

# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Top National Quilter Teaching at Local Quilting Retreat

*Tiny West Overton Village is becoming a national center for art of quilting.*

**Hollidaysburg, PA – Sept. 13, 2002** – Champion quilt maker Patricia Campbell will teach her unique quilting style to local artisans at an annual quilting retreat Oct. 1 through Oct. 3. By landing Campbell – winner of seven major quilting awards and author of seven books on the art – Kate & Becca's Quilt Patch, Etc. of West Overton Village has cemented its place as a major quilting center.

The charismatic Campbell is a Dallas resident whose work can be seen at [www.patcampbell.com](http://www.patcampbell.com). She single-handedly invented the quilting style known as Jacobean appliqué, which has become the most popular quilting style in southwestern Pennsylvania. Campbell has won the prestigious American Quilters Society Best of Show award, and has designed two lines of fabric: Romance and Fossil Fern. She will be teaching her Wildflower, Taste of Rhapsody and Canterbury Bells patterns, and conducting a trunk show during the course of the three-day quilting retreat, to be held at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Camp.

Campbell's involvement, along with that of local quilting pros Karen Phillips Shwallon and Fay Pritts, has brought record levels of interest in the retreat, says Becky Flack, co-owner of Kate & Becca's Quilt Patch, Etc. "We have far more participants than we have ever had," says Flack. There is still space available in all of the classes, she notes. Participants can sign up for individual classes, or stay at the camp for the entire three-day retreat. Overnights are treated to excellent home-cooked meals, and have access to tennis courts, walking trails and a pool.

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Kate & Becca's Quilt Patch, Etc., located in historic West Overton Village in Scottsdale, sells quilting supplies and teaches the art year-round. This year's retreat is the fifth annual. In addition, the neighboring West Overton Museum conducts a month-long show featuring locally made quilts every June, and hosts the American Quilters Society award winners' tour annually. This year, 18 champion quilts from AQS's 2001 show will be displayed at the West Overton Museum from Oct. 8 through Nov. 3.

In 2000, The Progress Fund made the \$50,000 loan that allowed the Quilt Patch to renovate a building in West Overton Village, and to relocate there. As a result, the area has become a hotbed of quilting. Preserving the art is especially important in these stressful times, says Flack. "Quilting is relaxing. You can be creative. You can do whatever technique you like. You can make it for yourself or give quilts as gifts".

"We find younger and younger women are interested, because they want to have a sense of history, and a bond with previous generations, and they want to make something to pass on to their children," Flack adds.

"Quilting was a major industry here in the 1800s," says Rodney Sturtz, executive director of the West Overton Museum. "I am amazed at the number of local people who enjoy quilting as a hobby and as an avocation."

The West Overton Museum includes numerous preserved 19<sup>th</sup> century structures, including the building that houses the Quilt Patch. And just as the museum has played a key role in revitalizing the region's interest in quilting, the Quilt Patch may be a keystone in redevelopment of West Overton. The West Overton Museum recently received a \$52,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Along with matching funds from the West Overton Museum, the grant will pay for the rehabilitation of several buildings originally constructed in the 1830s. Sturtz hopes the Quilt Patch's success will help attract businesses to those sites, possibly including a bookstore, furniture shop, antique emporium, confectionery and restaurant.

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**The Progress Fund** is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution that provides capital and expertise to tourism-related enterprises in rural southwestern Pennsylvania. The Fund's 100-plus loans have created more than 600 "living wage" jobs. The Progress Fund is the result of legislation by Congressman John P. Murtha. "I am pleased that the Progress Fund is creating jobs in the travel and tourism industry for our region and wish them good luck," says Congressman Murtha.

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