



Stitch 'n Times

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild

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

November/December 2025 • Vol. 49 • No. 6

President's Message

Embracing the Cozy Season: Hygge, Quilts, and Slower Days

As the days cool down and the light fades earlier, everything seems to move at half-speed — and honestly, I'm not mad about it. When my family lived in Copenhagen, though, "short days" took on a whole new meaning. Around December, the sun popped up around 9 a.m. and disappeared by 3 p.m. On the Winter Solstice, we'd get maybe six hours of daylight. For us Californians, that was tough!

Back here at home, our version of "dark and cold" means a solid nine and a half hours of daylight — which suddenly feels luxurious. The rush of summer slows down, the sweaters come out, and I find myself reaching for tea, fuzzy socks, and a blanket that could double as a small fort. It's the season for comfort, calm, and a little hygge magic.

What Is Hygge, Anyway?

"Hygge" (say it with me: *hoo-gah*) is a Danish word that doesn't really translate perfectly into English — but if "cozy joy" and "simple happiness" had a baby, that would be hygge. It's about soaking in the little things that make you feel warm inside: soft light, good food, easy company, and those slow moments when you can just *exhale*.

It's that *ahhh* feeling when you light a candle, pour something warm, and let the evening stretch out without guilt or agenda. No multitasking, no to-do lists. Just ... existing comfortably in the moment. Think of it as self-care, but with more carbs and better lighting.

Quilts: The Heart of Cozy

And really, what's cozier than a quilt? Maybe it's the weight of it, the softness, or how it seems to hold warmth *and* memories at the same time. Whatever



the secret is, wrapping up in one feels like being hugged — by someone who knows how to make really good soup.

Fun fact: the word "hug" actually comes from the Norse word *hugga*, meaning "to comfort" or "to protect." See? The Vikings were clearly onto something. Whether you're curled up with a book, half-watching a movie, or drifting off with a pet snoozing nearby, a quilt just makes everything softer, quieter, and better.

Slowing Down and Leaning In

The darker days are basically nature's way of saying, "Hey, chill out for a bit." I no longer fight the early sunsets, I just lean into it. Light a few candles, make that second pot of tea, pull the quilt up to your chin, and I give myself permission to just ... not.

Hygge isn't about doing more; it's about being more present in the small, slow moments. So as the world cools and quiets down, find your favorite spot, grab your warmest socks, and settle in. This is your cozy season — embrace it, one quilt-wrapped evening (and maybe one cookie) at a time.

Linda Ralleca

Honoring our 20 Year Members

Don't miss our December 4 meeting (in-person at the Veterans Building and on Zoom-recorded only) when we will honor our members who have reached 20 years of membership with Santa Rosa Quilt Guild.



Come and be inspired by the stories of how these members got involved in SRQG, and what has kept them in the Guild for 20 years.

Laura Barrett

Programs and Workshops

November 2025

Program – November 20, 2025, In-person

New Members and what they have been up to.

Debbie Ward – Program Chair

We will hear from our new members and what they have been up to this past year.

Have they been taking classes, are they learning new processes?

How long have they been quilting?

Can't wait to find out!

Debbie Ward

January 2026

Program - January 15, 2026, In-Person

Judy Mathieson - Lecture and Trunk Show

Judy Mathieson will speak at our first program meeting on January 8. She has been a member of SRQG for 20 years. Her 30 year career teaching quilt making took her to 48 states and six countries. Most of her workshops and books were focused on the Mariner's Compass pattern. She has also explored animal portraits and art quilts. She promises to share with us a collection of the quilts that she currently owns.



Sew Day with Judy Mathieson - January 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center

\$10 Cost for members and registration is required in advance

This Sew Day is available to guild members who sign up in advance. Judy will demonstrate how to make star patterns using her freezer paper template method.

Chris Rogers

February 2026

Program - February 19, 2026, In-person

Pattie Klimek - The Joys of Handwork

Pattie Klimek is a traditional hand-quilter, hand-piecer, and hand-embroiderer who works in the San Francisco Bay Area. She lectures and teaches about the *Joy of Handwork* at quilt stores and guilds to remind us of the hand-quilting techniques of generations past, along with her own techniques. Her lectures promote quilting as a time to sit down with friends and work with our hands. Pattie will share techniques as we put away our machines and learn to hand quilt.



Workshop – February 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center

Pattie Klimek – Big Stitch Hand Quilting

\$50 for SRQG members (Registration opens November 1, 2025)

\$60 for non-SRQG members (Registration opens to non-members on January 15, 2026)

Big Stitch Hand Quilting is an eye-catching embellishment for your quilt. It can be combined with machine quilting to give texture and details to not only traditional quilts, but art, contemporary, and modern quilts as well.

It is easy to do with the proper needles, a proper thimble, and cotton embroidery thread. In this workshop, you will be introduced to the basics of big stitch quilting: the materials needed, how to baste, how to tie and set a knot, and the rocking stitch. She will go over how to find a proper thimble and how to fit it. Then she will discuss various design elements using Big Stitch Hand Quilting and how to incorporate it into your quilting designs.

(Bring in your quilt tops to discuss and she will help us to choose a pattern using this technique to make your quilt a unique piece of art.)

(Pattie will supply a pre-marked top and batting for a \$10 fee payable to Pattie at the time of the workshop).

