

Quilt Labels Complete the Story

Preserving history and legacy ~
one quilt at a time

Why Talk About Quilt Labels?

- ❖ Quilts often outlive their makers
- ❖ Without labels, stories get lost
- ❖ Labels give quilts a voice



Quilts as History

- ❖ Most antique quilts were unlabeled
- ❖ They were passed down through the generations
- ❖ Many details were lost over time



Quilts are artifacts not just bedding

- ❖ Women's creative work was often unrecorded
- ❖ Quilt historians needed documentation to tell the story
- ❖ Labels preserve personal and cultural history



Tell Your Story

- ❖ Identify the maker
- ❖ Record dates and locations
- ❖ Preserve family stories
- ❖ Add sentimental & historical value



Designing your labels

Your label can be:

- ❖ Simple or decorative
- ❖ Traditional or modern
- ❖ Serious, poetic, or playful

Design choices:

- ❖ Shape and size
- ❖ Font or handwriting
- ❖ Color and contrast



What do you want your label to convey?

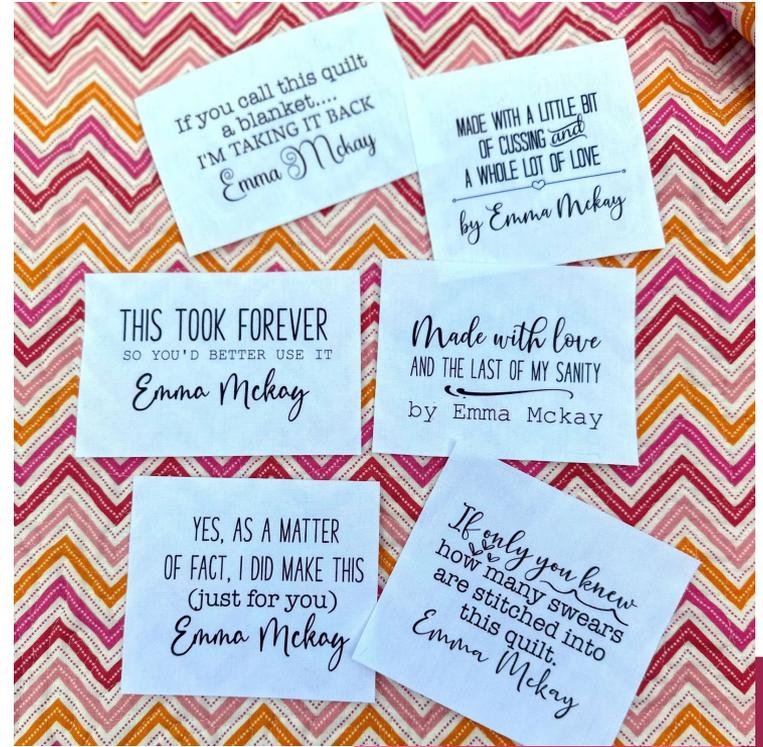
Include information important to you:

- ❖ Creators name(s)
- ❖ Year completed
- ❖ Recipient's name
- ❖ Quilt title
- ❖ Pattern name and designer
- ❖ Where it was made
- ❖ Occasion or inspiration



Bringing your label to life

- ❖ Handwrite
- ❖ Print on fabric sheets
- ❖ Hand or machine embroidered
- ❖ Piece or appliqué
- ❖ Custom stamps with fabric ink
- ❖ Photo labels



So I made a label, now what?

Attaching your label:

- ❖ Hand-stitch (whip or ladder stitch)
- ❖ Machine-stitch into backing
- ❖ Appliqué
- ❖ Sew into the binding

Remember to:

- ❖ Secure all edges
- ❖ Avoid fusible-only labels for longevity



Where does it go?

- ❖ Pieced into the quilt pattern itself
- ❖ Lower back corner - straight or triangle
- ❖ Center back
- ❖ Near the hanging sleeve
- ❖ Integrated into the quilt back design



Remember why labels matter

- ❖ Labels are the quilt artist's signature
- ❖ Our quilts may travel farther than we expect
- ❖ Families change
- ❖ History fades without accurate records
- ❖ Proof of ownership/creation

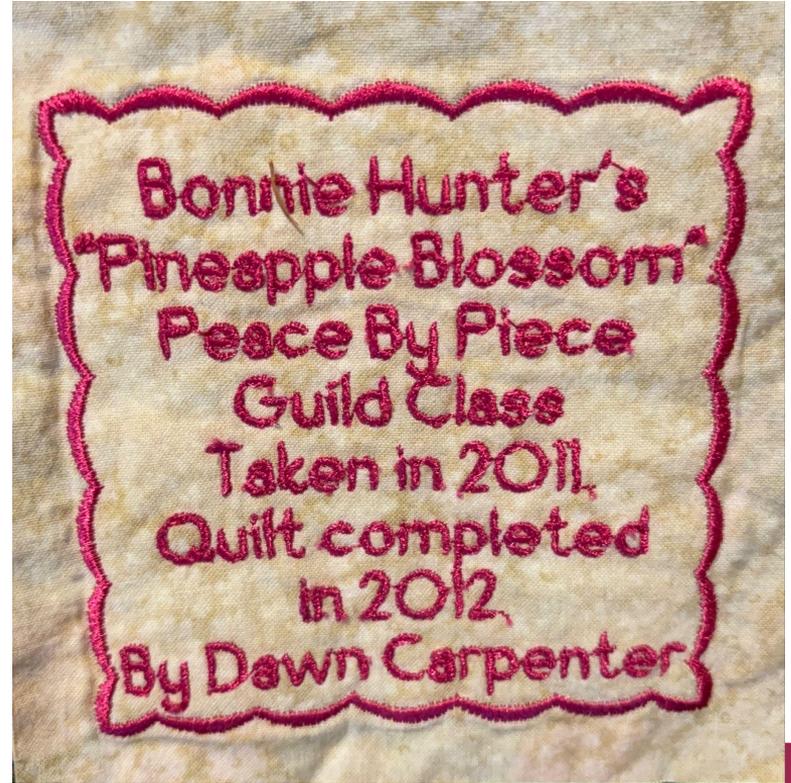


So use your snowdays wisely

- ❖ Warm up while labeling the quilts you've already made
- ❖ Make labeling part of your quilt finishing routine
- ❖ Labels ensure a little part of your story lives on in each piece.



