

PaperPieces

November/December 2013

Quilters Checklist>>>

- Our meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 38900 Harper Ave. in Clinton Township beginning November 4
- Remember to bring Show and Tell projects
- Wear a Name Tag
- Smile

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November Speaker—Lynda Howell

Program List 2013—2014

Charity Sew Update

Road Trip

Wine and Quilts—A Winning Combination



One foot at a time...

Lynda Howell to show machine feet

Lynda Howell, the designer behind the popular Stitch Connection patterns, will be the guest speaker at our November 4th meeting. Her website www.stitchconnection.com reveals an extensive collection of designs, blocks of the month, machine embroidery, hand stitchery, books and patterns.

Lynda started working in a quilt shop in 1978. What began as a part-time job quickly blossomed into a passion. Today she is an expert on machine embroidery. Lynda has taken all the guesswork out of using sewing machine feet and created amazing colorful designs with them. She will share some of her tips and techniques with our guild. Originally from Flint, Lynda lives in Canton.

Her company, The Stitch Connection, began in 1990 with a handful of basic designs followed by block of the month applique programs. Her self-published books, **Winter Wishes** and **When Children Dream**, showcase innovative designs of her whimsical talent and provide quilters the opportunity to create memorable keepsakes.



Patches of Posies, one of many machine embroidery patterns by Lynda Howell.

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&

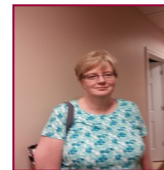
Marj Bryen



Committees

CHARITY

Claudia Baker,
Mary Ellen Zajac
& Crew



SUNSHINE

Sue Rakowski



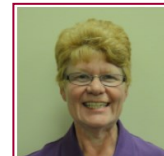
WEBSITE

Tracey Shock



RETREATS

Diane Tocco



HISTORIAN

Kathy Wallace

HOSPITALITY

Kathy MacFarland, Carol Holloway,
Peggy Lau, Amy Pribac
& Dianne Stall

Retreat & Fest News>>>

Upcoming Fests will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church Community Center, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The \$20.00 cost includes lunch. **Fran Pietron** will collect money for Winterfest beginning in December. Checks are payable to: MCQG.

2014

Winterfest Saturday, January 19, 2014

Lakeport Retreat February 22-24, 2014

Springfest Saturday, April 13, 2014

Program List 2013—2014 >>>

Incorrect dates in the September/October newsletter have been corrected. The Triangle Exchange for January has been cancelled. There will be a Quilt Book Exchange in its place. Look through your books and bring one or two to exchange. Also in January we will have a Whistle Stop. Several guild members will set up stations to teach varying techniques. In April there will be a discussion about our Quilt Show.

Sue Sharkey—Vice President

2013

November 4, 2013—Lynda Howell: Trunk Show and Lecture

November 9, 2013—Charity Sewing

December 2, 2013—Christmas Party Potluck

2014

January 6, 2014—Whistle Stop and Quilt Book Exchange

February 1, 2014—Charity Sewing

February 3, 2014—Ami Simms: How NOT to Make a Prize Winning Quilt

March 3, 2014—Nancy McNally: Trunk Show and Lecture

April 7, 2014—Quilt Show Discussion

April 24, 2014—Quilt Show Set Up

April 25-26, 2014—Quilt Show

May 5, 2014—Monica Johnstone: Trunk Show and Lecture

June 2, 2014—President's Tea (Members only)



Greetings from the President >>>

I think everyone is glad that we are moving back to Trinity for our meetings, beginning in November. While we had thought that the American Legion Hall would be a good place to meet, there was no way to know until we had our first meeting. Then it was obvious that the Hall would not meet our needs. We are lucky that Trinity had our meeting dates available for the rest of this year. If you know of someone who was not at our October meeting, please pass the word along.

Have you ever made a quilt from a magazine and at the end it says "Quilt as desired?" I think the quilting part is what stumps me the most. There is a unique quilt site on the Internet that might help you think of ways to finish your quilt. Check out <http://freemotionquilting.blogspot.com/p/start-here.html>. Quilter Leah Day challenged herself to produce 365 days of free motion quilting designs. All of the designs are done on her home table top machine. She made a video of each one. I found her tips and ideas very helpful.

