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## Amish Fiction Author Wanda Brunstetter To Appear During Shipshewana Quilt Festival

*Author's Amish "Quilt of a Thousand Hands"  
To Be Auctioned as Oaklawn Benefit*

Uhrichsville, OH —The thousands of tourists who flock to Indiana for the Shipshewana Quilt Festival June 25-29 will have the opportunity to meet popular *New York Times* bestselling author Wanda E. Brunstetter. A founder of the popular Amish fiction genre with more than seven million copies of her books sold, Brunstetter will sign her latest novels and guest host at the benefit auction of her fan-produced collectible, the "Quilt of a Thousand Hands."

Brunstetter will appear on the opening day of the Festival at Yoder Department Store, 300 S. Van Buren Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 25. Among the books she will sign are *The Tattered Quilt* and *The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club*. Set in Shipshewana, the novels revolve around an Amish couple who teach quilting classes in their home to a diverse group of students. As the beginning quilters learn to transform scraps of fabric into beauty, their fragmented lives begin to take new shape with the helping hands of each other and the healing hand of God.

Following the Yoder signing, Brunstetter will cross the street to Shipshewana Auction, 345 S. Van Buren Street, for the 1 p.m. benefit auction of her "Quilt of a Thousand Hands." The one-of-a-kind collectible quilt is the culmination of Brunstetter's call for quilters across the country to participate in a project to benefit Oaklawn Psychiatric Center. Located in nearby Goshen, Oaklawn provides mental health services to the Amish community.

"I put out the call for squares last summer when *The Tattered Quilt* was published," the author said. "My generous readers donated more than 1,000 squares for the cause, and a skilled Amish quilter I know in Shipshewana designed the quilt and stitched all the lovely pieces together by hand. The end result is an exquisite work of art, a true collector's piece."

Brunstetter noted that the 96" x 116" quilt will fit a queen- or king-sized bed.

Brunstetter will arrive in Shipshewana before the Festival opens to sign books at the Blue Gate Theatre, 195 Van Buren Street, before two live performances of "Half-Stitched, the Musical." The production is based on Brunstetter's *The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club*. Those signings will be from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Monday, June 23 from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24. More information on the performances is available on [www.riegsecker.com/shipshewana/bluegatetheater](http://www.riegsecker.com/shipshewana/bluegatetheater).

Also before the Festival begins, the author will speak and sign books during two dinners in Amish homes, one on Friday, June 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the second on Monday, June 23, from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Ticket information is available by calling Bridget Griffin, J. Farver's Christian Bookstore in Shipshewana, 260-768-4339.

A resident of Yakima, Wash., Brunstetter is the author of more than 60 books. She became fascinated with the Amish way of life when she first visited her husband, Richard's, Mennonite relatives. The Brunstetters have Amish friends in several States and enjoy visiting them throughout the year.

Next on Brunstetter's calendar are August signings in the Bird-in-Hand, Penn., area. Reservations are being taken now for her Fan-Filled Weekend, September 19-21, in Ohio's Amish country. More information on the fan retreat is available on <http://www.dhgroup.com/en/pdfs/wanda-brunstetter-weekend.pdf>. Brunstetter's total appearance schedule is on her website, [www.WandaBrunstetter.com](http://www.WandaBrunstetter.com).

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*To schedule a media interview with Wanda Brunstetter, contact Nancy Berland, 800-308-3169, [nancy@nancyberland.com](mailto:nancy@nancyberland.com). Review copies of her books are available upon request.*