

Storyweavers of RRQ

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When I joined RRQ, I'd hear about "small groups", and how you could meet people and learn so much if you joined one. Problem was, I had no idea how to join one. I thought someone would invite me to be a member of one, so I waited, and waited, and waited....no invite. I went to Kit Dwight and she said that the existing groups were currently closed, but if I wanted to start a new group, I should figure out what the purpose of the group was to be and the logistics of the group, and then put an article in the newsletter.

I had read in a quilt magazine about a group of quilters who made quilts based on a book they had read and thought combining two of my interests would be a good idea. (And, I hoped at least one other member would think so too!) I did as Kit suggested and on March 25, 2008, the Storyweavers had its first meeting at Joanna Roura's home. We made up the rules as we went along, for instance the maximum number of members was based on how many ladies could fit around May Sisk's table.

The purpose and logistics of the group has not changed. Once a month we meet at a member's home and discuss the book we had read the month before. The host gets to pick the next month's book.

So, it is kind of like a book club. We talk and laugh a lot, and then eat goodies. The difference from a traditional book club is that each year we pick a book we have read for a quilt challenge. The quilt must be done for the upcoming RRQ quilt show. Occasionally we also have a challenge on another book for each member to make a quilt block, then we put it together for a completed quilt. The Lighthouses of New Jersey quilt in the Annex is the result of our reading the book "*A Light between Oceans*," recently made into a movie. We are currently working on a challenge from the book "*The Summer before the War*", which takes place before and during World War I. The challenge is to make a quilt with poppies, from the poem "*The Fields of Flanders*". You will see the results at the next show in 2018.

Since its beginning, The Storyweavers have read 82 books. Although the members have changed over the years, it has always lived up to my hope that I would meet good friends and learn from them. I urge all members to do more than attend the monthly meetings. If you cannot go to one of the open sews, join (or start) a small group, volunteer to help with a committee, or take a board position. It is definitely worth the effort with the friendships you will make.