



Nebraska 150 Quilt Competition

“Inspired by Nebraska’s Diversity”

Competition sponsored by the Nebraska State Quilt Guild 2017
Sheila Green, Chair

Nebraska 150 Quilt Competition

“Inspired by Nebraska’s Diversity”

The Nebraska State Quilt Guild presents the Sesquicentennial wall quilt competition, the Nebraska 150 Quilt Competition, “Inspired by Nebraska’s Diversity.” The Nebraska 150 Quilt Competition is endorsed by the Nebraska 150 Commission as a "Signature Event!"

Cash awards were presented to the top three quilts: \$1,000 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. The International Quilt Study Center and Museum is provided the \$1,000 claiming prize (quilt acquired by the IQSCM). The judges were Nebraska’s 1st Lady, Susanne Shore (NE 150 Commission), Dr. Carolyn Ducey (IQSCM) and Dianne Thomas (NSQG). 60 guests attended a luncheon at Quilt House on Saturday, February 18 when winners were revealed.

The 37 entries came from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan and Maryland. The top 3 and 6 honorable mention quilts will travel to sixteen sites across the state during various 2017 celebrations.

Sheila Green, Chair Nebraska 150 Quilt Competition

Presenting our Nebraska 150 Quilt Competition Entries!



1st Prize \$1,000 from International Quilt Study Center & Museum
The quilt will become a part of IQSCM permanent collection.

“Nebraska: the Land and the People”
Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson of Lincoln, NE

Nebraska is my home. It is the land of sky and earth. My four sets of great grandparents settled in Seward County in the early 1870's. This is where my parents and I were born and raised. I love the subtlety of the colors in the winter months. I love the empty space and the vastness and variety of land in our state. I love that you can see forever on a clear day, and most days are clear. I love the creativity and the determination of the people. Although I've lived and worked other places, Nebraska remains my home by choice.



**2nd Prize \$300 from Nebraska State Quilt Guild
"Nebraska Beginnings and Beyond" Lynn Greer of Edgar, NE**

I am proud to be a native Nebraskan. I have been fortunate to have grown up where the people you meet are friendly. I've received an excellent education including college and raised my family in Nebraska. My quilt design is based on wheels and circular objects that influenced the growth of Nebraska. We wouldn't have the diversity of residents, businesses and jobs without first having the wagons that carried the settlers to all corners of Nebraska. I used gears to represent manufacturing and industry plus other motifs to all show our history and progress. The windmill provided water for the settlers and is still used today in some areas to water livestock. I chose the blue colors to suggest our plentiful water and gorgeous skies plus greens and browns for the rich soils that support the growth of our beautiful landscape called Nebraska.



**3rd Prize \$200 from Nebraska State Quilt Guild
"If Only the Bugeaters Could See Nebraska Now"
Marilyn Rembolt of Lincoln, NE**

Nebraska is where I grew up with a father who was not a farmer, but an Agricultural Extension Agent. So even though I did not grow up on a farm, I grew up with a keen appreciation of the importance, beauty and diversity of crops grown in this State. I also grew to appreciate the beauty of the horizon with its ever changing skies and landscapes. The development of agriculture thorough hard work by our State's early settlers and community leaders has yielded a very diverse economic and cultural base. Our beautiful horizons allow us to enjoy these views from the Sower atop of our State Capitol Building to Chimney Rock and everything in between.



Honorable Mention

“Nebraska Spirit Takes Flight” by Shelly Burge of Lincoln, NE

I have always been proud to be a native Nebraskan. I’ve lived most of my life in rural Nebraska; growing up on an acreage and now living on the farm that has been in my husband’s family for five generations.

I grew up riding horses in saddle club and 4-H shows. From the time I was twelve my favorite thing was to saddle up and ride off down the dirt road. It seems amazing now, but my parents never worried about me being gone for hours. Sometimes I would pack a lunch and ride five miles from my home to Pioneers Park to ride along the trails there. It made me feel adventurous and independent.

My quilt was inspired by the meadowlarks that accompanied me on nearly every ride. I’ve always enjoyed their trilling call and the bright flashes of yellow as they flew through the fields ahead of me.



Honorable Mention

"Crazy about Nebraska" Katy Coleman of Seward, NE

I am a Nebraska transplant who couldn't call any other place "home." This quilt is just a sampling of the things I love about this state, her history, her traditions, her people and places. I want viewers to stop, look, and make associations between the images and our beautiful Nebraska.



