



Your Friends, Your Neighbors, Your Community

CCQ Member Biography

Name	Laura Woodson Kelly
Occupation	Works as a supervisory engineer for the USCG (as a civilian not active duty).
How might people in the community know you?	I like fixing broken things, making new things, and am personally focused on keeping important things from failing during earthquakes (I'm a member of the Governor's Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission and focus on retrofitting critical facilities). I also spend lots of time hiking and cross-country skiing Juneau's many trails.

Quilting Background

When did you begin quilting and why?	I made a Christmas tree skirt for my new husband and me back in the 1990's, but in 2005-ish a co-worker of my husband's came for dinner and offered to help me make a block of the month applique quilt called <i>At Home in the Woods</i> by McKenna Ryan. I got hooked on the process and camaraderie of working together on a small project once a month – and each person's end result was so beautiful and unique.
How do you like to express yourself through quilting?	Applique is still my favorite quilting process, and lately I've been trying to place fabric in a way that works almost like impressionist paintings. I have a distant relative (Eustace Ziegler) who was a famous Alaskan painter, and I currently enjoying using this method to bring some of his paintings back to life in fabric.
What do you do with your quilts?	Like many quilters, I keep some, but I truly enjoy giving them away. I can't think of a better way to welcome a new baby, celebrate a marriage, or say 'until next time' or 'I'm thinking of you' to those you care about. The quilt guilds are also great at finding charities/organizations we can benefit.
Describe your first quilt and when you made it?	The first quilt I made was as a newlywed from a pattern my mother gave me, after her friend gave it to her. It was simple, but beautiful. I didn't have a sewing machine at the time but found a reasonably priced treadle machine and bought it on a whim. I fixed the leather belt and had the best time making that quilt... but it was only good for piecing (I ended up tying it with floss). I guess that's what started my machine addiction!!!

Laura's first quilt was a Christmas tree skirt she made as a newlywed @1996:

