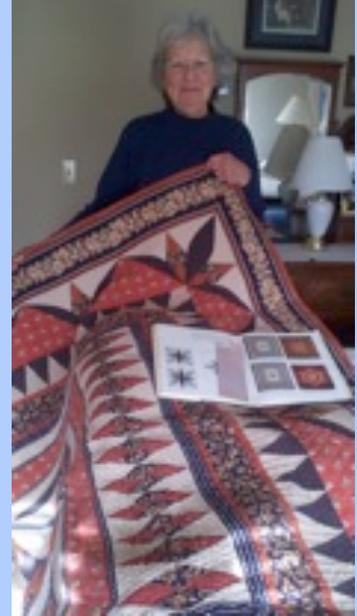


# Marilyn Tittman



## The Quilts of Marilyn Tittman

by Karen Downer

Marilyn came to Georgia in the early 1980's from Virginia. Like many of us, she was a seamstress before she was a quilter. But perhaps she had a more interesting transition to quilting? In 1976, while she was still in Virginia, an opportunity presented itself to provide a quilt for her daughter's beautiful brass bed. Because she had feed sacks from her own grandmother, Marilyn set out to combine these with polyester (yes, polyester) and made a very nice quilt. It was nice enough to show to Jinny Beyer (Gasp!!!) – who was very gracious.

From that interesting beginning, Marilyn went on to become a vital part of the renaissance of this art form while living in Georgia. While still back in Virginia, she was inspired by and learned from some of the best and her work, "Beyer Patch", appears in Jinny Beyer's book, "[Medallion Quilts](#)" published in 1982. The quilts Marilyn shared with us at the spring convention span approximately 30 years of her quilt life.

Marilyn defines quilting as *an art form demonstrating creativity and patience that is also an expression of you and your love*. She has used her quilting to help manage disturbing things that have occurred in her life and the lives of others. The fantastic touchstone quilt she shared at the convention, "Hope's Garden" was made for her daughter's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Marilyn shared with us that her daughter had died in an accident in 2007. The quilt has been used to raise funds for animal rescue, a cause her daughter supported.

Marilyn's contributions in Georgia are many and include the large number of people who started quilting through her teaching. She knew no one when she moved to Georgia but started a guild in 1987, the Cotton Bowl Quilters, who celebrated a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007. Sales for the benefit of non-profit organizations topped \$20,000 over time and items such as tote bags were supplied to the Department of Family and Children's Services.

In 1996, Marilyn made a quilt for the Olympic Games. It appeared with others in a publication and then it went home to Tonga where it is surely still cherished by the athletes who competed on the world stage in Georgia.

Most of Marilyn's quilts are given away to family and friends (always labeled and dated). She finds satisfaction and solace in the process of making a quilt. Many have very special meaning to her. Sometimes, the names she gives these quilts reflect that special meaning.

I believe the quilts Marilyn shared with us at the Spring Convention represent her decades long quilt journey. Each shows a new technique or method that she mastered. She moves easily between humorous modern expressions to traditional piecing and hand quilting. Her quilts exemplify both the pleasure and strength she brought to people while living in Georgia.

Marilyn will return to Virginia and her family to begin the next phase of her life caring for her husband. She will be missed in Georgia but I can't wait to see what quilts may come from her journey "home".

[Back to the Georgia Quilt Council](#)

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