

The Kitty Bell Walter Memorial Coverlet College Scholarship 2025

In celebration of the life of Kitty Bell Walter (1944-2018), an anonymous donor is offering two scholarships for attendees of Coverlet College 2025 at The National Museum of the American Coverlet.

Kitty Bell Walter's volunteer work was invaluable to the ongoing success of the Coverlet Museum. She unselfishly supported the Museum with her husband, Ron Walter. While Kitty Bell preferred to work behind the scenes, supporting Ron in all his endeavors, her contributions were every bit as significant. No matter what the task, she was always ready and willing to help get the job done.

Each year at Coverlet College she arranged coverlets and other items on tables in the rear of the event room as required for each presentation, and each year she demonstrated the use of the microscope to identify the fibers used in weaving a coverlet. She helped restore twenty-five tables bought for use during Coverlet College and other events at the Museum. Kitty Bell worked alongside her husband Ron in the fabrication and installation of a large coverlet display rack that is temporarily installed in the event room during Coverlet College, as well as a second large permanent rack in one of the exhibition spaces.

She played an essential role in planning and setting up the ***Stay at Home and Use Me Well - Flax & Fleece: Fiber to Fabric*** exhibition of the collection of Kitty Bell and Ron Walter. Among other things, her work included assistance with the construction of display platforms and production of the exhibition catalog.

When hundreds of items from an important estate were donated to the Coverlet Museum, Kitty Bell helped pack the items, transport them to be freeze processed at the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, and bring them to NMAC for final inspection, cleaning, photography and documentation.

Kitty Bell even created handmade items to be sold in the NMAC gift shop. Her projects included dozens of button "blanks" wrapped with our coverlet-patterned quilt fabrics, little pins made by knitting small swatches with tooth pick needles, and colorful hand dyed wool samples for needle felting. Her skill and imagination were limitless.

This scholarships in Kitty Bell's honor are open to people of any age who have a passion for the subject of American Coverlets and wish to further their learning experience through study and exposure.

Coverlet College 2025 will take place September 26, 27 and 28 at the Museum. A scholarship will cover the registration fee, your choice of one of the Friday workshops, all the Saturday and Sunday program sessions and a one-year Museum membership. In return we might ask for assistance with some behind-the-scenes tasks like moving chairs, helping set out meals on the buffet tables, etc. – but we promise you won't miss any programming!

As an applicant, your only requirement is a short written essay, about a page in length, outlining your background and interests and why you should be awarded this scholarship.

Topics to be included should be:

- How did you become interested in textiles and coverlets in particular?
- What is your background in textiles?
- What do you expect to gain from this experience?
- How will you use this knowledge in the future?
- Any other reasons why YOU should be chosen?

Essay applications can be submitted to the Scholarship Committee in the form of an email document to info@coverletmuseum.org. Be sure to include your contact information! **Deadline for applications is August 31, 2025.** Applications by "snail mail" will be accepted but must arrive by **August 31, 2025.** Send to The National Museum of the American Coverlet, 322 S Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522. **Final selection and notice of awards will be made on September 5, 2025.** *The Museum cannot be responsible for applications received late or not at all. All applications will be acknowledged. If you receive no acknowledgement, we don't have your application!*