



1999 to 2009

10th Anniversary

# Heber Valley Quilters

## A History

It was February of 1999 when a handful of enthusiastic women met together to form a little neighborhood quilt guild. At first, more of a fun ladies' social group, meetings would include talk about quilts, books, or just a ladies' night out. Ten years later, the guild has become the premier forum in the Heber Valley for quilters to meet together monthly to learn new quilting techniques; to teach quilting and related sewing skills to one another, "Sew & Tell" projects and ideas, and to have the opportunity to give charity service to the community. Guild members have helped make and donate over 80 quilts for charity organizations such as the Children's Justice Center, Quilts-4-Cancer, Heber Valley Medical Center, and Central Dialysis in Salt Lake City. Membership has grown to include over 50 women of all ages, from beginning quilters through every level of quilting interest and expertise. The one common thread that binds this group together is sharing the joy of quilting! Congratulations on ten fantastic years!



## Honoring Past Presidents

*Cat Beckstead*, an accomplished quilter for over 25 years, was one of the founding sisters of the guild, and served as president for the first three years: February 1999 through December 2001. She has loved to sew since she was a kindergartener. One of the original latch-key kids, little Cat would sew until her parents came home from work. She began piecing quilts in the 1980's and loves every aspect of quilting. She feels that it is a relaxing, natural pain-killer for her fibromyalgia.



Cat loves to read quilt books for fun, just like a novel. She has a huge library of quilting books, publications and magazines, and is always willing to share her expertise. Her quilting stash is housed in a bookcase of its own, sorted by style. She worked at Whimsy's Cottage for several years, teaching classes and developing patterns (and building her stash...). She loves her Electronic Quilt (EQ5) quilt designing program, which fills both her interest in drafting and design, and her love of math. Cat designed the guild's Row Quilt project in 2004, and has helped design and make the 2009 Heber Valley Row Quilt. Her immaculate quilting reflects her sense of color and design, and her quilts are awe-inspiring and beautiful.

Cat has taught many of our guild lessons including tips for Precision Piecing, Back-Basting Appliqué and Choosing Color in Quilts. She is a master at organizing "Mystery Quilts" for our guild retreats, and heads the Friendship Block and Round Robin Exchange Groups each year.



**Shantelle Cox** has an email address that reads “princessquiltsalot” if that is any indication of her passion for quilting. Shantelle learned to use a sewing machine at school in 6th grade Home Economics. She really wanted to learn sooner, but her mother didn’t want to teach Shantelle her bad habits.

Shantelle started quilting with a double pinwheel class at Whimsy’s Cottage. Her second class was an appliqué class, and she was hooked. She then joined the Heber Valley Quilters guild in September of 1999, and has not looked back.



Serving as guild president from January 2002 through August 2003, Shantelle initiated a Block of the Month program. At the same time, she took a turn as board member with the Utah Quilt Guild. Shantelle served as Area Rep for the Summit Area for two years, and was involved in the UQG Quilt Festival planning committee for four years.

Since her presidency, Shantelle has taught classes at Quilt Festival, and at several guilds around the area

and even out of state for a guild in Colorado.



Shantelle is not afraid to try anything new, as may be demonstrated by her impressive collection of UFOs—too many to number but she guesses maybe 125, which includes nine completed quilt tops just waiting to be quilted. She laughs as she calls herself a “Beginning Quilter”—beginning this, and beginning that.

Her interests include a very wide spectrum of techniques, and she has demonstrated many of those at guild meetings: hand quilting, curved piecing and Y-seams, silk ribbon embroidery, watercolor quilts, rouching, and quilt labels, just to name a few. Shantelle also worked with Cat and Sherron on the Heber Valley row quilt this year. She loves hand work, and has made nearly 500 little hats for NICU newborns



on her Knifty Knitter. She recently taught herself to knit cotton dishcloths (with knitting needles), and to crochet as well.

Shantelle hosts our annual “Quiltin’ in the Woods” guild retreat at her family’s cabin each Spring, and presents our annual Design Challenge, now in its eighth year.

**Kari Giacalone**, a native Californian with a relaxed, easy-going manner introduced a relaxed, easy-going style of quilting to the guild with a Primitive Americana folk-art quilt project. Pattern designer, Cheri Saffiote, gave permission specifically to our guild to use

her not-yet-published pattern. The quilt was used as a primer to learn and practice four different methods for appliqué, including wool appliqué, reverse appliqué, invisible machine appliqué, and chenille appliqué. Five different methods of piecing were also taught: precision piecing, crooked piecing, curved piecing, strip piecing and paper-piecing. We completed the year with a lesson on sashing and borders and how to put together a quilt with so many odd-size blocks.



