

## Guide to the Azalea City Quilters Guild Records

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### **Descriptive Summary:**

Creator: Azalea City Quilters Guild, 1980-

Title: Azalea City Quilters Guild Records

Dates: 1980-2011

Quantity: 15 cubic feet

Abstract: Scrapbooks, minutes, and newsletters, as well as photos, slides, and negatives.

Accession: 07-07-475

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### **Organizational Note:**

On June 16, 1980, a group of twenty-seven women from the Mobile area gathered at the local Quilts and Calicos Shop to organize a quilting guild. At this meeting of the newly-formed guild, officers were nominated and names for the group were suggested. At the next meeting, members chose Azalea City Quilters Guild as the official name of their organization, and they elected a slate of officers, with Ellen Anson serving as the first president. The members decided that the guild would meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of every month. At first the "ACQG" held its monthly meetings at a building on Dauphin Street, but in September 1980, meetings were moved to the Cottage Hill Branch of the Mobile Public Library. The next location chosen for the guild's monthly meetings was Springhill Baptist Church, where the ACQG met from September 1982 to August 1984. The next location change, when the guild began meeting in the Bay Haas Building in September 1984, required the organization to change the time of its monthly meetings from evenings to mornings. The guild has continued its practice of meeting in the daytime for more than two decades. In April 1987, the ACQG relocated once more, to Spring Hill Avenue United Methodist Church, where they have continued to meet as of March 2008.

After the Azalea City Quilters Guild was formed in June 1980, membership in the organization grew rapidly. By the time the opportunity for charter membership ended in December 1980, the guild already boasted more than thirty members. By the mid-1980s,

100 members were enrolled. Membership reached 200 at the turn of the twenty-first century, and in August 2007, the Azalea City Quilters Guild had 269 members.

As membership in the ACQG increased, so did the guild's activities. Within a year of its founding, the Azalea City Quilters Guild began participating in quilt exhibitions sponsored by museums around Mobile. Then, in April 1983, the guild held its first annual Pride of Mobile Quilt Show at Sage Avenue Armory in Mobile. The Pride of Mobile Quilt Show was an annual event until 1987, when the guild decided to hold the show only on odd-numbered years. In 2001, the show had a new name and a new location: the Azalea City Quilters Guild "Serenade of Quilts" was held in March 2001 on the Brookley campus of the University of South Alabama. In 2005, the ACQG quilt show, now nameless, moved to the Greater Gulf State Fair Grounds, where the 2007 show, called "Festival of Quilts," was also held.

In addition to its quilt shows, the Azalea City Quilters Guild has also been involved in many other activities. For most of the guild's existence, ACQG members have organized trips to regional and national quilt shows. Workshops have also been popular events for the guild. In addition, since the mid-1980s, the organization has made a quilt each year to donate to St. Mary's Home in Mobile. Other charities helped by the ACQG include the Child Advocacy Center, the Ronald McDonald House, and Project Linus. In addition to its regular meetings, the guild has also spun-off several other groups, including one that meets in the evenings and a Thursday-morning group.

The guild is a member organization in the Gulf States Quilting Association, and in May 2003 the Azalea City Quilters Guild became an incorporated organization.

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### **Scope and Contents:**

The Azalea City Quilters Guild Collection consists of organizational records, correspondence, photos, and scrapbooks created by the Azalea City Quilters Guild, as well as newspaper clippings, quilt show programs, quilt patterns, and other memorabilia collected by members of the guild. Additions to this collection are made on an annual basis.

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**Arrangement:**

The collection has been divided into 14 series: 1. Organizational Rules (0.1 cubic feet); 2. Legal Documents (0.05 cubic feet), 3. Minutes, 1980-2009 (0.5 cubic feet); 4. Annual Officers' and Committee Chairs' Reports, 2002-2009 (0.5 cubic feet); 5. Charity Projects (0.1 cubic feet); 6. Membership Lists, 1988-1999 (0.1 cubic feet); 4. Newsletters, 1980-2009 (0.5 cubic feet); 5. Correspondence (0.1 cubic feet); 6. Photos (0.5 cubic feet); 7. Negatives (0.5 cubic feet); 8. Slides (0.5 cubic feet); 9. Scrapbooks (7.5 cubic feet); 10. Memorabilia (1 cubic foot); 11. Quilt Shows (.55 cubic foot).

