Today on across the fence an extraordinary collection of quilts made by a friends and neighbors from across the Champlain valley. Have only members of the guild's that made these quilts and learn about the guild's upcoming annual quilt show. Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. The Champlain valley quilter guild holds its 29th annual quilt show Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9 at the Fieldhouse in Shelburne. The show features a spectacular display of quilts as well as a silent auction handmade crafts and a special theme. We're going to find out more from our first guest I'm going to welcome Andre Emmell of Ferrisburgh. Andre is the president of the Champlain valley quilters guild. Thanks so much for being here.

Andre.: Thank you.

Judy.: Before we talk about the upcoming show tell us a little bit about the guild itself.

Andre.: The guild is a group of quilters a little over 200 strong. We have gotten together to promote the art of quilting. We've a lot of people who volunteer at the Shelburne museum in our quilting area and we try to do community projects. We have community quilts that we do occasionally and we've donated as many as almost 200 quilts two different organizations in the Chittenden county area and throughout the state over the year. We try to do that almost every year.

Judy.: That's fantastic. How long have you been a member?

Andre.: I've been a member just a little over three years. I was a member of the guild in Virginia when my wife and I were living down there. I moved back up here and they caught me.

Judy.: You're the first mail president of the guild that spree special.

Andre.: As far as I know because I had a longtime member tell me that I was probably the first met president of the guild.

Judy.: How long have you been quilting?

Andre.: I've been quilting for 18 years.

Judy.: What is it about the technique that you like so much?

Andre.: There are different techniques in quilting that I enjoy. I enjoy a applique which is one of the things I enjoy the most. I always seem to go back to it that and the traditional piecing. Traditional
blocks seem to pull me and but I've tried to jump into other things and I keep going right back to applique.

Judy.: Let's take a look at some of the quilts you have. The guild holds its 29th annual show we mentioned next week and October 8 and ninth. Tell us a little bit about what we'll see.

Andre.: People will see things like applique quilts which is something like this. This is called folk art fantasy. It was a class I took many number years ago. Of course that's one of my favorites. That was all hand applique this one here is a machine applique keys that was done another class. I don't even remember what we called it but this is basically a Baltimore album which is the traditional quilting but this here is the machine version of it.

Judy.: OK so it's not hand stitched. Mentioned the back because this is a different fabric is a typical?

Andre.: It's typical. A lot of times quilters will take and use either by special fabric to the back to enhance the quilt when people see if from the back or they'll use up their scraps and make scrappy backs because normally people don't see the back of the quilt. In our show this year they're having a silent auction and these are some of the quilts that will be on sale for the silent auction.

Judy.: I'm going to hold this up here because it's really cute. It got tiny little clothespins. Is this a particular technique.

Andre.: It a piecing technique and I guess it would be considered more of an art quilt than a traditional quilt.

Judy.: So people will be able to bid on these.

Andre.: Yes. They will be able to bid on these. I think that some of the quilts they're going to put a price on and if people don't want them to be bid on and they want to buy them they'll be able to buy them at that price.

Judy.: Excellent what's this one?

Andre.: This one here is an applique a machine applique quilt that is done with boutique fabrics which is very attractive. One of our guests today is one of the people I had made a. I think Ruth made this.

Judy.: That's beautiful.

Andre.: I think so. This year is also another one. Of course this is a Christmas theme.

Judy.: It's like a Christmas calendar.

Andre.: That's what it is this is the first time I've seen it but it's really cute.

Judy.: It's got little pockets for everything.

Andre.: These quilts here are made by members and donated for the silent auction.

Judy.: Nice.

Andre.: This is a pieced quilt it's actually a miniature reproduction of a quilt and it's pieced.

Judy.: What does that mean it's pieced?
Andre.: You strip pieced the fabrics that are in the star and cut them at a 60° angle then when you're piecing it you pieced the triangles and everything else.

Judy.: So each of these individual diamonds shapes was hand cut out and hand stitched.

Andre.: In strips and then they're cut. This year is our reproduction of Stanford star which hangs in Virginia quilt museum in Virginia.

Judy.: How long did it take to make something like this?

Andre.: About 35 40 hours to make it.

Judy.: Really that's amazing fantastic. Now we want to bring in another member of the Champlain valley quilters guild this is Ruth Whitaker welcome thanks for being here.

Ruth.: Thank you.

Judy.: One of the features is the challenge quilts can you tell me a little bit about that?

Ruth.: Yes each year when we choose the theme for our show we kind of tried to think what would go as a challenge quilt and we put a challenge out to the members to make a quilt that goes with the scene. This year our show name is once upon a time which I'm sort of responsible for. I was a reading teacher for years and I thought this would be a good way to brain books stories fairy tales or whenever so that's the requirement for the challenge quilt for this year. Unfortunately we do not have any here because we vote on our favorite one at our two we're meeting and we do not want people to see who's quilt is who's until the meeting. They vote on them anonymously.

Judy.: OK what are some of the other qualifications to enter into the once upon a time theme?

Ruth.: Basically a pass to be a book a story a fairy tale and the size is limited so they're not big quilts they are walls size quilts.

Judy.: Building off of the one upon a time theme the show also features something called a raffle quilt?

Ruth.: Yes the raffle quilt is the one that's hanging on the front. We call this once upon a Christmas. It was made by Rose Orr a member of our guild. Tickets are available we have been selling tickets at various functions throughout the year.

