

# The Mayflower Log



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## GEORGE DRAKE—A CELEBRATION

When the *Log* staff decided to focus the Fall issue on Mayflower artists or writers, we had many good choices. When George Drake's name came up, the staff agreed that his deep roots here and his many services and writings deserved celebration. The institutions that George has served with distinction are mainly Grinnell College and Mayflower, both founded by and affiliated with the Congregational Church or its successor, the United Church of Christ. George's story continues the tradition of *A Journey in Faith*, the title of a history of Mayflower (c. 2000).

George and Sue Drake first lived in Grinnell in 1952-56 and 1954-58, respectively, as Grinnell College students. Following George's Rhodes Scholarship years, and the beginnings of graduate and seminary training at the University of Chicago, George and Sue again lived in Grinnell in 1961-62 when George had a one-year internship/instructor appointment at the College. With his Ph.D. in history in hand, George accepted a faculty appointment at The Colorado College where he was a faculty member and Dean during 1964-79. During this time George also served on the Grinnell College Board of Trustees. He and Sue moved back to Grinnell in 1979 when

George was appointed President of the College, in which capacity he served for 12 years. Following two years in the Peace Corps in Lesotho, George and Sue moved back to Grinnell where George resumed his aim to be a teacher and scholar in a faculty role. They moved to the Mayflower in 2013 where George continues in part-time service to the College.

George's overt service to Mayflower was as a member of the Board of Trustees in 2007-15 and Chair of the Board in 2014-15. Those were pivotal years. Especially important were the planning and execution of the Watertower Square addition. This was a huge project that was stunningly successful in design and financial terms. Also important were some crucial appointments for which George worked behind the scenes. They included identifying and attracting Bob Mann and Steve Langerud as candidates for the Executive Director position. George's visibility to several constituencies of the College and Mayflower has encouraged many to become residents and supporters of Mayflower.

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## George Drake

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George has also served us in subtle yet powerful ways by writing serious accounts of notable paragons of service in our community. Among them for the College are his biography of Joe Rosenfield, who succeeded in his lifelong aim of "making the College financially impregnable," and his biography of Edward Steiner, the prolific scholar who defined what "applied Christianity," the name of his professorial chair, really meant. For the community, George spearheaded and edited the moving personal accounts of World War II veterans in Poweshiek County entitled, *Our War*. George has also encouraged significant writings by others such as John Price's, *The Last Liberal Republican*, about social policy in the Nixon administration.

It was mentioned to George that when the early leaders of Grinnell College and of the Mayflower articulated the missions and values of their institutions, they did so in theological terms. Such language is seldom used in either place, but there remains substantial continuity in aims and purposes. George thought that this was a distinction without much of a difference. The faith of our roots had certain social implications that are now articulated in different terms. We use words such as service, justice, community, and tolerance, and they continue to evoke our better selves. George pointed out that, despite the secular language, the spirit of service is still alive at the College and at Mayflower. Among four-year traditional colleges and universities Grinnell College ranks first in the percentage of graduates (43%) that have had careers in public service. Moreover, knowledgeable visitors to Mayflower have been amazed by the high degree of service by residents both to residents and the wider community.

When asked which accomplishments gave him the greatest sense of satisfaction, George identified three. Grinnell College was a dispirited and fractious institution when George became its President in 1979. George's presidency was a turning point. Twelve years later, the College had recovered notable confidence and



**Irrepressible George on his recumbent bike.**

coherence, which continue to this day. George next identified his service on the Mayflower Board. Crucial decisions were taken and directions were adopted at that time that have proved salutary. George and Sue also remember fondly their leadership and financial initiative in enabling the creation of the Drake Community Library. It is a magnificent improvement of our lives at the Mayflower.

*Gene Wubbels*

## MAKING ART WITH FABRIC: MAYFLOWER QUILTERS

Do you know what a “fat quarter” is? If you do, then you are probably a quilter—one of those people who loves to buy fabric, cut it up, and sew the pieces together. Those who are not quilters might shake their heads at this and wonder what the point is. But quilters know exactly what the point is—a soft and tactile piece of art that expresses a pleasing sense of color, design, and skill from the maker’s soul. And if it is big enough, it might even keep you warm on a cold winter’s night.