Chris Rogers

Honorary Life Member

Diana Coddling

At a "Library and More Day" that we held at the storage unit during COVID, I was so pleased when a newer member asked, "How can I help you?" That was just the beginning of many, many times this lady has presented that question to me and other guild members.



At our Founders' Day celebration on September 18, 2025, Diana Coddling was recognized as an Honorary Life Member (HLM), our twenty-fourth since our guild began 49 years ago.

To qualify to be an HLM, a member must serve in at least one elected Board position, and we saluted Diana as our president in 2022 and 2023, plus as our treasurer in 2024 and 2025.

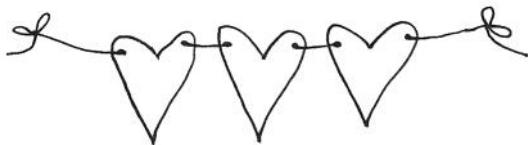
Seeing that our piggy bank needed a boost, Diana headed the very successful "Threads Up Clothing Sale Fundraiser" on March 7, 2024; was Team Chair for the Accessories Fund Raiser; coordinated an estate sale held at her home, which yielding over \$14,000; wrote grant proposals; helped to create the Red Button site on our website; as well as many other projects to benefit the guild.

Somehow Diana finds the time to participate in many of our guild's programs, such as Block-of-the-Month and Sew-a-Row, and encourages the participations of others by expressing how much fun they are, as well as creating memorable quilts.

In our January/February 2024 "Stitch 'n Times" guild newsletter Diana wrote that when she joined our guild she was recently unemployed and looking for a social organization that would give her encouragement with her love of sewing (especially quilts), and a way to keep busy. I think that SRQG has fulfilled her need to be kept busy, and we are so lucky that she found us.

Diana is one of the kindest, warmest, most charming, funniest, hard-working people you will ever meet, and more than qualified to become an HLM of the SRQG.

Sharon Fry



Treasurer

Did You Know? ... Fun Financial Facts

These past two years as the guild treasurer have been fun and a nice learning experience.

Do you know how much it takes each year to keep our guild going at its present state? This information will be presented at our meeting in November, and I will try to answer any questions that come up. Please come to the meeting on November 6 to learn more about our average annual expenses, and the proposed 2026 budget. Once the Board approves the proposed budget, it will be emailed to the membership. I will have a few copies available at the meeting, as well.

Did you know that there are local markets who donate 3% of your purchase price to our guild when you sign up? Local markets donate to our guild through an easy program called eScrip. It is super easy to participate. You get an eScrip card from each of the stores you patronize. You simply fund-raise every time you shop at one of the following participating markets in Sonoma County: Oliver's, Petaluma Market, Molsberry Market, Sonoma Market, and Glen Ellen Village Market.

Do you know the average price of a professional speaker presentation at our guild meeting? It is an average just under \$500 per speaker.

Do you know how much money the guild has raised this year from the estate sales? A lot!! We have added \$17,000 to our account from the generous donations from several sewing room stashes. Remember to have the guild in your will or trust, and let your family know, too.

Diana Coddling

2026 Opportunity Quilt

Bali Wedding Star is our Opportunity Quilt for 2026!

Remember: all members are encouraged to buy \$20 worth or more!!

The drawing will be at our April 2, 2026, guild meeting.

Rena Ferrero



Membership

The Membership Committee is gearing up for our 2026 renewal season, which begins on November 1.

You can pay your dues (a bargain at \$50.00 per calendar year) at the meetings on November 6, November 20, and December 4. If you would like to pay with cash, please bring the exact amount as we are not equipped to make change.

You can also mail your check made out to SRQG:

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

Please also join us in welcoming our new members for September and October:

Jenine Brothers	Jeannette Tunstall
Trudy Brajnikoff	Patricia Mauerman
Jennifer Hagemann	Marge Foulks
Joyce Kobetz	

Look for these new members, and be sure to wear a name tag so they can get to know you!

Jan Andrews



UFO Challenge 2026

Each year SRQG members challenge themselves to finish one or more of their UFOs (unfinished fabric object.) In 2026 we are changing the challenge dates. In the past we started the challenge at the first meeting in March; however, beginning in 2026, we will start the challenge the first meeting in the new year, which is January 15, 2026

If you're an avid quilter, you most likely have a stack of unfinished projects. Whether you ran out of time, didn't have the right materials, or just got sick of the quilt, unfinished projects pile up easily -- and take up a lot of space! Make a resolution this year to clean out your UFOs.

At the January meeting, members will show their UFOs or discuss them and declare whether they will finish the project(s) or some phase of them. Each entry will require a \$5.00 bet per UFO. The deadline for the Challenge is the first meeting in July.

You have a couple of months now to look in those closets and find a UFO to complete. Join in the fun - we're looking forward to seeing your treasures.

Elizabeth McDonnell

November Block-of-the-Month

I cannot believe that it is near the end of the year. I have had so much fun with the Block-of-the-Month this year. I have had the opportunity of talking to many of you, and I thank all of you for your support and kind words.



The November 2025 block is called *Second Star*. It was designed by Jackie MacDonald of Sweetfire Road for the Moda Blockheads 5 Quilt Along. Jackie wrote that she created the block in loving memory of her niece who loved Peter Pan.

