

UTAH QUILT GUILD 1977-2007



Jean Christensen shows her quilt, *Eternity*, which she made in 1981 Photo courtesy of Deseret Morning News



Beginnings

A Common Thread of Interest

A spioneer women crossed the plains to conquer the barren west, they brought with them the legacy of **quilting. With domestic skills learned from mothers and** grandmothers, women were trained in the essentials of building and maintaining homes and families. The skill of needlework, including quilt making, has been handed down from one generation to the next ever since that time.

Utah women, along with other western quilters, followed national quilting trends as the decades passed. The art of quilting endured periods of diminished interest followed by revivals. Early revivals included the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and during the 1930's, while a lack of interest occurred in the 40's and 50's. Following the time of the bicentennial celebration of the United States and the centennial of the Statue of Liberty in 1986, quilting experienced a strong revival prompted by the 1971 Holstein/van der Hoof exhibit at New York's Whitney Museum. It was during the mid-1970's the seeds for the foundation of the Utah Quilt Guild were planted.



Jean Christensen, founder of the Utah Quilt Guild



In 1980, Jean Christensen, from Salt Lake City, Utah, felt strongly that a state organization was needed in Utah. With no other state quilting guilds in the country, she writes: "As the first of many presidents who will write a chapter in the history of the Utah Quilt Guild, I feel a deep sense of responsibility. This organization was founded to bring people with a common interest together and to stimulate creativity and improve techniques. It has grown to become one of the most active and vital quilt organizations in our country. It is a source of information, inspiration, and enjoyment to members and nonmembers throughout the state. When we began this state organization we searched for models to guide us and found none. We believe ours is the first state quilt guild organized in America.

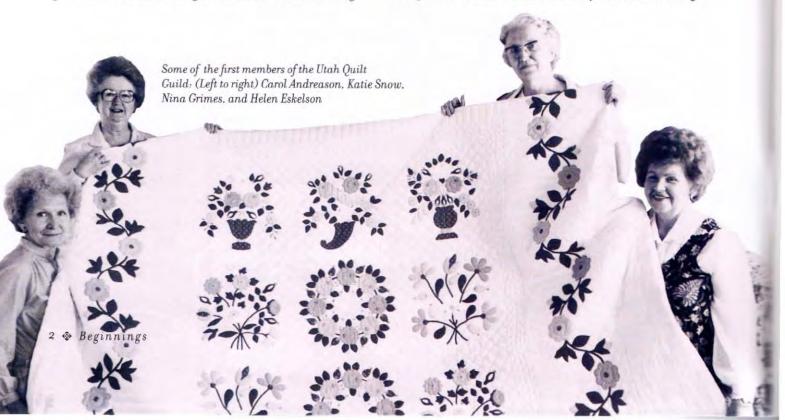
"During my years of involvement with quilts, one question has been asked repeatedly, 'How did this interest start'? I have explained that my two grandmothers and my mother bestowed upon me a 'quilting heritage.' My two great-grandfathers may also have bestowed a stitching heritage since they were both very fine tailors. I feel it was inevitable that this interest would blossom. As my awareness and appreciation increased, I began to study the history of quilts and quilt-makers. I began collecting antique quilts and was asked to give lectures. While making



Jean Christensen

quilts. I quickly became convinced that not one stitch on a quilt or one moment of time spent was ever wasted.

"When I returned to Utah after living in the Midwest for several years, I meet many quilters who were too quietly stitching away. They did not have an organization to bring them together and they had little recognition or commendation. They had been making





The first six presidents of the Utah Quilt Guild: (Left to right) Charlotte War Andersen, Jeanne Huber, Claire Field, Marguerite Allen, Carol Hatch and Jean Christensen

these loving gifts in amazing numbers for generations. I had a very deep appreciation for them and what they were doing. I also realized that those who would recognize and value their work, give encouragement, and share knowledge were other quilters—thus, came the attempt to bring them together. I also desired to find a way of bringing some of the truly great quilts I had seen in other parts of the country here for others to appreciate and learn from.

"Utah women have a proud and continuous heritage of quilt making. The foundations for a guild were here and forming a state guild met with immediate acceptance— our organization has grown since the first meeting! "The small group that first assembled to talk of a state quilt guild was held together by the thread of common interest. Some were quilt makers, some collectors or students of history. Others directed museums, taught, or represented a major church organization that had fostered and encouraged quilting. One was director of folk art for our state and two owned and worked in shops dealing with quilts.

