

## My Quilting BIO

### Elizabeth B Davison

I am a native Washingtonian, but my parents were not. They met here in DC at a party. My mother had visited Washington from her home in New Jersey to see her grandparents who had retired here after a military career. She moved here permanently in her 20's and took a job as a private secretary for a woman philanthropist and traveled the world. My father had grown up in Nova Scotia, Canada and moved to Washington to become a law professor George Washington University.

I am the youngest of three children with an older sister and brother. We lived in Washington on Observatory Circle and went to The Potomac School in Mclean Virginia. The school had a wonderful arts program. The emphasis on the arts shaped much of my life. I went to high school at The Madeira School, near Mclean. I later graduated from George Washington University majoring in economics. I went to Washington University in St Louis to study economics and urban affairs in graduate school. While in St Louis I met my husband, but after five years, we divorced. I do not have children but enjoy times with my nieces and their 8 children.

I was interested in cities and how they functioned and grew. My career was launched in real-estate investment analysis and community development. I worked for national consulting firms for over 20 years. I also worked in local government, including 7 years with the Montgomery County, MD Planning Commission, and as the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs for 12 years.

My mother taught me how to sew as a girl, starting with doll clothes. As I got a little older, I was too tall for the clothes in the stores. I discovered G Street Fabrics as a teenager, with gorgeous fabrics from around the world. I started experimenting with patterns and designed my own clothes. Working with the County, many evening meetings conflicted with choral rehearsals, requiring me to give up singing. I missed having some artistic expression, so in 1996 I made a fateful trip to G Street Fabrics and found quilt patterns and magazines. I decided to make a baby quilt for one of my staff, the first of 14 by the time I left that job. I had taken several classes in quilt making at G Street and joined a small quilt group. After doing traditional quilting, I got interested in art quilts. Some friends did a residency in art quilting with Judith Trager in Boulder Colorado. She accepted two students to stay with her for a week of lessons in art quilting I did three residencies with her. She encouraged me to enter a piece in the Houston Quilt Show in 2006. It was accepted and it sold! I still enter shows. I often take workshops including at Quilt Surface Design Symposium, Quilting by the Lake, Arrowmont, and many short classes through local guilds. A great benefit of being in a guild is getting to know other quilters and sharing knowledge and techniques. I am doing more surface design and dying recently. I am interested in learning more about those techniques since I use lots of my hand dyed fabric in my work. some of my newer ventures include dye painting with thickened dye. I am also teaching individuals or small groups on art quilting and dying. I was a member of a Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, and now in retirement can indulge my passion at my studio at Artists and Makers in Rockville.