



STITCH 'N TIMES

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild

P.O. Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

January/February 2024 • Vol. 48 • No. 1

President's Message

Greetings from the New SRQG President

Hello, fellow quilters! I am honored and excited to serve as your new president for the upcoming year. I want to thank the outgoing president, Diana Codding, for her leadership of our guild, and for making it a fun and welcoming place for all of us. She has done a wonderful job of keeping us connected and inspired.

I also want to thank the board members, committee chairs, and volunteers who have contributed to the success of our guild. I've said this a number of times - Without your hard work and enthusiasm, we would not have such a vibrant and strong quilting community. I am so impressed with the number of activities and programs we have and I look forward to working with you all in the new year.

As we enter 2024, my plans for our guild are consistent with what we've done in previous years. Some of them are:

- First and foremost: to continue to make our guild welcoming and a place of friendships. I joined the guild when I moved to Santa Rosa in 2022. As a newbie to the guild, I immediately felt welcomed. Our guild has such great spirit and I will continue to champion that.
- Promote the art and legacy of quilting through sharing our quilts and education. I love that we work with the local libraries to display our quilts and also hold sewing/quilting classes. Teaching it is a great way to pass on the skill and love of quilting to future generations.
- To support our community by donating quilts, fabrics, and funds to various charitable organizations and causes. More than 1,000 is an impressive number of quilts SRQG has donated to our community in 2023!
- Continue our in-person meetings and events at the Veterans Building. We will continue to keep our options open for other venues that will meet the guild's requirements.

- To continue our online presence and activities, such as Zoom meetings, the newsletter, social media, and website, all which allows us to reach out to more members and potential members.
- To continue our membership benefits, such as workshops, lectures, challenges, BOMs, Sew-a Rows, Friendship Blocks, Library, and other opportunities to learn.
- To celebrate our members' achievements with Show-and-Tell, competition submissions, volunteerism, and milestones with the guild.

Of course, these goals and plans are not set in stone, and I welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to improve our guild. I also invite you to share your ideas, skills, and talents with the guild by volunteering for a committee, teaching a workshop, giving a lecture, or showing your quilts. Together, we can make our guild more fun, educational, and rewarding for everyone.

I hope you are all enjoying your quilting projects and looking forward to the new year. Happy quilting!

Your new president,

Linda Ralleca

It's a New Year!

The start of a new year is a time when we make resolutions. Personally, I feel there's no need to wait until New Year's to make a resolution. You can make a resolution any day of the year, as long as you are ready and willing to commit to it. But there's something about the start of a new year: "Out with the old, in with the new," a time to change habits, start fresh, or learn something new.

Last year, my quilty goal was to learn more about appliqué. I attended workshops about different styles of appliqué, I joined groups, checked out books from the SRQG Library on appliqué, used

Needle and Thread

by Jim Jensen

Needle and Thread

“Needle and Thread” ... one is totally useless without the other. Try making a quilt with just a needle and you’ll end up with the three different layers you started with. Try making a quilt with just thread and you’ll end up with just frustration. No matter how talented the quilter, it takes the teamwork of both needle and thread to create anything.

The guild leaders and general members ... one is totally useless without the other. Try keeping the guild the vibrant community based group that it is without people willing to step up and take responsibility for organizing, presenting, and accounting for all the little details and you’ll end up with just a bunch of people gathering for coffee. Try running the guild without the secure knowledge that its membership will show up and participate, at whatever level, and be there to interact as a true community, and you have a smaller group of people having no one to lead but themselves. It takes the complex teamwork of the guild leaders and all members to create the incredible group that is the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild.

Thus, the name of this column is “Needle and Thread.” Its intent is to introduce you to members of the guild, whether on the board or not, so that we can all get to know each other a little better, and perhaps gain insight as to what it is that weaves us all together.

Jim Jensen

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Linda Ralleca



As we start another year of quilting adventures at the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild, we welcome our new president, Linda Ralleca. Linda has sewn clothing for her family for many years, but ended up putting that on hold when she became an “empty nester.” In 2011 she thought she would take up sewing again. She walked into a quilt store, by chance or by choice, and

Needle and Thread continued

her fate was sealed. She found herself very attracted to all the beautiful fabric and the quilts displayed on the walls. Having never really contemplated quilting, she decided to start with a kit with precut fabrics. However, she knew none of the new rules that determined the difference between making clothes and making quilts. So, of course, Linda started out with sewing a 5/8” seam. Oops ... none of her points matched. As she started on her learning journey, she found a lot of help in books and on-line.

As Linda was trying to determine what her “style” of quilting would be, she sought inspiration from many sources. What she found was that her style could be described as very eclectic. Linda spent years trying different methods: traditional piecing, modern, Amish, and appliqué. She is inspired by her walks in nature and many travels, finding herself fascinated with things like tile patterns and color combinations. She seeks ideas through websites, people in the guild, graphic art books, mid-century modern design, and color swatches.

For now, her favorite method of quilting is “modern” because it doesn’t require the same amount of precision as traditional piecing. She’s exploring art quilts, improv, and “quilt-as-you-go.” She’s attracted to the spontaneity of improv compared to a fully planned out pattern.

Linda doesn’t have a preferred color palette or style, she enjoys using different fabrics and colors ... she likes those “aha” moments when you hit a combination that is unique. A dedicated learner, she wanted to learn appliqué, so she did appliqué for one year. She tried all solids another year, and one year just learning the basics.

When asked “how many UFOs do you have?” she said, “I have over 30 UFOs and ‘projects in-waiting’ (I’m too embarrassed to give the real number). My father used to say that my eyes are bigger than my stomach. It’s the same with my quilt projects!” Linda enjoys taking workshops to learn a technique, but not necessarily to do a complete quilt, so she has lots of “samples” of various techniques. She’s drawn to quilt kits and layer cakes, most of which wind up in the “I’m gonna’ get to it one of these days” pile. So many projects in mind, she just has to get to them.