"The first meeting was held on March 15, 1977 in Salt Lake City. The second was held on July 29, 1977 in Logan. Both were planning meetings where the decision was made to write preliminary by-laws. Verda Reed and Jean Christensen were assigned to work on these. The decision was made to divide the state



Beginnings 🗇 3

in areas already established by Utah State University Extension as a way of reaching every area of the state. A Utah State University Extension Agent agreed to act as the contact person. A representative of the Quilt Guild was assigned to each area to act as a liason."On April 25, 1978, in the DUP Building in Salt Lake City, a slate of officers was presented by Faires Miner and all were elected. The first officers of the Utah Quilt Guild included:

> Jean Christensen, President Verda Reed, Vice-President Phyllis Owen, Secretary Janet Clark, Treasurer Roberta James, Research Ruth Garbett, Archivist

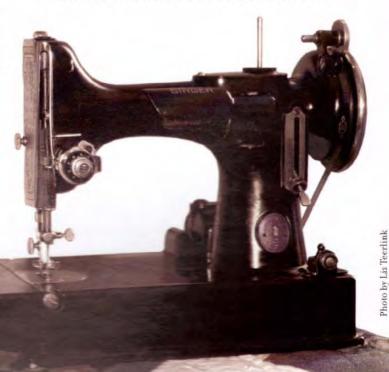
"Committees were organized to implement many necessary functions of the guild and members were assigned as chairmen. It was decided that dues would be \$5.00.

"The remainder of the term of office was devoted to writing and revising by-laws with the approval and acceptance by the members. As much work as possible was done to make people in the state aware of the guild and encourage membership. Annual meetings were started with the first under the direction of Katy Snow and Nina Grimes.

"Membership grew from the first meeting and we have been excited about the capable, talented, and wonderful women who have become members and made the Utah Quilt Guild the organization that it is today." It is interesting to note that Jean Christensen had formed a quilting group in 1974 in Logan. She advertised in the *Herald Journal* Newspaper for interested quilters and they held their first meetings in the old Logan Library. Their goal was to promote quilting in the area and stage local quilt shows.

The first founding members of the Utah Quilt Guild:

Carol Bitner Hal Cannon Jean Christensen Janet Clark Mary Alice Collins Elizabeth Darley Margaret Fairbourne Ruth Garbett Nina Grimes Carol Hatch Roberta James Marian Johnson Joy Knowlton Connie Jean Kralik Faires Miner Carol Morgan Beth Ann Neville Phyllis Owen Verda Reed Nancy Richards Ethel Rowley Elizabeth (Tibby) Simons Frances Snyder Cynthia Sturgis



The first Utah Quilt Guild Areas were:

BRIDGERLAND (Logan, Hyrum, Wellsville, Smithfield, etc.) CANYONLANDS (Moab, Blanding, Monticello, etc.) CASTLE COUNTRY (Price, Huntington, Castle Dale, etc.) COLOR COUNTRY (Cedar City, St. George, Panguitch, Beaver, etc.) DINOSAUR LAND (Roosevelt, Flaming Gorge, Vernal, etc.) **GOLDEN SPIKE EMPIRE** (Tremonton, Brigham City, Bountiful, etc.) **GREAT SALT LAKE COUNTRY** (Salt Lake City, Grantsville, Tooele, Murray, etc.) MOUNTAINLAND (Park City, Provo, Springville, Heber, etc.) PANORAMALAND (Nephi, Delta, Richfield, Manti, etc.)

(These were configured along the boundaries of the county extension areas.)

The basic organization of units within the Utah Quilt Guild had connotations of Utah's nickname the "Beehive State." Large quilting groups were called "Quilting Bees." with a "Queen Bee" as president. Smaller units were called "Beehives" also with a "Queen Bee." An even smaller unit called a "Swarm" could be formed with a "Queen Bee" as well. Each unit was instructed to choose a name and join with the Utah State Quilt Guild.

Many of the women listed above were also involved with the "Festival of the American West" and the "Utah State University Antique Quilt and Coverlet Show." The event was first held in 1975 and a bicentennial quilt show and contest were again part of the Festival in 1976. It is not surprising that the Springville Museum of Art held its first Quilt Show in 1974. All of these activities have an association with the revival of quilting in America during the mid 1970's. In 1983, founding members of the Guild were also involved with the first of many "Holiday Quilt Shows and Auctions" held to support the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City.

The legacy of the Utah Quilt Guild has grown to thirteen areas, covering parts of the state of Nevada, Idaho, and Wyoming. The above listed nine areas have changed names over the ensuing years. While the term "Bee" is no longer used, subunits are identified as guilds and chapters listed under their respective areas—all with their own clever names related to quilting. The Guild stopped using the county extension agents many years ago. Each area appoints a representative to serve on the current board who is responsible for passing on information from the state organization. News of local quilting events is shared throughout the entire membership.



