

What Sparked My Interest in Crafting?

“Why buy a craft for \$7.00 when you can buy the materials for \$92.”-Facebook

When asked what sparked my interest in crafts I think of family, close friends and holiday time.

My Mother

There are 3 girls and a boy in our family. I have many childhood memories of my mother sewing school and holiday dresses and suits for my sisters and me. At holiday time we also made homemade gifts to give to our close family friends in our small neighborhood, I still have a homemade knitted pink hat my childhood friend gave me and it still fits. Luckily my head is still the same size!

My Sister-in-law

My senior year in college I discovered that my sister-in-law always sewed holiday PJ's for her 2 young girls. She helped me sew some homemade gifts that Christmas and lit a spark of interest in learning more about sewing.

Close Friend and Neighbor in VT

When my husband and I were first married and had our first Christmas tree we had no ornaments at all of our own. I remember sewing on my Mom's old Singer sewing machine small cloth ornaments shaped like gingerbread men, stars, birds, trees, stockings to put on our tree. That led to me going to Holiday Craft Fairs for many years often with family and friends. This is where I would get ideas before we had the internet and Pinterest. If I purchase a craft I like I usually try to find materials and make some for friends. My close friend and VT neighbor has a workshop in her garage and she would cut out wooden ornaments for me and I would paint them. It was the fun and companionship I remember most while making these crafts.

Close Teacher Colleague and Friend

While teaching I worked closely with a 4th grade teacher and inspired by the book **A Cup of Christmas Tea** * by Tom Hegg we would do a Grandparent Tea. We invited grandparents for an afternoon of making crafts with students. Then the students each wrote a Grandparent Poem for a grandparent or senior friend. The class then had a Grandparent Tea where the students read their grandparent poems and gave their crafts they had made to them. So my teacher friend and I came up with a lot of craft projects to do at the class workshop over the years.



- *Today this book would not be used for a project like this.*

Close friend and Quilting Mentor

When I retired I met a neighbor here in Florida who has been a quilting mentor and friend. As a Master Quilter she has helped me on many quilting projects over the years. But even in quilting, I consider myself more of a crafter quilter- mostly wall hangings, table runners, and not too many large quilt projects.



So long story short, I think that the fun of crafting is doing it with family, friends, and others. Then sharing the finished craft with loved ones.

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