She is not even going to be thinking about sewing her own projects for the next two months because she is moving. The advantage of being an “empty nester” is the chance to convert one of the bedrooms into her own craft room.

Needle and Thread continued ➔

Needle and Thread continued page 10 ➔

January 2024 Program and Workshop

Program – “Organizing Your Space Ergonomically” January 18, 2024 – 10 a.m. on ZOOM

Meet Sam Hunter, a fiber artist and quilt pattern designer, as well as super organizer! Sam started sewing when she was seven and hasn't stopped since. Sam started quilting in her 20s, and teaching quilting shortly thereafter.



Sam holds an MFA in Fiber Arts and blends this classic training with her sense of play in all that she does. She believes that everyone has innate artistic talent, and wants to help you find yours. **As a teacher** she's relaxed, encouraging, and generous, and loves to share the joy of making beautiful things.

The first thing you need to know about Sam is that she loves helping people have fun while they make more stuff. Start the new year off by joining us for her lecture with SRQG on January 18, 2024, on “Organizing Your Space Ergonomically.”

Workshop – “Organizing Your Own Sewing Space” January 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on ZOOM – \$30 for SRQG members

“Do you have the same New Year's Resolution every year to get your sewing space organized? Sam Hunter wants to help you do it this year! Maybe you have a dedicated space to work or create, or maybe your space is hybrid and shared. Either way, the space you have isn't fitting you like your fave comfy sweats; it's fitting like those jeans that were never quite right, pinching you in weird places when you sit down. Juuuust wrong enough that you avoid the jeans AND the space. Let me help re-work that space to fit you better. I'll quiz you about all the pinchy pain points, and together we'll smooth them out. No shapewear (or judgement) needed – just some great honest conversation about what you need and how best to get you there.”

Sam usually charges hundreds of dollars to work with quilters to organize their space. Don't miss this opportunity to have Sam help you organize your space for only \$30! Join with SRQG friends when we share our spaces with Sam while she gives us individual attention and pointers. And if you haven't guessed it from her picture, it'll be a lot of fun!

Elaine Ramires

February 2024 Program and Workshop

Program – “Traveling Textiles” Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m. on ZOOM

This is a co-presentation with MQSC, and because of the time difference between Australia and Sonoma County, please note different date and time! This presentation will be **Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m. on ZOOM**



“Creating art with beautiful textiles has been my life for over 30 years. Starting with traditional quilt techniques, I quickly discovered the urge to break the rules. My fascinations with dyeing started about 18 years ago, and I shared the dyeing with my husband, Peter, who enjoyed the precision of formula-based dyeing, while I was able to concentrate on more serendipitous and experimental pieces.”

Join SRQG and MQSC on Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 pm for “Traveling Textiles.” In this one-hour presentation, you will travel with Lisa all over the world and see how she has been inspired to create beautiful textile art. From Morocco to Japan to Guatemala, you will open your eyes to all the opportunities for textile work – even on a cruise ship!

**Workshop – “Fantastic Fusions”-
(co-presentation with MQSC)**

Friday, February 16, 2024 – 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. ON ZOOM

Saturday, February 17, 2024 – 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. ON ZOOM

No sewing is required to create this unique quilt top. All fabric is fused together and then the quilting is what holds it together. Learn to cut with no rulers and create your own original quilt.

Day one of the workshop completes a selection of blocks. Day two usually results in a completed wall hanging sized quilt top.

Skills learned:

- Fusing
- Freehand fabric cutting
- Quilt Design
- Color theory

\$50 for SRQG members.

Elaine Ramires

March 2024 Program and Workshop

**Program: March 21, 2024 – Anelie Belden
“Dresden Dance” – IN-PERSON at 10 a.m.**

Anelie Belden is a nationally known sewing instructor, quilt and pattern designer and author. She began sewing by constructing garments which led to her degree in Fashion Design.



While working in the fashion industry she began to explore the art of quilting. It became her passion. She has taken the traditional Dresden quilt design and created new updated Dresden Designs which are featured in her book, “Thoroughly Modern

Dresden,” Anelie’s designs are modern and constructed using a breakthrough piecing technique to improve speed and accuracy. She has appeared on “The Quilt Show” with Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims, and has taught at Empty Spools Seminar, the Houston Quilt Festival, quilt guilds throughout the USA, and on cruises. Anelie is an accomplished quilter whose quilts have been featured in “Quiltmaker Magazine” and “The Art of the Quilt Calendar.” She loves sharing her passion with anyone interested in quilting and learning new ideas!

The “Dresden Dance” program is a stroll along memory lane. Experience the history of the Dresden Plate design. This trunk show is a collection of quilts which represents traditional Dresdens from years ago and includes her own “Thoroughly Modern Dresden” designs.



