

Featured Member Doreen Thornton

- How long have you been quilting? 5 years
- What got you started in quilting?

I was introduced to Quilting when I was 8 years old. Our family moved from Philadelphia, PA an hour north into Pennsylvania Dutch Country. The Pennsylvania Dutch ladies, at our church, would all seat around one quilt in a frame on Wednesdays. My Mom was encouraged to join them and so she did. My elementary school was right across the street, so after school I would walk over to meet my mom. I remember one day they let me take a few stitches in the quilt. My Mom has only made a few tops herself but hand quilted on many that were put in that frame. My Sister (who is 18 years older than me) has been the real quilter in the family and has been quilting along time. I never really wanted to start quilting because I saw how much time it took to complete a quilt from piecing to hand quilting. But, when Gene and I got married my Mother-in-Law (another woman in my life who could make quilts) asked me what kind of quilt did we want her to make for a wedding gift. I asked her if she would make us a wedding ring quilt. She asked me if I would pick out the fabrics and I was off to my first trip to a quilt shop. I remember seeing a quilt that was machine quilted and thinking maybe I could quilt- if I could machine quilt.
- Who taught you how to quilt?

I took one beginners class and made a nine patch/snowball wall hanging. I have learned through books, TV shows and all the Cherokee Rose Quilts Guild Classes
- What are your favorite quilts to do, i.e. appliqué, piecing, paper piecing?

I love the whole process of piecing fabrics together like a puzzle. Paper Piecing is really fun because of the ease in which you can piece unusual shapes. Applique is one skill I want to really work on. I have been taught how but have not made the time to really sit down and do it.
- What are your favorite colors to work with?

Well, this is a really hard question. I used to think I had favorite colors to work with (ie. hunter green, burgundy, and navy blue) then I was introduced to this world of quilting and all the different types of quilts you can make. What I am really drawn to right now is the way all different colors work together to make a whole new palette
- Favorite fabrics, ie Batiks, floral, kid prints?

Oh! I do love those batiks.
- Favorite Quilt shop?

Well, here is another tough question. I just don't like to pick favorites. Maybe I should say, I haven't been to a quilt shop I didn't like.
- If you sew by machine, what kind of machine(s) do you use?

Pfaff 1473 CD
- What inspires you to make a particular quilt most often?

I am inspired by fabric (that's why I collect it) ha! ha! I seem to also collect patterns (quilt magazines and books).
- Favorite quilting book or pattern?

Lone Star Quilts by Jan Krentz and Karen K. Stone Quilts (favorite pattern in book-Cinco de Mayo). I have loved reading and have all of Jennifer Chiaverini's novel on the Elm Creek Quilters

- On average how many quilts do you make in a year?
I am sad to say probably on about 1 per year.
- Do you quilt your own quilts or do you send them out?
I am trying to quilt my own. This is why I don't get many done. I have a lot of tops that are not quilted yet.
- What quilt related item are you working on right now?
Paper Piecing New York Beauty
- What other hobbies do you have besides quilting?
Square Dancing and Round Dancing (cued Ballroom Dancing), I have been a member of the Song of Atlanta Show Chorus for 12 1/2 years. We are a competing show chorus-by the way we just competed in our regional competition this weekend and won 1st place. This has qualified us to compete in the International Competition to be held in Honolulu, HI in November of 2008. I have just recently returned to my love of crocheting.
- One way that quilting has changed your life?
I have made such wonderful friends being a member of CRQG.
- Feel free to tell us more about yourself and your family below.
I am married to a wonderful husband Gene. We will be having our 13th Wedding Anniversary on April 30. I moved from Pennsylvania to Georgia when we were married.