Sew as many blocks each month as you would like and submit them to be entered into the drawing. Each block you enter gives you an entry into the drawing. The drawing for the November 2025 blocks will be at our January 15, 2026, meeting.

Watch for the email each month notifying you when the instructions have been posted to the website. The directions for all the BOMs are posted on the guild website at:

[Block of the Month at the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild](#)

Karin Wesner

Sunshine

The Sunshine Committee sends cards to our members who may need a smile to brighten their day. The reason could be illness, family concerns, or someone who just needs to know they are being thought of within our guild. There are different ways to bring names to my attention: email, phone call, text (my contact information is on the membership list), or just come up to me at one of our in-person meetings.



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

Send me a .jpg of your quilt – actual size. My stationery cards hold a 4" x 6" photo. Your name will be noted on the card each time your quilt photo is used.

Here is one way to bring a bit of joy to our members. I look forward to hearing from you.

Janice Juul

Anniversary Block

Make a patch (or two), get a ticket and a chance to win the finished quilt.

The winner will be drawn at Founders' Day, September 2026.



To make the block you will need eleven 2-1/2" squares: five light colored (small prints just fine); five scrappy, medium to dark; and one pink or red. Jan or I have pink or red squares if you don't have any.

Draw a diagonal line on the back of two light squares. Place one medium to dark square right sides together with each of the two light squares, and sew on the drawn line. Trim the seam and press toward the darker fabric.

Refer to the above picture to sew the squares together. Note that your pink or red square will be the center patch.

Please sign the block on the front with your full name.

In order to finish the quilt on time we need your finished blocks by June 2026.

Any questions? Our contact information is in the roster.

Mary Ann Hayre

Jan Westerman

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Exhibit at Rincon Valley Regional Library

Color, creativity, and craftsmanship are on display once again! Quilts made by members of the **Santa Rosa Quilt Guild** will be featured at the **Rincon Valley Regional Library** from **October 29 through December 17**.

This year's exhibit period is slightly shorter than usual, as the library will be preparing for renovations beginning in January 2026. Be sure to stop by **before December 17** to enjoy these beautiful quilts while they're up!

Bring your **family and friends** to share the artistry and warmth that quilts bring to the library community.

Quilt Guild Challenge

This year has flown by and I can hardly believe it is time to turn in our Challenge Quilts for the Person's Senior Wing display starting in January!



Please turn in your quilts to me at our November 6 meeting. They must include a 28" sleeve on the back - that length will allow a little space on each side when they are attached to the hanging slats.

The display will be opening January at the Person's center on January 6, and close on March 26, 2026.

We will have an opening reception on Thursday, January 8, at 4:00 pm. It was moved to an earlier time to encourage more of our members to attend, so put it on your calendar. Food and beverages will be provided.

The Person's Center is at the Finley Community Center, behind the main building. The address is 2060 West College Ave. in Santa Rosa. It is a lovely venue and I can't wait to see all of our lovely quilts there.

Toni Anderson

Update

Updated Policies, Procedures, and Reference Manual

In 2025, we undertook an updating of the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Policies, Procedures, and Reference Manual. I'm happy to report the update is complete, approved by the Board, and is now available on the SRQG website.

If you'd like to check it out, go to [Santa Rosa Quilt Guild](https://www.srqg.org) and click on "Resources and Forms" on the left side, a new window will open, scroll down to PPRM 2025. The complete document is there for all to view.

Thanks to my fellow PPRM committee members, Linda Ralleca and Sharon Fry, and thanks to the 2025 Board members who contributed insight and many hours of discussion to help update this document!

Elaine Ramires,
Parliamentarian

2026 Board

The 2026 nominees for Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Board were announced in October.

President - Linda Ralleca
Vice President - Eileen McAlister
Secretary - Gale Davis
Treasurer - Karin Wesner
Program Chair - Chris Rogers
Program Chair Elect - Elaine Ramires
Parliamentarian - Diane Hoxeng
Member at Large - Karen Hendrix
Member at Large - Mary Ann Hayre
Member at Large - Sally Wingard
Member at Large - Sue Stone
Member at Large - Elaine Tucker
Member at Large - Genelle Voorhees

Voting for final approval will take place at the November 6 General meeting.

I think we have a wonderful mix of "old and new blood." I look forward to working with the 2026 Board and thank everyone for their willingness to serve. I would also like to thank the other members of nominating committee - Diana Coddington, Chris Rogers, Sharon Fry, and Candi Delgado, who came up with such lovely slate!

Elaine Ramires

Mystery Quilt

I sure hope you all have been enjoying working on the Mystery Quilt.

I am busy trying to get mine quilted before the big reveal on November 20.

Please bring yours that day, whether completed or not, so we can see all the beautiful quilts.

Thanks.

Jean Chirhart



Remember me ...

Diana Watson, a SRQG member for 10 years, died on August 25, 2025. Diana met Genelle Voorhees at the Pacific Coast Air Museum in Santa Rosa in 2015. That led to Diana's friendship with Genelle, and Diana joining SRQG, and the start of her quilting journey.



Here are some thoughts from Genelle Voorhees:

"I met Diana and David at the Pacific Coast Air Museum where they spent many hours volunteering at the museum and the Air Show. When Beth's Quilt Club started-up at the Roseland University Prep. High School, Diana was eager to volunteer. The students loved her and enjoyed having her helping and cheering them on with their quilt making. She had a welcoming smile and enjoyed meeting new people. She enjoyed the SRQG and all its members!"