Kari’s term as guild president was cut short when her husband was relocated to Pennsylvania. Living for a time in the heart of Amish country was a fun experience for her. Now they live in Knoxville, Tennessee, and for now, her time is filled with teenagers and little girls, church callings and school volunteering with no time to quilt for herself. She knows that because her quilting experiences of the past were filled with such wonderful experiences and wonderful friends, she’ll someday return to that hobby.



**Deonn Stott** has been sewing for 40 years. Some of her favorite memories include spending time in the sewing room with her mom and two sisters making clothes and other 4-H projects. Shortly after her mother's funeral in 1999, Deonn discovered a bag of unfinished log cabin blocks her mother had started. She brought them home, finished the quilt that would have been her mother's first pieced quilt, and gave it to her dad for Christmas.

Prior to that, Deonn had resisted quilting because she knew she had a tendency to become a bit obsessed. Her next five quilts were made simultaneously. They included a paper-pieced denim kite quilt, a row quilt from a magazine, two Block of the Month clubs at the Stitching Corner, and a Saturday Sampler at Whimsy's. By then she realized that she had found a happy place for her OCD. She loves perfect points and will do whatever it takes to make that happen in her quilts.



When Shantelle was relegated to bed rest for the duration of her pregnancy, Deonn took on the presidency of the guild, serving from September 2003 through December 2004. During her tenure, she secured a permanent home for guild meetings at the AMBank Community room, compiled the guild Mission Statement and Bylaws, and initiated a Quilting Bee prior to guild meetings. Over 30 quilts were made that year to donate to the Children's Justice Center.

Since her presidency, Deonn has set up a machine quilting business, *Quiltscapes*, and has become a featured teacher at quilt shops and quilting/sewing conferences around the state. She also teaches local classes for both children and adults. She loves to piece, quilt, draft patterns and teach. She says she even dreams about quilting at night, and can't wait to wake up and get going.

Deonn feels that quilting is a way to connect with those who have gone before; mothers, grandmothers, etc. And as history has a way of repeating itself, Deonn's triplet daughters also enjoy quilting with her, spending time together giggling in the sewing room. The legacy continues. Each of the Stott ladies have won numerous sweepstakes and prizes at the Wasatch County and Utah State fairs. In addition, Deonn's quilts have also won recognition at UQC Quilt Festival and the Home Machine Quilting Show. She currently serves as guild Newsletter Editor, Webmistress and Historian.



**Michelle Blair** feels that quilting holds a special place in her heart. Her grandmother taught her to quilt when she was in Junior High school, and she immediately fell in love. It was something she could share with her grandmother that they both enjoyed. Michelle loved going to her grandmother's house, helping to put a quilt on and just to sit and visit. It was a special treat (and still is) when her grandma would pull out quilts she had made and also quilts her own



mother and grandmother had pieced and hand quilted. Her grandmother would be so excited about any project Michelle was working on. In Michelle's mind, quilting will always be tied to her Grandma.

Michelle became guild president when Kari moved to Pennsylvania, finishing out 2005 with the final few lessons to complete the Americana project. During her presidency in 2006, Michelle inspired the guild



with a "Calendar Quilt" block of the month celebrating holidays and seasons of the year, which could be made into a whole quilt, or framed individually.

Michelle remembers the first year she joined HVQ—that she couldn't wait until the next month to learn a new block. She became a "block tester" for Cat's 2004 row quilt, so she was the first one to try each new block. Michelle loved learning

new techniques to build on the basics she had previously learned with her grandmother. She loves starting with little random pieces of fabric and building something beautiful with them. You could say that Michelle LOVES quilting!

Membership in the guild brought many new and dear friends to Michelle that shared the same love of quilting. One of her favorite memories of quilt guild is the annual retreat at Shantelle's cabin. She remembers a lot of quilting, laughing, and snacking going on — not so much sleeping...

**Brenda Wilcox** didn't expect to become guild president for another couple of years when she agreed to be a second vice president with Michelle Blair. But in July of 2006 when both Michelle and the first vice president, Celeni Richins moved to Utah Valley within a couple of weeks of each other, Brenda stepped in to finish Michelle's term, then remained president through 2007.



