



# Your Friends, Your Neighbors, Your Community

## CCQ Member Biography

Name	Raydene Garrison
Occupation	Gratefully retired!
How might people in the community know you?	I've lived in Juneau for 45 years and have been active in the community and the school system with my "Ski-Bum" husband Bruce, while raising our son Matthew and daughter Carly. I worked in Finance for the State for many years, owned a restaurant, helped out and taught at a local quilt store for a couple of years as I eased into retirement. I skied for many years, explored different art mediums, and continue to garden, fish, hike and volunteer, as well as quilt.

## Quilting Background

When did you begin quilting and why?	In 1993, we had a death of a close family member that we were caregivers for, and a good friend talked me into joining the guild for some "me time". She handed me the tiniest needle I'd ever seen and showed me how to applique some hearts. I'd never quilted before joining the guild, but took all the classes I could and had many sweet, patient members mentor and encouraged me.
How do you like to express yourself through quilting?	I love to learn new techniques, and then to incorporate them all together. I don't seem to have any one style, but like instead to try all kinds of things. I've always felt more comfortable as a three-dimensional artist, so I am drawn to putting dimension and texture into my quilts as well as using color to try to keep them from being just a flat medium.
What do you do with your quilts?	Just like most any quilter, I give my quilts away! The best version is when I get to make a quilt with someone in mind to give it to so that I can make it personal. It's a way of sharing our love and care for those special people.
Describe your first quilt and when you made it?	My first quilt was a small wall hanging from a class in 1993 taught by Sally Dwyer – now of Petersburg fame. I turned it into a large pillow for my son and hand quilted it. It only took that one project to show me that at that rate I would never be able to finish more than a quilt or two in my lifetime, and that I needed to learn to instead get good at machine quilting!! That is something I continue to strive for.

Raydene turned her first (hand-quilted!) quilt into a pillow for her son:

