

Janet Splan's Quilt Chosen In Hoffman Challenge

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

Each year Hoffman California Fabrics, one of the major fabric companies, holds a competition called the Hoffman Challenge. They design a new fabric just for this challenge, and entrants must use that fabric in their quilt. All the details, rules, etc. can be found at HoffmanChallenge.com.

This year the fabric was a bold green paisley, and Janet Splan of Elbow Pond Road just "fell in love with it." Other than sewing for family and one very small quilt shop challenge, she had never before entered anything, anywhere, at any time. However, she decided to jump in and enter the contest for the personal challenge, never expecting anything to come of it.

"Simply receiving the judges' comment sheet would help make me a better quilter," says Janet. "They get between 700 and 1,000 entries per year from all over the US and several foreign countries. No way was I expecting anything at all," she admits.

The Challenge has winners in many categories, but they also select the top finalists (200 quilts this year) to travel the country from August 2009 through September 2010. Janet's entry was selected to travel, the only quilt from New Hampshire to be so honored. It will be shown at many of the major quilt shows in the nation, though none very close to Andover.

Janet's original design for her quilted wall hanging started with the theory that the paisley shape is of Persian derivation and represents a seed pod, with the young starting out on their own to



Janet's quilted wallhanging

build new colonies, with all the hopes and dreams and enthusiasm necessary to meet the challenge. Because Janet is very fond of *double entendre*, the secondary meaning represents her own first expedition into competitive quilting. The name "Away We Go!" suits both ideas.

"My family background is art, and my professional background is accounting and finance. Rather than go the 'creative bookkeeping' route, I went the 'mathematical quilting' route. It's much safer! I love the math of quilting and especially like designing patterns with depth and dimension, quilts you can look into, not just at," explains Janet.

"Away We Go!" was machine quilted by Georgette Gagne of Black Wolf Quilting Studio in Webster. Janet says she made a point of purchasing her materials locally. She purchased many of the fabrics and supplies used in making the quilt from Andover resident Irene Haley's The Quilting Corner in Tilton (QuiltingCornerNH.com). "Irene has been wonderful to me every time I have been in her shop, and her fabrics are to die for!" says Janet.



Emily Bates, Danika Kolesar, Maya Haynes, Tiffany Poulin, and Ethan Collette load up with newly discovered summertime enjoyment from the library.
Photo: Gail Fitzpatrick

Andover Libraries

By Gail Fitzpatrick
Summer Reading Program

The Andover Library was bustling this summer with eager visitors who engaged in a variety of reading and related activities as part of New Hampshire's Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program is designed to encourage recreational reading and regular visits by children and families

to our public libraries during the summer months, and promote regular library visits throughout the year.

Children may not be aware of the research that shows that students who read over the summer retain more of their reading skills and are better prepared for school in the fall. They are just having fun and enjoying their visits to our public library.



Daisy Elwell, Chelsea Thompson, Nicole Barton, Griffin Merriman, and Colby Benoit posed with Kai de Mello-Folsom (back), who played Jesus, for the 2009 KAT Company production of *Godspell*. They performed in five great performances this year. KAT is a five-week theatrical camp held at Kearsarge Regional High School. Thank you to everyone who supported this great program by attending performances this year.

Caption: Stephanie Barton. Photo: Tracy Merriman

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