With the price of fabric so expensive these days, I also ran across a site called www.thousandsofbolts.com. It has quality fabric by well-known manufacturers. Most of it is priced at \$4.95/yard. I think I'll order some for a backing to try it out. If you come across websites worth sharing, let us know. Links can be listed on our website. Happy Quilting! **Jill Stiger, President**



Can you help?

Saturday, November 9 is our next Charity Quilting Day. We will meet at the Main branch of the Clinton Macomb Public Library, corner of Canal and Romeo Plank in Clinton Township. We have reserved the auditorium. Please bring your own lunch, there is a kitchen for our use.

We will be cutting and sewing quilt kits. Please bring your sewing machine or mat and rotary cutter. We have lots of kits to work on. Please consider joining us on Saturday, November 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any questions, please contact me at 586-226-1968 or clbcreations@comcast.net.

Claudia Baker, Charity Committee

Paper Pieces deadline change

The deadline for the next newsletter is **December 10th**. The January/February, 2014 issue will be published before Christmas. Please send articles to: colleenbelli@gmail.com

Colleen Belli, Editor



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Specializing in custom bars, bathroom windows, basement windows, and more!

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WANTED: Gently Used Books, Patterns and Projects

Do you crochet, knit, quilt, cross stitch or sew? Do you have patterns, books or projects that you will never use? Do you have supplies that you no longer need? Do you have extra handmade items that you would like to get rid of? Please donate them to the guild to sell at our quilt show boutique. The money raised will be designated for programming, specifically for guest speakers in 2014/2015. The boutique has a two-fold purpose, to help members clean out their sewing rooms and help the guild at the same time.



Please bring all items to the quilt show on the day of set up, Thursday, April 24. Then they will be priced to sell. Any questions, please contact Claudia Baker at 586-226-1968 or clbcreations@comcast.net

And the Winner Is...

Michigan Quilter Takes Top Honor at ArtPrize

A quilt won top honors in October at **ArtPrize**, an international art competition held in Grand Rapids. **Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore**, the winning entry created by Ann Loveless, is a huge landscape art quilt. Ann is the first quilter to win first place, a whopping \$200,000. In its fifth year, **ArtPrize**, is unique in that its unprecedented huge prize is decided entirely by public vote.

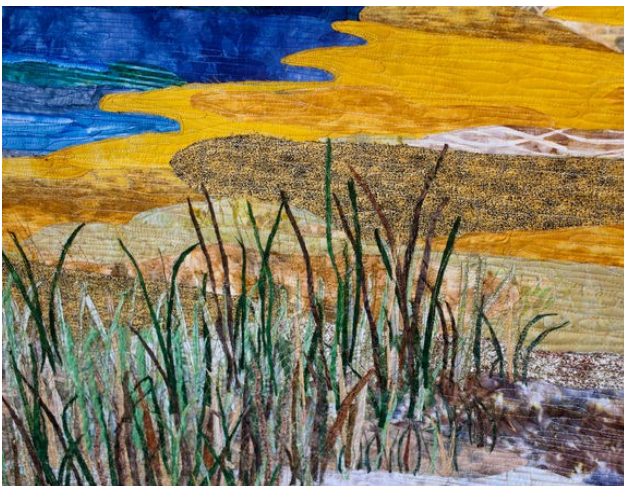
Five feet tall and 20 feet long, **Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore** is a four-paneled quilt depicting one large panoramic beach scene with Sleeping Bear Dune in the distance. It captures a beautiful Lake Michigan sunset, sparkling water, dune grass in the breeze and birch trees. The viewer is drawn into this art by its vivid colors and warm details.

Many look and think the piece is a photograph or oil painting but it's a quilt, and the art world has taken notice. Ann has been quoted saying, "Textiles aren't considered fine arts. They think of the quilt on the bed. But definitely this is art. I think I'm paving the way for quilters in general."

Ann Loveless is a northern Michigan textile artist who found her calling 10 years ago in landscape art quilts. She and her husband Steve Loveless own **State of the Art Gallery** in Beulah where Ann's work is on display.

What will Ann do first with \$200,000? Buy fabric at her local quilt shop, of course.

Ann Loveless will speak at MCQG in November, 2014.



One of four panels of **Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore**, a huge landscape art quilt.



Guests view the quilt at **ArtPrize**, which is open to the public every fall in Grand Rapids.



All in a Week...

