

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

National Quilt Expert Reveals Secrets of Illinois Amish Quilts

ATHENS, Tenn. (July 23, 2010)—The hidden world of Illinois Amish quilts will be brought to light by renowned quilt expert and author Janice Tauer Wass during a presentation and workshop scheduled to coincide with the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum's national quilt show this fall.

Both programs will focus on expanding attendees' technical vocabulary and appreciation of design elements such as value, rhythm, simplification, visual tension, and balance. Participants will learn how to expand their own quilting repertoire by applying the lessons of color and composition taught by Wass.

Wass is the retired Curator of Decorative Arts at the Illinois State Museum, where she oversaw a collection of more than 160 Amish quilts. She is also the author of *Amish Quilts: Sharing Threads of Tradition*. Currently a resident of Vonore, Tenn., she has taught many classes and juried numerous quilt shows, including at the prestigious International Quilt Festival in Houston.

Wass's lecture will be Friday, October 22, at 6 p.m., and will cost \$5 for Museum members and \$10 for nonmembers. The workshop will be Saturday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a cost of \$70 for members and \$75 for nonmembers. A supply kit will be provided for workshop participants.

Special tour packages for groups of 10 or more are available for both Wass's programs and the quilt show itself, and can be customized to suit the individual preferences of group participants. More information about group packages can be found at the museum's web site,

(more)

www.livingheritagemuseum.com, or by calling 423-745-0329.

The Museum's National Heritage Quilt Show, *Once Upon a Time*, will run from September 4 through October 29 and is sponsored in part by funding from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Founded in 1982, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is a private, nonprofit organization housing more than 7,000 artifacts in 30 permanent exhibits that represent the culture and history of Southeast Tennessee from the 1700s to 1940s. The Museum also offers several changing exhibits as well as numerous special events and programs throughout the year and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.livingheritagemuseum.com.

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