

Merry May

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Profile

I have experience in a wide variety of jobs, and am known for the ability to break complicated tasks down into logical, easy to understand progressions. I have done everything from pumping gas to making sandwiches and stocking store shelves in high school to being a bank teller, bookkeeper, retail sales clerk, and assistant buyer. I have also worked with computers since they became available to the home consumer. Since my childhood I have always dabbled in graphic design, and majored in the subject while I was at the University of Delaware. I have been teaching quilt making since 1988, and have traveled throughout the East Coast of the US to present workshops and lectures at a number of different venues (quilt guilds, conventions, shops, historical societies). I have my own small business and organize retreats for quilters twice a year with a business partner. When I am teaching I am known for my patience, as well as the skill of recognizing when someone is struggling, and helping them to achieve a positive result.

Work Experience

Assistant Buyer, Calico N Cotton, 715 Asbury Avenue, Ocean City, NJ 08226; 1999 - 2010

Was responsible for purchasing inventory and supplies to keep the shop running and looking good; made samples to sell patterns & fabrics; took care of customers, helping them to calculate yardages for their projects, and helping them select fabrics and notions; was the shop's representative for the NJ Shop Hop weekend (a group of NJ quilt shop owners who had an annual event), and took care of their web site in 2009 & 2010 - also designed posters and other printed materials for the event, and designed, made the sample and wrote instructions for Calico N Cotton's quilt patterns in conjunction with the Shop Hop each year. Planned and built window displays several times a year. Coordinated various special events at the shop, including sales; wrote their newsletters in 2009 & 2010; organized files for all classes and gathered supply lists and samples for all classes for several years before doing the newsletter. Climbed ladders to hang shop samples, shoveled snow, and did whatever else needed to be done for the good of the company. Left due to other obligations, more specifically to guest curate an exhibit at the Atlantic Heritage Center in Somers Point, NJ.

Bookkeeper, Gentilini Ford, Washington Avenue, Woodbine, NJ 08270; 1983 - 1986.

Answered telephones, did bookkeeping and light accounting; did all of their title work with the DMV; typed contracts and put all paperwork together for auto sales; did the closing paperwork with customers. Left due to family obligations.

Bank Teller, Heritage Bank, 9th & Central, Ocean City, NJ 08226; 1981-1983.

Worked full time at their busy Main Branch at 9th Street for most of my time there, and then requested to be transferred to their 34th Street location because of the travel time. Serviced their Mac (ATM) Machine before being transferred. Won 2nd place in their statewide Teller of the Month program. Left to have the ability to work part-time.

Bank Teller, First National Bank of Tuckahoe, Main Street, Tuckahoe, NJ 08250; 1980-1981.

Worked full time at their Main Office, did bookkeeping, including running their proof machine, did whatever I was asked to do, including filling in at other branches. Left due to poor working conditions.

Education

Southwestern (Community) College, San Diego, CA; Associate's Degree in Art, 1978.

University of Delaware, Newark, DE; attended for 3 semesters, majoring in Graphic Design; 1973 - 1974.

Ocean City High School, Atlantic Avenue, Ocean City, NJ; graduated Third in a class of 225.

Other Work & Volunteer Experience

- Recently guest curated an exhibit of antique quilts for the Atlantic Heritage Center in Somers Point, NJ. (Sept. - Oct. 2010); also wrote and published a full color booklet in conjunction with the exhibit, "Remember Me."
- Curated exhibit entitled, "Strength in Diversity" for the Quilt Professionals' Network at the NJ Quilt Convention, June 2007.
- Guest curator of quilt exhibit "Out of the Trunk" at the Cape May County (NJ) Historical Museum, Sept.'05-Apr. 2006.
- Founded and leads "Gilda's Quilters" group bimonthly at Gilda's Club in Linwood, NJ; Apr. 2002 to present.
- Taught at Mid-Appalachian Quilters' annual retreat in 2010; am scheduled to teach in 2011.
- Vermont Quilt Festival instructor, June 2002, July 2003, 2006 & 2008.
- Taught at 2008 NJ Quilt Convention in 2003, 2006 and 2007.
- Taught for Brother International on two occasions in 2003.
- Faculty member of Quilt University (www.QuiltUniversity.com) from 2000 to 2004.
- Member of original Board of Directors, Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts (Millville, NJ), July 1999 to Jan. 2000.
- State Quilt Guild of NJ, charter member 1997; guild Treasurer & Newsletter Editor 1997-99 & 2001-04; Pres. 2005-07.
- Member of Down Jersey Folklife Center's Advisory Board, 1996 to present.
- Charter member of Greater Tuckahoe Area Merchants' Association, April 1995 to present, served as President, 1996 and 1999, Sec. 2006 to 2008.
- American Quilt Study Group, 1990 to present; Regional Coordinator for AQSG in Southern N.J., 1992 to present.
- Tri-State Quiltmaking Teachers (now Quilt Professionals' Network) 1990 to present; Treas. for 1992-93, '96-97, and '99-2003 terms; Pres. for 1994-95 term.
- Tuckahoe United Methodist Church, 1986 to present. Newsletter editor and publisher for at least 10 years; served as volunteer church secretary 1986 to 1996.
- South Shore Stitchers (local guild), Charter Member, 1986 to present; Treasurer 1991 to 1993, served on Quilt Show Committee during all guild shows until 2009; Co-Chairman of 1993, 2003 & 2005 Quilt Shows; Vice President 1994; President 1995; Program chair 1997/98.
- American Quilter's Society, 1986 to present.
- National Quilting Association, 1986 to present.
- Awards and Recognitions:
 - Nominated for Professional Quilter magazine's "Teacher of the Year" in 2003 and 2008.
 - Taped a segment about collecting antique quilts on PAX Network's show **Treasures in Your Home**, Jan. 2000; aired 1/28/2000.
 - Interviewed in "**Quiltmaker Tales**" video special; taped by NJN during the State Quilt Guild of NJ's first statewide quilt show, Nov. '99; "Thanks for the Memories" quilt also featured; won a First Place ribbon for "Liberty" quilt.
- Publications:
 - Co-Authored "Insider's Guide to Quilting Careers" in 2009, published by QuiltWoman.
 - Numerous patterns, articles and photos published in magazines, including **The Quilter**, **Quilter's World**, **McCall's Quilting**, **McCall's Quick Quilting**, **Quiltworks Today**, **Traditional Quiltworks**, **Quilting Today**, **American Quilter**, and **Ladies' Circle Patchwork Quilts**.

Other Hobbies and Interests: Manages a local cemetery (Head of the River, Estell Manor, NJ) since 1988; Owns and operates Schoolhouse Enterprises, a small, home-based business since 1988; Enjoys networking with other quilters, and mentoring to those who wish to join the professional quilting community. Owns two tons of buttons (it seemed like a good idea at the time!).