Patchwork and applique, the chief types of needlework used to construct quilt tops, have long histories dating back to ancient Egypt, China, India and Persia. This art has not lost its appeal in the centuries since then and continues to be popular all over the world, including our Mayflower Community. Recently, some Mayflower quilters got together to talk about their

love of quilting and share some of their work.

Debbie Van Arkel, Dorothy Martinek, Catherine Rod, Patty Johnson, Judi Barber, Dot Anderson, Marilyn Schuler, Vicki Vinall, and Barb Lease all share a love of quilting and yet each has individual ideas, experiences, and preferences that make their quilts unique. Most favor traditional quilts with an occasional nod to contemporary fabrics and designs.

Several in this group developed an appreciation for quilts as children, watching mothers or aunts make quilts. But most began quilting as adults when they took a class or developed friendships with women who shared the same interest, often establishing long term relationships while expanding their skills.

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Mayflower quilters share quilts and stories. I-r Judi Barber, Vicki Vinall, Dorothy Martinek, Patty Johnson, Marilyn Schuler and Debbie VanArkel.



## Mayflower quilters

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The quilting process begins with a pattern design and includes fabric colors chosen



Dorothy Martinek explains the technique of paper piecing, used to create designs with very small pieces.

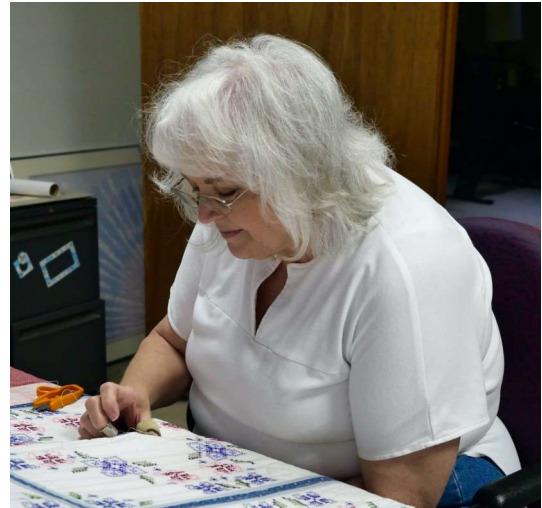
for the desired effect. Then the fabrics are cut and sewn together to form the top. A fabric backing is added with a batting in between and then it's ready to be either hand or machine quilted. While most of the Mayflower quilters work on a sewing machine, several are

devoted to the traditional skill of hand piecing and hand quilting.

Quilters appreciate the mental concentration and skill it takes to ensure every piece fits together, while at the same time conceding occasional frustration when that doesn't happen! Whether it's choosing the fabric or quilting the layers together, each quilter has his or her own reasons that explain their love for this art form and the satisfaction it brings.



"Cathedral Windows" table runner made and hand sewn by Marilyn Schuler



Vicki Vinall prefers the centuries old tradition of hand piecing and quilting

By the way, for those of you who are not quilters, a "fat quarter" is a special cut of fabric for quilters. A conventional quarter of a yard (9 inches) is cut off a bolt of fabric that is folded in half lengthwise. But if you cut one half yard of fabric (18 inches) and cut it in half horizontally on the fold line you have the same amount of fabric but in a wider, more usable shape. If you didn't quite get that....ask a quilter to show you!

*Barb Lease*

*More photos of quilts and quilters may be found on the following two pages.*



"Diamond Log Cabin" 869 individual pieces, by Dorothy Martinek



# More Quilts and Quilters

Creativity abounds at Mayflower. Artistry and craftsmanship come in many forms, including quilting. A sizable number of residents are current or former quilters. They use a variety of techniques and make a variety of fabric art. This issue of the *Mayflower Log* features photos of some of the lovely creations, plus photos of a few of the quilters working on their projects.



Judi Barber sews carefully cut pieces. She started quilting in retirement. "I wanted something to challenge my brain," she says.



Two quilts by Catherine Rod. At left, a Nine-Patch quilt. At right, a Mexican Star quilt.





Medallion quilt wall hanging made and hand quilted by Barb Lease.



**Top:** A wall hanging assembled by Barb Lease uses applied blocks contributed by friends. **Below:** The stitching around the leaf edge is machine applied; the dark stitching from south to northeast is couching; and the stitches arcing from northwest to south are hand quilting. The wall hanging is titled **Potted Plant**.



