



PRESS CONTACTS:

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: BEDFORD GALLERY IN WALNUT CREEK PRESENTS  
UNTOLD STORIES: EARLY AMERICAN QUILTS FROM THE  
COLLECTION OF SUSAN BROOKS**

**WHAT** *Untold Stories: Early American Quilts from the Collection of Susan Brooks* opens September 14 at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek and has been generously funded by a grant from Diablo Regional Arts Association. This exhibition presents 30 quilts from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, that were created during some of the most momentous and significant eras of U.S. history. Stitched by resilient and courageous women, the quilts chronicle the slave era and Underground Railroad, the Civil War, the Mormon and Oregon Trails, and the temperance movement.



About the exhibition, Curator Carrie Lederer states, “Quilt motifs are both a personal and universal language used to create a narrative or message. Over the centuries unique patterns have been developed, socialized, and passed on from generation to generation. From the *covered wagon* and *log cabins*, to *railroads* and *drunkards path*, graphic, colorful patterns were used to portray political struggles, battles, victories, and to share family stories of birth, love, loss, and death. This exhibition will focus on the ability of these abstract patterns to capture the *life experiences* and *histories* of the quilters and our entire country.”

For generations, the act of quilting also provided much needed solace (especially in *bees*), as a gathering place to find connection, friendship, and share community news. Bedford Gallery’s *Untold Stories* will prove to be a similar experience for people of all ages in our community. Various public programs will introduce audiences to quilting techniques, past and present; involve visitors in building a community quilt; and invite quilt fans from all walks of life to share their own stories and family heirlooms.

**WHERE** Bedford Gallery, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

**EVENTS Bg Art Morning—Wednesday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.**

Hear from the owner of this inspiring collection of American quilts, Susan Brooks. Coffee and pastries provided by the Gallery Guild. Admission \$7, RSVP required.

**Family Day—Sunday, October 19, Noon to 3:00 p.m.**

Bring your family too see quilting machine demonstrations, participate in creating a community quilt, and enjoy live entertainment and refreshments. Free.

**Quilts Tell Stories—Thursday, November 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Unpack your family heirlooms and bring them to the Bedford Gallery to tell your quilt story and learn more about quilt patterns. Admission \$7, RSVP required.

**INFO**

**Telephone:** 925/295-1417

**Website:** [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org)

**Admission:** General \$5; Youth (17 and under) \$3; Children 12 and under, free; Tuesdays free; Free for *Friends of the Bedford*, members of Diablo Regional Arts Association and ticket holders to events in the Leshler Center for the Arts (LCA) on ticketed date.

**Hours:** Tuesday—Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 6:00–8:00 p.m. and other evenings when there are theater productions in the LCA. The Gallery is closed on Mondays.

Bedford Gallery is a program of the City of Walnut Creek.

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