Diana loved bright colors, and ladybugs, and teddy bears. Diana enjoyed visiting with people, listening to their stories, and sharing her own insights. She was generous with her time and took the opportunity to volunteer within the guild and other places in Santa Rosa.

Diana handled the Opportunity Quilt sales in 2018/2019. The Opportunity Quilt that year was named "Our Town, New Growth, Resilience!" It was created by Genelle Voorhees and Lori Platt. Diana also participated in Beth's Quilt Club which was a group that taught high school students (both boys and girls) how to quilt, from making blocks, to quilting. The program was in remembrance of Beth Foley, former SRQG member.

Diana also volunteered at the Pacific Coast Air Museum weekly, for five years at the gift shop of the museum on Sundays, and hosting the hospitality for the monthly member meeting along with her husband Dave.

Diana and Dave were married for 54 years. Dave describes Diana as "the love of my life."

We will miss Diana's beautiful smile, generosity, and that twinkle in her eyes.

Laura Barrett

Community Education

Finley Quilting Class

The first of four quilting classes at Finley has been completed. During the initial two months, participants are focused on making nine quilt blocks, allowing them to build foundational skills in the quilting process.



In the third month, the instruction shifts to sashing, borders, basting, and stabilizing the quilt top. These lessons aim to help participants prepare their quilts for the final stages.

The last month is dedicated to learning walking foot quilting techniques. If time permits, there will also be an introduction to free-motion quilting. The schedule is ambitious, and we are learning ways to meet the challenges.

The teachers are Sue Stone, Rena Ferrero, Michelle Proto, Pleasant Vitali, and Karin Wesner. They have steadfastly worked hard to make these classes a reality. I cannot thank them enough.

We could not do the Community Education programs without donations. Thank you to Nancy Kuhn, Norma Viglienza, and Janet Tonkin for providing wonderful sewing machines. In just the last two months, we have received donations of supplies from Laura Barrett, Diana Watson, Nancy Kuhn, Justine Lott, Rena Ferrero, Andrea Van Voorhis, Lynette Whitman, and Elizabeth McDonnell. Georgiann Morrissey and Elaine Ramires are donating machines in November.

Village Sewing Center Classes

Sewing classes at Village Sewing Center began in September, with monthly instructors: Candi Delgado (September), Lindamay Vaughn (October), Joanie Bellinghausen (November), and Linda Ralleca (December). Eileen McAlister also supports the group as a teacher. Visit the center's website for class details at [Classes | Village Sewing](#). Sessions are held on Saturdays and cost \$15.00.

Children's Museum of Sonoma County

Jim Jensen donated a "Storybook" quilt to the Children's Museum of Sonoma County. The quilt will be used as a backdrop during their storytime event each week. The Children's Museum serves children primarily of the ages from two through nine years of age, with older children coming to the museum on weekends. The museum has a room dedicated to textile arts and provides sewing opportunities for children. On the first and second Saturday of each month, the museum has an event called *Sew Creations* in which volunteers can teach sewing with their sewing machines. If you are interested in teaching young children the joys of sewing, either by hand or by machine, please contact me.



Debbie Faris-Cole

Rincon Valley Library

Rincon Valley Sewing Circle, held at the Rincon Valley Library, just finished our *Beginning Quiltmaking Class* for 2025. Although we had fifteen people signed up, only eight have attended regularly. Our number may have been small, but our group had plenty of energy and a definite "can-do" attitude!

Our class featured the Jacob's Ladder block. As teachers, we were so thrilled when the students put all of their blocks on the floor (many made two blocks), and saw the design possibilities. It was a lightbulb moment for them, and probably the thing that keeps teachers coming back. It was nice that the Oakmont Bee's display in the Library featured a Jacob's Ladder quilt, and a Bento Box quilt, another pattern we taught. You will see pictures of our students in Toni Anderson's slide show at the Holiday meeting, so stay tuned.

In the "good news/bad news" category, the Rincon

Valley Library is being remodeled soon, which will mean that no classes can be offered for at least six months. We, the teachers, are so sad to be missing our students until later next year.

On the good side, when we returned a library cart after loading the cars, one of the librarians commented that we sounded like we were having a blast in the classroom. I told her we were, indeed.

Vicki David

Craft Fair

Start your holiday shopping at our meeting on November 6!

We will have an amazing selection of beautiful gifts, handmade by fellow guild members.

Doors open at 9:30.

Don't miss it!

Gale Davis.



Sew-a-Row

Oh my goodness! I can't believe the amazing quilt tops that are being created with this year's Sew-a-Rows! I need all the Sew-a-Rows that are still out turned in at the guild meeting on November 6. I am so excited to see who gets each one during our Roll-a-Dice lottery at the December holiday meeting!



By the way, I will be starting to collect Sew-a-Row starters for next year on November 20, so search your sewing room and start bringing them to the guild meetings!

I really want to give my heart-felt thanks to everyone who has participated in Sew-a-Rows this year. You all are sew amazing!

Eileen McAlister

Friendship Blocks

It's time for everyone to think about requesting friendship blocks for themselves again.

Wouldn't you like to have a quilt with blocks made by your friends? I'm sure your fellow quilt buddies will be happy to help you choose a design that will make a delightful quilt.

