

Genoa Main Street, Inc.
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For Immediate Release
January 13, 2010

Elgin's Ina Dews Featured Speaker:

Genoa's Quilt & Needle Art Walk a Stitch of History

Elgin resident and quilt expert Ina Dews will be the featured speaker and have her work displayed along with many other quilters, knitters, needle pointers and needle artists at Genoa's 2010 Quilt and Needle Arts Walk. The week-long event January 25-30 in downtown Genoa is a four-block-long celebration of the role of needles and stitches in American culture and history.

"This is an opportunity for the public to see what is generally only seen inside people's homes," said Mim Evans, executive director of Genoa Main Street, Inc., which is organizing the event. "Area residents will bring their family treasures downtown for display in more than 20 businesses. We expect to have nearly 100 pieces on display.

"We are very excited to be able to display Ina Dews' collection," said Evans. "She is a well-known Illinois quilter and recently donated three quilts to the Illinois State Museum in Springfield." While the Illinois State Museum has more than 350 quilts in its well respected collection, the quilts donated by Ms. Dews' are the first made by African Americans. Ms. Dews also has made two trips to Africa to teach quilting and learn African needle-working traditions.

Featured Speaker

In addition to having several of her quilts on display all week in Genoa, Ms. Dews will be the event's featured speaker. On Friday, January 29 at 2:30 p.m., she will discuss quilting in the African American community, both past and present. The presentation will be held at Prairie State Winery at 217 West Main Street in downtown Genoa. Admission is free.

The week long Quilt & Needle Arts Walk will also include a private collection of Quilts of Valor given to soldiers killed or injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Walk visitors are encouraged to bring needlework along and they can work by the beautiful fireplace located in the Illinois Community Credit Union at 501 West Main Street. Formerly the Pacific House Hotel, it was a stop on the historic Chicago to Galena Stagecoach Trail.

(more)

Genoa's Quilt & Needle Art Walk – Add 1

Stop & Swap Set

They also can bring their extra supplies, patterns, magazines, books, etc. to trade with other visitors. The “Stop & Swap” will be held 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Genoa Public Library at 232 West Main Street.

Genoa is a historic rural community that has maintained its small-town charm. Its downtown includes many unique shops and restaurants attracting both visitors and residents. It is located on Route 72 about 24 miles southeast of Rockford and 24 miles west of Elgin.

All “walkers” can pick up a bonus values card of discounts at participating Genoa businesses, and enter to win a drawing for a free resort weekend for four at the Clock Tower Resort/Coco Key Water Resort in Rockford, or a “Family Four Pack of passes to the water park.

Genoa is located 25 miles west of Elgin on State Highway. For further information, contact Genoa Main Street, Inc. at 815 784-6961 or go to genoamainstreet.org. Information and maps of the display locations also are available at many downtown Genoa businesses.

Established in 1996, Genoa Main Street, Inc. is a volunteer organization dedicated to preserving Genoa's historic heritage and small town wholesomeness while promoting economic development and downtown improvements.



Caption for photo of Ina Dews Quilt Photo

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