The 1982-83 Utah Quilt Guild Board

Brought together by a common "thread" of interest, Utah women built the foundation of a proud heritage of quilt making.

Quilts are like friends, A great source of comfort

> Eternity, by Jean Christensen. 100% cotton. Jean spent 1 year and 262 hours making this quilt. It is an original design that was inspired by a child's coloring book. Cost \$56



The Guild Organization

A NAME WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Following the first meeting of the newly formed quilt guild in March 1977, the discussion of a name for the organization was presented at the June 13, 1978 meeting. Bylaws were written in 1979 and ratified by the membership on March 6, 1979 with the name of the organization as the "Utah Quilt Guild." A vote for the guild's logo occurred on December 4, 1979.



A member of the board was given the responsibility to file the Articles of Incorporation and the legal name for the guild. Unbeknownst to the other members of the board, this board member filed the

name "Utah Quilt Guild" for her own future personal business ventures. This created a huge dilemma for the guild. Letters flew back and forth between the attorneys of both groups as to the wrongful use of the Utah Quilt Guild name.

By 1980 the guild had over 200 members who thought they belonged to the Utah Quilt Guild. The name had been printed on membership cards, letterheads, the newsletter and all publicity for the organization. In order to retain a nonprofit status and obtain bulk mailing privileges, the guild had to be incorporated with bylaws and a legal name. Because of this conflict they were forced to submit new articles of incorporation. On May 7, 1981 their legal name became the "Beehive State Quilt Guild." This was listed as their legal name but "Utah Quilt Guild" continued to be used as their public name. As Utah Quilt Guild grew in numbers, bylaws were adjusted to continue operations and meet their growing membership needs. Members were involved with the Festival of the American West, the Springville Art Museum, Wheeler Farm and the Utah Extension Service to promote quilting activities and quilt shows across the state.

A continued frustration occurred each year when a renewed letter of explanation was required when filing necessary legal papers as to why the guild was known by two different names. Each year the organization petitioned to retain their rightful ownership of the name Utah Quilt Guild.

Eunice Young, president of the UQG, made a petition to the Division of Corporations on March 7, 1989 to again retain the name, "Utah Quilt Guild." Her

petition stated that the organization is the actual user of the name and has been for a very substantial time. Mr. Peter Van Alstyne, of the Division of Corporations, revoked the previous filing and issued the name of the Utah Quilt Guild to the organization we all know and enjoy. His decision, in part, was based on the fact that the previous owner of the name had never used it for any business application. His decision was rendered on April 26, 1989.

On July 31, 1989 the elected board members of the Beehive State Quilt Guild voted unanimously that the name, Beehive State Quilt Guild, be legally changed to the Utah Quilt Guild. The appropriate paperwork was filed with the division of Corporations, the fee was paid and on August 4, 1989 the conflict of legal versus public name had ended.

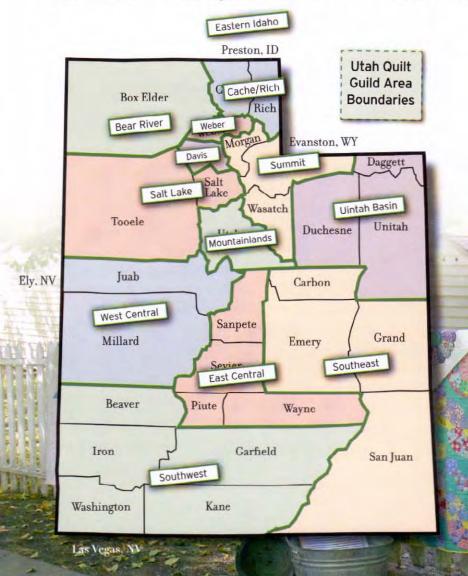
BASIC ORGANIZATION OF THE UQG

The well-planned beginnings of the Utah Quilt Guild in 1977 provided a solid foundation for the state guild to change with the times into the organization enjoyed today. From 24 founding members, the guild has grown to over 1,100 members. In 2000 there was a push to increase membership. The challenge was 1,000 members in 2000. The goal was reached and UQG has continued to grow.

As a new state quilt guild, all of the members were from Utah, living along the Watsch Front in ten cities from Sandy to Logan. Today, members are from 16 states and nearly every city in Utah. The early organization divided the state into nine regions with representatives from each part of the state. Representation has now expanded to 13 areas, including parts of Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming.

