



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Award-winning quilter Shirley Walker, left, of the Village of Labelle, talks quilting with Brenda Zimmer, of the Village of Labelle, while touring the quilts during the Showcase of quilts hosted by the Quilter's Guild of The Villages on Saturday at Savannah Center.

Quilter's Guild Hosts Showcase of Quilts

The showcase, held every two years, provided demonstrations, a silent auction, sales, exhibits and more to thousands over the weekend.

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THE VILLAGES

An array of patterns and a kaleidoscope of colors filled every room, including closets, in Savannah Center over the weekend for the Showcase of Quilts, hosted by the Quilter's Guild of The Villages.

The event, held Friday and Saturday, provided patrons with a silent auction, gift basket auction, a boutique of quilts for sale, vendors from outside The Villages, demonstrations, antique quilts, a challenge quilt, quilt appraisals and more.

Chairwoman of the showcase Judy Porter, of the Village Rio Ponderosa, said Friday alone saw more than 1,900 people walk through the showcase.

"We've been working on this show for two and a half years because (the showcase) happens every two years," she said. "We've been working diligently to put this together."

Each of the 19 chapters of the Quilter's Guild had a hand in putting the show together, such as greeting patrons or hanging displays.

Vendors, who travelled from as far away as Wisconsin, filled multiple rooms, and even closets, to sell their quilts, fabrics, thread and clothes.

Porter said they had to turn away some vendors.

"This is the first time we had to use the closets because there were just so many," she said.

Some quilters brought more than quilts to show off at the event.

An exhibit showed hand-crafted dolls made by some of the members who were invited by the guild to show the dolls as an extra treat with the quilts.

"They're artistic figures in clothes, or art dolls," said Marlene Jensch, of the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Sumter.

Each doll had its own unique story and details to make them special.

"I figured it takes me about an hour an inch (to make these)," Jensch said.

Next to the dolls, art quilts displayed pictures and articulate patterns within the threads, made by the STARS group.

"They're all original designs," said Suzanne Engemann, of Village Tierra Del Sol. "People have been very curious about our techniques."

Attendees had the opportunity to vote on the "Viewer's Choice" from among the more than 300 quilts on display that had won ribbons from judges from the National Quilting Association.

The winner was announced at the close of the day along with silent auction winners, gift basket winners and the winner of the charity quilt that was chosen by a chance drawing with the proceeds going toward The Hospice House of The Villages and The Villages Honor Flight Network.

One of the showstoppers of the day was a group of quilts crafted by kids from the Sumter County 4-H Basics and

Beyond Sewing Club, which is part of a youth organization that teaches young kids and teens leadership, life skills and responsibility.

Basics and Beyond teaches sewing and quilting techniques, and both boys and girls had quilts they created on display for the showcase.

"I could not believe how amazing these kids were," Porter said.

Guild member Judy Reinhardt, of the Village of Hemingway, said this was her first time working a showcase since she joined just last year.

"They're such a giving group and it's so much fun," she said.

Right in the middle of all that fun sat a memory table with pictures and yellow flowers for beloved guild member and past president Jeanette Flint, who passed away earlier this month.

The club dedicated the showcase in her memory.

"We thought we wanted to specially honor her," Porter said.