

## Quilting Guild of The Villages Historical Outline "In The Beginning 1993 - 2003"

The following is some information about the first few years of organized quilting in The Villages. It covers the history and early accomplishments of the first chapters. References include Anne Tutoli's chapter history in Piecemakers newsletters, pictures and newspaper articles in the Piecemakers scrapbooks as compiled by Trudy Barton, and reminiscences from Ida Hoover, Anne Tutoli, and Rita Pickard.

**1993:** A newspaper item in the Lady Lake Tri-County SUN on Friday, October 15, 1993 – see at top of page.

Anne Tutoli reported that over one hundred ladies signed up to form a quilting guild. A meeting was held on November 9, 1993 and twenty-five ladies attended. Anne Tutoli was elected president and the group chose "The Villages Quilting Guild" as its name. Dues were established and plans were made for future activities. Meetings were set for Tuesdays from 8:30 until noon in the Lucille Ball Room at the Paradise Recreation Center.

Rita Pickard remembers that the Quilting Bees group started at the same time. Some of the ladies did not have a lot of quilting experience, so the new chapter was started as an instruction group with a teacher from Ocala. The ladies each paid \$30 for six weeks of classes. Each lady worked on a project of her own choosing.

Ida Hoover was one of those who had some quilting experience. She and others were in the "Refresher Class." She still has a wall hanging that was her first project in that group.

Anne Tutoli's newsletter in 2000 mentions activities from the first six years of the group: "Within a year after organizing, we donated a dozen lap quilts to the LRMC Nursing Home Unit. In March 1995, a queen-size sampler quilt was raffled for the benefit of The Haven, the Lake-Sumter shelter for battered women and their children. From the \$1300 raised, over \$900 was used to provide screening and screen doors for a large porch used by the children at the shelter. Since then we have donated over a dozen twin-sized quilts to the Boggy Creek Camp, have provided the "wishes" for a Christmas Angel Tree family the past four years, and have held three quilt shoes: 1995, 1998, and 1999."

**1994:** A Quilt Show was held at the Log Cabin Museum in Lady Lake. A log cabin pattern quilt was given to the museum, but at a later date.

**1996:** The Villages held a Craft Fair at La Hacienda Recreation Center. This was not a quilt show, but several members completed a queen-size sampler quilt in green, pink, and blue. This was used as a raffle quilt. The money raised (\$935) was given to The Haven, a shelter for women and their children. They used it to construct a fence at the property.

**1997:** A donation was made to a project called Hugs and Wishes, which was sponsored by The Villages Foundation. It benefited local children at Christmas. Lap quilts and bears were made and then donated to Boggy Creek Camp for children suffering from cancer.

**1998:** A Quilt Show was held at La Hacienda Center. By this time, we had several racks to display the quilts, but not enough. So chairs were placed on top of tables and quilts were draped over the chairs.

**1999:** Another Quilt Show was held at La Hacienda Center. This show featured a boutique, challenge quilts, and raffle quilts. Scrapbook pictures show members and husbands assembling the PVC pipe quilt racks.

**2000:** We adopted North Sumter Middle School and donated \$500 plus school supplies. The school honored us for the time, money, and expertise we donated as part of our outreach program.

**2001:** The Piecemakers and B's held a Quilt Show on February 3 and 4, 2001 at La Hacienda Center. We used three rooms and also had food service. There were ten vendors, demos, door prizes, and four raffle quilts. The B's organized a quilt challenge. The show included 235 quilts, wall hangings, and wearables that were made by one

hundred members. There were also 35 Hoffman National Challenge quilts on display. Quilts voted as favorites included those made by Ann Vogel, Sue Ann Corkish, Nikki Brown, Trudy Barton, and Jackie Whitehead. Attendance was listed as 2300.

**2002:** \$500 was donated to North Sumter Middle School. In December, a quilt-decorated golf cart was entered in the Christmas parade.

**2003:** The 2003 Guild Quilt Show was held at the Savannah Center. Features included a boutique, small raffle, demos, and a silent auction, which was a new feature this year. The raffle quilt was called Rose Sampler Supreme and featured twenty rose appliqué blocks with a swag border. The proceeds were donated to Ovarian Cancer Research and to Lake Sumter Community College for nursing scholarships.

**2003:** In the spring of 2003, Quilting Guild of The Villages was organized, with Macky Nylin as the first president.

**2003:** At the November meeting of the Quilting Guild, we honored those charter members who were still members of the group. Ten-year pins were given to the following ladies: Gloria Martin, Issie Janke, Patty Rizzo, Reva Pruitt, Rita Pickard, Donna Polash, Jeanette Flint, Barbara Morrow, Ida Hoover, Dolly Clouse, Anne Tutoli, and Jean Stevens.

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Compiled by Jan Watkins - July 1, 2011