Honorable Mention
"Hooray for the Individual"
by Linda Syverson Guild of Bethasda, MD

I grew up in Nebraska and remember history lessons about the pioneers and Native Americans who came before me.

I grew up believing that a person can accomplish anything that he or she sets their mind to. Nebraska was the place where personal opinions mattered and each person did matter.

The place where history is personal, as are free speech and creative endeavors.

It is a state where: 93 counties have a say, there is one major river, one major Interstate highway, the State Capitol has its own identity, love has a place in the Heartland, nature is protected and tomorrow is built upon yesterday.



Honorable Mention
“Woven” by Kristie Jarchow of Lincoln, NE

Nebraska has been a meaningful part of my life because I grew up here and have lived here most of my life. My home was near the Nebraska, South Dakota border. I grew up on a farm and shared in small part, the honor of having land farmed by generations of my family for over 100 years. The history of this land was wove together by the diverse people that traversed this great country searching for a better life. Those that stopped in Nebraska to set down roots know the hardships and joys. Roots of my family run deep and have left their mark in small ways on this land, my home, Nebraska.



Honorable Mention
"Saving Our Heritage" Laura Lenzen of Lincoln, NE

ENDANGERED:

Prairie Fringed Orchard. A characteristic plant of Nebraska tall grass prairies with its fate tied to that of its habitat.

Blowout Penstemon. Sand blowouts in western Nebraska provide the habitat to which this plant grows. It is now in danger of extinction due to improved land management and control of fire in the Sand hills.

Plains Indian. In 1854, when Nebraska was admitted to the Union, there were an estimated 10,000 Indians on reservations and in the Territory. Laura says, "I've always been drawn to the unique natural beauty of Nebraska. We all must do our part to preserve it."

The beauty of all seasons is breathtaking. I am grateful for this earth touching nature, becoming a steward of the land, water resources and the air we breathe. Through my talents of drawing and quilting, I use colors and images of Nebraska.



Honorable Mention
“My Nebraska” by Peg Pennell of Ashland, NE

A diverse and continually changing landscape is part of what makes Nebraska a special place. I was born in Omaha, and have watched the city grow in stature throughout my life. My family comes from a farming background and I have always loved the wide open spaces and huge fields of crops growing across the state. When visiting the western portions of the state, I am inspired by the grandeur of the sandhills ranches and the peaks and valleys in the topography of the land. Trees of all kinds fill our state and bring a glory of changing color and fruits for us to enjoy. Rural and city, football and farming, theater and camping, rivers and ranches; we have it all in Nebraska. Truly the good life!!



"Doris Stevens - Nebraska Champion" by Dee Acklie of Omaha, NE

I have always been proud of my Nebraska Heritage. My grandfather was an immigrant who had a farmstead near Elgin, Nebraska. Part of my fascination with history has led me to learn more about famous Nebraskans. When I began thinking about this contest, I knew I wanted to concentrate on a famous Nebraskan, someone who had contributed and impacted my life. I wanted to feature a strong Nebraska woman.

I chose Doris Stevens. This Crazy Quilt represents a few of the accomplishments of Doris Stevens, a Woman Suffragist and Nebraska native. In a year when the national election is so political it seems appropriate to honor those women who marched, lobbied and protested for women's right to vote. Doris was one of the Iron Jawed Angels. If you have not watched this movie, I highly encourage you to do so. As a woman you will never not vote again.



"In Celebration of Statehood" Sheila Beins of Seward, NE

I am a born and raised Nebraskan. My children and grandchildren all live in Nebraska. My parents were both born and lived in Nebraska their entire lives. My grandparents all spent the majority, if not all, of their lives in Nebraska. The background of my wallhanging is the traditional block for Nebraska. One of the fabrics has the names of the counties randomly scattered across it.

I choose the silhouette of the sower which stands atop the state capitol as the emphasis of my wallhanging. The statue was chosen by Hartley Burr Alexander to represent "the foundation of the life of man in agriculture." Not only is agriculture important to Nebraska, it has and continues to be important to my family.



