

**MARY ELLEN HOPKINS  
GUESTSPEAKER**

Mary Ellen Hopkins, born in Peoria, Illinois, is 75 years old. She looks and acts AT LEAST 20 years younger. Missouri claims her youthful years, but she has lived all over the Midwest. She began sewing when she was eight years old, remembers loving it, and has continued ever since.

In 1977, Mary Ellen opened *Crazy Ladies and Friends Quilt Shop* in Santa Monica, California. "The customers came in more for the fabric than for the sewing," remembers Mary Ellen. "Classes were more lectures than hands-on. Students did the work at home. From that point on, I began receiving invitations to do lectures. Getting up on a stage and talking without interruption was great."

But running a shop and traveling eventually became too much, and after nearly 20 years she sold the shop and devoted all her time to lecturing and teaching. Mary Ellen has taught classes and given lectures all over the U.S. and the world- Europe, Canada, Australia (22 times), Japan, South Korea, and the Middle East. "I have a dream job," beamed Mary Ellen, "They all want to show off and take me to their best places."

Mary Ellen later started her own publishing company and has written 11 quilting books to date. Her first book was the very familiar **"It's Okay If You Sit on My Quilt."** My books provide ideas rather than projects," warns Mary Ellen.

Her original development of simplified piecing methods and restructuring block settings has proven to be great time savers for quilters. Her "bend the rules" approach has helped revolutionize quilt making. She is probably best known for creating the connector and perfect piecing triangles concepts.

From the pages of "[The Quilting Quarterly](#)",  
Winter 2005

**Mary Ellen will present "Getting a Drink From a Fire hose"**

"How to jump into quilting with both feet and then figure out what to do." Be inspired by great fabric, take chances and be pleased with yourself – and surprised too.

Mary Ellen will show you how to choose and use fabrics in exciting and different- but not complicated-ways. Mary Ellen travels with a large trunk show and she covers a vast number of techniques. The content of the show is always fresh because new quilts are frequently added. Many, many ideas and many, many quilts to show!

Mary Ellen will be available for a book signing at some time during the day. You may bring your own copies or purchase from her.