The bylaws, ratified March 6, 1979, stated that elected officers would serve for a term of two years or until successors were elected. Appointed officers could serve as many terms as the executive board wished. Three presidents, Jean Christensen, Carol Hatch, and Marguerite Allen, served under those bylaw rules.

In November 1983, ratified changes to the bylaws stated that the president, president-elect and pastpresident would serve for a term of one year. Claire Field, who began her term as president at the close of



Annual Meeting 1983, was the first president to serve a one-year term. All of the succeeding 22 presidents have served the one-year term commitment. A member is first elected as president-elect, then as president, and concludes as the past president and chairman of the Annual Meeting /Quilt Festival Committee. Their service involves a three-year time commitment.

As a president-elect, it's difficult to project three years ahead and foresee all of the upcoming challenges. The bylaws have a contingency plan in place should any member of the presidency be unable to fulfill their responsibilities. Twice in our history, presidents have had overwhelming obstacles that prevented them from finishing their terms. Penny Stephenson was forced to resign as her husband's employment relocated the family to Arizona. Charlotte Warr Anderson stepped up and served as chairman of Annual Meeting for 1988 and 1989. When Colleen Reid resigned in 1996, Nancy Henderson graciously chaired the Annual Meeting both in 1997 and 1998.

Serving as president of the Utah Quilt Guild is an exhausting and wonderful privilege. Here are some parting words from past presidents:



Barbara Walsh, "My goal was to give back to the guild that had given so much to me. From having spoken to past presidents, we have all tried to move the Guild forward while preserving what makes the UQC a very special organization."



Elaine Carlson, "The experiences I have had and the friendships I've gained have made it all worth it. There are so many good people in this organization who give so much and who are always so helpful and kind."



Marsha Cardwell, "It has been an exciting year. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your president."



Elaine Carlson 2006



Marsha Cardwell 2007

Coleen Reid 1996 (Photo not available)

> It all starts innocently enough... This woman admiring a quilt... Then suddenly there's a small circle of quilters... Then it escalates to a quilt guild... Then all heck breaks loose!

12 🔄 The Guild Organization



The Deseret News has been another resource of

publicity, featuring articles about the Utah Quilt

Guild and it's members for 30 years. Carma Wadley

wrote many articles which informed the public about

varied activities and projects. She was in attendance,

representing the press, at some of the first organizational

meetings. The UQG appreciates the wonderful support

Guild activities. The Salt Lake Tribune, Provo Daily

Herald and other small-town papers have spread

Other newspapers have also printed articles about

given and the many articles written over the years.

information to their local communities.

QUILTS AS ART

The "Beeline" and Media Coverage

Spreading the News

ur publication, the Beeline, has always been the main resource of quilt-related information for members of the Utah Quilt Guild.

In the beginning, another way used to distribute information about the guild to interested people who were not members involved the participation of local quilt shops. The UQG board had boxes constructed, painted white and labeled "Utah Quilt Guild." Quilt shop owners were asked if the boxes could be hung in their stores. Each month, the UQG publicity volunteer would attend board meeting and collect information about upcoming events in the state, 3-4 months in advance of the event. This information was printed and flyers were delivered to the quilt shop's "Utah Quilt Guild" box by area representatives. Anyone shopping in the store could pick up a flyer and find out about state wide events. The box also contained pamphlets with information on how to become a member and who to contact for local information.

To communicate news to our membership the UQG information is printed in the Beeline. Now that the internet is so widely used, the UQG website, www. utahquiltguild.org, provides a valuable resource for all interested. The store boxes are no longer in use.

Winning quilts portray America.

Newspaper features from the Provo Daily Herald and the Deseret News.



The home page of the Utah Quilt Guild website: www.utahquiltguild.org

The "Beeline" and Media Coverage 🧇 13

The Beeline

The Beeline magically appears in our mailbox monthly with a paid membership to the Utah Quilt Guild. Much thought and preparation has been provided to publish this monthly multi-page newsletter.

As we celebrate 30 years of history for the Utah Quilt Guild, the contributions of those who have written and edited our newsletter becomes much more significant. It would have been impossible to see the course set by a handful of women in 1977, or recognize what we have become along the way without the historical narrative of our *Beeline*.

In the beginning, in 1980, there were 4 issues of the *Beeline* published. The members of the guild immediately began to complain that they wanted the Beeline to come more often. Early bylaws stated there would only be four issues.

