

Timeless Stitches – Quilt Capital of Kansas Liz Granberg-Jerome

Late summer into early fall is always a fun time as the county and state fairs and the Maple Leaf Quilt Show are happening. This year is no exception!

The Douglas County Fair, which was held July 25-29 at the fairgrounds in Lawrence, had a record 53 quilts entered in the open class competition this year. They were as varied as the makers who entered them. Our congratulations go out to all who entered and took home ribbons. We also had one open class youth entry that won a blue ribbon as well. We love seeing entries from young quilters and hope to encourage more to enter in the future.

The Vinland Fair was held the weekend following the county fair. Although they had only a handful of quilt entries, the entries were no less beautiful!

Later in September will be the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson which draws entries in the open classes from across the state. Several quilters in Baldwin City have already entered their quilts online and will deliver them to the fairgrounds in Hutchinson next week. We wish those entering luck on their entries and hope to see some ribbons coming home to Baldwin City!

October 21 & 22 will bring the 66<sup>th</sup> annual Maple Leaf Festival and 51<sup>st</sup> annual Maple Leaf Quilt Show. Once again we expect to have 100+ quilts on display in the gym at the Intermediate Center on Bullpup at Hwy 56. Sharon Vesecky, owner of Quilters' Paradise, will be the featured quilter. Several vendors will be set up during the quilt show, as well as kits to make maple leaf quilt blocks and throw size quilts for sale by the Maple Leaf Quilters Guild. The 2023 guild opportunity quilt will be displayed with tickets available. Take a chance, your ticket may be the winning ticket that is drawn late Sunday afternoon. There will also be a display of vintage quilts from family collections in addition to the wide array of both modern and traditional quilts from area quilters. To have your quilt included in the display you must enter your quilt by September 30. Registration forms are currently available at Quilters' Paradise or from members of the Maple Leaf Quilters Guild. Check the Maple Leaf Festival website for more information. The PDF registration form will be available on the festival website for download soon.

There are many quilters who say they never enter their quilts in shows. Not everyone quilts with the purpose of showing their quilts. However, the nice thing about the Maple Leaf Quilt Show, in particular, is it is not a judged competition. It's just a display for the public to enjoy while they are at the festival. Every quilt deserves to be admired and we love seeing everyone's quilts.