It's Grandparents Day" by Jeri Brainard of Lincoln, NE

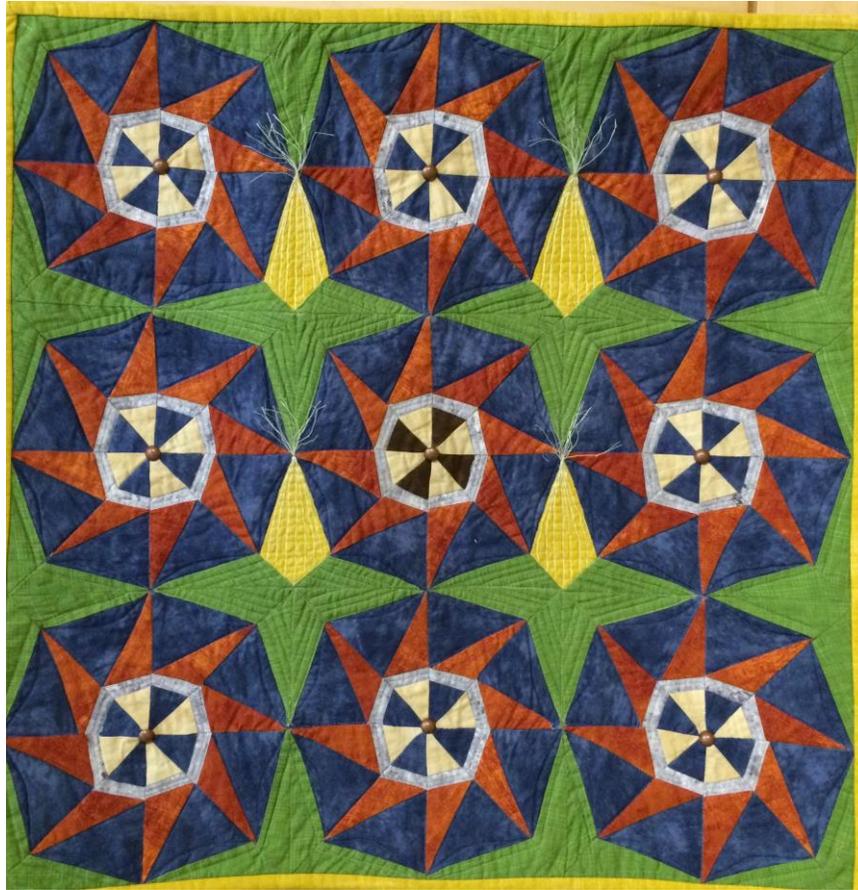
Nebraska has offered me diverse opportunities in business and the fine arts. I appreciate the rich historical culture and traditions that abound throughout the state as well as the spectacular sunsets, landscape scenes and communities that are unique. For me, my life in Nebraska has been a spectacular journey, full of memories and long lasting friendships. Nebraska is the "good life"



“The Sower” by Shelly Burge of Lincoln, NE

The nearly twenty foot tall sculpture of the sower on the dome of the Nebraska State Capitol represents the pioneer spirit of Nebraska. The state’s first residents were the indigenous tribes, followed by fur traders, European immigrants and slaves freed after the Civil War. Every year numerous towns throughout the state hold festivals to celebrate and honor these early Nebraskans. My own grandmother was a German from Russia who came to Nebraska in her early teens. We can be proud of our state’s diversity and the history of welcoming those hoping to build new lives.

I decided to create the image of the sower on my quilt in a variety of bright colors to represent the Nebraskans of yesterday and today that come from diverse races, ethnic backgrounds nationalities, religions, and sexual orientations. We are stronger together, we are all Nebraskans.



“Nebraska, My Home” by Donna di Natale of Lenexa, KS

I was born and raised in Norfolk, Nebraska, and met and married my husband in Lincoln. As Coordinator of the Nebraska Community Improvement Program in the 1970's, I had the privilege of traveling throughout the state, visiting towns large and small and getting to know the land and its people. Although I've lived in Kansas for 35 years. Nebraska is still home to me.

What I miss most about Nebraska is its beautiful and varied landscape. The hills, plains and valleys; the rivers and field; the old windmills and wagon ruts. This is the diversity portrayed in my quilt, *Nebraska, My Home*



“Please Join Us” by Anita Dover of Lincoln, NE

Growing up on a Nebraska farm meant existing on the land with our own milk, meat, garden produce, fresh in the summer or canned for winter consumption. It meant walking 1 ½ miles through the fields to a one room school house and in the summer walking a couple miles to play with neighbor kids. It meant meeting the bus at the county line on Saturday afternoon to go to town for piano lessons. It meant trust, never locking your doors and working together with neighbors at corn shelling or harvesting time and any other time when needed. Even the kids pitched in when they could. All part of instilling down to earth values and good work ethics.