Patty Johnson pins the three layers of her fabric together to prepare for the next step of quilting. She is making a table topper. "You can make only so many quilts for beds," she says.

## Welcome, Richard Adams

Rich Adams came to the Mayflower on July 28, returning to the U. S. after teaching Graphic Communications Management for 15 years at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. Rich first became acquainted with the Mayflower in 2016 when he came with a group of professors to consult with Wilhelm Imaging Research next door to Mayflower in Grinnell.

Rich was born in Burlington, Vermont, in 1953, and his family moved to Albany, New York, when he was five years old.

He attended Union University in Schenectady, New York, where he graduated with a major in biology. He studied for his doctorate at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in botany and horticulture. He then served as the Curator of the University of California at Riverside Botanical Gardens, and at the Mount Cuba Center in Wilmington, Delaware. Rich also worked for several nurseries and landscaping companies in Pennsylvania.

Acting on his lifelong interest in printing and publication, Rich went back to earn an M.S. degree in Printing Technology at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He was then appointed to the faculty at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. This was followed by his service as a research scientist for ten years at the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He later worked

at the instrument manufacturer, X-Rite, in Akron, Ohio.

Rich next obtained a faculty appointment at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, where for 15 years he taught subjects such as web design, eBooks, and photoshop. He continues to teach part-time for Ryerson.

While at Ryerson, he did exchange teaching at the Kyiv Polytechnic University, Institute of Publishing and Printing in Kyiv, Ukraine. He also taught as an exchange professor at the Stuttgart Media Academy in Germany.

Rich is living temporarily at Buckley 101 and will be at 630 Park Street after remodeling is complete. Among his many interests are ballroom dancing, horticulture, collection of fountain pens, investing, and use of Apple computers and software. After going without pets for many years, he hopes to get a parrot after moving to 630 Park Street.



Richard. unlike some of us, still uses a fountain pen. He maintains a collection of his favorites.

*Gene Wubbels*

## Welcome, Elizabeth Dobbs

On May 28, 2021, Elizabeth Dobbs moved into her handsomely refurbished Montgomery apartment. Before this move, she lived in and traveled to many, many other places.

Elizabeth was born in Los Angeles. When she was 8, her family moved to Newark, Delaware, a location which awakened her interest in history. Many moves later, back and forth across the country, she

graduated from high school in southern California.

As an undergraduate in Annapolis at St. John's College, the "Great Books" school, she was again around early architecture and even worked for a while with Historic Annapolis. Although she had once thought of being an archeologist or lawyer, she applied to graduate school in English.

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## Elizabeth Dobbs

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Instead, she ended up teaching 5th grade near Baltimore—a wonderful experience even with 36 students. She knew, however, that she wanted to teach at a higher level and was accepted to the Ph.D. program in English at the State University of New York at Buffalo. In late 1975, she finished her degree, with a specialization in medieval literature, particularly Chaucer.

For her first post-graduate teaching, she taught Shakespeare and composition at Hampton University, an Historically Black College or University (HBCU), in Hampton, Virginia. Shortly after she started there, Grinnell College interviewed her for the medieval position in the English Department, which she joined in Fall 1976. Other than medieval literature courses, she also taught The Ancient Greek World, Historical Linguistics, and The Craft of Argument (for future lawyers!). She was twice Chair of the Department, served on most of the standing committees and two presidential search committees, and was the first woman to be Chair of the Faculty.

She began to see the world when she taught three times on the Grinnell-in-London program. She loves England—and France, and Italy—but also enjoyed Greece, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands,

Germany, Eastern Europe, Denmark, Sweden, China, Japan, Egypt, India, Turkey, and Tanzania. Her home base, though, is Grinnell, where she bought a house in 1983 and developed a fine garden.

Elizabeth taught in the Grinnell College Nanjing Program and, for years, in the Liberal Arts in Prison program; she has also taught in Head Start and with non-native speakers of English at Iowa Valley Community College. She has hosted three international students and was a long-term volunteer at PALS. She is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Now Elizabeth would like to catch up on her studies as a medievalist, play her baby grand piano, and practice French. The Mayflower Community welcomes this accomplished and generous woman.



Elizabeth with morning glories.

*Betty Moffett*

## Welcome, Becky Neal

One of Mayflower's newer residents brings with her a wealth of expertise in advancing mental health.