March Programs and Workshops continued

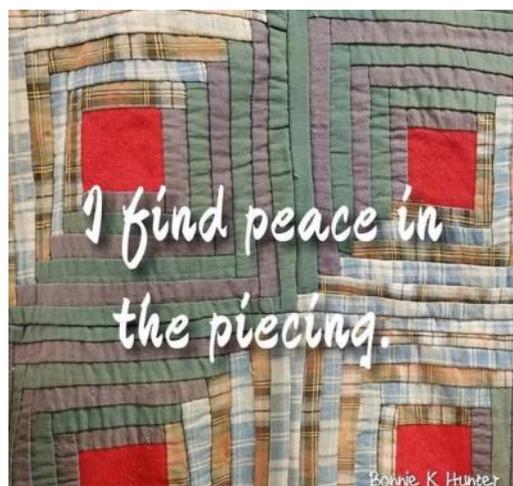
**March 22, 2024 – Anelie Belden
“Jelly Roll Split Dresden” – Luther Burbank Art
and Garden Center – IN-PERSON 9 a.m. - 3:30
p.m. \$50 for SRQG members**

This class will teach students the new modern way to piece a Dresden Plate block using Anelie's piecing method of Stitch-n-Flip. This technique gives quilters a choice to appliqué or not, and removes the difficulty of getting the Dresden to lay down flat. In addition, the designs made in class will incorporate the "Split Blade" design. Students will be surprised as to how easy the cutting and piecing technique is. Split Blades are one of the most popular designs from her patterns and book, "Thoroughly Modern Dresden." Students will also learn several border techniques, which include putting borders on without measuring, pieced Dresden border, and peaked-top Dresden border. Students will have a variety of design options to choose from.

Students will learn all they need to know to complete the Jellyroll Split Blade Quilt in the one-day class. Of course the entire quilt will not be constructed in one day. Students will have a little bit of work to do ahead of time in order to be prepared for class. A full supply list and instructions will be given once the class is booked. A pattern for the class is supplied for each student.



Elaine Ramires



April 2024 Program and Workshop

20 Year Members

April 18, 2024 LIVE Interactive lecture/workshop with Sherri Lynn Wood, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, ON ZOOM

On April 18 SRQG will welcome Sherri Lynn Wood for a LIVE interactive lecture sew-a-long! Sherri will take prompts from Guild members to create a ruler-free improv quilt. After the demonstration Sherri Lynn will stay on Zoom with our Guild as we join her in creating our own pieces. This live sew-along is open to ALL SRQG members for FREE! So be sure to sign into the April 18 Zoom speaker meeting ready to create your own improv piece. No special supplies needed, but here's Sherri's suggestion:



Sherri Lynn Wood

"Regarding materials... sewing machine, thread, mat, and rotary cutter, plus a pile of scraps. No need for folks to curate or bring special fabrics. It's scrap play. Size and amount doesn't matter. Whatever they want to play/experiment with. It's fine if they want to bring fat quarters but not necessary. They can use solids and prints or whatever they prefer."

This fun interactive improv quilting demo begins with a short brainstorming session about the limits of patchwork, and how to easily apply those limits to access your creative flow and focus your improv patterns. Sherri will demonstrate a variety of ruler-free quilting techniques and the process of improvisational quilting by following audience prompts to improvise a quilt composition on the spot.

Note - this workshop will take place DURING and AFTER the Speaker meeting and is FREE to all SRQG Members

Elaine Ramires



Jan Andrews, Joanie Bellinghausen,
Judy Masthieson, and Carol Jarvis
Not present:
Sandi McConnell and Ann Wilson

Celebrating Our 20-Year Members

During the holiday luncheon, we expressed a grateful acknowledgement to six SRQG members who have committed to 20 years of continuous membership in Santa Rosa Quilt Guild.

We honored the six by telling a bit of their story, and presenting them with a 20-year pin, a mug rug with 20 on it, and a special certificate. We interviewed them and inquired about what drew them to SRQG in 2003, what did they like best about the guild, what fun or funny story could they share, and what kept them in the guild for 20 years.



It was a privilege and a pleasure to interview these six members, and be inspired by their stories. As we learned last year, they have helped to keep the guild alive and thriving by their continued support.

We offer our gratitude and admiration to:

Jan Andrews, Joanie Bellinghausen, Carol Jarvis,
Judy Mathieson, Sandi McConnell, and Ann Wilson.

Laura Barrett and Linda Hooper



Opportunity Quilt

“The Mountains Are Calling”

“The Mountains are Calling” you to do your part for the guild and the community by volunteering to take this lovely quilt to quilt guilds and retreats in the greater Bay Area. Unfortunately, no one has contacted me to help. Honestly, I cannot do this all by myself. This is how we sell tickets to raise money for the guild. Janet Tonkin did a fabulous job making this quilt, so let’s get it out there and sell tickets!



Of course “The Mountains are Calling” will visit SRQG meetings when not traveling. Come on up to Bolt in Cloverdale where you will see the quilt. I will always have tickets available at our in-person meetings for you to purchase for yourself and sell to family and friends. For \$20 you will get 40 tickets. The drawing will be April 4, 2024.

Call or email me to let me know where you and a friend will take the Opportunity Quilt.

Candi Delgado

Membership

Happy New Year! Have you paid your dues for 2024 yet? The time is NOW! The new Membership Roster will be ready at the beginning of February, and you don’t want to be left out!

Dues are still \$40.00 per year. You may pay by check made out to SRQG at a meeting, or mail it to Santa Rosa Quilt Guild, P.O. Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. Cash payments are accepted at all meetings.

Please welcome our newest members:

Dana May Dion
Christine Gann
Alice Miller
Cindi Jo Willey

Don’t forget—pay your dues!

Jan Andrews

President’s Message continued from Page 1

Instagram and Facebook to link to experts, and watched YouTube videos. By September I learned different techniques, tools, glues, fusibles, and stitches. Then, I settled with the approaches that worked for me based on the project I was working on. This year I’d like to learn more about paper piecing and pattern design, and have already picked up a few books and patterns to help me.

At the start of 2023, I took inventory of my UFOs. There were 28. I only finished four from that list because I was distracted by other projects. I picked up more projects during the year that have been added to my “Quilts to Make” in 2023 list. It’s exciting and depressing at the same time!

What I will do this month is make a list of the quilting projects and prioritize what I want to finish this year according to deadlines, difficulty, and interest. I need to be realistic, and I feel that many projects will drop from my list, and you’ll see some kits on our auction table!

