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Essay by Quilt University instructor, Linda Schmidt.

Have you ever noticed how closely the quilting movement resembles the French Resistance movement? Think about it. Most quilt guild meetings are at a church, at a time when people won't notice a large number of women coming singly or in small groups, walking nonchalantly up to an unmarked door, and slipping inside. They are laden down with bags, usually marked with strange runes and signs made of squares and triangles. There is rarely a sign saying "Quilt Guild meets here."

We are like a small revolutionary band, a secret society where other quilters automatically feel linked. We mix fabric, color and stolen time to make beauty, whether it is out of scraps, worn-out clothing or new fabric. This is not something a whole lot of people understand, so a quilt guild functions in many ways as a support group of the highest order. The members help in time of need, understand when things go awry, and sometimes hide out from the Quilt Police.

I think quilting is a Resistance in other ways: resistance against mass production, shoddy workmanship and an uncaring world. We take time, fabric and memories and wrap them all up to keep someone warm, whether they are family or strangers. We do it to remember them, to connect them to all the people who go before us and after us, including the people who will be touched by our work, even if they never know our names. Most of these quilts are given to shelters of all kinds, all with the hope of making the world a better place, all part of the quilters' Resistance Movement.

Like many people, I have never marched in a peace rally or taken a stand that meant commitment to a cause. I grew up a fairly easygoing, laid back person who figured things are just better left alone to work themselves out. But then I got to thinking - what if every person who could do something, did? I'm not good at a lot of things, but I can make quilts.

Lots of other quilters, members of the Resistance, are out there, too, doing what they can do. Guilds all over the world are making quilts for people who need to have something made by caring hands, something they can call their own, when all else has been taken from them, even their dignity. We are making quilts that go directly to those who have the need or raffling quilts to make money for research. We're doing our best to put the message out that there are still caring people in the world; people who know the importance of people helping other people.

So, be an active member of the Resistance and do what you can do, whatever that may be. Make a quilt by yourself or join a group that makes quilts.

Get to know your fellow Resistance members, whether they meet in person or online. Be part of the Quilters' Resistance against an uncaring world, and know that you are not alone.