Becky Neal, currently living in Altemeier and planning to transition to a yet-to-be-built house on the corner of Hamilton and State, has had an exciting ride since she last lived in Iowa.

Iowa born, she grew up in Monroe, where her father owned a farm implement store. As a youngster, she excelled in music and participated in 4-H and church activities.

She attended Grinnell College, graduating in 1965.

In 1967 Becky earned her MSW degree from the Smith College School of Social Work; then she worked for thirteen years as a psychiatric social worker. About ten years into that career, she began attending night classes to fulfill pre-med requirements. In 1985 she graduated with her MD degree from the Boston University School of Medicine.

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## Becky Neal

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After a residency in psychiatric medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, she served on the faculty there until 1993.

Her interest in skiing led her to her husband, Roy, an engineer whom she married in 1984. When the couple moved to New Hampshire in 1993, Becky



continued her career as a clinician/teacher with Dartmouth Medical School, now known as Geisel School of Medicine. She taught medical students and residents and

led a multidisciplinary clinical team at New Hampshire Hospital, the state psychiatric hospital, an acute care involuntary facility.

In New Hampshire Becky was actively involved in PEO, her local Methodist Church, and the NH Psychiatric Society, where she served on the executive council as president, ethics chair, and mental health advocate. She testified at the state legislature on behalf of bills that would promote mental health.

After her husband died in 2000, she worked until she retired in 2014; then she continued full-time as a substitute until 2020. She is licensed in the state of Iowa. The community is fortunate to welcome Becky Neal!

*Judy Hunter*

## Welcome, Paul and Sharon Torno

Paul and Sharon Torno say they felt at home in Grinnell almost as soon as they arrived, even though they moved to town after living in very different parts of the country—most recently in New Mexico and, before that, in the Pacific Northwest. “It felt familiar, it felt comfortable,” Sharon said, speaking of the move to Grinnell.

That’s in part because the couple lived in Grinnell from 1958 to 1962 when they were students at Grinnell College, and then from 1966 to 1969 when Paul worked in the admissions office of the College and Sharon taught at the old junior high school downtown.

Now, after more than 50 years away, the Tornos returned to Grinnell in August. This time they settled at Mayflower—at 526 State St. in Harwich Terrace Southeast.

Paul and Sharon met as students at Grinnell College—at orientation during their first week of school. Both are originally from St. Louis, but their paths

had crossed only briefly at a summer camp when they were growing up. They dated throughout their college years and were married in the fall after graduation.



Paul followed up his ROTC training in college with active duty in the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed at Stead AFB near Reno, Nevada. During that time, Sharon earned a teaching certificate at the University of Nevada.

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Steve Langerud, Executive Director  
616 Broad Street Grinnell, IA 50112  
641-236-6151  
www.mayflowerhomes.com

### **Log Staff**

Char Ewan

Marge and John Graves

Judy Hunter

Betty Moffett

Bill Pollak , Photographer

Mary Schuchmann

Gene Wubbels

## **Paul and Sharon Torno**

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Then came the four years of living and working in Grinnell, followed by a move to Iowa City, where Sharon earned a master's degree in reading disabilities and Paul received an M.A. in high school counseling.

In 1973 they moved to Bainbridge Island, in Puget Sound in the state of Washington. Sharon first taught third grade, then became the school district's Title I coordinator and reading specialist. Paul worked as a counselor at the high school and coached the school's girls swim team. His interest in swimming led to leadership positions at the state and national level of the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association. That involvement continues to this day.

Retiring in 1997, the Tornos moved to 10 acres near Albuquerque, New Mexico, in part to be closer to Sharon's mother in

Roswell, New Mexico. There, Paul served as a volunteer firefighter and with the forestry service at a national forest in the area. Sharon was involved in a variety of study and social groups.

Paul and Sharon say they have enjoyed the very different places they have lived. In the Pacific Northwest they traveled back and forth to their island home by ferry and got accustomed to gray skies. In New Mexico they lived in the high desert with almost year-around sunshine. "And each had its own unique way of life," Sharon added.

Grinnell is another contrast in climate and lifestyles. The Tornos sampled Mayflower four years ago when they lived for a month in an Edwards apartment to get a sense of the community. It felt right then, and it feels right now, they say. Mayflower and Grinnell will be the better for having them.

*Mary Schuchmann*