Judy.: Can you tell me a little bit about the technique that she used?

Ruth.: This is called help me Andre.

Andre.: French braid.

Ruth.: French braid. It's done in strips and then put together it was also quoted by Ian Harmon who's also a member of our guild. The tickets will be available. For raffle will be held at 4:00 on Sunday at the show.

Judy.: Tell us a little bit about some of the other quilts that are on the table here.

Ruth.: This is one of my quilts that will be in the show. This is a queen size quilt. It's kind of hard to show in a limited space. It's called kaleidoscope star. It has a piano key border on it. There is a star
and this is one that will be in the show. Another category that we have is for nontraditional quilts. It's fabric fiber art work but it's not quilted as this is more to be used as a wall hanging. This is my very first attempt at nontraditional quilts. I think I prefer traditional.

Judy.: Why is that I think this turned out really well. What's the inspiration behind this.

Ruth.: Actually this was a mother's day card that I've received and looked that and thought O that would make and the quilt so I've been playing with it and this is my result.. There will be a category for nontraditional quilts at the show.

Judy.: You said something like wall hangings but it's up to everyone's imagination.

Ruth.: Whenever it comes up with as long as it has some kind of fiber art.

Judy. Excellent. I just want to ask you one quick question about this quilt. How long did this take you to make?

Ruth.: Probably about three weeks. I quilt on every day if you ask my husband he will say I quilt all day every day. It probably was about a three week span before I had the top completed and then it goes to a professional quilter.

Judy.: And what does a professional quilter do?

Ruth.: The designs you see in the quilt the feathers. Basically to hold all your pieces together. If you didn't have a quilted it we just all pull apart

Andre.: It's sandwiched you have the top the batting in the center and then the backing. All quilts are sandwiched.

Judy.: Excellent what else have you got to show us.

Ruth.: This is all of mine. If we have a couple of community cloves that are meeting and donated by our members Andre address that earlier. We give them to a lot of different organizations are round Burlington. The Ronald McDonald house the shelter for battered women. I don't know if some of them will be going now to flood victims. I think they talked about doing that for people who have lost a lot.

Andre.: We've been talking a lot about doing something for the flood victims in Vermont. We have a committee right now we're working on that.

Judy.: Fantastic. While we take a look at this I'd want to also introduce another member? Of the organization. 12 year old Emily Gagnon. Emily is the youngest member of the Champlain valley quilters guild. Hi Emily.

Emily.: Hi thank you for having me.

Judy.: Welcome tell me a little bit about how you got interested in quilting.

Emily.: My grandma and before I sewed I used a clue pieces of fabric together and I would go through every scrap bin and one day there was a sewing kit and she asked me if I'd like to join a nice if yes.

Judy.: How long have you been quilting?

Emily.: Five years.
Judy.: Would you like most about quilting?

Emily.: The design and taking out all the fabrics in what pattern you're going to choose.

Judy.: You brought with you one of your quilts and it's particularly important to you. Tell me the story behind this quilt.

Emily.: My dad is a retired marine and this is made out of all of his old uniforms. In 2009 this one the lieutenant governor's award at the Vermont quilt festival.

Judy.: Tell me a little bit about some of the things we are seeing in here.

Emily.: This is a hat and these were his dress blues. Then some tee shirts that we cut up.

Judy.: He was OK with you cutting up his old uniforms?

Emily.: He was the one that wanted it.

Judy.: Really nice? What was the reaction when you saw this

Emily.: He loved it.

Judy.: I bet. How long did it take you to make this?

Emily.: About a year.

Judy.: Some of the aspects of this may be Ruth you can collaborate on this. Different size squares?

Ruth.: Right and different uniforms from different campaigns that he was on. He was in both gulf war's and one of them I don't know which it is he was doing training in Norway winter survival training and he has saved uniforms from all his different campaigns and asked me if I could do this for him and I said yes. Then when Emily started selling he said let's wait until she can do it. We won Dave started out by sitting down cutting pockets and hats and emblems then pieced of them together.

Judy.: Pretty special.

Ruth.: It was very special specially when she won the lieutenant governor's award.

Judy.: Are you going to have quilt to the upcoming show?

Ruth.: Yes I'm going to have my quilt of gallery. This is a quilt that's going to be donated to a wounded did soldier or a deceased soldiers family.

Judy.: This is pretty special. Tell me about some of the ideas behind this.

Ruth.: I just wanted something pretty quick and simple and keep going with the red white and blue patriotic theme.

Judy.: So this will be on display.

Ruth.: It's going to be judged.

Judy.: After its judged you're going to donated?
Ruth.: Yes.

Judy.: You said quick and easy but for someone who doesn't do quilting it seems to me like a pretty big job. Tell me a little bit about other kids your age. Have you got another kids involved in quilting or what do they say when they see some of your examples of your work.

Ruth.: They just say While that's amazing be due to really good job I'd like to do something like that one day.

Judy.: And you encourage them I hope.

Ruth.: Yes.

Judy.: Before we run at a time when we highlight the Champlain valley quilters Guild. 29th annual quilt show which a Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and ninth at the Fieldhouse in Shelburne. For more information about the guild and upcoming show go to the web site on your screen it's CVQGVT.ORG. The website has specific information about the show and more information about the guild. I want to thank you all for coming in today and bringing these beautiful examples of your work.

Andre.: Thank you for having us it's very enjoyable.

Judy.: Have a great weekend. That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson we will see you again next time on across the fence.

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