We are currently making blocks Celebrating America's 250th birthday for Jan Westerman.

Details about making these "Americana" blocks can found on the website. There have only been signups for half of the blocks requested, and Jan would like them all turned in by November 20, so please sign up and participate.

Previously, we had several choices of blocks to make at one time. It would be lovely to get that going again. We are getting very well-made works of art being turned in.

If you are wondering how many credits you have, you can check online.

I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of keeping the Friendship Block program going in our guild.

Lisa Gamble



PET PROJECTS

Heart Pillows

An invitation to make **Breast Cancer Heart Pillows**:

How would you like to help bring a bit of comfort to a patient going through breast cancer surgery?



Our Heart Pillow volunteers make and distribute Heart Pillows for the Kaiser Breast Cancer Care team right here in Santa Rosa.

I would be so happy to have a few members join me in this very *low key*, *zero stress*, and *highly rewarding* task.

All it takes is two pre-washed cotton 15-1/2" fabric squares. I will supply the pattern. All you will need to do is cut out the fabric, sew it together, and turn it right side out. Maybe add a touch of the iron. I will take care of the pillow stuffing and closure.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact me - Janice Juul -- I'm on the membership list. I will be happy to email you with the patterns and instructions, or you can pick them up from me at an in-person meeting.

Please let me know if you are interested and I'll take care of the rest.

Janice Juul

Friendship Blocks



Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

An Alphabet of Little Presents

The holidays are fast approaching, and we are all trying to find ways to tell our favorite people that we love them. One of the most memorable ways is to make something small and personal. Here are a few ideas to get you into the creative frame of mind.

A: Apron - Do you know anybody who couldn't use one? Consider making the top part from an appropriate Tee shirt.

B: Button jar - I once gave a young woman who had no family heirlooms or other old goodies a pretty jar full of old buttons, some of them antiques. She was delighted. Also consider Burp cloths, Bandanas, and Backpacks. Not the heavy duty ones that kids carry to school but the smaller medium weight ones taken to Grandma's or to a sleepover. Bowl cozies are nice, too.

[Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me Bowl Cozies Were This Easy?](#)

C: Coasters - seasonal or otherwise. Cell phone wallet. Candle rug.

D: Dishtowels - I have a friend whose refrigerator is decorated with a Mary Englebright paper doll house. Each of her grandchildren is represented by a Mary Englebright paper doll with the face replaced by a photo of the child in question. If I were making dish towels, for her they would either be made of or trimmed with fabric by the same artist.

E: Eyeglass cases - either for prescription glasses or sunglasses or reading glasses. Crazy quilting is nice for these. Or embroidered initials.

F: First aid kit - for the car in a tidy little pouch that will fit in the glove compartment.

G: Gingerbread house and/or people - Just use brown fabric with a basic "pancake" style stuffed toy or a simple little house of any size. Decorate with white rickrack "frosting" and/or twist red and white rickrack together to make "peppermint" trim. Or if you are doing this with a child, use the T-shirt paint that comes in a squeeze bottle.



H: Hair scrunchy. Hot water bottle cover - for this choose something cozy and washable, maybe fleece or corduroy.

I: Ice pack or warm pack - There are a number of substances that can be put in the refrigerator for a

Little Bits continued

cold pack or in the microwave for a warm pack. One of these is dried corn. Please do NOT use popcorn. The cutest I've seen was shaped like a cat with the head and forepaws at one end of a letter C intended to go around a human neck, and the hind paws and tail at the other end.

J: Jewelry roll - A piece of pretty fabric on the outside and pockets on the other. You tuck the jewelry into the pockets inside, roll the thing up with the pockets inside, and tie the roll closed with a ribbon attached to the outside. Jelly jar tops are nice too. You cut circles of fabric with pinking shears, or sew a pretty trim around them and use these over the tops of jars containing something nice. Pickled watermelon rind? Candied orange peel? Or maybe you pad the top to make a pin cushion and fill the jar with bobbins or other sewing necessities for a college student.



K: Kit with everything necessary for a new project - perhaps the beads and cord to make a necklace, or the yarn and knitting spool to make a baby cap. This kind of thing is especially thoughtful for people who have been taking ski adventures and are going to have to be in one place for a while. Or make a children's music kit with maybe a recorder, a harmonica, and a rhythm instrument or two. You put these things in a drawstring bag and hand them off to the kids at the airport when they are seeing you off, being sure that you have your boarding pass firmly gripped in the other hand.

L: Luggage tags, Lavender sachet, Lunch bag.

M: Miniature quilts - Our guild library has all, or virtually all, issues of the defunct magazine MINIATURE QUILTS. Some of these are hard, and some are very easy. They are nice to hang with or without a frame, drape over the back of a chair, or display with a doll or teddy bear.

N: Napkins are always nice. Sets of them are especially good. Inexpensive notebooks can be jazzed up by covering the covers with pretty fabric or paper. Mod Podge is especially helpful here. Nuts and bolts can also make a nice present. We once gave a military bride a collection of small hardware in baby food jars. We fastened the lids of the jars to a nice piece of wood with screws, put the various kinds of screws, nails, and hooks in the various jars, and screwed the jars onto the lids. The bride was very pleased.