I am in the midst of moving to a new house this month, so this will also be an ideal time for me to de-clutter, organize, de-stash, and recycle. I have so many things in plastic bins that I need a better way to keep track of what I have. I need to Konmari my space!! What perfect timing that our January speaker and workshop is “Organizing Your Space” by Sam Hunter.

This month is a great time to reflect on 2023 and plan for 2024. What are your quilty goals for this year? Will you make quilts for special occasions that will be celebrated this year? Will you participate in our BOMs, Friendship Blocks, Sew-A-Row, or contribute to our Community Quilts? Will you join a quilt challenge, learn a new technique, or teach one? Will you organize your quilting space?

Whatever you plan to do, have fun expressing yourself in the art of quilting!

Linda Ralleca

**I cannot stress enough
how important it is to do
silly, frivolous things that
serve no other purpose
than making you happy.**

Blocks for the Pomo Community

It has been a year since we were introduced to Angelica Smith and her mission to pass on the legacy of sewing ceremonial outfits to the Pomo Community. Members of SRQG contributed sewing supplies, equipment, fabric, money, and volunteer time which helped them establish their workshops in 2023. Angelica welcomes any help we can offer, especially with bulk fabric, and I will continue acting as a collection point if you want to contribute supplies.

Most who participate in the workshops are new to sewing, which consists of "rule-of-thumb" patterns and straight stitching. They are adding more embellishments and designs to the outfits, and have expressed a desire to include patchwork in the dresses. Angelica has asked for your orphan blocks or help with making some that can be used in their workshops. There aren't any size or color guidelines, but having a few to select from and build an outfit is their goal.

I have included a few photos sent by Angelica, but it can be as simple as individual blocks or strips of four - or nine-patch.

Thank you for your support!

Linda Ralleca



Gratitude

I want to express my gratitude to all the guild members who embraced my tactics and methods for my ways of handling and fulfilling the role of president of the guild. The Board and Committee chairs that I worked with these past two years were all very gracious and wonderful to work with. There have been many members who have been positive and given me kind guidance.

When I joined the guild in 2019 I was recently unemployed and I was looking for a social organization that would give me encouragement with my love of sewing -- and especially quilts, and for a way to keep me busy. I found all of that and much more. I was also looking for like-minded people and some friendships since it is not as easy to make friends as we get older. I was not looking to be in the middle of the guild as I usually like to be on the outskirts and be a support person. We all know I have not been on the outskirts, and I have been busy.

There were not any big issues to deal with as our meeting place had already been established and the worst of Covid had passed. That made it all the easier and more fun for me to work out plans for our meetings.

I have felt quite accepted by everyone I have had contact with and that means the world to me. Maybe because we all know the love that goes into our quilts, we are able to take that quilty kind of warmth and love and spread it around to others in our guild. I hope this welcoming feeling never leaves our guild.

This experience has truly been fun for me and I hope our next President, Linda Ralleca, will have the same sort of experience, and enjoy herself too.

Thank you all for all those things you do in our guild.

Diana Coddling

This aisle really speaks to me...



Social Media

Facebook and Instagram for SRQG

In December 2022 SRQG started its Instagram and Facebook pages to complement our other online tools, the SRQG website, newsletter, and email e-blast.

Facebook provides a way for us to stay in touch with each other between in-person meetings and share news, tips, events, and even jokes. We have two big successes: No spam or security issues, AND we now have 183 members. That is approximately 70% of our membership! I'd like to congratulate the top contributors, Jim Jensen, Michelle Marcotte, and Lisa Gamble, for helping us have an engaged online community.

While many of our members follow the SRQG Instagram page, the greatest benefit is attracting the general quilt community that it engages with, such as speakers, instructors, affiliates, other guilds, and prospective members. If you have a program, quilt, event, or news you'd like to share on Instagram, send it to srqq.socialmedia@gmail.com or contact Linda Ralleca.

I'm always available if anyone would like a tutorial or demo of our Facebook or Instagram pages.

[Santa Rosa Quilt Guild | Facebook](#)

[Santa Rosa Quilt Guild \(@santarosaquiltguild\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

See you online!

Linda Ralleca



UFO Challenge

Are you thinking about New Year's resolutions? I have a good one for you! Why not join fellow guild members and sign up to complete a UFO in 2024? Look for that project you were so excited about in the past and return to working on its completion.

At the first meeting in March, we will ask members to tell us about the UFO project they plan to take up again and whether they will partially complete or finish it by September. Some members even work on more than one! (Gasp) Each member will pay \$5.00 per project they are entering. In September, the finished UFOs will be displayed and entry fees returned if they have met their goal(s) along with a fat quarter of fabric and chocolate.

Think about it!

Elizabeth McDonnell



Roseland Library Display Quilts

The theme for the November library quilt display was "Fall Harvest." Three beautiful fall-themed quilts were lent to the library. Elaine Ramires lent her "Wedding Circle" quilt. Carolle LeMonnier showed her "Fall Leaf" quilt made in beautiful fall colors. Kathleen Archer shared her colorful "Rooster quilt." The quilts were perfect for November.

The theme for December was "Holiday." Sue Stone's quilt of red and white stars with a tiny elf in the corner was greatly admired by the library staff and patrons of the library. I shared my turquoise and gold holiday quilt.

In 2024 the Roseland quilt displays will have a different featured artist each month. In January, please visit the library to see the featured artist, Rhonda Denny, and in February we will show the work of Michelle Proto. The quilts need to be seen in person. The librarians love it when quilters come in and chat with them about the quilts. Please consider being a "featured artist." Contact me for more information.

