

A Short History of the Charlottesville Area Quilters Guild

In the fall of 1979, a few women interested in the art and preservation of quilting met to organize a quilting group in Charlottesville, VA. Carol Llewlynn founded this group which later became the Charlottesville Quilt Guild. Other early members were Marty Grattan, Shedly Reese, Pat Reeder and Mary Lee Spradlin. This group met weekly at the Gordon Avenue Public Library and later moved their meeting to Tuesday mornings at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. They participated in the American Cancer Society's quilt shows at the Boar's Head Inn and sponsored six annual quilt shows at Castle Hill, a historic home in Keswick, VA.

Early in 1987, an evening quilting group was formed. It became the Moonlight Quilters of Charlottesville and met at Early Times Workshop. In September of 1987, the first joint meeting of the two groups was held and the Charlottesville Area Quilters Guild was formed. The goal was to promote quilting and quilt conservation. It was decided that one must belong to the Area Guild in order to participate in the Charlottesville Guild or Moonlighters. Dues for the CAQG were \$10.00. Dues for the Charlottesville Guild were \$5.00 and dues for Moonlighters were \$10.00.

The first joint gathering known as QuiltFest was held December 12, 1987 with a contest to design a logo to be used for nametags. The winner was Pat Ray who received a one-year free membership to the guild. It is the logo that is still used for nametags today. This joint event was known as QuiltFest for many years but eventually became known as FallFest. The date of the first SpringFest is unknown but it was held as early as 1993. The guild continues to host two joint meetings every year.

The 1st Jefferson Country Quilt Show was held October 7-8, 1989 at Kappa Sigma on Ivy Road. Bi-annual quilt shows continued to be held in odd numbered years through 2019. The Jefferson Country Quilt Show XVII was postponed in 2021 because of Covid. It was held with great success in April 2022.

The first raffle quilt for the Jefferson Country Quilt Show was made for the second show in 1991. It was a Dresden Plate and individual blocks were made by members. Raffle quilts continue to be an important part of every quilt show. They not only raise important funds to host the show but also showcase the talents and the camaraderie of guild members. The first Silent Auction was for Quilt Show III in 1993 and continued for many years. Members still make small quilts to sell at the show but they are no longer auctioned, but priced to sell.