O: Online classes - Consider paying for an online

Little Bits continued ➔

Little Bits continued page 10 ➔

Little Bits continued

class for a distant loved one. Especially consider taking it with them. **O** can also stand for onesies which are very quick to personalize for the youngest ones. Consider tie-dye, embroidery, or a little skirt of fabric or eyelet. **O** can also stand for ornaments. If you use family photos printed to fabric to personalize these ornaments they will be cherished.

P: Pillowcases can be made in 15 minutes. Follow the tutorial in our Guild website. **P** can also stand for pot holders and pin cushions and pot scrubbers (little net balls). There are whole books of pin cushion ideas in our library. There are also whole books of postcard quilts which are basically fabric collages held together with fusible (think Wonder Under) stuck to cardboard so that they can in fact be mailed as post cards.

Q: A Quilt of any size makes a lovely present.

R: Rag edge quilts are the easiest. You sandwich your blocks with back, batting, and front (perhaps the front of a stabilized tee shirt). Sew together with 1/2" seams on the OUTSIDE, clip the seams about every half inch being careful not to cut the seams, and run the thing through the washer and dryer. **R** also stands for Raggedy Ann and Andy. Large or small these make good company at any age.



[No-Cut \(But Yes, You Still Clip!\) Rag Quilt – Step-by-Step Tutorial](#)

S: Shoe bag for the clothes horse among us, but also a shoe bag made to go over the back of the front seat on the car to make tissues, snacks, small toys, and other amenities available to passengers in the back seat. **S** can also be a scissors holder to keep this tool safe and handy. Also Stuffy - stuffed toys - for children and college students.

T: Towels with a bit of something extra. Sometimes it's hard to find someone's favorite color combination. I was once planning a present for a bride whose colors were (I think) rust and teal. Who makes anything in that combination? I got a set of sheets and pillow cases in white and embroidered the edges of the top of the top sheet and the hems of both pillow cases. I did this by hand with a simple threaded running stitch but it would be almost as fast and easy to do it by machine. Or you could trim purchased towels with a border of Seminole patchwork just above the hem. So much for your friend's mauve and yellow bathroom. **T** can also stand for a teddy bear which works well in patchwork, or for a throw which might be made of fleece.

Little Bits continued

U: Utility fabrics such as the microfiber clothes used to dust with. If you give someone something all that useful, be sure to give it in something pretty.

V: Vintage fabrics either as found or repurposed - I saw a sweatshirt online with the word VINTAGE on it, the letters cut from bits of what had once been a quilt. Someone asked the wearer if she was vintage, or the shirt was vintage, or she liked vintage. She said, "Yes." **V** can also stand for velvet, velour, or velveteen, any of which can lend beautiful texture to a gift.

W: Wall pocket - Maybe you haven't seen one of these recently, but they can be a boon to people with toddlers or kleptomaniacal cats. Basically they are pockets that hang on the wall. My great-grandmother had some that were vases to hang flowers in. I had one that hung in the laundry room. She was a Sunbonnet Sue with a muslin backing to her dress, and bonnet to form a pocket. Anything found in the pocket of something about to be washed went into the wall pocket - except money! **W** can also be a wash cloth which looks nicer with a jolly bit of trim or stitching. One little boy receiving a shoebox present was especially pleased to have a wash cloth of his own because now he didn't need to share one with three other little boys.

X: eXotic trim - when I was in a long convalescence from my only serious childhood illness, a friend of my grandmother sent me a bundle of bits a beautiful fabric. Some were silk. Nearly all were old. Long ago you used to be able to send a couple of labels from bias binding and a few cents, and the company would send you an assortment of bits and pieces suitable for small creative projects such as doll clothes.

Y: Yarn holder - Avid knitters or crocheters sometimes have trouble keeping their yarn out of the paws of kittens - human and feline. A bag with a grommet in the side for the yarn to come out would be easy to make and prevent a lot of tangled yarn.

Z: Zipper pouches. At the craft show last year I bought from a member of our guild two zippered pouches. I hope I can buy a few more this year. They are big enough to hold a flat piece of computer paper. The back inside and outside are printed cloth. The front is mostly taken up with a window of clear vinyl so you can see everything in the pouch. The edges are bound and there is a zipper near the top of the front. I use these for small sewing projects and for important business papers.



Little Bits continued ➔

Jackie Pitts

Community Quilts

Quiltathon Recap from October 2, 2025

We had a vibrant Quiltathon on October 2, 2025, with over 70 members participating in finishing up quilts from tops made by members. We might have set a record with 143 finished quilts at the end of the day. There were lots of 'Wow' moments as we turned quilts right side out, and saw the bright colors and a great variety of quilts which really mirrors the wonderful variety of members we have in our guild. Thank you to everyone who came out, to offer the gift of your talent at quilting to make quilts which will provide love, warmth, and beauty to our community. Special thanks to Janet Tonkin who turned her vehicle into a 'Quiltmobile' and had to rely on her side mirrors to get all those quilts home safely where we store our finished and in-progress quilts.

Quilt Tops and Finished Quilts

You can bring your finished quilt tops and finished quilts to any in-person meeting and deliver them to the Community Quilts Committee. Look for the red wagon with the Community Quilts sign in the back of the room, and/or Janet Tonkin and Laura Barrett. We appreciate the time and resources and the creativity you put into each of the tops and finished quilts that you make for our community. Thank you.

