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### Lake County association helps keep quilting alive

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January 14, 2010

By **KORRINA GROM** [kgrom@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:kgrom@pioneerlocal.com)

The women who packed the Antioch Township Center building waited patiently but anxiously to find out whether their names would be called to win items to help their craft.

As their names were called, the women rushed amid cheers to pick up their prizes, including books and other quilting-related items. The activity, known as "Rafflemania," was held during the Northern Lake County Quilters' Guild's January meeting in an effort to not only clear out members' closets but also raise money for the group.

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Madelyn Anderson holds up her quilt with the pattern known as "Old Tobacco Road" from known quilter, Bonnie Hunter, during the "show and tell" portion of Northern Lake County Quilters Guild's monthly meeting. (Michelle LaVigne/Staff Photographer)

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The Northern Lake County Quilters' Guild began about 20 years ago, said President Sharon Wick.

"It was a small group back then," said Wick, a Lake Villa resident. "It's really blossomed in the past five years.

"Quilting kind of died out for awhile and then it made this resurgence and it didn't stop," Wick added.

Today, the Northern Lake County Quilters' Guild has 88 members from all over Lake County and just over the Wisconsin border.

"Our motto, our mission statement, is to promote the art and education of quilting," said Wick. "We have quilters of all levels."

The Guild holds its meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. The meetings give quilters - both new and seasoned - the opportunity to come together, discuss their craft and learn from guest speakers. Each



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Heather Deegan and her friend Sue Heinlein look over Deegan's quilt at the Northern Lake County Quilters Guild's monthly meeting. (Michelle LaVigne/Staff Photographer)

meeting starts with a short business meeting and includes a "show and share" portion where members can show off their handiwork.

"That's my favorite time, especially if you're in a creative funk," said Wick.

Every other year, Guild members can display their work through a quilt show. The Guild's last show was held in November 2009 in Round Lake.

Funds raised through the quilt shows help the Guild perform charity work,

including making quilts for preemies at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and cancer patients at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

The Guild's last quilt show brought in more than \$7,000.

"We have to make sure that we do give back," said Wick. "I've never met a quilter I didn't like. They're all so generous."

During years when there is no quilt show, the Guild holds a quilting challenge that invites members to put together quilts based on a theme, Wick said. This year's theme is "Name that Tune." Members must create their quilts by a May deadline, and then those quilts will be voted on by fellow members to determine the winner.

The Northern Lake County Quilters' Guild also offers special programs, including Saturday workshops, and maintains a quilting-related library.

Joan Owens of Antioch has been a member of the Guild for about 12 years. She likes to learn new techniques and share her work in the non-critical environment of the Guild's meetings.

"It's everything. It's the big picture of being with people who share my interests," said Owens.

Owens averages 10 to 12 quilts a year.

"When I started my first quilt, I didn't even have a sewing machine," said Owens. After borrowing a sewing machine to make her first quilt, she now owns five sewing machines.

Her love of quilting over the years has led her to buy some unique pieces, including an antique quilt she won at an auction. The quilt, which dates to the 1930's is made from food sacks, likely from bags of sugar. She learned that fact from the words that can still be read on the back of the quilt - "Denver, "granulated" and "pure."

Wick finds quilting to be relaxing.

"It's cheaper than therapy," she said. "You're focused on something, not yourself and not your problems. And I like the idea that I can just do something for someone else."

The Northern Lake County Quilters' Guild meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 guest fee, and membership is \$25 per year.

For more information, visit [www.nlcqg.org](http://www.nlcqg.org).

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