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**Access Restrictions:**

This material is open for research.

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**Preferred Citation:**

Records of the Azalea City Quilters Guild, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

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**Series Description:****Series 1: Organizational Rules**

Azalea City Quilters Guild Constitution, By-Laws, and revisions of said documents, arranged chronologically

**Series 2: Legal Documents**

Azalea City Quilters Guild tax-exemption documents and Articles of Incorporation, arranged chronologically

**Series 3: Minutes, 1980-2009**

This series is arranged chronologically and contains the minutes of ACQG General and Board meetings from July 1980 to July 2009.

**Series 4: Annual Officers' and Committee Chair Reports, 2002-2009**

This series is arranged chronologically and consists of the annual reports submitted to the Guild by its officers and committee chairs at the end of each fiscal year.

**Series 5: Charity Projects**

This series includes correspondence and other information relating to the Azalea City Quilters Guild's charitable projects dating from 2004 to 2006.

**Series 6: Membership Lists, 1988-1999**

Consists of the ACQG's annual phone books from 1988 to 1999, as well as officer lists from 1993 to 1995 and a 1993 handwritten membership list. These items are arranged chronologically by type of material.

**Series 7: Newsletters, 1980-2009 [Bulk 1991-2009]**

This series includes most of the issues of *Nine Patch News*, the Azalea City Quilters Guild's monthly newsletter, which has been published since the guild's very first year. The very first issue is present (July 1980) but only a few others from the 1980s were present. After 1991 there is almost a complete run. This series is arranged chronologically.

**Series 8: Correspondence**

This series, arranged chronologically, includes correspondence dating from 1992 to 1999 and from 2008 to 2009. Most of it is addressed from individual members to the guild as a whole, but the series also includes a letter from Senior Citizens Services to the guild. Researchers will find the bulk of the guild's correspondence, however, in the Scrapbooks series.

**Series 9: Photos**

Most of the photos in this series, which is arranged chronologically, were packaged in their original commercial photography envelopes. A few sets of images were found together in small gift bags. The majority of them have no corresponding negative. They range in date from 1986 to 2009 and largely depict ACQG meetings and quilt shows, however, the

majority are from the 1999 Pride of Mobile Quilt Show. Other photographs can be found in the Scrapbooks series.

### **Series 10: Negatives**

Although the negatives in this series date from 1990 to 2009, the majority of them are dated after 1996. They depict Azalea City Quilters Guild activities and were originally in highly acidic commercial photo envelopes within their corresponding scrapbook. Each photo envelope's negatives were kept together, arranged chronologically, and filed in separate folders.

### **Series 11: Slides**

The slides in this series were originally in a number of separate slide containers. They date from 1983 to 1998 and show a wide variety of guild- and quilting-related activities, including ACQG meetings and quilt shows, guild trips to regional and national quilt shows, and even one American quilter's trip to Australia. The slides are arranged chronologically by original container.

### **Series 12: Scrapbooks**

Comprising the bulk of the collection, this series contains the contents of nineteen scrapbooks created by members of the Azalea City Quilters Guild during the years 1980 to 2003. Of these, seventeen are of general ACQG activities, while the other two deal exclusively with two ACQG quilt shows (one documents the 1991 Pride of Mobile Quilt Show and the other records the 1993 show). The ACQG scrapbooks include not only photos, but also correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, and other memorabilia.

### **Series 13: Memorabilia**

This series includes newspaper and magazine clippings, quilt show programs, and quilt patterns saved by members of the Azalea City Quilters Guild. The items are arranged by type of material and then by date within each medium.

### **Series 14: Quilt Shows**

This series contains news clippings and photos from guild meetings and quilt shows, as well as a guest book (ca. 1988-1992) from an unidentified ACQG quilt show used at the Fort Ganey Armory on Sage Street near Dauphin Street. The bulk of the series, however,

consists of materials relating to the 1983-2005 Pride of Mobile, Serenade of Quilts, and Festival of Quilts shows organized by the Guild. These materials include planning notes, correspondence with judges, receipts and rental agreements for show-related supplies and facilities, and reports from various committee chairpersons. While the guild's scrapbooks and general records emphasize the "finished product" of the quilt shows, these records offer a glimpse into the months of planning involved for each show.

