



**Saskatchewan
Stitches
Conference**

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COVID 19 Creative Challenge

Name: Jan Bones, Winnipeg

Name of Entry: Fabrics of my Life

Category: Quilted Item

Story: In 1977 I was inspired by my Auntie who was hand embroidering & making a Victorian inspired patchwork quilt with gorgeous silks, satins & velvets. Although it was impressively beautiful, I thought I could maybe try something simple. I started keeping small pieces of fabric from clothing I was sewing for family, myself and others. Digging into my stash also let me remember things I had made in a few of the previous years.

And so it started...In the summer of 1971, I cut out a dozen 10" squares of cotton muslin. I purchased Gutermann Buttonhole twist in a few colours, found embroidery scissors & hand sewing needles & made a heavy clear plastic bag to hold all these items. A 3 hour lake car trip gave me the perfect time to start assembling the first square. Embroidery stitches like chain stitch, catch stitch, pick stitch, French knots, feather stitch, wavy lan, diagonal stitch, lazy daisy stitch, box stitch became the magic. They allowed me to join together all the tucked under edges of the various fashion fabrics to the cotton muslin ground layer.

Colour guided me for that first square because in my bag of pieces, red seemed to be dominant. T-shirts, swimsuits & red men's golf pants (I) had been fun projects & now they were part of the hand embroidered square.

As the years passed, I stuffed fabric pieces into the plastic bags & when the mood or time allowed, another square would take shape with a colour theme as my guide. When the millennium arrived, cutting more muslin square was important because I wanted to keep going! Right from the start, I embroidered the year within the fabrics of each square. They show squares from years in a row & many gaps of years too! In 2021 the last square was completed. In 2022, Wendy's Challenge truly gave me a goal. In the end 20 squares seemed perfect...I decided to make a bed topper, 5 square by 4 squares. I had to learn to join everything perfectly, to stipple, sew triangles, create binding & mitred corners. Thanks to my great quilting friend Caron for guiding this garment sewing person!

Clothing for absolutely everyone, a few home decorations projects, a few simple baby quilts & even my "many-times-darned-but-had-to-give-them-up=favourite-socks," they are all here! I love each square. Oh the memories>>>> These are the fabrics of my Life.