Brenda's presidency brought guild members "Back to the Basics." Monthly lessons were geared to teach basic quilt blocks such as the log cabin and nine-patch variations, and techniques in hand-quilting, setting, borders and binding treatments. At guild meeting one particular night, several ladies taught an "Instant Blocks" class. Guild members worked in teams for about two hours to produce nearly 200 quilt blocks which were later made into quilts for charity, including one donated to the AMBank to hang in the community room where guild meetings are held. Brenda also instituted a monthly spotlight of sharing quilting tips, tricks and tools that make quilting so enjoyable.



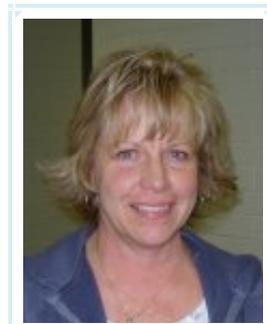
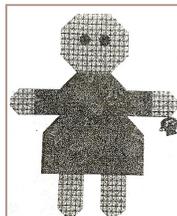
Brenda loves spending time quilting with friends. Raised under her grandmother's quilting frames, Brenda learned to love hand-quilting and antique quilts. She enjoys sewing and quilting so much because she loves the surprise of making quilts. "It's like you can't really imagine what will really happen, then poof! It all comes together!" Her favorite part of quilting is doing the binding because that means the project is DONE!



**KayeDawn Epps** has been sewing since she was about seven years old when she was given a sewing machine as a gift. She made her first quilt in high school, and her mother called in the neighbor ladies to quilt it. Her mother taught her how to sew, and she made most of her own clothing, then later her children's clothing including jeans for her boys. KayeDawn is continuing the tradition and has given her granddaughters sewing machines of their own. She enjoys teaching them to sew.

KayeDawn can't wait to retire in a few years then she can spend her time building her longarm machine quilting business, *Mountain Home Machine Quilting*.

As guild president in 2008, KayeDawn focused on a theme of learning and perfecting several appliqué methods. Everyone enjoyed a year of learning from each other and from several guest instructors. A rise in membership



prompted KayeDawn to organize of Mentors and Sponsors for new guild members, and to go electronic with newsletters and a new guild blog. Quilters were inspired to finish current projects with her "Finish a Quilt" program. She currently co-chairs the guild charity projects.

KayeDawn enjoys the camaraderie among quilters. She especially loves the ladies in the Heber Valley Quilters guild. If you had to pay for the classes that we have learned from each other at guild meetings, it would really add up to a pretty good amount of money. She is amazed and impressed that guild members are so willing to share their time, talents and quilting expertise with one another, and the only cost is the price of friendship.

**Sherron Watson** began quilting about twelve years ago with a hand-pieced Dresden Plate quilt. At that time, the only batting she could afford was an old blanket, and the back was a sheet. She entered it into a contest, and it won first place. She was hooked! She has since taught her mother, mother-in-law, and numerous friends to quilt, and started a quilting group in her neighborhood. She also belongs to the Midway Heritage Quilters guild. She enjoys appliqué and hand quilting, and has made a couple of Hawaiian whole cloth appliqué quilts.



As current president of the guild, Sherron has taken on a theme of “Quilting Bees” with fun and innovative “Bees” for every meeting: “Bee” with Friends, “Bee” Creative, “Bee” Surprised,” to name a few. She and former guild presidents Cat Beckstead and Shantelle Cox have designed a row quilt representative of our beautiful Heber Valley.



Thanks to all our past presidents and board members for their continued dedication, support and expertise. The guild is in good hands as we continue the quest to learn something fun and new at each and every guild meeting. Then in turn, guild members have a chance to cheer each other along as they express themselves creatively, share the enjoyment and promote the art of quilting with their families and friends.

## Guild Membership



Join us for our monthly  
guild meetings held on the

**FIRST THURSDAY**

of each month

**7:00 pm. To 8:30 pm.**

Meetings are held in the  
Community Room at:

**AMBank Building**

**620 West 100 South**

**Heber City, Utah**

See you there!

**Membership in the Heber Valley Quilters Guild renews annually,  
beginning in January each year.**

**Annual Membership Dues: \$25** payable prior to February's guild meeting. Members will receive monthly newsletters and other guild publications such as block of the month patterns. Those who join during the year will have their dues prorated, unless they wish to receive all that year's previous newsletters and publications. In such case, they will pay the usual annual membership dues.

**Guests** are welcome to attend one complimentary guild meeting prior to becoming a guild member. Subsequent attendance fee: **\$5** for each meeting attended thereafter without joining the guild as a member. We hope you will join us—join in the fun!