Inspiration





The Covid-19 Pandemic

By the end of March 2020, Covid-19 became very real for the United States. During this time, I was working at Christian Brothers University. The University closed on March 27, 2020, for what we thought would be a brief period that would end after Easter (April 12th). Our church also closed with the hope that we would return for Easter.

By the end of March, the World Health Organization declared Covid a pandemic, and the United States also declared a state of emergency. Schools, businesses, parks, the travel industry, and such shut down for months. This impacted distributors, creating a huge shortage of food and basic supplies, such as toilet paper.

Hospitals were in desperate need for masks, as the demand was great, and the supply available could not meet the needs. A plea went out for individuals to make masks for donation to the hospitals. Selena and I made approximately one hundred masks that we donated to Germantown Methodist Hospital, as well as to family and friends.

High Schools and colleges either cancelled graduation or they invented creative ways of celebrating the Class of 2020. Having completed my MBA in the Fall of 2019, I was part of the Class of 2020, and missing the long-awaited commencement ceremony was a big disappointment, but it was nothing compared to high school students and bachelor's degree candidates, as they missed the end of their senior year and occasions such as prom.

As the 2020-21 school year approached, education changed drastically. School-age children became educated at home either full-time or part-time. Schools adapted to fully online or hybrid instruction. Colleges also had to adjust, and most became completely remote for the Fall 2020 Semester.

By the start of Spring 2021 Semester, schools began returning to their campuses, but they had to adjust classrooms and other public spaces for social distancing. Plexiglass barriers became used to protect individuals who had direct contact with the public. In addition, masks continued to be mandatory.

Even though schools slowly reopened, higher education has become forever changed. More than ever, families seriously considered the cost of college, and there became a resurgence of people seeking technical training. Young adults also, more than ever, learned skills on the internet, and began marketing themselves, becoming entrepreneurs.

In April 2021, vaccines became available. They were first accessible in small increments; therefore, the elderly and the health compromised received priority vaccinations. A series of booster shots became necessary to combat Covid, and it was not until late 2022 when life became more "normal", though "normal" became quite different than life before Covid-19.

So many people became impacted by Covid for life. Young children became socially isolated, as they did not experience life outside their household units. Others experienced the death or chronic illness of a loved one. Countless people became depressed because loved ones were not able to visit with them. Zoom meetings took over face-to-face meetings, as travel became limited and cost prohibitive. A term called, "Zoom Fatigue" became truly relevant in our new world of work. Inflation became staggering with lost wages and revenue. Working from home also became a new norm, as it became a more affordable means for businesses that no longer had to maintain office space.

It will be interesting to see how society continues to change and evolve in a post-pandemic world. Work/Life balance has become the new norm, and the younger generations are less interested in money and more concerned with having a meaningful and purposeful life.

Dawn Carpenter, May 2023



A Mother's Love



Dedicated in memory of Zelda Judith Pincus Fogel
(September 22, 1943 - September 19, 2020),

mother of Sharon Beth Fogel Rich and
Dawn Ellen Fogel Carpenter.

This quilt was created as a collaborative
effort between Sharon and Dawn.

Sharon assisted in the selection and placement of the shmatas,
and Dawn did the creative sewing and quilting.

The intent of this quilt is to capture the beauty of the fabric,
as well as the embellishments, and to allow Zelda's daughters to wrap
themselves in her love each time that they snuggle up with their quilts.

May the many memories of Zelda,
including her shmatas, be a blessing to the family.

Save the Shmatas . . . Woo Wool!



This quilt was made by Dawn
Carpenter and presented to Doug
"Doyle" Carpenter on January 30,
2025. This was his first day in rehab in
Memphis. He had been at Skyline
Hospital in Nashville following a near-
fatal car accident on December 24,
2024. He has been brave, strong, and
determined, and we love him very
much! Keep up the good work, as you
are well on your way to recovery!

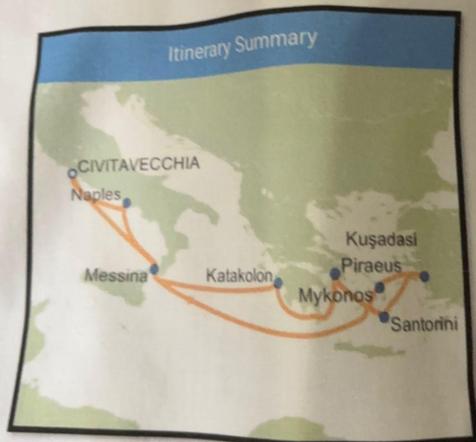


Dawn

Made By
Dawn Carpenter

2022

10-Night European Cruise from Civitavecchia
Carnival Pride
October 1 - 11, 2022



Made for
Torre Kelley
By Dawn Carpenter
2024

Memories of
Lake Junaluska
Through
The Years
Made By
Dawn Carpenter
2023

**Created by Dawn Heath
Inspiration shared by Dawn Carpenter
Uncommon Threads Quilt Guild
January 2026
Germantown, Tennessee**