

PALS Meeting - September 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cheryl Berggren at 6:30pm.

An introduction and welcome was given to Lighthouse Quilt Guild and Connie Townsend, chairperson, who co-sponsored Deb Karasik, our speaker tonight. They had tickets for a "Houses" quilt to raffle, of which 80% of the proceeds would go to Habitat For Humanity.

Berrien Town and Country Quilt Guild sent Michelle Tuller and Ginger Hysell to market their upcoming quilt show "Quilts on the Lake Shore" October 14 & 15, 2016.

Deb Karasik and her husband, Jeff, were introduced and she proceeded to inform us that she has only been quilting since November, 2000. The reason for that was her daughter announced she was having triplets. Deb decided she wanted to make three quilts for these babies but had NO experience in the quilting world. Through trials and errors - many - she accomplished her tasks. Along the way she met and tried to purchase a Karen Stone "New York Beauty" kit but was refused the sale - too complicated for her. She learned that she could get "quilting (done) by checkbook". She bought Electric Quilt programs and found also that she needed to scroll over to see ALL of the blocks that were included in her programs.

By 2007 she had expanded her knowledge enough to be able to have trunk shows and teach classes. Deb learned how to "quilt" using her domestic Brother machine. "When you find your rhythm, stick with it." She took 2nd place at an International Show with an award for her quilting. It was the first quilt she ever quilted.

Her trunk show continued with her husband, Jeff, holding up many bright and spiky quilts. Many were Christmas tree skirts or wall hangings for other holidays. She likes traditional colors and almost always uses batiks, sometimes with wool or silk, and prefers Pellon batting. Deb is also a thread-a-holic having a wall of over 400 threads to choose from at her studio.

Her quilt creation process is to draw the quilt that she "sees" in her head with EQ help. And she challenges herself, trying to do different techniques and simplifying them. Deb says she was a hippy and that's where she gets her inspiration.

Deb was thanked for her show and classes "Batik Wheels" on Sunday and "Turning Over a New Leaf" on Monday. She was presented with a PALS mug and pin making her an honorary member.

The Muskegon Museum of Arts is having a show of 51 quilts titled "Circular Abstractions, Bull's Eye Quilts" curated by Nancy Crow from Aug. 25 through November 6, 2016.

Door prize drawings and a break.

Jamie Harwood announced that we now have 348 baby quilts for the October 3rd charity distributions.

Stash Cash drawing - Gift certificate to Abbi May's Fabric Shop.

More door prize and name tag tickets were drawn. The table runner, donated by Betty Ross, for the 2017 Threads of Friendship Quilt Show was awarded.

Kay Wilton announced that the Quilt Challenge material and rules for the 2017 ToF show will be available at the October meeting.

Deb Karasik's classes had a showing of their accomplishments. Then, there was Show and Tell from other quilters.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzette Mattson, Asst. Treasurer