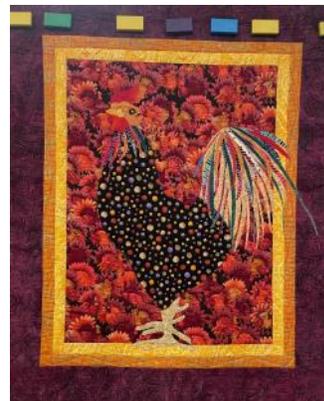
Debbie Faris-Cole



Elaine Ramires



Carolle LeMonnier



Kathleen Archer



Sue Stone

Baby Closet

Sharing the Bounty with Sonoma County -Lombardi Campus Baby Closet and Caritas

Happy New Year, 2024!

Hello Santa Rosa Quilt Guild!

Here we are fully into December, the time of year when one wants to close the books on the old business of the year and carry on with the new. I've made some computations for 2023, and I am delighted with the numbers. The Lombardi Campus Baby Closet has assisted many families in need of support for (Get Out!) three full years now.

The closet is a space for peace and gratitude for all parties helping to make a place with no strings attached. Can you imagine being received with kindness, enthusiasm, and an invitation to return, both to give or receive, should anything come up? These beautiful people smile and glow knowing that their health care includes care of the whole person. Love guides these gifts; it can be felt by the receiver.

Quilters are compelled to create, to be good stewards of resources, to be frugal with scraps of yarn. For a great example, see our Librarian, Sharon, with that fun vest from yarn scraps! Over the course of three years, Sharon has made hundreds of knit beanies and scarves and the like from scraps. She donated 75 fun, pretty or masculine, charming, and delightful beanies, made with love - for complete strangers! I pulled some special hats from her giant bag



Hats knitted by Sharon Fry

for the baby closet, and the remainder was gratefully received by Angelica Smith from Caritas and her colleague. They met us in the parking lot to collect the bag(s). I mentioned a blanket drive at the guild meeting. During the meeting, Sonya told me she has stuff in the car to donate. Included in her donation were brand new "unmentionables," socks, and a blanket. We turned in nine blankets, in addition to Sonya's offerings for Caritas. In English 'Caritas' means 'Smiley,' as in smiling faces, and they were all smiles.

In 2023, 1,087 items were donated between the day and night guilds. Just for fun, a few things that came in: 59 onsies, 20 quilts, 8 blankets, 22 books, 10

Baby Closet continued →

Baby Closet continued

Pee-Pee TeePees, 163 wet wipes packages, 182 terry washcloths, 175 flannel washcloths, 23 stockings, 107 hats, 57 pairs of socks, 100 oversized tote bags, and 80 Dolly blankets. One of my favorite things about SRQG is that many of the items donated originate from the silent auction tables, like Sharon's multitude of yarns for hats and scarves, and lady Mary making over 100 tote bags from upholstery and home decoration fabric, and Dolly quilts with orphan blocks. Even many quilts from sets of completed blocks were turned in as donations. One quick shout-out to baby closet friend Carolyn M who consistently donated once a month wipes, several outfits, stuffed animals, books, socks, and sew much more.

Thank you all for every little thing and every big thing you donated. This is helping to keep Sonoma County covered.

Sincerely yours,

Rhonda Denny

A Thank You ...

A Thank You from Santa Rosa Community Health – Baby Closet

I would like to share with you the impact of your kindness, and the story of the Santa Rosa Community Health Baby Closet at the Lombardi Campus.

For the past **three years**, we have partnered with the most loving, gracious, and thoughtful donors from our community, and staff that support us with new and gently used baby items. Items range from baby clothes, hats, and beautiful quilts, to wipes and other baby necessities. We also partner with Redwood Empire Foodbank with an ongoing diaper program to provide this baby basic.

We share distinct gratitude for consistent donations from the kind-hearted and talented members of the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild and Moonlight Quilters of Sonoma County. The people from these quilting guilds have shared their generosity with us throughout our entire three-year journey. You would not believe the meticulous love and gifts they share – and always gracefully respond to any "ask" we make.

These items are truly special, knowing many come in that are homemade, or are passed on from babies in their families. It is so amazing to be able to share with patients because it is all done with them

A Thank You continued on page 10→

Needle and Thread continued from page 2

Linda finds great inspiration from our quilt guild. The level of camaraderie is heartwarming – there is so much positive energy in the guild – members are truly happy to see each other. Acknowledging that a guild cannot exist without its volunteers, she loves how much energy there is with all the committees; how everyone steps up and gets involved.

Linda learned to sew because her big sister took a sewing class and shared what she learned. Her mother sewed and knitted, sharing her skills with her curious child. One of things she loves about the quilting “world” is the willingness to share the history and skills to the next generation so that the art will never be lost. One can take true pride in making something oneself, no matter how imperfect the result. She’d like to see our guild continue and expand on the outreach to the community, teaching quilting skills in the local libraries and social groups.

You might be surprised that Linda used to be an avid skydiver. Now more inclined to earthly endeavors, she still enjoys scuba diving and travelling the world when she has the opportunity.

We’re very fortunate that Linda Ralleca has stepped up to lead SRQG in 2024!

Jim Jensen

Threads Up Recycle Clothing Sale

I got this idea for a clothing sale to make some money for the guild one day when I went to put on a sweater that I bought at a discount price. I really liked the sweater as it was soft and so comfortable, but I realized that it was just a bit too big for me and did not feel quite right on my body. I left it in a corner of the closet that I use for clothing items to be donated. The lightbulb came on and I thought that maybe there were others in the guild who had nice clothing items that they needed to pass along, and instead of donating all of it to a thrift store, we could sell it to one another, and then what was leftover could be donated to a thrift store.

I proposed this to the Board, and they agreed that we could give this a try. I chose our first meeting in March for this to occur. It was after the winter months when we would have time to clean the closets, and just about the time of spring cleaning. It was

Threads Up continued page 12➔

A Thank You continued from page 9

in mind. We must care for our new generation and the people raising them.