We have batting and/or backing available for you to use to finish the quilt top you have made for Community Quilts. We ask that you make the quilt tops no larger than 43-44" wide. The batting we buy is 45" wide. For most of our recipients, 43" wide works well. Contact Janet Tonkin or Laura Barrett and we will arrange to get it to you.

Raffle Quilts

We have donated five quilts recently from Community Quilts that have been or will be raffled soon.

The benefits from the raffle go directly to the non-profit group.

Kaiser Permanente Wellness Walk to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness month. Pictured is Anna, a breast cancer survivor, and the winner of our quilt (which was quilted by Carol Kenyon.)



Friends of Trione Annadel State Park. Pictured is a sunset quilt pieced and quilted by Laura Barrett. Pattern is from Veruschka Zarate (made in a Zoom class with SRQG).



Rincon Valley Library. To be raffled in December 2025 as part of SRQG exhibit at Rincon Library. Maker unknown. Alphabet Quilt.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1943 in Sonoma donated \$500 in 2024 to SRQG to be used to defray the increase in our rent at the Veterans Building. To thank them we donated this quilt, which was a Sew-a-Row started by Lorna Fiori (the eagle is needle turned appliqué), and continued by Elizabeth McDonnell, and Barbara Southard. Quilted by Betty Upchurch. The first photo shows the quilt in progress. Pictured is Ken Thornton and two other members of the VFW at the event.



American Veterans "Hap Arnold" Post 55, who donated \$500 in 2024 to SRQG to be used to defray the increase in our rent at the Veterans Building. To thank them we donated this quilt which was pieced by Lorna Fiori and quilted by Betty Upchurch. Pictured is Terry Leen on the left and another member of AmVetCa55.



Community Quilts continued ➔

Community Quilts continued page 12 ➔

Community Quilts continued

Upcoming delivery of quilts in our Community

As we enter the last two months of 2025, we will be distributing quilts to various recipients. We will be giving lap size quilts to seniors through Secret Santa, and provide big quilts (55"x65") and pillow cases to emancipated youths through Thrivent's program organized by member Dorothy Murray. (Don't miss the Show-and-ell of these quilts at our November 6 meeting.)

We will also be delivering NICU quilts to Kaiser, Memorial, and Sutter hospitals as well as to Public Health.

We will be making ongoing deliveries to Angie, our volunteer liaison with the Veterans groups. The Veterans will have their annual Veterans Day BBQ where they distribute lots of quilts.

We will be delivering our doll quilts during the December holidays – Cheryl Dudley oversees this program.

We will probably have more deliveries as the need arises.

Please know how much your generosity is appreciated by all the recipients of our quilts. We get the pleasure of seeing the smiling faces as we make our deliveries of the quilts you donate. Thank you for the donations of finished quilts, quilt tops, and fabric to Community Quilts all year long. It seems like our birthday at every meeting as you fill our red wagon with your beautiful quilt tops and finished quilts.

What will you do with all that time?

We have only one meeting in early December, then don't meet again until January 15, 2026 because January 1, 2026, is the first Thursday of the month and a holiday. So that is six whole weeks before we meet. What will you with all that time? We recommend you catch up on those projects that are calling out to you, get together with your quilting friends – long time and new – for lunch, a sewing day, or maybe even shopping. There are lovely winter walks in our county, and of course the holiday events will fill some of that time.

If after all of that activity you think you might have some spare time, consider picking up a NICU kit or two, or a quilt sandwich to quilt for Community Quilts. We will have NICU kits and quilt sandwiches (top, batting, backing) available at the December 4 meeting. We ask you to bring back the finished top or quilt by the January 15, 2026, meeting.

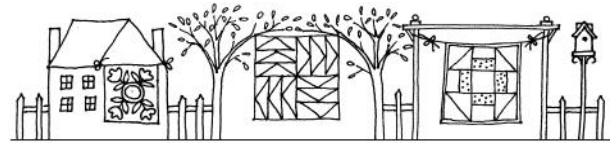
We hope you enjoy the winter holidays, and winter solstice with family and friends.

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.



A Note from the Editor ...

Just to make it all "official," this is my last issue as editor of "Stitch'n Times."

I have been a member of SRQG for 13 years, and for 12 of those years I have been a board member or a committee chair, or a combination of both.

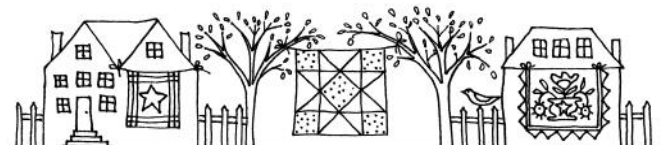
I'm taking a break.

To be very honest, I have really enjoyed editing the newsletter, and have learned a lot.

Special thanks go to Sharon Fry, my "eagle eye" proofreader. Also to Jan Andrews for being willing to take back the responsibility of being editor (she did this for many years before me).

And thanks to all of you, my readers, who will continue to inspire me.

Jim Jensen



Technique Sharing Workshop (TSW)

November 20, 2025

After meeting TSW

Did you know that you can print on paper and do 3D printing for free at all Sonoma County Library branches if you have a library card? Come and learn how to do your free printing at the TSW on November 20, 2025, with members Laura Barrett (printing on paper) and Pleasant Vitali (3D printing).

