

Quilmakers of Olympia Early History

Compiled for the 30th Anniversary in 2018

- July 11, 1985 first meeting; purpose of the meeting: *“to organize a quilt guild and to plan a quilt show for the spring of 1986. It was decided to make a quilt to be raffled at the quilt show. . . . Those present were required to think of an appropriate name for the guild.”*
- August 16, 1985 second meeting: decided that it would be *“ . . . impossible to complete the quilt by spring, so a tentative time for the quilt show was set for the fall of 1986”*; guild name of Quilmakers of Olympia was selected and its purpose would be to *“stimulate an interest in quilts and quilting”*; membership dues set at \$10.00 per person
- October 1985 officers elected, Patti Isacson first president (not noted in current directory)
- by June 1986 met 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month; attendance: 10-20 per meeting
- March 1987 Quilt Show at Olympic West Retirement Home
- December 1987 accepted the first Constitution and By-laws
- **March 1988** became incorporated
- May 1988 quilts and quilted items displayed at the Olympia Senior Center
- during 1989 meeting attendance 18-25
- during 1989 involved in a centennial quilt project and made and donated a quilt to the Tumwater Henderson House Museum

- Activities during the early years: put on quilt shows and exhibits, classes, outside of the guild teachers, projects, basting members’ quilts and for others for money, show and tell at meetings, a library of books for members, announced quilting events, made doll quilts initially for Salvation Army and later given to another charity, made and donated lap robes (quilts) to Safeplace, sunshine (cards) for members, annual summer picnic and Christmas Party (luncheon at a restaurant), members entered quilted items in Thurston Co. Fair and won ribbons

- 1990: 47 members in the roster
- Jan. 9, 1992 Treasurer’s report: \$9.11 cash on hand, \$711.99 savings
- by 1994, met on the four Thursdays of the month
- 1996 Miriam Edwards became the treasurer
- Long standing current members:
 - Sonjia Seldemridge first joined in July 1986, again in 1992
 - Helen Curtis joined in 1989 was secretary, treasurer and president
 - Ming Toi Holt joined in 1991 was president
 - joined in 1993: Connie Cross, Anne States, Doris Lohrengel, Ruby Wiggington, Linda Weeks (current members)
- 34 of the 110+ current members have been member for ten years or more

- Meeting locations through the years: Gingham Goose fabric shop initially, Gas Company (now the Humane Society); Community Room at Capital Mall; Com. Center/Senior Center, Olympia; Armory on Eastside St.; Club House at Tumwater Mobile Estates; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church since about 2000