As quilt creators and quilt appreciators, we may see a quilt as artwork — appreciating its composition, the creativity employed in the design, the unified or schismatic effect in each block as well as in the whole. We note the technique and skills needed to execute the work and observe the play between fabric patterns, design pattern, piecing, and quilting.

However, Following the Threads: A Quilt History Sampler considers the quilt as a unique cultural element in the American experience. This symposium will direct our thinking toward the quilt as a topic of America’s social history, although we will not ignore the aesthetic qualities of quilts and will see many examples of outstanding quilts.

We will examine the quilt within the context of a particular regional culture with Jan Wass’s lecture on Illinois Amish quilts, as well as within the context of industry with Linda Pumphrey’s talk on the political and social influences of competitive cotton batting companies.

We’ll explore how factors within an era affected quilt-making in Merikay Voldvogel’s discussion of a famous Depression-era quilt competition.

And we will appreciate the past, celebrate the present, and anticipate the international future of quilts with Karey Bresenhan and Nancy O’Bryant, who will talk about quilts and quilting all over the world. They will share their experience of how quilts play a significant role in “stitching” society together — providing a sense of community that cuts across social divisions (such as age, race, economic standing, and education) and producing a commonality of purpose that draws disparate groups together.
Schedule of Events

9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  « »  Coffee, kolaches, and conversation

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  « »  Morning Session

Welcome
Don Carleton, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Center for American History, and Mary Evelynn Sorrell, Assistant Director for Winedale, The Center for American History.

Discovering Illinois Amish Quilts by Jan Wass
Learn about often-overlooked Amish quilts made near Arthur, Illinois; discover their history dating back to the 1870s; and witness their diversity as these Amish quilt makers merged their desire for simplification with quilting trends. Jan Wass has thirty years of museum experience and is a former curator of Decorative Art at the Illinois State Museum. She is author of Illinois Amish Quilts: Sharing Threads of Tradition.

The Inside Story: The History of Batting and the Early Companies by Linda Pumphrey
Linda Pumphrey is national sales manager for Leggett & Platt. She is currently curator of the Historical Mountain Mist Corporate Quilt Collection. She has served on the advisory board of the International Quilt Study Center, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; International Quilt Association; and the board of the American Quilt Study Group. She currently is on the board for Ohio Quilts!!, co-president of the Alliance for American Quilts, and on the advisory board for Quilts, Inc. With quilters in her family for at least five generations, Linda’s love of quilting grew from her mother and her grandmothers. She carries on the family tradition by being a quilter herself. She holds a MBA from the University of Denver.

Lunch and Special Events
Lunch will be served in the dining hall of the Wagner Dormitory. During the lunch break, attendees can also join our presenters for book signings and visit the current exhibitions in the Winedale Visitor’s Center and offices. Attendees may also attend a quilt turning of selections from the Winedale collection by Kate Adams in the Meadows Building Small Classroom. Kate Adams is the former associate director of the Center for American History. She has curated numerous quilt exhibitions and currently is writing a book on the Winedale collection by Kate Adams in the Meadows Building Small Classroom. Kate Adams is the former associate director of the Center for American History. She has curated numerous quilt exhibitions and currently is writing a book on Winedale’s Quilt Collection.

Afternoon Session

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  « »  Afternoon Session

The 1933 Sears Quilt Contest by Merikay Waldvogel
Merikay Waldvogel will share slides of the quilts and excerpts of correspondence to and from the contestants to bring this important and fascinating story to life. Of Patchwork Souvenirs of the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair, one satisfied reader wrote, “It reads like a novel. There’s just enough intrigue, scandal and suspense with characters as colorful as their quilts to make this a page-turner.” Since Merikay wrote the book with Barbara Brackman in 1993, 150 more quilts have surfaced, and new information about the contest has been uncovered.

From Texas to Tivoli: Where Quilts Have Taken Us by Karey Bresenhan and Nancy O’Bryant
Cousins Karey and Nancy are president and executive vice president, respectively, of Quilts, Inc., and are co-founders of the International Quilt Association. Since 1974, quilts have been the focus of their work, and they’ve spread a love of quilting throughout the world. They’ve organized quilt festivals in the United States and six foreign countries and helped found four non-profit organizations. Along the way, they met fascinating people, had untold adventures, and learned to work with quilters in countries where they could not even speak the language. Most of all, they will share with us the glorious quilts they have seen, from antique to avant-garde.

3:30 p.m.  « »  Reception

Please provide your contact information:
Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr. (circle)
*First Name:______________________ M.I.________
*Last Name:________________________________
*Telephone:___________________________________
*E-mail Address:______________________________
*Postal Code:__________ *State:__________________ *Country:____________
*City:________________________________________
*Address:____________________________________

*required

Please provide your credit card information:
*Type (circle):  Mastercard  VISA
*Credit card number___________________________
*Expiration date (Month/Year):___________
*First Name______________________ M.I.________
*Last Name:________________________________
*Signature_____________________________________
*required

Or enclose your check made payable to: The University of Texas at Austin
Note in the memo section: Winedale Spring Symposium