This wall hanging exemplifies what Nebraska is to me with respect to race, gender, ethnicity, religious persuasion, or economic status. It is available to all.

Nebraska--The Good Life!



"A Walk on the Prairie" Barbara Engebretsen of Harrison, NE

I love the prairie. When I look out a window, I see the prairie. In the welcome shade of a tree as I sit in a comfy lawn chair looking across the garden, I see the prairie. The prairie has many images. Flowers, windmills, cattle, antelope, grouse and meadowlarks are common on my walks. In the day, the sky gives hints of weather. At night, the Milky Way is awesome. The wide open spaces are calming and peaceful. My family and friends are fortunate to have chosen to be members of a community called Nebraska.



“Pointing the Way West” by Monica Fisher, Clarkson, NE

The sight that took my breath away was a wheat field, golden in the sunshine, stretching to the horizon on all sides. I had just spent part of the summer working in the mountains, and the feeling I get when someone is reading the newspaper over my shoulder was how the mountains made me feel. I have always loved the flatlands of Nebraska. It was where I grew up, and where I want to watch sunsets and sunrises.

Chimney Rock speaks to me, because on the flatlands you can see it for 40 miles. I can understand the child on the wagon train who said, "We are walking and walking every day and we are still in the same place!" Chimney Rock was an image the pioneers could understand. I made this wallhanging in Stained Glass because I have always wanted to try it. My inspiration was a picture in a magazine.



"Farm Life" by Kara Harms of Hickman, NE

I am a born and raised Nebraskan having lived in the same small town all of my life. I love the wide-open spaces, the changing seasons of the crops, and the supportive local communities Nebraska has to offer. I went to Chadron, Nebraska for my undergraduate degree and learned a lot more about my state than I ever thought I knew and greatly enjoyed my time there. I continued my education in Georgia where the people and culture were a bit of a shock but no less kind and inviting to this small town girl. Even though I've attended school out of state, Nebraska always remained my home, my constant. I don't believe I could live anywhere else because where would I go when all who I love most dearly are here in Nebraska. There is no other place that can offer more than what I have already. Nebraska-my home.



"Chimney Rock" by Kara Harms of Hickman, NE

I am a born and raised Nebraskan having lived in the same small town all of my life. I love the wide-open spaces, the changing seasons of the crops, and the supportive local communities Nebraska has to offer. I went to Chadron, Nebraska for my undergraduate degree and learned a lot more about my state than I ever thought I knew and greatly enjoyed my time there. I continued my education in Georgia where the people and culture were a bit of a shock but no less kind and inviting to this small town girl. Even though I've attended school out of state, Nebraska always remained my home, my constant. I don't believe I could live anywhere else because where would I go when all who I love most dearly are here in Nebraska. There is no other place that can offer more than what I have already. Nebraska-my home.



“Closer to the Sky” by Deborah Hickman of Omaha, NE

I had the privilege of being born and raised on a small family farm in the western panhandle of Nebraska. The concept of “farm to table” was a way of life during my childhood. I was entirely happy to roam the meadows, climb the trees and occasionally fall into the Lodgepole Creek that meandered through our farm. Unusual for that time, my father was essentially an organic farmer who taught me the importance of conserving the quality of our life giving land and water. The neighbors taught me the importance of community. My entire family taught me the importance of honesty, work and the pursuit of spiritual values. In my present life, I know the origins of the food I buy and the importance of the connection between the natural world and human life. What was instilled in my past still recommends my present.



"There Is No Place Like Nebraska" Alicia Hynes of Oshkosh, NE

I have lived in Nebraska all my life, the first 17 on the farm. There I learned gardening, canning, caring for animals, butchering chickens, and cooking. I learned the importance of honesty and helping out our neighbors. I even learned the value of a dollar the hard way. As a small child, I earned 1/2 cent per potato bug I picked in the garden, 10 cents for each chicken I plucked, and 25 cents per dozen eggs I sold. As they say, "You can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the girl." I had no specific pattern in mind, just a lot of embroidery designs calling me to make a quilt. My goal was to use my stash of fabrics and thread and not buy anything. I chose a farm scene, because when I think of Nebraska, I think farm.