As additions to this collection are made on an annual basis, researchers will want to search the entire finding aid for material of interest.

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## **Content List:**

### **Box 1**

Series 1: Organizational Rules (1 folder)

Series 2: Legal Documents (1 folder)

Series 3: Minutes, 1980-2001 **[SEE ALSO Box 18, File 1]**

Series 4: Annual Officer/Committee Chair Reports, 2002-2007 **[SEE ALSO Box 18, File 2]**

Series 5: Charity Projects (1 folder)

Series 6: Membership Lists, 1988-1999 **[SEE ALSO Box 18, File 14]**

Series 7: Newsletters, 1980-2010 [Bulk 1991-2009], Files 1-14 **[SEE ALSO Box 18, File 13]**

### **Box 2**

Series 7: Newsletters, 1980-2010 [Bulk 1991-2009], remainder of series **[SEE ALSO Box 18, File 13]**

Series 8: Correspondence **[SEE ALSO Box 18, File 5]**

### **Box 3**

Series 9: Photos, Files 1-23 **[SEE ALSO Boxes 3-10; Box 13, Files 1-4, Box 18, Files 15-24]**

### **Box 4**

Series 9: Photos, Files 24-39 **[SEE ALSO Boxes 3-10; Box 13, Files 1-4, Box 18, Files 15-24]**

Series 10: Negatives

Series 11: Slides

### **Box 5 - Scrapbooks**

1980-1985

### **Box 6 - Scrapbooks**

1985-1991

**Box 7 - Scrapbooks**

1991-1994

**Box 8 - Scrapbooks**

1994-1995

1995-1997, cover matter and pp. 1-120

**Box 9 - Scrapbooks**

1995-1997, pp. 121-201

1997-1999

**Box 10 - Scrapbooks**

1999-2000

2000-Dec. 2001, cover matter and pp. 1-70

**Box 11 - Scrapbooks**

2000-Dec. 2001, pp. 71-140

Jan. 2002-Aug. 2003 (**SEE ALSO Box 17**)

**Box 12 - Scrapbooks**

1991 Pride of Mobile Quilt Show

1993 Pride of Mobile Quilt Show

**Box 13**

**Series 13: Memorabilia**

ACQG, Gulf States Quilting Association, and other quilt show programs; news clippings, etc.

**Box 14**

Series 13: Memorabilia

Quilt patterns

Quilt show posters

Sign boards from "Shared Expressions" show, 2009

**Box 15**

Photo albums (2 total): "Photos Collected Before September 2009"

**Box 16**

Series 14: Quilt Shows [**SEE ALSO Box 18, Files 6-11**]

Subseries 1: Photos and Memorabilia (**SEE ALSO Series 6, Box 2 and Boxes 3-11**)  
[includes guest book (ca. 1988-1992)]

Subseries 2: Pride of Mobile Quilt Show Planning Materials

**Box 17 – Scrapbooks**

2005  
2009-2010

**Box 18**

Board Meeting Minutes, 7/29/2006-9/9/2010 (1 folder) [**SEE ALSO Series 3, Box 1**]  
Annual Officer/Committee Chair Reports 2006-2011 (3 folders) [**SEE ALSO Series 4, Box 1**]

Correspondence 2009-2011 (1 folder) [**SEE ALSO Series 8, Box 2**]

Quilt Shows 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 (6 folders) [**SEE ALSO Series 14 Box 16**]

Newspaper Clippings, 2010-2011 [**SEE ALSO Series 13, Box 13**]

Newsletters, 2010-2011 (1 folder) [**SEE ALSO Series 7, Box 1 and 2**]

Membership List 2011 (1 folder) [**SEE ALSO Series 6, Box 1**]

Photos 2010-2011 (10 folders) [**SEE ALSO Series 9, Box 3 and 4**]