We are always trying to wrap our minds around the deep level of care that is shown through our community’s support. To know that we have people who believe in our vision to serve our diverse population at SRCH, is more than we could ever ask for. It is with many thanks that we can make sure our patient families will always have a place to turn to when they need anything to bring comfort to their child, whether it be a fresh set of clothes, a warm blanket, or a stuffy friend they can hold onto throughout their childhood.

Between the amazing Monica Madrigal, our fearless board member Rhonda Denny, and myself, we make all efforts to keep the baby closet highly navigable and be a space we are proud to promote! Patients receive what they need with immense joy and often great relief. Our aim has always been to provide on a “take what you need” basis for our tiniest patients and their families. We have been able to supply expectant and new mothers, at moment’s notice, for their beautiful new babies.

In a note I received early on from Rhonda, a quote was offered: “Your persistence will pay off.” The road for providing these services for our patients is not always easy! We have had to navigate new terrain in obtaining funding, grants, or new community relationships for high-need items like baby wipes and diapers – a basic need for families.

Monique Meza

Community Health, Lombardi Campus

Sunshine

I would like to remind our members to please let me know if you hear of a quilt guild member who may need a smile to brighten their day. It could be illness, family concerns, or someone who just needs to know they are being thought of within our guild.

And...if you would like one of your favorite quilts to be used as a Sunshine card, here is your chance.

Send me a jpeg of your quilt – actual size. I am getting ready to re-order my Sunshine photos. My stationery cards hold a 4x6 photo.

Janice Juul



Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

Hexagons

Before anyone had invented template plastic or any other kind of plastic, there was geometry. The name means "the measuring of the earth" which is what had to be done in Egypt when the flooded Nile receded to within its banks, leaving the land more fertile. Every year you had to figure out where your farm ended and your neighbor's farm began. So the Ancient Egyptians figured out how to do this. Many figures of plane (there's nothing plain about it!) geometry figure in traditional patchwork quilting. One especially beloved is the hexagon.

You have a hexagon tool, so do I. Mine is on a key chain with keys I no longer use, quite possibly in a long-disused purse. I think it's the wrong size, but this is not a problem. I know the right kind of magic. My cozy winter home is filled with round objects. I simply find a round object about the size of the hexagon I want and trace around it. The cat's water dish? (He needs fresh water anyway.) A can of veggies from the kitchen? A dinner plate? A juice can? When you look with fresh eyes, you find a world filled with exactly what you need. After you find your circle, trace around it carefully on paper. I find that a piece of junk mail works well for this. Then, using your paper cutting scissors, cut out two circles the same size. Set one aside. Fold the other in half. Now fold it in half again. It looks like a very generous serving of pie. It has two

straight sides and one curved side. Place a straight side so that the ends touch two points on the first circle. Trace the line between those points. Now place the flat side where it touches (at each end) one of those first points, and another point on the circle. Keep going in this way carefully and accurately until you come back to your first point. Now you have your hexagon. Trace it on a piece of cereal box (or template plastic if you prefer). If you were awake in high school geometry class, you know that the straight side you used for measuring is called the radius and that you can do this sort of thing with a compass, provided you remember where you put all the sharp objects when the grandchildren arrived.



Little Bits continued



So now that you have a hexagon what can you do with it? Well hexagons are basic for many traditional patchwork patterns, notably "Grandmother's Flower Garden." Perhaps you are bored with winter, but not bored enough to make a

full-size quilt in traditional English paper piecing. I don't blame you. I'm not that bored either. If English paper piecing is on your bucket list you might try making one 'flower' to be turned and quilted as we do our Community Quilts, and used as a candle mat under an electric tea light. Or to decorate the center of a doll quilt for Matilda's new Christmas doll. Or to sew over the chocolate-stain-that-will-never-come-out on a favorite sweatshirt. And then you will know whether or not you want to do this ever again, and you will have something to show for your efforts. If you do use hexagons in English paper piecing, you will notice that, unlike the diamond shapes used in "Baby's Blocks," there are no little 'ears' of fabric sticking out around the pieces. This makes them much easier to handle.

But there are plenty of ways to use hexagons without resorting to English paper piecing, or even having to use Y-seams. One of my favorites is the elongated half hexagon. You take a hexagon and fold it in half. Then you fold it again so that it is in quarters. Cut on the second fold (leaving the first folded). Now line up the upper and lower parts of your half hexagon on a piece of scratch paper. Trace around them lengthening the inner and outer sides. Think of the commercial patterns marked "lengthen or shorten here." I usually make mine longer by a good bit. This enables me to use a proportionally larger print in a small project, such as a miniature quilt. Elongated half hexagons work well for table runners where they go together in long strips with no Y-seams. Consider elongated hexagons for quilts or for wearable art. They make it look as if you did way more work than you did, especially if you make them out of fabric randomly pieced.



Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued on page 12→

Little Bits continued from page 11

Maybe even this looks like too much work right now. You have your feet up. The cat is asleep on your lap, and you are going to have to divert a small river through the house to get it really clean from Christmas.



Have I got a deal for you? You can make the cutest little coasters out of six hexagons of fabric with minimal sewing. This would be a fun project to do with kids. For each coaster cut six hexagons slightly larger than

you want your finished coaster to be. Cut one equal size hexagon for the bottom. Six different fabrics for the top are nice for this. Fold each in half. Now begin to fold them together like shown here [Folded Fabric Coasters - YouTube](#). When you have as many as you want (or when you have to get up to make hot chocolate), go to the sewing machine and edge-stitch them. Turn them right side out through the center. Press them if you feel like it. That's it. You even have a cute little hole in the middle in case what you want to drink comes in a stemmed glass. Or if you make them bigger they would make lovely mug rugs. If you make them bigger yet, they could be place mats. Why not!