We will have handouts available and walk you through the process of both types of printing, and answer the questions if we can. We will have a laptop available to connect to the library.

We look forward to sharing with you services available at our local library branches.

Hope to see you at the last TSW of 2025.

Rhonda Denny

Home for Christmas-

Nativity Scenes and SRQG Quilt show

The weekend of December 5 - 7, 2025, quilts from SRQG will be featured with over 200 nativities from around the world, along with a musical Christmas concert with both choral, instrumental performances and video. Admission is free.

You are invited to include your quilts in this display, and to attend the event. Look for an email from Mary Wood about how to include your quilt in this display.

Location: the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1780 Yulupa Ave.

Times: Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 4:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.



A story for you ...

He used to fall asleep to the sound of her sewing.

In 1888, in a small farmhouse outside Hannibal, Missouri, Thomas Avery came to love that quiet rhythm more than any hymn—the soft hum of the wheel, the gentle pull of thread through cloth. His wife, Clara, would sit by lamplight long after supper, stitching patch after patch into quilts that kept them warm through winter. She never said much, and she didn't need to. The sound of her sewing was her way of speaking, a steady promise that life, for all its wear, could still be mended.



When the fever came, the house grew too still. The lamp burned low, the chair sat empty, and the silence felt heavy enough to crush him. For weeks after she passed, Thomas sat in that same chair just to feel the quiet pressing in. The unfinished quilt lay folded across her table, a pattern half-complete, needle still threaded where her hand had stopped. He tried to ignore it at first, but the silence gnawed at him until one night he unfolded the fabric, clumsy fingers tracing her last stitches.

It took months to learn—pricking his hands, cursing the thread—but in time, the rhythm returned. Slow, uneven, but there – the hum of the wheel, the soft pull of cotton through cloth.

Neighbors said he'd lost his mind, sitting up late every night sewing by lamplight. But when that sound filled the room again, it was like she'd come back—just for a while, just enough. When he finally finished the quilt, he laid it across their bed and listened to the silence that followed.

And he couldn't help but wonder: do we keep sewing for the ones we lost, or for the holes they left behind?

From *History Pictures*, Facebook

Volunteer!

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



2025 Elected Board and Committee Chairs

2025 ELECTED BOARD

President	Linda Ralleca
Vice President	Eileen McAlister
Treasurer	Diana Coddling
Secretary	Debbie Faris-Cole
Program Chair	Debbie Ward
Program Chair Elect	Chris Rogers
Parliamentarian	Elaine Ramires
Members-at-Large	Laura Barrett
	Rhonda Denny
	Rena Ferrero
	Mary Ann Hayre
	Karen Hendrix
	Diane Hoxeng

2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audits	Eileen McAlister
Awards	Sharon Fry
Block-of-the-Month	Karin Wesner
Boutique	Betty Upchurch
Budget	Diana Coddling
Challenge Quilt	Toni Anderson
Community Quilts	Laura Barrett
Corresponding Secretary	Janice Juul
Craft Fair	Gale Davis
Email Coordinator	Sharon Fry

Fair Liaison - Santa Rosa
 Fair Liaison - Cloverdale
 Fifth Thursday Sew Day
 Friendship Blocks
 Historian
 Hospitality
 Library
 Membership
 Mystery Quilt
 Newsletter Editor
 Nominating
 Opportunity Quilt Ticket Sales
 Opportunity Quilt Design
 Proofreader
 Retreat
 Sew-a-Row
 Sewing Room Sale
 Social Media
 Sunshine
 Technique Sharing Workshop
 Twenty Year Members
 UFO Challenge
 Videographer
 Website
 Welcoming Committee
 Zoom Committee

Gina Stateler-Calhoun
 Norma Viglienzzone
 Elaine Ramires
 Lisa Gamble
 Sharon Fry
 Carolle LeMonnier
 Sharon Fry
 Jan Andrews
 Jean Chirhart
 Jim Jensen
 Elaine Ramires
 Rena Ferrero
 Elaine Ramires
 Sharon Fry
 Vicki David
 Eileen McAlister
 Joy McGoran
 Linda Ralleca
 Janice Juul
 Rhonda Denny
 Laura Barrett
 Elizabeth McDonnell
 Linda Hooper
 Linda Hooper
 Rhonda Denny
 Elaine Ramires

SRQG 2025 Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 6** General Meeting - *In-Person, Zoom*
 Craft Sale
 Voting 2026 Board
 Present 2026 Budget
 Sew-a-Row - Final row due
- 20** Program - *In-Person, Zoom*
 Debbie Ward - New Members present their quilts
- 27** No Board Meeting - Thanksgiving



DECEMBER

- 4** Holiday Potluck - *In-person, Zoom Recorded*
 Sew-a-Row Show/Lottery
 Vote on 2026 Budget
 20 Year Members Honored
- 11** Joint Board Meeting - *In-person*
 Sonoma County Library
 211 E. Street, Santa Rosa, 95404
 10:15 a.m.



Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Affiliates

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

BAY QUILTS

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

[Bay Quilts](#)
create@sfbayquilts.com

FOGBELT QUILTING COMPANY

Megan Schofield
4991 Newanga Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
707-738-2364

Hours on demand
www.fogbeltquilting.com
megan@fogbeltquilting.com