"Platte River Morning" Sharon Jensen of Blair, NE

I'm an accidental Nebraskan, having moved to the land of the Cornhuskers as a teenager not because of some inner vision but because of the inevitability of family ties. Year by year, those family connections have been transformed into the tapestry of a rich and happy life. At Dana College, I learned Danish, became a librarian and archivist, met lifelong friends--not least--my husband -to-be, and began the worldwide travels that years later led back to Nebraska. In the Cottonwood Quilters and the Nebraska State Quilt Guild, I found creative and caring friends and mentors that unfailingly enrich and enliven my days. Quilting means working quietly in my sewing room, but it also means traveling across the state and discovering its geographic and cultural riches, including those amazing Sand hill cranes. Their faithful return to the Platte is itself a celebration of this splendid and beautiful state.



"Sand hill Crane" Sandy Johnson of Lyons, NE

I was born and raised in northeast Nebraska. As a child we really did not travel or venture too far from home. My dad worked on road construction, so summer vacations were going for a month or so wherever he was working. So my first trip to the other side of Nebraska was as an adult and it was totally amazing to me. How different the scenery and landscape was! My first trip and viewing of the migrations of the sand hill cranes left a big impression in my memory. I have been back several times since then. Still living in northeast Nebraska, I had to quilt a cornfield in the border.



"Ne 150- Diversity is Our Strength" Kellie Kachek of Ralston, NE

Nebraska is increasingly diverse. From Native Americans who roamed the land before we became a State, to those who arrive here as a result of the Homestead Act, railroad, stockyards, migration or immigration; each group brought their culture and traditions. To capture this diversity and celebrate the Nebraska Sesquicentennial, I chose a variety of skin tone fabrics to represent the diversity of our population. The fabrics were overlapped to illustrate how we all interact and blend in with one another in our everyday lives. The ragged edges of the fabrics represent how we are not yet finished and will continue to evolve. Mostly, I wanted to make a statement I have always strongly believed in-that we are better together; that our different cultures makes us richer; that our diversity brings out the best in each of us and makes us stronger.



“Arbor Day” Pat Kant of Lincoln, NE

Nebraska means “home” to me, a perfect place to raise a family, experience quality of life, wonderful people where everyone is included, good values, strong work ethic, quality education, innovative people, beautiful environment, low crime and more. According to the history of Arbor Day, one innovative pioneer, J Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, visualized the importance of trees to a state that was primarily a treeless farmland and prairie. Trees provided shade from the hot prairie sun, windbreaks, fuel, building materials and a source for food. The first Arbor Day was April 10, 1872 when Nebraska pioneers planted 1,000,000 trees. Over time, the practice of planting trees annually spread to all states and eventually globally. Today, Arbor Day is celebrated as a National holiday.



“e pluribus unam- one out of many” Joyce Kingsley of Wilcox, NE

Nebraska is my home. My grandparents’ families migrated to south central Nebraska and north central Kansas to homestead. They farmed south of the Republican River. People from all over the world have come to Nebraska to follow and fulfill their dreams. We can all fit within the state lines and live peaceably. The future is bright and opportunities endless.



"Proud of My Nebraska" Janet Kugler of Holdrege, NE

Nebraska is a very meaningful part of my life, the only place I have ever lived. It's what has made me what I am today! The quilt background of friendship stars and endless chain blocks shows that friends are important and tied together by different interests. The Nebraska shape with all the patchwork shows the diversity of our state of the people and the landscape. The river, as water is so important for us. The outline shapes of the sites show there are many man-made and natural things in our state to enjoy. Flowers are one of the colorful parts of our state. The Sunbonnet Sues are showing 1800's fabric which was dark to the 1930's being brighter and more modern look of batik. The butterfly represents our freedom. A strong sun and wide open sky with beautiful clouds over our great soils surround us making our state so great!



"Wild about Nebraska" Bonnie Lech of Atkinson, NE

This quilt represents everything I love about my Nebraska - even the back - GO HUSKERS! I live in a rural area and so appreciate everything I get to see and do each day. There are times when I have to go to the city, to see my grandchildren, and get some concrete under my feet. I am wild about Nebraska. There is no place I would rather be! I was born in Nebraska, married here and raised my children here. My children and grandchildren live here too. Our families are deeply rooted here and very proud of our state. There is no place like Nebraska. It's the greatest place for me!