Jackie Pitts

Threads Up continued from page 10

a date! March 7, 2024, we will have a "Threads Up Recycle" clothing sale. We will accept both men's and women's gently-used, clean clothing items.



The next task was to get some members on board to help with this endeavor, and that happened too! Candi Delgado, Alana Colburn, Caroline Pope, and Janel Sugiyama offered to help. We will start collecting your clothing items in January and then through the meetings in February. If you have any questions, donations, or information to pass along, please contact me or one of the committee people mentioned in this article. We are all listed in the guild roster.

Diana Coddling

Challenge Quilt 2023

Exhibit of SRQG Challenge 2023 Quilts

Our 2023 challenge quilts, *Two Fabrics My Way*, will be displayed in an exhibit at the Person Senior Wing, Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, from January 9, 2024, to March 27, 2024. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, January 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. with food and drinks. The exhibit is on the second floor and there is an elevator. The building is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our guild will be featured in the display cases on the first floor, designed by our own Toni Anderson.

Invite your friends and come support the guild by enjoying the exhibit and the love of quilting as expressed in the display case.

Laura Barrett and Janet Tonkin



Candi Delgado



Sharon Fry



Karen Hendrix

Community Quilts

Doll Quilts

We made many little girls and boys happy by distributing over 200 doll quilts in December to: 4C's-Community Child Care Council, Welfare League, YMCA Safe House, Salvation Army, and the Baby Closet. The Welfare League made several wooden cradles for the dolls topped with our doll quilts. Thank you to all the members who made doll quilts this year.



Over the past eight years, Marlene Sullivan has quietly collected and distributed 1400 doll quilts on behalf of Santa Rosa Quilt Guild. Marlene will be passing the doll quilt project on to Cheryl Dudley in 2024. Thank you Marlene for your generosity, and for keeping the doll quilt program alive.

Windsor Lions Club Donation

We received a generous donation of \$350 from the Windsor Lions Club to be used for Community Quilts. In their words, "We donate the proceeds of our fundraisers to worthy non-profit organizations. In making our decision, we consider the value of the organization's contributions to the betterment of the community and society."

Betty Upchurch is our liaison with the Windsor Lions Club, and she exemplifies the value of making a contribution for the betterment of our community. We donate two quilts each year to the Windsor Lions Club to be used in their fundraisers. Betty delivers these quilts, and is often the one who does the quilting.

Delivery of Quilts and Upcoming Events

We wish all of you a Happy New Year! We look forward to continuing our collection of beautiful quilts from members, and delivering them to deserving organizations in our local community. We are still delivering quilts for 2023 as we write this, and will report the total number of quilts delivered in 2023 in the March newsletter.

We have batting and backing available to all members for quilts you make for Community Quilts. Contact Janet Tonkin or Laura Barrett and we will arrange getting batting and/or backing to you.

Quiltathon

Our next big event is the **Quiltathon** on Thursday, February 1, at the Veterans Building. We have 3 Quiltathons a year, and they are an active, lively event in which we work on Quilts we will distribute

to the Community. We start with layered quilt sandwiches, smoothing and pinning them. These are stitched around the edges leaving an opening for turning (known as the pillow case or envelope method). The quilts are then trimmed and turned right-side out. The next stage is edge stitching with our expert sewers, sewing 1/8" from the edge, catching the opening, and making a nice edge to the quilt. The quilts are then quilted by machine. Then our hand sewers put on one of our labels. Lastly, the quilts are reviewed by our 'quality control' team making sure no pins or needles are left in a quilt, trimming threads, and removing excess lint and threads with lint rollers. As you can see, there is a job for everyone. One of the favorite aspects of the Quiltathon is the opportunity to visit with our long-time friends, and to make new friends. As a thank you for our efforts, our hospitality committee will serve a soup lunch. We will be available to answer all your questions about the Quiltathon at our first in-person meeting of 2024 on January 4 at the Veterans Building.

You can bring in finished quilts and tops to all in-person meetings. Look for the red wagon with the Community Quilts sign. Thank you for your creative efforts and generosity in making and donating quilts for the betterment of our community.

Janet Tonkin and Laura Barrett

COMMUNITY QUILT SIZES

If you are making donation quilts on your own, these are the approximate sizes most needed.

32" x 40" Baby Quilts	For Sutter, Kaiser, and Memorial NICUs, Public Health nursing, and teen moms. We provide kits for making the tops, or you may use your own fabrics.
40" x 60"	For Valley of the Moon and other organizations serving children in need. Please use bright colors for young children or fabrics that will appeal to teenagers.
50" x 65"	For 18-year-olds aging out of the Foster Care system, and for women residing at the YWCA Safe House.
40" x 60"	Lap quilts for adults to be handed out by Secret Santa, women being served by Verity, seniors in local convalescent hospitals, and others.
14" - 18" Square Doll Quilts	For little girls and boys. We collect them throughout the year and donate during the holidays.

Scenes from 2023 Quiltathons



Vicki David



Elaine Ramires



Pam McVey



Jan Westerman and
Barbara Southard



Kar Hofmann



Laura Barrett delivering
NICU quilts to
Kaiser



Elizabeth McDonnell and
Mary Helmke

Thanks to Bolt ...

The Community Quilts Committee of SRQG received a very generous donation of fabric from **Bolt Fabric and Home** in Cloverdale, one of our affiliate members. Owner Kate Barrett donated 71 yards of 13 different fabrics (on the bolt) to be used to make our NICU kits.



Some of the fabrics
Donated by Bolt

We had been looking for some fun, colorful fabric to replenish our stash for making NICU kits. Margo Pitter talked to Kate about our search, and Kate generously helped us replenish our stash. Attached is a photo of the beautiful fabrics Kate donated.

