

When you approach Claire Costello's beautiful home in East Dennis, you are struck by the care given to each detail of landscaping outside and placement of furniture and art inside. It is no wonder, that her quilts are masterpieces of design and color.

Claire married in 1949. Claire and her husband, Ed, adopted two children. For the next nearly 40 years, she lived in Cold Spring, NY. Her long career in quilting began in 1977 when she took a class with Marge Tomann and Doris Koziak at Highland Needlecrafts in Garrison, NY. The rest of us might have chosen as a first quilt pattern something like Rails and Fences. Claire, however, chose to make two blue and white twin-size bedspreads using a pattern called Drunkard's Path Lone Circle!

While continuing to take classes at Highland Needlecrafts, Claire joined her first quilting guild in Somers, NY. During the years that she worked as assistant librarian at the Butterfield Memorial Library in Cold Spring, she formed the Butterfield Quilt Guild - teaching its members English paper piecing and creating quilts to be raffled for the benefit of the library. Always looking for ways to help others through her quilting and her faith, she also taught a once-a-week quilting class at the Nazareth Right to Life Home. (Claire shared with us a note of appreciation that she had received years later from one of the mothers at the home.) In 1987, Claire and her husband retired and moved to Cape Cod. Shortly afterwards, to our great benefit, Claire joined Bayberry Quilters. She continues to take classes and is never afraid to try something different or difficult. Her beautiful home is adorned with many of her class projects.

Clearly a very traditional quilter, Claire always follows a pattern she has found in a quilt shop or magazine. Once she has her pattern, she buys only the fabric she needs for the project (no stash!). Most of her piecing is done by hand - usually employing a paper template, and all quilting is done by hand on a two-foot round quilt stand. She works on one project at a time till its completion (no UFO's!). The results are finely detailed, exquisitely quilted works of art.

Claire also maintains wonderfully detailed quilt journals with notes and photos of every piece she has ever quilted including newspaper articles about her quilts and the awards they've won. Her journals are treasures in themselves!

Claire is devoted to her church and committed to Bayberry Quilters, actively participating and volunteering her time and talent to the many Guild events. Judging from her excellent health and optimism, we would say she has a few more beautiful quilts in her future, despite her 88 years!

Rada Elegant and Ellen Bowler

#### *NOTES IN REFERENCE TO QUILT PHOTOS BELOW:*

**Boston Common Quilt:** The quilting pattern was transferred to the fabric by pouncing a pouch filled with cinnamon as that was the only way to mark quilts at the time!

**Baltimore Album Quilt:** Claire calls this "the quilt that went to church"! Father Baris, pastor at Our Lady of the Cape Church in Brewster, MA, exhibited this quilt in his homily for a children's Mass. He told the children that "if you take all the fragments of your life, the good and the bad, like all the pieces of fabric in a quilt, it can become something beautiful."