"Digging Potatoes" Tish Lehman of Ann Arbor, MI

My grandparents immigrated to Nebraska from Poland and Luxembourg and my son from Korea, but my own roots are deep in the soil of this dry-land farm outside of Fullerton. I love the open skies and the safe feeling of my father's garden enclosed the windbreak he planted when he started farming. Local kindergartners raided his pumpkin patch every October. My 1976 snapshot of my father and his new grandson digging potatoes shows the moment my past and future merged in that soil. Turning the impressionistic scene into a quilt was indeed a challenge until I realized I couldn't do the whole picture, just a fabric collage of important elements. The batik fabric is from last year's QuiltNebraska; the rest from my fabric hoard. It's my first attempt at raw-edge appliqué, sewn on the second-hand Singer Featherweight my soldier husband gave me instead of an engagement ring.



"Nebraska the Beef State" Debra Mack of Harrison, NE

I grew up in the Northwestern Panhandle of Nebraska. My childhood wish was to be a cattle rancher - my lifestyle today, living on a beef cattle cow/calf operation in Sioux County.

The diversity of agriculture in Nebraska is unique. Ranchers and farmers work together to build diverse industries in our state, far past the fencing wars of past years. Using advanced technology and new genetics, adds economic stability across the state even with market failures.

Through the diversity, many lifestyles are enjoyed from rural areas to cities.

The diversity of landscape in our state offers Pine Ridges, Buttes, Sand hills, Plains and Rivers. The beauty of all the seasons is breathtaking.

I am grateful for this earth touching nature, becoming a steward of the land, water resources and the air we breathe.. Through my talents of drawing and quilting, I use colors and images of Nebraska.



“Nebraska Prairie Song” by Elaine Nielsen of Seward, NE

I was born in Nebraska and have lived here ever since. I celebrate my family's history of farming in Nebraska which goes back to the days of my great-grandparents in the late 1800's! My home state has always sung a special song to me...while I learned from my parents the lessons of hard work, self-sufficiency, and making do as I grew up on our farm. I appreciate the quiet life of the countryside and the beauty found in nature. Often times, the simple things in life can bring the most joy and satisfaction. Like the sight of a plough silhouetted against a sunset sky...symbolic of agriculture on the plains. Wind in the trees and grasses, brightly colored birds and wildflowers, fireflies rivaling the stars at night, golden wheat fields shimmering in the sun, and pale cornfields whispering of harvest...my how the Nebraska prairie sings!



“Corn is Nebraska Gold” Megan Patent-Nygren of Ceresco, NE

Corn is a plant native to the Americas. It has been raised as a food crop for more than a millennium, and Nebraska’s hills, valleys and flatlands are highly suited to raise it. Corn crosses Nebraska’s cultural lines. It was an integral part of the Otoe tribal heritage and is prominent in the cultural foods of Nebraska’s Latinos. The hard work and dedication of Nebraska farmers led journalists to the Cornhusker moniker for our premier university’s athletic teams. Today corn is an important driver in Nebraska’s economy. Its uses are in human and animal food streams, fuels and hundreds of industrial products. Nebraska corn is used across the nation and exported. As a lifelong Nebraska farmer, I have contributed to and reaped the benefits of Nebraska corn and corn-fed beef. Corn is Nebraska Gold!



