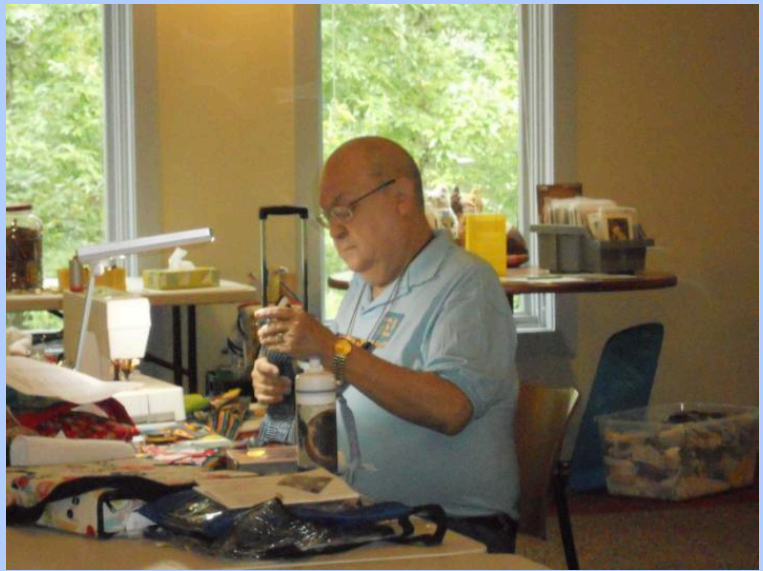


Silver Stitcher

Ray Barreras

Ray Barreras, has been quilting for 23 years. Selftaught, at first, when suddenly alone at home, while his wife, Trudie, was away in New Mexico, Ray looked around for something to occupy his time. They had recently purchased a quilt and upon looking at it he got the idea, "I can do that" wherein he proceeded to make six quilts in six weeks, doing all the "wrong" things. He



used scissors to cut out patches that were not square, sewed together with a 5/8 inch seam allowance as you did for clothing, and used fake fur. After that he took his first lesson from Joyce Selin at Stone Mountain Quilt shop and made a "Trip Around The World" in king size. It was an all-night class from 6pm to 6 am and Ray was the only one to finish a quilt in class. That was in 1992 the year he joined the Georgia Quilt Council of which he served as President in 1997 and 2001 and is currently Secretary. He currently belongs to four quilt guilds, East Cobb, Phoenix, Atlanta Intown, and Fabulous First Fridays, which he founded with Sara Phillips.

Ray was born and raised in New Mexico in a non-sewing family. He married his high school sweetheart while attending University of New Mexico where he majored in Chemistry and minored in math and German. He held down three jobs while attending school and they had two children, yet he still managed to graduate in time in four years. From there they were off to Michigan State for graduate school where he received a Phd in five years and another two children along the way. After completed his degree he was employed for eight years at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama , and from there went to work at Navaho Community College in Arizona on the reservation. In 1978 he was hired to teach at the Moorehouse School of Medicine, in Atlanta, where he worked for 27 years until his retirement.

Needless to say, a person with this much energy had to stay busy so he now teaches quilting, He is volunteer at his local senior citizen center where he teaches every Thursday 9-5. In addition he has three programs that he will present free of charge to guilds, "A Man's Perspective on Quilting", "Ray The Tool Time Man", and "Quilts In The Third World". Ray has also had a life-long interest in music and plays several percussion instruments. He does not miss the professional world since he is still teaching but he does miss the young adults as they are so open and receptive to new things and ideas. Just like Ray.

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