



Featured Member **Susan Fisher**



How long have you been quilting? Since 1988

Who taught you how to quilt? I learned in California in a quilting class taught by Diane Leighton.

What are your favorite quilting techniques? I like to piece quickly so love chain piecing but I also enjoy hand work, both appliqué and quilting. I especially like the math involved in planning a quilt.

What are your favorite colors to work with? I seem to go through phases of favorites but since most of my quilts are scrappy I guess I like all colors.

What are your favorite fabrics to work with? 99.9% of the time I use cottons.

What is your favorite quilt shop? I pop in and out of most of the local shops including Phyllis's but really look forward to visiting quilt shops in other cities and countries. Not only do I wind up with a wider variety in my stash but a yard of fabric is a much better souvenir than a T shirt!

If you sew by machine, what kind(s) do you use? I use a Janome 6600 at home and a Janome Gem at workshops. I still have the Singer Featherweight I sewed garments on in the 60s and a Bernina that's never quite worked right.

What inspires you to make a particular quilt? It could be anything from a pattern to a book to a quilt hanging in a show.

What is your favorite quilting book or pattern? I don't know that I have a favorite.

On average, how many quilts do you make in a year? I started to keep a photographic record by year of quilts completed and was surprised to count eighteen in 2010. However, I start a lot more than I finish each year! My UFOs are each in a separate plastic box and easily number in the dozens. I try to finish a least one of them each year and have now given myself permission to give up on those that deep down in my heart I know I won't ever finish. A couple of those end up in the Rauction every year.

Do you quilt your own quilts or do you send them out? I send most of them out, especially anything bed sized. I'll attempt to machine quilt, but it's not my sharpest skill.

What quilt-related item(s) are you working on right now? I've got two quilts for friends at the machine quilter's right now and another that I'm going to machine quilt myself after I finish the project that I started when my son was four. He's now almost 27.

What other hobbies do you have? I'm a voracious reader and movie goer. Although you wouldn't know it by looking at my yard, I'm a Master Gardener and volunteer at the Plant a Row for the Hungry located at the Smith-Gilbert Gardens in Kennesaw. I also love to travel.

Tell about one way that quilting has changed your life. In 1987 we moved from urban Southern California to rural Northern California. I don't think I've ever been more miserable. One day a woman I'd met at the park (our sons were the same age and had the same big wheels so became instant buddies) invited me to the quilt show put on annually by the local guild. I walked into that building, took one look and thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Somehow that town of 25,000 people had a quilt guild with nearly 300 members! I joined the guild that day and enjoyed every minute of it. I never did like living in that town so was beyond thrilled when my husband's job took him to Atlanta. Big change #2: In 1995 we moved to

Kennesaw. The first week in Georgia I went to an East Cobb Quilt Guild meeting where I met Jean Ann Wright. She called me the next day, offered me a job and suddenly I found myself the Managing Editor of Quilt magazine, a position I held for the next nine years.

Are you on any committees with the CRQG? This year I'm the Georgia Quilt Council liaison.

Feel free to tell us more about yourself and your family. My husband Jim retired a few years ago and now spends most of his time on the golf course. We split our time between Kennesaw and the Florida panhandle. Jim likes to travel, too, so we make frequent trips to the west coast to visit family and try to take one Big Trip requiring a passport each year. Our son Jay is in grad school at UGA.