

## Chisholm Trail Quilt Guild's History

Forty-three people interested in forming a daytime guild in Williamson County met March 23, 1999, at the Williamson County Maintenance Facility. Organizing the meeting were members of The Rockin' Quilters bee of Round Rock, an Austin Area Quilt Guild bee. Peggy Gray and Pat Beachy co-chaired the meeting with Shirley Berry, Barb Coutant, Marilynn Thompson and Sharon Weaver as the original steering committee members.

Attendees decided a newsletter was essential for the beginning guild, and took up an impromptu collection of \$43 to cover paper and mailing costs. The premiere issue of the "Un-Named Quilt Guild" was published April 1999. The May 1999 issue was called the "Morning Glories Quilt Guild." By June's newsletter, "The Daytime Quilt Guild," we had bylaws, policies, a board of directors, but no name! It wasn't until the July meeting that the members decided on Chisholm Trail Quilt Guild. Anyone who paid dues by June 22, 1999, became charter members of the guild. We had 68 charter members.

Charter board:

President ----- Pat Beachy  
1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs----- Diane Sehorne and Joan Howes  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership----- Barbara Coutant  
Recording Secretary ----- Doris Jablonski  
Corresponding Secretary----- Helen Bohmfalk  
Treasurer ----- Joanne Folta  
Treasurer ----- Margaret Smith  
Library----- Peggy Gray  
Newsletter ----- Daniece Mulcahey  
Parliamentarian ----- Shelly Ratcliffe  
Yearbook/Historian ----- Leslie Myers and Marilynn Thompson  
Hospitality ----- Lorraine Jackson  
Audit ----- Marilyn Posluszny and Mary Pat McLaughlin

Besides ending the century, 1999 featured the first Bluebonnet Patchwork Trail Shop Hop, the first shop hop in Central Texas. During that same year Steffani Sabatini started The Linus Connection, our guild's main community service project for many years. The Linus Connection distributes quilts and blankets to children in Williamson County who need comforting: abused and neglected children; children in foster care, homeless shelters and orphanages; and children in cancer and hospital wards. ([www.linusconnection.org](http://www.linusconnection.org))

Our guild's first program, April 27, 1999, was by Margaret Smith, a well-known teacher at Gem Fabrics. As an immediate fundraiser, Margaret Smith donated two quilt tops to be quilted by members and raffled off. By October 1999 we had 21 books in our library and 80 members.

In January 2000 we started meeting at the Round Rock Library and then moved to the First United Methodist Church in Round Rock by the end of the year. The first CTQG retreat was held Sept. 20-22, 2000, at the MoRanch near Kerrville and became a yearly event. Our guild's retreats are a great time for fun and silliness. Here's a poem written by Helen Bohmfalk for an early retreat.

I think that there has ne'er been built  
A work as lovely as a quilt.  
With fabric soft and stitches rare,  
No better way to show you care.  
In colors that just burst apart,  
Or softer shades to comfort hearts.  
Memorials sad, or scenes of whimsy;  
Plain, or embellished with all kinds of trims-y.  
Honoring the work of the pioneers,  
Or CAD-type designs of the space-age years.  
Creative juices flowing here,  
In quilts we make from year to year.

In quilts to restore the past,  
In order to explore what's next...  
We quilt, and it is what we do  
To express what's inside me and you.  
I'm sure that there has ne'er been built  
A work as lovely as a quilt.

CTQG joined with the Georgetown Heritage Society and Handcrafts Unlimited to produce the 2001 Georgetown Quilt Show, March 17-18, 2001. Although CTQG was sharing the show, we made our presence known: Out of 133 quilts entered in the show, 86 were by CTQG members. Out of 25 ribbons given by judges, CTQG members won 22. Our first show chair was Pat Beachy.

Our next fund-raising quilt was designed and coordinated by Melinda Noonan, and was truly made by our members. Members purchased kits to make the quilt blocks. The quilt featured Mission Valley fabrics in a snail's trail pattern. Mission Valley stopped producing their famous plaids a few years later. The quilt was won by Dorene Cohen in December 2002 and has appeared at several of our quilt shows.

During 2002, as planning got underway for CTQG's 2003 quilt show, the city of Round Rock Chamber of Commerce granted our guild \$10,000 as seed money to be used for our show expenses. We now hold our quilt shows in the fall of even-numbered years (alternating with the Austin Area Quilt Show). In the meantime, we started a Yahoo Group list for immediate communication of guild business, and began looking into distributing the newsletter, *Trail Tales*, by e-mail.

Today, we are meeting at the Georgetown Library. We have more than 200 members. Our guild library has more than 500 books and magazines. In addition to The Linus Connection, our community service includes making quilts for wounded soldiers at Ft. Hood through the Thank You Quilters. We offer a retreat every year and we produce quilt shows in even-numbered years. Our communications include our monthly newsletter (*Trail Tales*), a website ([ctquiltguild.org](http://ctquiltguild.org)), and our Yahoo Groups list ([ctqgtx](http://ctqgtx)).

### **Presidents**

Pat Beachy 1999-2001  
Sharon Frederick 2001(July)  
Kathy Hauge 2001-2003  
Melinda Noonan 2003-2004  
Nancy Chacon 2004 (July)  
Melinda Noonan 2004-2005  
Nancy Daw 2005-2007  
Dorene Cohen 2007-2009  
Sue Malicoat 2009-2011