Let's show our support of local quilt stores by shopping at Bolt Fabric and Home. Bolt Fabric and Home is located at 219 North Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale. You can check out their fabrics and read about the store at [Bolt Fabric + Home \(boltcloverdale.com\)](http://boltcloverdale.com).

Best,

Laura Barrett, Margo Pitter, and Janet Tonkin

Sew-A-Row

Hello Santa Rosa Quilt Guild!

We had some beautiful quilt tops created during Sew-A-Rows this past year and were able to get them to the lucky lottery winners at the December meeting. Now we are looking towards 2024!



We have begun collecting starters for the 2024 Sew-A-Row program, but could use more. Everyone is invited to contribute a starter row or medallion, so please join in. The weeks after Christmas would be a perfect time to get a starter row together!

We will collect starters at the two meetings in January, or feel free to phone me and I can come pick them up.

Eileen McAlister

2024 Elected Board and Committee Chairs

2024 ELECTED BOARD

President	Linda Ralleca
Vice President	Eileen McAlister
Treasurer	Diana Codding
Secretary	Debbie Faris-Cole
Program Chair	Elaine Ramires
Program Chair Elect	Debbie Ward
Parliamentarian	Sharon Fry
Members-at-Large	Jan Andrews Linda Hooper Jeanne Parent Rhonda Denny Laura Barrett Rena Ferrero

Field Trip	Lynette Whitman
Fifth Thursday Sew Day	Elaine Ramires
Friendship Blocks *	Lisa Gamble
Historian *	Sharon Fry
Hospitality *	Carolle LeMonnier
Library *	Sharon Fry
Membership *	Jan Andrews
Mystery Quilt	Rena Ferrero
Newsletter Editor	Jim Jensen
Newsletter Proofreader	Sharon Fry
Nominating Committee	Sharon Fry
Opportunity Quilt Ticket Sales *	
Past President	Diana Codding
Retreat	Vicki David
Sew-A-Row *	Eileen McAlister
Social Media	Linda Ralleca
Sunshine *	Janice Juul
Technique Sharing Workshop *	Rhonda Denny
UFO Challenge	Liz McDonnell
Videographer *	Linda Hooper
Website*	Linda Hooper
Welcoming Committee	Rhonda Denny
Zoom Committee*	Elaine Ramires

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Block-of-the-Month*	Anni Donahue
Boutique *	Betty Upchurch
Budget	Diana Codding
Challenge Quilt	Laura Barrett
Community Quilts *	Laura Barrett
Corresponding Secretary	Janice Juul
Crafts Fair	Bonnie Butler-Sibald
Email Coordinator *	Sharon Fry
Fair Liaison - Santa Rosa	Gina Stateler-Calhoun
Fair Liaison - Cloverdale	Norma Viglienze

* Standing Committee

SRQG 2024 Calendar

JANUARY

- 4** **General Meeting - VBZ**
Installation of Officers
Sew-a-Row Starters
- 18** **Program - Zoom**
Sam Hunter -
Organizing Your Own Space
- 19** **Workshop- Zoom**
Sam Hunter -
Organizing Your Own Space
- 25** **Board Meeting - Zoom**

- 14** **Program - Zoom**
Lisa Walton -
Travelling Textiles
(Wednesday Speaker - co-lecture with MSQG)

- 15** **Program - No Speaker - VBZR**
Much Loved Quilts -
Member Show-and-Tell

- 16** **Workshop - Zoom**
Lisa Walton -
Fantastic Fusion (Part 1)

- 17** **Workshop - Zoom**
Lisa Walton -
Fantastic Fusion (Part 2)

FEBRUARY

- 1** **General Meeting - VBZR**
Quiltathon
Sew-a-Row signups

- 16 - 19** - **Cloverdale Citrus Fair**
- 22** **Board Meeting - Zoom**
- 29** **Fifth Thursday Retreat - LBAGC**
Sew Day -

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Affiliates

BAY QUILTS

Sally Davey and Abbey Shane Lawrence
5327 Jacuzzi St., #3C
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 558-0218
[Bay Quilts](#)

BOLT FABRIC AND HOME

Kate Barrett
219 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
Cloverdale 95425
894-2658
Tues. - Sat. 10:00 - 6:00
Sunday 11:00 - 4:00
[Bolt Fabric](#)
info@boltcloverdale.com
10% discount for SRQG members

CLOVERDALE QUILTING

Margaret Davids, Owner
111 Lake St.
Cloverdale, CA 95425
415-577-8407
[Cloverdale Quilting](#)
cloverdalequilting@gmail.com
Hours by Appointment

MARIAN'S MAGIC NEEDLE QUILTING

Custom Machine Quilting
Marian Drain
1140 Sanford Ranch Rd.
Ukiah, CA 95482
472-0195
Hours by Appointment
cuddletimequilts@me.com

QUILTED ANGEL

Barbara Meikle
200 G Street
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-763-0945
Seven days a week
11:00 - 4:00
[Quilted Angel](#)

Volunteer!

We have opportunities everywhere, and it's a great way to make new friends, and help our guild!



Ten Good Reasons to Buy Fabric

1. It insulates the cupboard where it is kept.
2. It keeps the economy moving. It is my duty to support cotton farmers, textile mills and fabric shops.
3. It is less expensive and more fun than psychiatric care.
4. Fabric keeps without refrigeration and I don't have to cook it to enjoy it.
5. I will never have to feed it, change it, wipe its nose or walk it.
6. Because it is on sale.
7. Like dust, it's good for protecting previously empty spaces in the house (like the dining room table).
8. It calms the nerves, gratifies the soul and makes me feel good without being immoral, fattening or illegal.
9. I must buy it now, before my husband retires and goes with me on all of my shopping expeditions.
10. Because I'm worth it.