On the Road with Sherry Scharra>>>

Note: With her collection of 80 quilted jackets, board member Sherry Scharra put on a trunk show for the Sugar Spring Stitchers last year. Along with a luncheon, it was held at Sugar Springs Golf Course. Sherry's week-long adventure, in her own words, is detailed here.

I traveled up I-75 with my friend Barb on Monday, May 21, 2012 to Sugar Springs. We stayed with another friend June, who served lunch upon our arrival. We proceeded to Crocker's Attic quilt shop in West Branch for the afternoon. At this point everything was going smoothly.

June prepared a spaghetti dinner and during this meal a fly landed in my water glass! One may think this not worth mentioning but it will be understood by the end of the story. Later we opened our computers in the sewing room to learn some new software. While I was using a new computer, it asked questions about June's wireless internet. I thought nothing of it at the time. The rest of the evening was filled with stories and laughter.

On Tuesday morning we discovered my computer had hijacked June's wireless internet, renamed it and also put a security code on it. We had no idea what the security code was. We spent several hours trying to undo the hijack. We even put a call into Super Tech David for help. Super Tech David instructed us to reset

the router by putting a paperclip into the tiny hole on its back. Well, June's computer decided to do a lengthy update so June decided it was time to walk away and go quilt shop hopping. We all thought that was a fine idea.

After traveling about five miles, June, Barb and I were stopped by two police cars. We thought this would not be a problem since June's husband is a retired police officer. June asked the officer if there was a fatal accident ahead. The officer looked at us and said, "Ladies, have you listened to the news?" While we had played with computers, we missed the news. Well, there was an escaped prisoner on the loose hiding somewhere in the Houghton and Roscommon area. The police officer instructed us to continue down the road until the next officer stopped us.

We thought about a good friend Betty, who always carries our bail money for these shopping trips. One may wonder why we need bail money. Well, that's another story. We just had to call Betty for a good laugh because she was not on this exciting trip when we might need some extra money.

As we pulled into the next intersection there are several officers, including one with an AK47. We immediately closed up our conversation with Betty and stopped finding this "a humorous situation." June proceeded to say hello to the officer and tell him we

appreciated his work and that she is the wife of a retired officer. The officer with the AK47 looked at June and said, "Open your trunk." No friendly smile, June had hoped he would frisk us but no such luck! Thank goodness the trunk was empty and June figured out how to open it. (We were in her husband Bob's car which June had never driven before.) The officer instructed us to detour to I-75.

We proceeded to Gaylord and spent the afternoon fabric shopping and had lunch. When it was time to go home some I-75 exits were closed due to the escapee. Road signs instructed us to Exit 18. Then our next road was closed, so another officer sent us back. Bob's car had no GPS, so I pulled up the map on my I-phone but very little signal was available. We finally managed to get to June's where her sister Jeannie and niece Amy were waiting. We shared the exciting story of our day.

We spent several more hours trying to get the wireless internet working. I was ready to go out and buy a new router. June is stubborn and refused to do this. We thought maybe we could redo the reset. June turned the router box over and read, "Push this button to reset." I insisted, "We have to use a paperclip." June asked, "What is this button I have been pushing?" It was time to look at the instruction book. To our surprise, the button June had been pushing was the

See Page 6

More Goodies, Please...

Kudos for Hospitality Committee

Let's give a round of applause to the ladies on the hospitality committee. They come early to set up coffee, tea and hot water for every guild meeting and stay late to clean up and close the kitchen. Please support the committee and our guild by donating desserts or healthy snacks. Each member is asked to donate baked goods or finger food during the month of her birthday. For example, if you have a November birthday, please bring food to the November meeting. The members with birthdays in December, June, July or August are asked to provide goodies in any other month of their choice. Also, feel free to drop 50 cents or a dollar into the coffee fund jar which is on the counter by the kitchen. The money is used to buy coffee, tea, napkins, paper plates and other supplies. Thank-you! *Sue Sharkey, Vice President*



On the Road... *From Page 5*
on/off button for the wireless signal. Finally the wireless and the internet began working again at June's. What an accomplishment.

On Wednesday morning we prepared for the trunk show, where 70 ladies were expected. We moved all the jackets on a borrowed coat rack. The rack was moving by itself, so we locked the wheel. Whoops, the lock snapped back and took a quarter-inch hole out of my thumb causing lots of blood and needing many band aids. I had to be careful not to get blood on my jackets. The luncheon went smoothly with great food, vendors and samples of sewing techniques on the jackets.

