

# OUR TOWNS

## Hartington

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## Hartington Quilt Guild Shows Its Stuff

### 'Piecemakers' Group Displaying Work At Public Library Gallery

BY LORETTA SORENSEN  
P&D Correspondent

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Color and creativity are the hallmarks of the Piecemakers Quilt Guild display featured at Hartington's Public Library through the end of February.

Hartington Library director Tami Anderson said the group's members have been holding monthly meetings at the library since 2007 and were happy to let the community see some of their work.

"This group organizes several Saturday work days during the year so they can work together on a quilt project," Anderson said. "They've made several quilts that were auctioned off to raise funds for organizations such as the Hartington Senior Center. They started meeting in 2007 in order to revise the rules and divisions of the Open Class Quilt Show at the Cedar County Fair."

Among the women displaying quilts and the library's art gallery is Jolene Leise, who's been creating quilts for approximately 20 years.

"My mother did some quilting and once I started making a few squares and looking at all the beautiful material available I started quilting too," Leise said. "At first, I made my own patterns. As time went on, I was reading more and more quilting magazines and started using some of the patterns I found in them."

Leise hasn't maintained a record of all the quilts she's made. Many have gone to friends and family or organizations that used them for fund raising purposes.

"I've never considered which one might be my favorite," Leise said. "I

remember the most challenging pattern I used. Every piece in it was one and a half inches wide. It was the Eureka pattern. I made a king-sized quilt and it was a lot of work."

Leise's fellow quilt makers laud her ability to complete a quilt in record time. Jeaneen Kuehn said she's worked more slowly at her projects over the past 15 years.

"I didn't like to sew when I was in high school," Kuehn said. "I'm using the same machine I used then, my mother's sewing machine. It's an old Singer, about 90 years old. Some of the quilters who have a Bernina come and use my machine for certain parts of their quilting process. It just sews perfectly."

Kuehn learned quilting basics from a friend when two blizzards kept them snowbound at her friend's home for more than a week. "I saw what she was doing and when she showed me the basics of quilting I was hooked," Kuehn said. "I've loved quilting ever since. I've probably made about 50 quilts and still have around 30 of them. I've started making quilts for the great-grandchildren, who I may never see, but I know my grandkids will eventually have children. I want them to have a quilt I've made."

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JEANEEN KUEHN

Carol Tramp of Wynot, said she started quilting because she was "too Scotch" to give away some quilt tops and blocks her grandmother had been working on when she passed away.

"When I was 16 I vowed I would never quilt," Tramp said. "My mother wasn't interested in quilting and she advised me to give away the tops and squares Grandma had. But I just couldn't bring myself to do it."



Jeaneen Kuehn of Hartington is one of the members of the Cedar County quilters group who helped organize a quilt show at the Hartington Public Library through the end of February. Several of Kuehn's quilts — featuring some traditional and some more modern patterns — are on display in the library's art gallery.

PHOTO: LORETTA SORENSEN

Tramp's mother-in-law, who regularly quilted, helped her put backing on the quilt tops and tie them. Tramp began to study the individual blocks her grandmother had created and figured out how to finish enough more blocks to make a quilt.

"I'm not good at the mathematical part of quilting," Tramp said. "My husband helped me figure out how big the blocks should be and how many I needed to get the size of quilt that I wanted. Once I made that quilt I wanted to make more."

As she learned more about making quilts and came to appreciate the art and finished product, she noticed that many men admired the quilt projects that featured colors that appealed to a male audience.

"We get a lot of comments from the men at the fair about the quilts made in darker colors," Tramp said. "Some of those quilts at the fair are absolute

works of art. Others are more simple, made by quilters who are just beginning. We're so fortunate that these ladies want to share their work with the rest of us."

Kristi Kruse, whose full-time job of working with stained glass has given her a broad artistic background, is also a member of the Piecemakers. She developed sewing skills by making clothing for her children when they were small. When she started considering taking up quilting as a hobby, she was enticed to try the art with the emerging technology at that time.

"I became interested about the time rotary cutters were coming out," Kruse said. "It was fun to use one. When I joined this quilting group, I found I was always learning something new from the other ladies. The patterns I've used in some of the quilts have helped with some stained glass projects too."

Like most other quilters, Kruse often uses her finished work as a gift.

"In the stained glass business my husband and I operate, we're trying to keep that old art alive," Kruse said. "I see that in the quilting activities, too. I hope the display at the library stirs interest in the craft of quilting and younger people who see the quilts will be interested in creating things with their hands. I hate to hear people say they aren't crafty and can't do anything like this. There are some very simple projects that can be done and I know that for all of us in this group, we can't imagine not quilting. It's become such a part of us."

Additional members displaying quilts at the gallery show include Lynnel Ficus, Vicky Gullicksen and Shirley Papenhausen, Coleridge; Ann Marie Kuehler, Kathy Lammers and Jolene Leise, Hartington; Jarinda Sudbeck, Fordyce; Sharon Haberman, Newcastle; and Carol Pinkelman, Wynot.

## Nebraska To Hold 'LYMPHOMathon' To Benefit Research And Education

The Lymphoma Research Foundation will host the first Nebraska LYMPHOMathon 5K walk on Saturday, April 24, at Mahoney State Park, located just off of I-80 at exit 426, between Omaha and Lincoln. Registration and check-in begin at 9 a.m. at the park pavilion. The walk will start at 10 a.m.

This year, the foundation will hold events in 24 cities to raise funds for lymphoma research and education. The LYMPHOMathon is a fun-filled, non-competitive event that offers survivors, family, friends, community, and corporate teams an opportunity to walk in honor of those whose lives have been

touched by lymphoma.

Lymphoma, a type of cancer that involves the lymph nodes, falls into two broad categories: Hodgkin's lymphoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in Nebraska is higher than the national average — with the 16th highest death rate. About 450 new cases of lymphoma are diagnosed in Nebraskans each year.

You can start a team, join a team, or sign up as an individual

by going to: [www.lymphomathon.org](http://www.lymphomathon.org). For more information, contact Bettina Frappier, Nebraska LYMPHOMathon planning team chair, (402) 559-6268, [bfrappie@unmc.edu](mailto:bfrappie@unmc.edu) or [nebraska@lymphoma.org](mailto:nebraska@lymphoma.org).

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