

## *LI Horsewoman Awarded for "Horse Show Ribbon Quilt"*

Quilts created by Distinctive Designs by Diana Berthold, "Dressage Horses Love Freestyle" and "The Love of Music," were featured in the June issue of *Horse Directory* magazine. "The Love of Music," a queen-sized quilt, was awarded third place on June 3rd at the Eastern Long Island Quilters' Guild Peconic Show in Suffolk Community College.

At that time, Diana was excited about starting her newest challenge. She was commissioned by Terrie Hentchel-Bauer to create a quilt for her daughter, Brittany, who is a 2006 graduate of Westhampton Beach High School. She plans to attend University of Tampa in September. Brittany started to ride when she was three years old with her pony, "Chester," who was given to her by her godmother, Anne Gribbons. She trained with Frank Di Marsico at Windwood Farm in Medford riding "Marshmello,



Detail of Diana's "ribbon" quilt.

First Mate, and Music of the Night." The quilt was created using over three hundred of Brittany's most remarkable ribbons (reginals, Marshall & Sterling, qualifiers, year end awards, reserve champions, champions) in a "Streak of Lightning" Design. Eight wonderful photos were incorporated into the central diagonal design. Diana's favorite photo is of Brittany smiling ear to ear on Marshmello, a white pony, once ridden by the late Peter Jennings daughter. The 60" X 65" quilt was completed with navy blue bridal satin complete with a pocket to hang. The ribbons and backing are embellished with gold decorative stitches. On the back it bears heart shaped labels with her horses' names along with one with a special message from her Mom, Dad, and sister, Lauren.

This whole quilt project was an unusual one. Terrie found Diana through her quilt guild and communicated mostly via e-mail to avoid exposing the surprise to Brittany. Diana found Terrie to be a joy to work with. As she worked, she thought and imagined the memories and commitments that were woven into this lovely quilt. It really hit home to Terrie, when Diana told her how she imagined, while she worked, all the early mornings, long days, rain, mud, traveling, and the sacrifices required achieving such accomplishments. When Terrie saw the finished quilt, Diana watched and listened as she relived some of those joyous and demanding events she shared with her daughter. Terrie and Diana also enjoyed talking about events and people of whom they both share memories.

Upon graduation from the Fashion Institute of Technology, Diana successfully designed clothing, textiles etc for over 25 years. Although she has many interests and talents, she focuses primarily on quilts. She loves to combine her art and love for horses into them. Diana moved on from creating apparel to quilts because of the longevity of quilts compared to clothing.

This intricate project was created using interesting materials, details, design, combined with the best quality workmanship. Diana truly enjoyed working on this project. She also knew that when it left her hands, and went home with Terrie and her husband, Fred, that they loved this quilt as much as she did. Diana knows that Brittany will revisit these wonderful memories throughout her lifetime through this quilt. It is a work of art and an heirloom! Diana also created a mini quilt (with a photo, a message from her family, and ribbons of every color that can be awarded) for Brittany to hang in her dorm.

On Memorial Day weekend, Diana's artwork was exhibited at South Bay Art Association's Membership show where she also performed (on her violin) along with her daughter, Elizabeth (on the flute), and friend and teacher, Robert Price (on the piano). Her quilts were exhibited in March with the Long Island Quilter's Society, as well as the Eastern Long Island Quilters' Guild. On October 21 and 22, you will have another opportunity to see Diana's quilts at the Smithtown Stitchers Guild Quilt Extravaganza XII, at: [www.smithtownstitchers.com](http://www.smithtownstitchers.com). Visit [www.distinctivedesignsbydiana.com](http://www.distinctivedesignsbydiana.com) to see Diana's work.