Everyone was tired as we packed to go back to June's home. I went to the parking lot to move my car, a brand new GMC Acadia. I didn't see a parking sign that stood three feet tall. I managed to clip it with my right front fender

which spun it around and wedged under the tire. My car drove over the cement base causing the tire to spin in the air. I was stuck and couldn't get off the cement base. I was so embarrassed. Looking for help, there were men over by some golf carts looking at me. I could see their faces and imagined, "That stupid woman drove over the parking sign." Finally a gentleman and his caddie came over. After several attempts with strict instructions from the gentleman, the car was still stuck. The helpful caddie got the car jack out and raised the right front wheel and the sign was pulled out. I asked the gentleman if I could buy him a drink. Walking away he said, "I don't drink." My translation was, "Stupid woman." The caddie put away the jack and I gave him \$20, thanking him profusely.

After loading the jackets into the car, it was time to go back to June's where I knew Bob would be waiting with some comical re-

marks. I had perspired through all my clothes with the heat and embarrassment. I just wanted to hide. Bob was there and I managed to laugh at his comments. I asked for a lemonade and vodka which Bob was happy to get, such a nice man. We swapped other stories of dumb things we had done in the past while enjoying our cocktails. Later we decided to go out for dinner.

Before departing, I checked my e-mail to learn ONSTAR alerted that my right front tire pressure was low. (I guess when you raise the car on a jack the tire pressure can't be transmitted to ONSTAR.)

It was time to end this day with a nice dinner, where a fly landed in my soup!

Note: The prisoner, who had escaped while on route to jail, was caught a week later on the road right in front of the golf course.
Sherry Scharra, Education



Colleen's Corner

Wine and Quilts - A Winning Combination>>>

You never know where you will stumble upon a quilt, a new flavor of tea or a good bottle of wine. While I have purchased tea in a quilt shop, I have yet to find wine for sale in one. Earlier this year, however, I found quilts in a California wine shop.

My husband Lou and I ventured to picturesque Carmel Valley for a wine tasting tour in late April. When we entered Parsonage Village Vineyard, there was an immediate warm feeling. The tasting room was filled with wine and beautiful quilt art.

The winery is owned and operated by Bill Parsons and his wife Mary, who is an accomplished quilter. The duo planted their seven-acre Parsonage Village Vineyard in 1998. Their first bottles appeared in 2000 and now annual production has reached 1,500 cases. The label designs of Parsonage wine bottles are created from Mary's quilts.



Parsonage Village Vineyard
Tasting Room in Carmel Valley, California



Bill and Mary Parsons

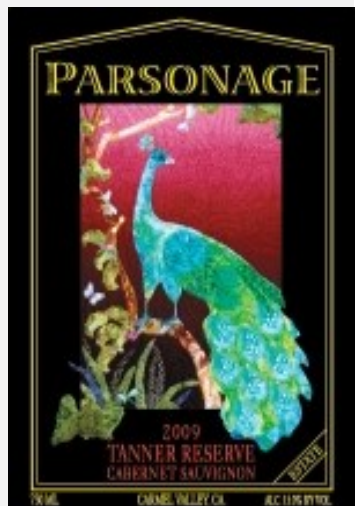
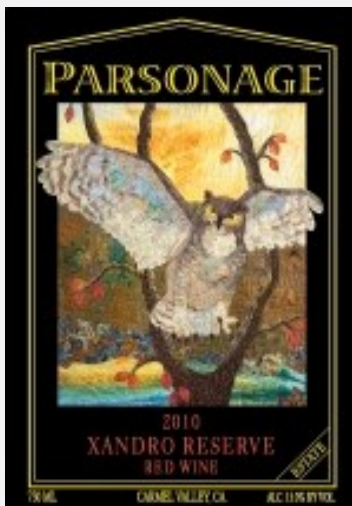
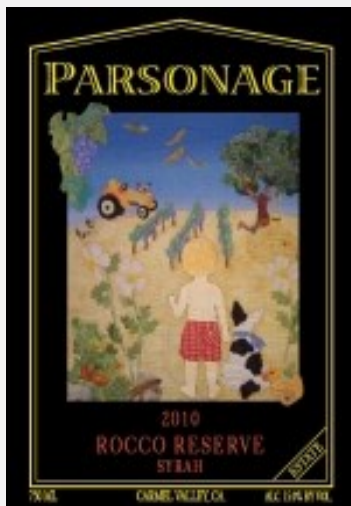
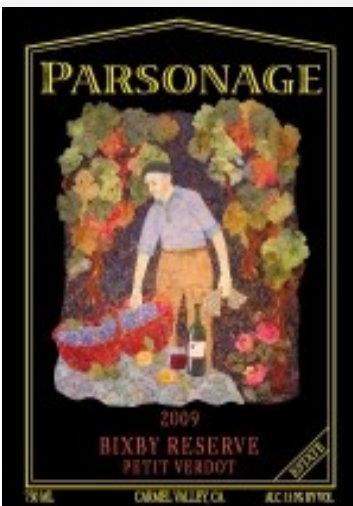
Below, quilt labels of four Parsonage wines named after grandsons: Bixby, Rocco, Xandro and Tanner.

