

## My trip to quilting

Over thirty years ago one of my sons was getting married and I decided to make a quilt for their wedding gift. I decided on a Double Wedding Ring quilt, queen size. I had never sewn before. My wife suggested that I talk to Arlene Vrooman for advice. I wanted to sew the quilt without the use of a sewing machine. Arlene gave me instructions as to how to go about it. In about a year I had the top of the quilt completed. Quilting by hand was the next challenge. That was completed in a little over eight years.

In 2010 we decided to make simple quilts for our 12 grandchildren as their Christmas present. All were done by January 2011. Decided to continue quilting and joined a class at Arlene's house every Thursday. Arlene was and is an inspiration in my quilting life. She put me through the paces and guided me on many challenges.

I rented time on a dealer's machine and quilted our creations as well as those of our classmates. At a quilt show in early 2011 we had the opportunity to look at and try various longarm quilting machines. We decided on a Gammill. It was delivered mid-summer 2011. Since that time I have opened a small quilting business – "Quilt Quest". I enjoy the challenge each quilt offers.

We joined the Schoharie Valley Piecemakers Guild and have enjoyed the friendship there and their willingness to advise and share their knowledge of quilting techniques. My wife quilted for a reason or purpose – I quilt because I like to do it. Creating many UFO's. Most of my quilts have been gifted to my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I donate quilts to organizations for them to use for a raffle fundraiser. I enjoy, mostly, making traditional patterns. Love to make "I Spy" quilts. I have participated in local and regional quilt shows. I am currently the Treasurer for the SVP guild.

I also find time to deal with my many house plants and outdoor gardening. All are relaxing and rewarding.