



As the July 4th holiday is upon us, we are reflecting on our congressional designation as the nation's repository for the finest work by Today's Quilters. In this issue of *Threads*, we'll take a closer look at how The National Quilt Museum strives to fulfill this significant role.

One way is through our exhibitions, and as you'll learn from the article about quilter Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry and her quilt *Corona II: Solar Eclipse*, a flurry of controversy unleashed a wave of worldwide quilting ingenuity and innovation.

Other ways are by highlighting the stories quilts tell and inspiring future quilters. Melinda Bula's story will tug at your heart, while Cassandra Beaver's will rev up your creativity. Director of Learning & Engagement, Becky Glasby, shares highlights from the 63 youth who participated in Quilt Camp 2025.

Finally, there's nothing more American than the opportunity to share our opinions, hopes, and desires freely. We are grateful to everyone who participated in our online survey. Two of the most popular requests were to expand the online NQM Gift Shop and to provide access to online content.

Read on to meet our new dynamic Gift Shop manager, Meghan Brown, and to learn about a grant from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels that will enable us to broadcast online content.

Happy 4th of July!
Bonnie



There's a Story Behind Every Quilt

When Melinda Bula's son (and only child) decided to join the Marines after college, she made the quilt, *...and Our Flag Was Still There*, to deal with her emotions. The quilt depicts the American flag, tattered but still flying, above a battlefield, and Melinda lovingly dedicates it to all military families.

"I never planned on selling this quilt. I made it just for me and my son, to help me deal with the thought that my only child was going to be a Marine and probably go off to war. That was very difficult for me to handle, but as all quilters do when faced with challenges, I went to the studio and put my feelings into cloth. There are tears in that fabric." - Melinda Bula.

We are honored to have *...and Our Flag Was Still There*, in the NQM Collection.

How One Quilt Can Make a Difference

Back in 1989, Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry entered her quilt *Corona II: Solar Eclipse* in the American Quilter's Society Quilt Contest in Paducah. She made it on her Bernina 1030. Meredith Schroeder, the founder of the American Quilter's Society, said she'll never forget when the judges named it Best of Show. It was the first time that a machine-quilted entry had ever been considered for the coveted award. As the head of the world's largest quilt membership organization, she knew that it would be a controversial decision, but she also knew it was the right decision, as the quilt was a showstopper.

When Caryl received the Best of Show Award, it resonated throughout the entire industry, establishing machine quilting as a legitimate art form. The ingenuity and innovation from one quilt and one woman's brave decision paved the way for millions of machine quilting artists. They unleashed a technological revolution in the manufacturing of sewing machines that continues to this day.

Caryl's quilt, *Corona II: Solar Eclipse*, was voted one of the 100 Best Quilts of the 20th Century. It is now part of the NQM Collection and is on display in her magnificent exhibition, "A Life in Color — 50



Corona II: Solar Eclipse by
Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry

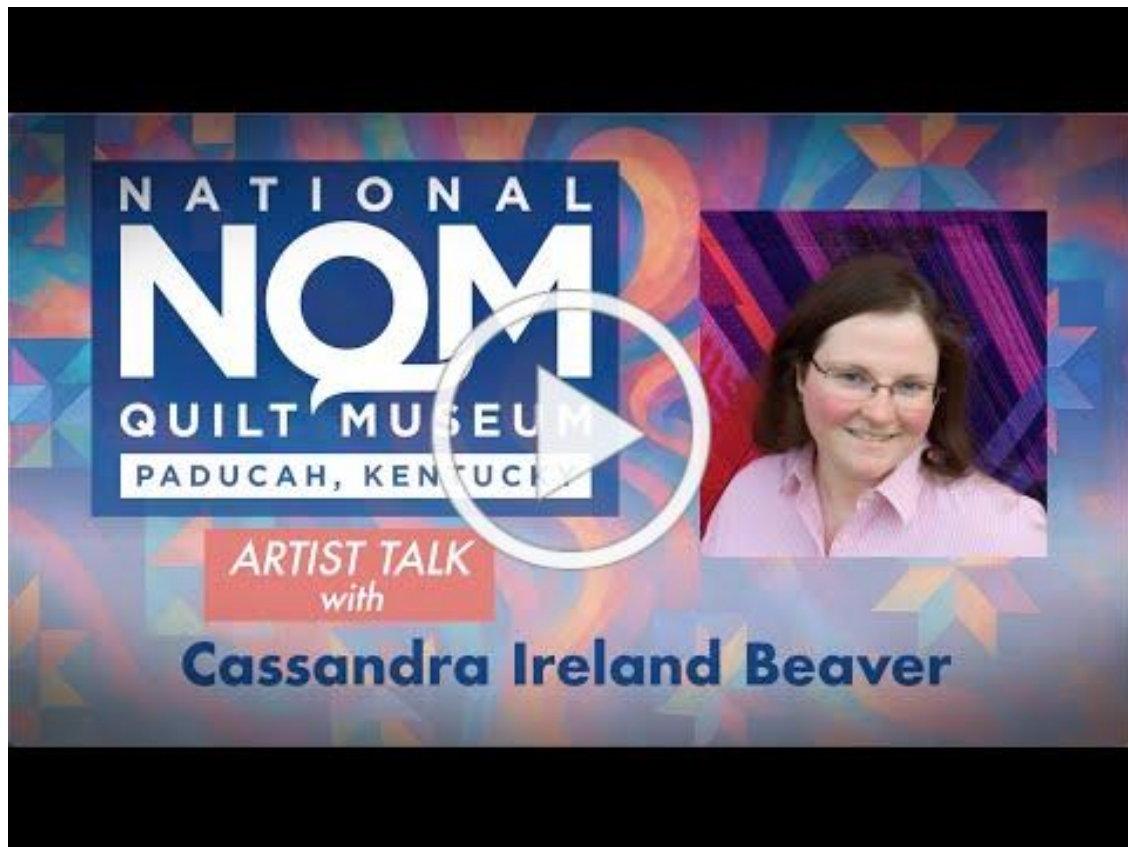
Years of Art Quilts," which comprises 67 quilts and is on view now through October 7th.

