

## MQA HISTORY ARTICLE NO. 3

### MISSISSIPPI QUILT ASSOCIATION, CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 25 YEARS—2009-2016 By Linda Jabour

#### 2009

President, Gloria Reeves, challenged the membership with “*the start of something new and we hope you will join us in our quest for new quilts to make, new techniques to learn, new friends to meet and new roles to fill in MQA*”. The Educational Seminar instructor was M'Liss Rae Hawley who taught classes based on her book, ***Mariner's Medallion Quilts***. The ***Common Thread*** featured quilters were Jenny Reed, Carolyn Emerson and Linda Jones. The January issue of CT included *A Tribute in Memory of Martha Skelton* by her granddaughter, Jennifer Fentress. Martha passed away Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

#### 2010

President, Carolyn Emerson's theme, *Connecting Threads to Keep our Quilting Heritage Alive Throughout the Generations*. The **first** annual Outstanding Mississippi Quilters Exhibit was displayed at the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. The June reception honored these ten quilters and their families.

Betty Berryhill—Raymond	Ann Carleton--Union
Aleen Cullen—Kosciusko	Martha DuBard--Louisville
Lois Ford—Philadelphia	Nellie Gary--Kosciusko
Sue Mitchell—Louisville	Lorene Paris--Brandon
Nancy Welsch—Jackson	Katherine Worrell--Utica

Joan Alliston and Georgia Polk coordinated this event. Guest speaker, Carol Vickers, shared stories about the documentation project that would become the published book, ***Mississippi Quilts***. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MQA Educational Seminar was taught by Beth Ferrier. Her topics were Sneaky Piecing Tricks and Hand Applique by Machine. ***Common Thread*** featured quilter was Billie Thompson.

#### 2011

President, Billie Thompson's theme was *Everyday Quilts, Tomorrow's Heirlooms*. She also introduced a President's Challenge, to make a Civil War quilt or wall hanging at the June Gathering. Those participating displayed their projects at the 2012 Spring Gathering. Deb Karasik was the Educational Seminar instructor. Her workshop was on paper piecing. CT featured quilters were Marilyn Rose and Judy Stokes. MQA celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### 2012

President, Judy Stokes' theme—*Let's Keep Our Heritage Alive—Pass It On*. Her objective was “To teach one person something—quilting, knitting, crochet, tatting, cooking, etc. The next generation can only benefit from our efforts.” The Educational Seminar instructor was Marilyn Doheny. The Board of Directors approved amendments to the bylaws that were presented to the membership at the Fall Gathering in Starkville. The approved amendments added 3 new positions to the board of directors--Leadership Director, Legacy Director and Webmaster. CT featured quilter was Lucy Large.

#### 2013

President, Jean Tincher's theme was *Thinking Outside the Box with Quilting*. The membership was introduced to Barn Quilts at the Fall Gathering. Gatherings were held in Meridian, Jackson and Corinth. Thinking outside the box, Bonnie Hunter was booked to teach May 31-June 2, 2018. This will be an additional workshop series NOT to replace the Annual

Educational Seminar. Nancy Mahoney was the Educational Seminar instructor. At the Spring Gathering in Meridan, Judy Stokes prepared a map and presentation on MQA member guilds by region. It was very revealing by showing where MQA is well represented and pockets where we have room for improvement in the state.

## 2014

President, Shirley Wiltshire's theme was *Inspiration, Plan and Quilt---what INSPIRES you to quilt?* Shirley appointed the Educational Seminar Committee composed of past presidents, to select and book national instructors beyond the immediate future. MQA quilters exhibited and demonstrated quilting techniques at the Mississippi Ag Museum for Capital Fair Day on July 5<sup>th</sup> and in November during the Fall Harvest Festival. Anita Schackelford was the National Teacher. Gatherings were held in Gulfport, Jackson and Vicksburg.

## 2015

President, Marietta Johnson's theme was *Quilt It Forward--- Plant kindness by showing appreciation.* Marietta promoted MQA throughout the state. MQA banners were made for each Regional Representative to display at quilting events. The "Welcome Center" Brochure, promoting quilting in MS was introduced at the February Gathering. Pat Sloan was the Educational Seminar teacher. The Fall Gathering in Picayune, included a program on Post Katrina, a display of quilts that survived the hurricane and/or Katrina Memory quilts conveying the strength to survive and move forward from the ruins.

## 2016

President, Julia Graber's theme was **Celebrate MQA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Integrate Fiber Art with Traditional Quilts—Create-Go Make Something!** She issued a "Silver (Anniversary) Challenge" by inviting members to create a 25"x25" art quilt to communicate celebration. The Spring Gathering's Friday night program was a private preview of Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry's exhibit entitled **40 Years of Color, Light & Motion** at the University of Mississippi Museum and hosted by the Piece Makers Guild of Oxford. MQA adopted one of Martha Skelton's quilts, New York Beauty, exhibited at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY. At the June Gathering, Martha Ginn was recognized with a life time membership for being a MQA charter member and our first president. The Educational Seminar teacher was Mickey Depre. The 2016 Outstanding Mississippi Quilters were recognized at the Fall Gathering in the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus. They are:

Karen Asbury—Tupelo	Joanne Humphries--Brandon
Annette Burns—Natchez	Alta Morehead--Vaiden
Annie Edwards—Columbus	Annette Pennington--Columbus
Louise Moody Hatcher—Philadelphia	Bonnie Prettyman--Newton
Dorothea Hoffman—Woodville	

This completes the final installment of "MQA, the First Twenty-Five Years". Reviewing the three-part series, reveals so many firsts for this organization. We have come so far in our first 25 years! Special thanks and appreciation to the **Common Thread** editors for publishing MQA's communication life-line, our newsletter during this period---Leslie Kiger, Linda Jones, Debra Sikes, Lucy Large and Keri Lewis.

**MQA Membership History:** 1991 - 134; 2001 - 328; 2006 - 415; 2011 - 353; and 2016 - 398.