY and two of them traveled Nationally with AQS. I am honored to have been invited to show my quilts at the Upper Cumberland Quilt Show.”

## Peggy Barrociere

Peggy Barrociere is a native of the Algood/Cookeville area. She received her B.S. degree from East Tennessee State University in Home Economics with a minor in Science Education. Sewing was her focus of study and she received certification to teach industrial sewing in vocational schools.

Peggy began her study of sewing at the age of 11 and continues taking classes to improve her skills today in both Quilting and Heirloom Sewing. She took her first quilt class in 2007 and instantly fell in love with the art. She also enjoys teaching children and adults the art of quilting and sewing.







## Brenda Curtis

Brenda Curtis started quilting when she was six or seven years old. She made her first quilt at age 13. Her Grandmother was a quilter and she taught Brenda how to hand quilt. Her first quilt was made on a treadle machine and she has been quilting ever since. She has made over 100 quilts. Brenda is the mother of three boys and lives in Bloomington Springs, Tennessee. She loves and collects antique quilts.

## Nettie Ford

Nettie remembers playing under a quilt frame while her mother and other ladies quilted. Her grandmother, America West, had a small cotton patch and taught Nettie how to card the cotton to use for making quilts. There was always a stack of that cotton being saved until there was enough to have for starting a quilt.

Nettie said she learned about quilting and sewing while she was growing-up, but had no time for doing so while her five children were growing up. Many people will remember Nettie as a school bus driver for years in the Putnam County school system. After her retirement, she had more time to start hand quilting. She has made several quilts for all of her children to treasure. She will display of many of the quilts she has hand quilted.



## Sandy Kennedy

Sandy Kennedy made her first quilt in 1975 for her first son. She then made a bed sized quilt followed by quilts for her other two sons. In 1990 Sandy's friend talked her into going to a quilt shop that was offering a quilt block of the month. Her friend quit after two months but Sandy was hooked.

Sandy has attended other classes to learn the basics like hand quilting, appliqué, and both needle turn and blanket stitch. One of Sandy's friends decorated her house with quilts and Sandy wants to be just like her.

She estimates she has made 100 table runners, wall hangings and full size quilts.