New Online Artist Talks Series

In response to our recent survey, we are pleased to announce a new series of online Artist Talks. The first features NQM Collection Quilter Cassandra Beaver, who is known for her innovative use of traditional and foundation paper piecing techniques to create dynamic and unique quilts.

In other positive news, we recently received a grant from the Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonels to renovate our educational facilities with a new audio-visual system, which will enable us to broadcast more online content.

Enjoy the Artist Talk!



Register for Quilt Documentation Days

Registration for Quilt Documentation Days on September 12th and 13th is now open! [Click here](#) to register.

Quilt Camp 2025

Becky Glasby, Director of Engagement & Learning, hosted 63 campers in beginning, intermediate, and advanced quilting camps in June. “They all did such a fantastic job choosing their fabrics, coordinating colors, designing the quilting, and adding some of their own creativity. We also saw the influence of the NQM Collection on their quilting designs, as we make a point of spending time in the galleries for inspiration. It has an impact on how some campers choose to incorporate quilting as another element of their artistry,” Glasby said.



We couldn't provide as rich as an experience without the beautiful fabrics, notions and support provide by our Quilt Camp 2025 sponsors, including Aurifil, Carson-Myre Foundation, Hancock's of Paducah, Kentucky Arts Council, Moda Fabrics, Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau, Piece by Number Quilts, Rotary Club of Paducah, and the City of Paducah.



NQM Collection Quilt July-August Sponsors

The July-August NQM Collection Quilt Sponsors are John and Rudina Durbin, who chose the quilt *"But Can He Sing?"* by Roberta Williams from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Roberta said, "This quilt was an inspiration. It is something I have wanted to do forever because I love birds, and I love the peacock who doesn't sing."

If you're interested in sponsoring a Collection Quilt, contact Tiffany Turner by phoning the museum or email at tturner@quiltmuseum.org.



Meet Our New NQM Gift Shop Manager

Meghan's background as a painter and graphic designer with over 20 years of experience in fashion and gift/crafting within the retail industry allows her to appreciate the artistic mastery of quilting while also understanding how to curate a gift shop experience that genuinely resonates with NQM visitors.

Expect to see more handcrafted items from regional artists, along with unique, design-forward gifts that complement our existing gift shop offerings, and an expanded online Gift Shop.



Meghan Brown

Friends of The Museum

Thank you to everyone below who renewed their Friend of the Museum Membership in June. Your support makes our exhibitions, programs, and events possible.

If you would like to become a Friend of the Museum and enjoy the benefits of free attendance for yourself and a guest, plus more, [click here](#).

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Jessica McCarthy
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Current Exhibitions



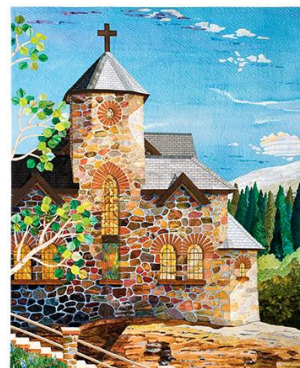
Red Dot #6 by Victoria
Findlay Wolfe

Victoria Findlay Wolfe:
Option Expedition
Now – September 9,
2025



Celebration #2 by Caryl
Bryer Fallert-Gentry

**Caryl Bryer Fallert-
Gentry: *A Life In Color***
Now – October 7, 2025



Mountain Chapel by
Annette Kennedy

**The National Quilt
Museum Collection**
Ongoing

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



Carson-Myre Charitable Foundation



American
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Karen Kay Buckley
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July 2025

The National Quilt Museum | 215 Jefferson St | Paducah, KY 42001 US

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