

Spring Retreat Report

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What a great weekend we had at the Spring Retreat! A few new retreaters (**Betsy Sayre, Margaret Ward, Maggie Wells**) joined many veterans for a soggy, rainy, sunny, stormy, cool, cold, slightly-warm, definitely-Spring long weekend at Tilikum Retreat Center in Newberg. The retreat center was undergoing some remodeling, so we had the Extreme Makeover mid-show reality experience: mostly done but not quite. Through it all, our Tilikum hosts were gracious and helpful and we were amazingly productive ... or not, as we each chose to be!

There were many charity quilts made there, and many different construction techniques demonstrated: paper piecing, curved piecing, strip piecing, hand and machine applique, feathered stars, tiny Seminole piecing, rag quilting, garment construction (remember that?), hand- and machine embellishment, and a 12" challenge piece on "fishnet stockings". Numerous field trips led to the local quilt shops (and antique stores and that yarn shop, too!) and as a result, **Bonnie Mitchell** "donated" the most to the Chehalem Valley economy. In case we needed them, our snack tables were bountiful, with **Kathy White** winning the prize for best snack (wonderful chocolate coconut cookies).

Rita Young Kilstrom taught a daring and delightful class in "Striping a Crazy Quilt", resulting in strips, "snakes", 45-degree slashes, and reassembled fabric in every color combination. Thank you, Rita! Saturday night's dice games were won by **Fran Harkins, Rita Young Kilstrom, Marilyn Doty, and Carol Hull**, and 15 of us enjoyed Saturday afternoon massages.

Special thanks to the Tilikum Trio – **Fran Harkins, Betsy Sayre, Lorle Starling** – who provided the musical accompaniment to our Sunday brunch festivities, and to **Gillian Gardner** and **Judy Berg**, who helped Janice and Maureen unload, set up the retreat center, and set events in motion. What a great help you were!

Thank You

We've said it before, and happy to say it again. Many thanks to our retreat leader, **Maureen Orr Eldred** and her fun and very capable assistant, **Janice Jones**. Without them this retreat wouldn't happen. Not this way anyway. This way including, laughter (at ourselves, them and each other), sharing (thoughts, ideas, constructive criticism) and lots of love. They had their helpers also - Janet Franco and Pat Emfinger to name just a couple.

Many thanks to all concerned.