

## Diane H. McGuire

Diane H. McGuire belongs to a long line of craft women. Her grandmother and four sisters were all accomplished needlewomen, making embroidered items for their church and embellishing handkerchiefs with tatting or crocheted lace. Both her mother and grandmother made many garments. She started sewing on her mother's Singer at age 10 and for the next twenty years sewed many of her own outfits. Around 1974, just at the beginning of the quilting revival, she made her first quilt. She didn't know anyone who had ever made a quilt but saw a picture of one in a magazine was inspired. Without a pattern she used fabric left over from drapes and dresses and made a quilt for her mother. Not realizing that batting was available, she used an old mattress pad instead. What a beginning!

After a few years, she started writing her own patterns, mainly for simple traditional quilts, and teaching quilting in her living room. She made mostly log cabin quilts along with her Whirlwind design and tied them. Gradually she moved to more complicated patterns and to machine quilting with a straight stitch.

In 2004, she retired from teaching and bought a Gammill. That opened up incredible possibilities and she never looked back. She has had One Woman shows at Tumbleweed, and the libraries in Attleboro and Raynham.

In addition to designing most of her own quilts, Diane continues to write patterns and teach classes. Lately she has taken a totally different direction with hand piecing, hand applique, and hand quilting, especially with reproduction nineteenth century fabrics.

Diane was born and grew up in Attleboro, but spent her first twenty-one summers at the family cottage in Bass River which she still owns. She has fond memories of the Cape with dirt roads and sand dune beaches.

She taught English for thirty-four years at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School and was advisor to a number of activities including the school newspaper and the yearbook. In addition to being an active and enthusiastic member of Bayberry, Diane lives in Raynham and is a member of the Raynham Historical Commission, the Raynham Historical Society, and the Raynham Book Club. Her love of cooking led her to being the coordinator of the Friends of the Raynham Library Cookbook that was just published. Her love of gardening is evident in her many floral quilts and quilting motifs.