The bylaws were amended to meet the members

demands and by 1982, six issues were published. In 1983, nine issues were distributed and beginning in 1984 to our current time, eleven issues are published yearly.

The January, spring, and summer of 1980 issues were printed in an 8 x 11 inch format. The fall of 1980 to September of 1990 the *Beeline* was published in a smaller 7 x 8 inch format. The October of 1990 to our current issue are published in the standard paper size of 8 x 11 inches.

In 1979, the UQG held a competition for designing a logo for the organization. In the January 1980 edition of the *Beeline*, the logo contest winner was recognized.

Fifteen members of the board chose Maurine Smiths' entry as the most representative of the organization. The winning logo was published with the next issue of the *Beeline*.

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was published in a 7"x 8" format

published Fall 1979





First Quilt Guild Logo

The logo as it appears today

With some minor revisions, the original designed logo is printed on every issue of the newsletter.

Contributing editors of the Beeline:

Emily Lowe 1980

Jeana Kimball 1981, 1982, 1983

Carol Hatch 1984, 1985

Katie Snow 1985, 1986

Terry Young 1986, 1987, 1988

Robynn Peterson 1988, 1989

Elaine Hardman 1989, 1990 Pat Hansen 1990, 1991, 1992, 1996

Linda Stalter 1992, 1993

Susan Cosney 1993, 1994, 1995

Lyn Z. Briggs 1995, 1996

Ivy Allen 1996

Jodi Warner 1997, 1998, 1999

The editors also made a plea for more help in the January 1980 issue. The *Beeline* is made possible by contributing writers from all over. The area representatives are encouraged to write monthly articles about the happenings in their areas. Members are asked to contribute items of interest that promote the mission statement of encouraging quilting. The *Beeline* is an excellent resource on the workings of the guild, with information on happenings in all areas of the state.

> Marget Kunz 1999, 2000

Camille Winnie 2000, 2001, 2002

Jan Lowe 2003, 2004, 2005

Shelli Stephenson 2005, 2006, 2007

Realine and Meet

PAST PRESIDENTS & ANNUAL MEETING THEMES

Year	Past President	Theme & Pin	Date	City
2007	Elaine Carlson	Thirty Years Strong and Beyond	Sept. 18-22	Layton
2006	Barbara Walsh	Pursuing the Future, Preserving the Past	Sept. 26-30	Layton
2005	Vicky Westmoreland	Quiltin Dixie Roundup	Sept. 20-24	St. George
2004	Diane Bruehl	Fall in Love with Quilting	Oct.13-16	Ogden
2003	Tamara Boren	Sewing to New Heights	Sept. 24-27	Provo
2002	Sherrie Kasteler	Quiltin Dixie	Sept. 18-21	St.George
2001	Virginia Anderson	The Wonderful World of Quilting	Sept. 27-29	Provo
2000	Liz Teerlink	Quilting Across Time	Sept. 21-23	Provo
1999	Carol Bunyard	Beyond Bobbins and Beeswax	Sept. 16-18	Ogden
1998	Nancy Henderson	Patchwork Friends	Sept. 23-26	Ogden
1997	Nancy Henderson	Deep Roots Strong Branches	Sept. 17-20	Ogden
1996	Joyce Weeks	Piece in the Tops of the Mountains	Oct. 16-18	Park City
1995	Betty John	Quilting Crossroads of the West	Sept. 21-23	Ogden
1994	Pamela Morgan	Needles and Notions	Sept. 22-24	SLC
1993	Barbara Sund	Thimbles and Threads	Sept. 23-25	SLC
1992	Saundra Tripp	Hearts and Hands	Sept. 25-26	SLC
1991	Kallie Dent	Sego Lily pin	Sept. 27-28	SLC
1990	Eunice Young		Sept. 21-22	SLC
1989	Charlotte Warr Andersen		Sept. 14-16	SLC
1988	Charlotte Warr Andersen		Sept. 8-10	SLC
1987	Jeanne Huber		Sept. 17-19	SLC
1986	Jeana Kimball		October 2-4	SLC
1985	Claire Field	7th Annual Meeting	Sept. 28	WC
1984	Marguerite Allen	6th Woods Cross, Utah	Sept. 21-22	WC
1983		5th Annual Meeting	Sept. 10	SLC
1982	Carol Hatch	4th Annual Meeting, Sunbonnet Sue	Sept. 24-25	SLC
1981	Carol Hatch	3rd Annual Meeting	Sept. 26	SLC
1980	Jean Christensen	2nd Annual Meeting	Sept. 13	SLC
1979	Jean Christensen	1st Annual Meeting	Sept. 22	SLC