A self-taught textile artist, Mary began her quilt journey in the late 1970's when she became a partner in the Wild Goose Chase Quilt Shop in Pacific Grove, California. Her award-winning pictorial quilts have been displayed in many solo and group exhibits. Mary's work appears in several books, including *Wine Country Quilts*.

The couple not only planted grapes, they built a winery, a tasting room, a home and an art studio all on the property. Mary quilts in the studio in the midst of this idyllic setting.

Always creative, the Parsons named their venture Parsonage because the Parsonage is where the Parson and his family live. That includes three daughters and two sons-in-law, all working in the family business. There are six grandchildren, too.

Perhaps someday I will find quilts in a tea shop. You just never know when or where. **Colleen Belli, Editor**





Happy November/ December Birth- day to ...

Katherine Delicato - November 1

Kathryn Hellebuyck - November 3

Sherry Scharra - November 8

Doris Breitreuz - November 13

Joyce Wells - November 14

Marilyn Lekki - November 21

Maureen Cobb - November 24

Evelyn Washchuk - November 25

Barb Olinski - December 6

Valerie Gach - December 8

Nancy Ficano - December 11

Marie Chesney - December 13

Carol Holloway - December 15

Carol Ann Trullard - December 16

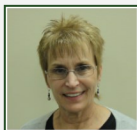
Sunny Howe - December 18

Cindy Dembeck - December 21

Merry Johnson - December 25

Carol Serenko - December 25

Cathy Riley - December 27



From the Past President>>>

Next year, in 2014/2015, our MCQG will need a new secretary. Cindy Dembeck's term will expire. Please consider volunteering for this position. If anyone is interested contact me at any time. Remember, the Macomb County Quilt Guild has to have a Board to exist.

The duties of the guild secretary are:

- Manage the Board and guild meeting minutes.
- Maintain records of the Board and ensure effective management of organization records; is sufficiently familiar with legal documents (articles, Bylaws, IRS letters, etc.).
- Ensure distribution of minutes to members shortly after each meeting.
- Compose and send press releases for special speakers and events. Keep records of newspapers and contacts.
- Handle outgoing correspondence of the Guild membership and Board.

Kathy Santo, Past President

Licensed to Sell Tickets...

MCQG To Raffle Quilts at Quilt Show

You may have heard the good news that MCQG has received a state license to conduct a raffle. We have two quilts, made by guild members, to raffle at our Quilt Show in the spring. Ticket price has been set at \$1. Tickets have already been printed and bundled in packs of 25. We are asking each member to sell or purchase a pack. Please help support our guild and make the raffle a success. The winning ticket will be drawn on the last day of the Quilt Show, April 26. You need not be present to win.

The Quilt Show Committee is still in need of volunteers to chair set up/ take down, decorating and hospitality. Please volunteer. See Marj Bryen or Fran Pietron.

Marj Bryen, Quilt Show Committee

Congratulations to **Merry Johnson** who found her birthday published here in the September/October 2013 edition of Paper Pieces.

If your birthday falls on **April 4th**, be the first* to call **Colleen Belli** at **(586) 263-9795** to receive a \$20 gift certificate to

JoAnn Fabric & Craft Stores.

*If more than one birthday falls on the date above, the first to call wins the prize. There will be only one prize.



Sewing, Sewing and More Sewing...