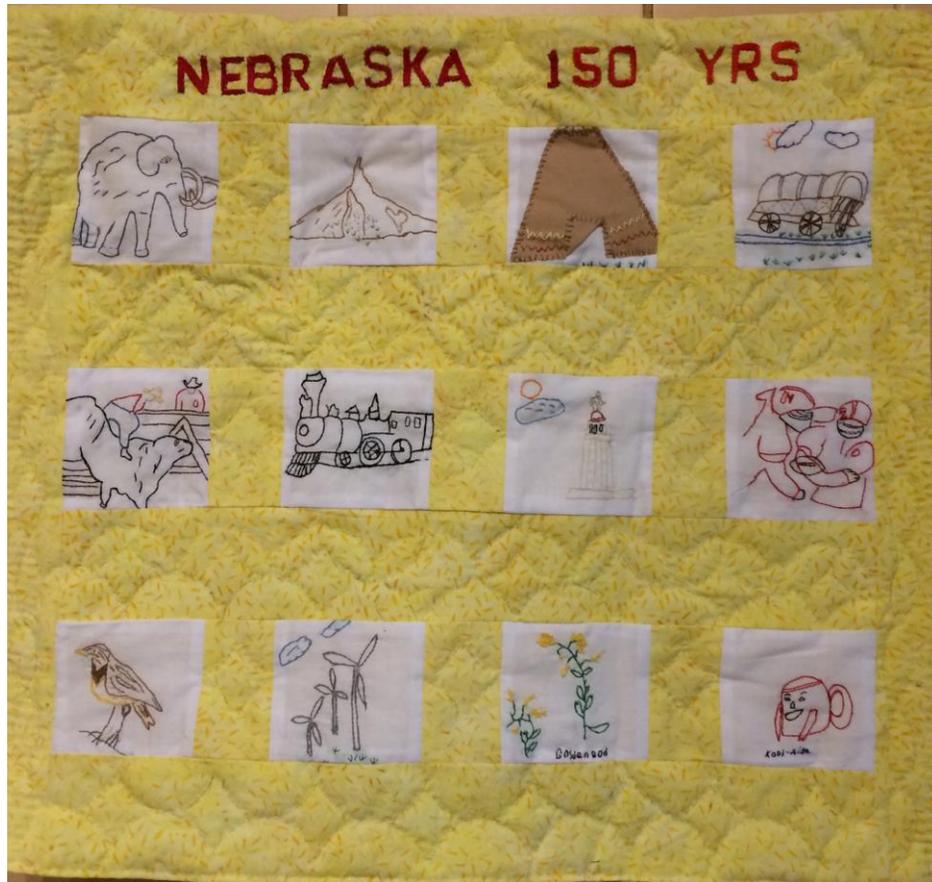
"Prairie Bouquet" Nancy Peters of Papillion, NE

The Midwest runs through me as I was born and raised in Kansas and the first and last assignments in our Air Force career were in Omaha. I love the wide open vistas of the prairie and the wild flowers in bloom, especially the sunflowers. My quilt was inspired by Van Gogh and his sunflowers with my wheat added to the bouquet. Wheat is braided piping, then appliquéd in place.



"Nebraska Skies" Barbra Rennard of Omaha, NE

I love Nebraska sky. My husband and I have been fortunate to travel to many parts of the world, and although I have seen beautiful sunsets everywhere, Nebraska sunsets are consistently wonderful. This challenge inspired me to experiment with different techniques to create sunsets. I have been interested to make a barn quilt as well, so combining these two ideas seemed perfect! The barn at the bottom left is an historic barn in western Nebraska on the family farm of my friend, Deb Hickman. The barn on the right is the Arbor Day Farm barn in Nebraska City. The other two barns are also designed from barns on Nebraska farms.



“Small Part of Nebraska History” Shirley Schuchard of Crescent, IA

I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and attended St. Bernard and Marion High School. My parents took me all over Nebraska and taught me to love the history of the state of Nebraska. My quilt incorporates snippets of Nebraska’s history from the woolly mammoth to Chimney Rock.



Holding on Together to Help Us Soar" Diana Stier of Blair, NE

I attended the Albuquerque Balloon festival in October, 2015. While the balloons were being filled, several people were holding on to tethers to keep the balloon grounded until given the OK to take off. I've lived in Nebraska most of my life. When I saw the Statehood competition, I thought of the diversities in the State and how we need to work together to stay great.



"Windmills in Nebraska" Myrna Vercruysee of Blair, NE

I grew up in a small town, later moved to the big city and then to the country. My father grew up ranching/farming in western Nebraska. He was the only one to leave the country and move to the city, but was always part cowboy. For vacation, we would take trips to the country and my dad could be a cowboy again. I grew to love the country life and the windmill blades turning against the blue skies, dotted with white puffy cotton ball clouds. Now we have a "get away" in the sandhills, taking me back to the days of my youth. In my landscape, I added the cows and horses we have on our farm. Windmills still provide the ranchers with a steady supply of water for their stock. Without this supply of water, the western part of our state would be a dry, desolate, wasteland.