

Featured Quilter at Lacey Library

Diane Weeden is the 2023 featured quilter at the Lacey Library for the month of September. She has been a member of the Washington Stars Quilt Guild for the past 15 years or more, she calculates. Besides volunteering in the guild's Programs and in Public Relations Diane has spearheaded Challenge Quilts for many years.

Her quilt making is more on the smaller design level. Since 2019 she says she enjoys making small art work quilts. Mostly, they are smaller than a pot holder and spring to life with beads, sequins, and the like.

"I like to use the beads and sequins in my "Little Stitches," she says. "The threads I use are embroidery floss and variegated threads." Sometimes she inserts little ribbons.

Diane's "Little Stitches" are designed to be little. Her inspiration has come from textile artist Liz Kettle who calls her creations "Stitch Meditation." Diane says she sometimes uses Ms. Kettle's theme selections like joy, tranquility, strength in her own designs.

"I find a high-quality flannel for the back and then I place a fabric base on top," Diane says, "Then I stitch along the border lines to anchor the two together so that they don't slip." She cuts her fabric 4 by 4 inches. "When I started making these pieces, I cut my fabric 3 by 4 inches or 4 by 4 inches. Lately, I have just used the 4 by 4 square."

When Diane gets up out of her comfy bed, she does not know what her morning stitching will look like. "I go into my studio," she says, "and I don't linger over selections of fabric, thread, or when I dig into my scrap boxes and I pick out what I want to use for that square. No two pieces are exactly the same. Some may have similar themes, or explore stitching options, or be abstract. I seldom start out with an image in mind. Then I take one half an hour and begin to stitch. She works on her pieces from 7:30 to 8 a.m. "I don't fret if I miss a day or so. But working on these pieces helps me maintain my stitching practice."

Each piece, when finished, is dated, and numbered and kept in a journal. "I do this to keep track of them," she adds. She is on her second journal and her next "Little Stitches" piece is number 217.

“These pieces have no use besides giving me a place to quietly stitch each morning. That’s all they need to be,” she adds.