Fun, Food and Laughs at Lakeport Retreat

A Quilt Retreat is a lot of fun! MCQG has two retreat weekends every year, in February and September, at Lake Huron Retreat Center. With hotel quality rooms on beautiful Lake Huron, the center is a comfortable place to sew, relax and enjoy time with guild members and friends.

A United Methodist facility, the retreat center is a short drive 15 miles north of Port Huron. Just passed Lakeport State Park, our members call it Lakeport Retreat. There are several stores to enjoy along the way including Mary Maxim in Port Huron and Sew Elegant quilt shop in Fort Gratiot. In September this year 38 women attended, including 31 who departed on Thursday for a four-day weekend.

Upon arrival, rooms are assigned in Littleton Lodge and sewing gear is set up in two large conference rooms. Fourteen rooms with private bath, most have one queen and two single beds. With gathering areas and a large double-sided fireplace the lodge has lots of space to sit and talk or curl up with a good book. Large picture windows provide excellent views of Lake Huron, boats and freighters. Early birds can catch a sunrise. Wireless Internet is available to keep in touch with the world.



Group photo outdoors at fall retreat, 2013.

Just a few steps away, meals are served in Kresge Dining Hall which has another breathtaking view of the lake. Guests do not have to cook! Meals start with dinner Friday evening, followed by three Saturday and brunch Sunday. The cost of the weekend varies by the number of people in a room and the number of nights stayed. The guild makes arrangements for massage therapists to work at our retreats. Ladies can reserve and pay for a 30- or 60-minute massage. *See Page 9*

“What Happens in Lakeport, Stays in Lakeport”

Below, guests can enjoy lunch outdoors, the dining room and a hall with stairway in Littleton Lodge.



Overheard at Fall Retreat

“What’s a hashtag?”

“It’s for Twitter. It shows a Twitter address.”

“Do you Twitter?”

“I Twitter but I don’t Tweet. I like to read other people’s Tweets.

And you?”

“I don’t Twitter or Tweet. I’m Illlitterwit!”

What is a Fest? A Quilting Bee?

A Fest is like a mini retreat, for just one day. It is time set aside to sew while enjoying the camaraderie of our members. Three fests every year—Fallfest, Winterfest and Springfest are held on Saturdays at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Clemens. Members bring their own sewing gear and supplies, as well as their wallets. A vendor comes in to show and sell the latest quilt patterns, gadgets and fabric. Throughout the day there may be presentations, challenges or a quick workshop. There is always a drawing for great prizes and lunch is catered so guests can concentrate on projects or relax and chat. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., it is all about quilts and having fun. A Quilting Bee is also a day of sewing—for charity. The guild supplies donated fabric and batting. Members share their time and talent by cutting or sewing quilts to be donated to hospitals, nursing homes and other organizations.

It's a Party Now!

Time for Singing and Dancing

At fall retreat there was a lot of noise in the conference room at the north end of the lodge. Laughter seemed to erupt most often around Pam Tibbitts, the life of the party. Late Saturday night a bunch of ladies started singing Broadway show tunes. Pam and Kathy Santo got up and danced, followed by more bursts of laughter.

To anyone who would listen, Pam declared, "I have to tell you a funny story. I share a room with Marie (Chesney). Last night when we went to bed we found chocolates on our pillows. I woke up in the middle of the night and heard Marie rustling around in the dark. When I turned the light on there was chocolate all over Marie. I didn't know it was chocolate when I first looked." Pam didn't reveal what she imagined the brown mess was. Marie admitted she went to sleep with chocolate in her hand. When she woke up, "It was on my face, in my hair, all over the pillow and the sheets," Marie described. She had to shower and change the bedding in the wee hours of the night. When asked why she went to bed with chocolate, Marie simply stated, "I didn't want Pam to take it!"

Lakeport Retreat... From Page 8

massage. What makes Lakeport special is its location on a beautiful piece of property. Guests can walk around the center or on the beach. Most of the time at retreat, however, is spent on sewing, sewing, and more sewing. Some guests like to sew early, others like to sew late and a few stay up all night. The conference rooms are filled with the whir of machines amid lots of talk and laughter. Sewing tips and tools are shared, as well as snacks. There is always a friendly face to help with a quilt question. By Sunday the halls and stairways are filled with colorful quilts of all shapes and sizes, a sight to behold! Before going home, there are prizes and lots of hugs with promises to return to Lakeport Retreat.

Colleen Belli, Editor



One of two large sewing rooms.



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