



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

More Than Quilts: Why Guilds Matter Now More Than Ever

In an age where connection is increasingly digital and often fleeting, places that foster genuine, in-person relationships have become rare—and deeply valuable. SRQG, at first glance, may seem to exist simply to celebrate quilting and to learn about the art and craft of it. But for those who come to our meetings, it quickly becomes something much more meaningful: a doorway into community.

For many, joining a quilt guild is not just about learning a new technique, finishing a long-awaited project, or giving back to our community. It's about finding people. It's about rediscovering what it feels like to belong.

This is especially true for those who come to guilds during transitional moments. New residents arriving in and around Santa Rosa often seek ways to plant roots in unfamiliar soil. Others come after life-changing events — a relocation, retirement, the loss of a spouse, a move closer to family, or simply a shift in life's rhythm. At a stage when making new friends can feel more difficult than it once did, the Guild offers something rare: an open circle.

And that circle matters.

Walk into a meeting, and you'll find more than rows of chairs. You'll find conversations beginning hesitantly and then warming into laughter. You'll see longtime members greeting each other like family, and — just as importantly — turning to welcome someone new. You'll notice how quickly "What are you working on?" turns into "Tell me your story."

This doesn't happen by accident. It happens because we want to create intentional spaces for connection. Events like Quiltathons, Sew Days, and workshops are where we not just talk about quilting, but talk about life—where we've been, what brought us here, and what we hope to find next.

That kind of connection doesn't come from a calendar reminder or a biweekly meeting alone. It comes from a culture — one that values inclusion, curiosity, and genuine interest in one another.

For new members, the experience of being welcomed can define whether they return or quietly drift away. A simple introduction, a shared story, or an invitation into conversation can transform a room full of strangers into a place that feels like home. And for longtime members, there is equal value in these interactions. Welcoming someone new is not just an act of kindness—it's a way of renewing the vitality of the guild itself.

On August 6, we will host a "Get To Know You" Meeting and Lunch (read more about this on page four. The mix of "new and long-term members" at every table isn't just logistical; it honors the experience of seasoned quilters while embracing the fresh perspectives of newcomers.

Because in the end, quilting may be what brings us together, but it's not the only thing that keeps us coming back.

We come back for the friendships that form between stitches.

We come back for the conversations that have nothing to do with fabric.

Programs and Workshops

July 2026

Program - July 16, 2026, at 10 a.m.

In-Person and Zoom

The Pointless Sisters Art Quilt Group

Five Pointless Sisters Quilters, Jennifer Baker, CL Tree, Linda Jensen, Gigi Kandler, and Jo Kellar, each share five of their Art Quilts with us.

The Pointless Sisters is an Art Quilt Group that uses a variety of techniques to produce innovative fiber arts.

To learn more about the Pointless Sisters Art Quilt Group, check out their website at <https://www.pointless-sisters.com/>



Change of Information?

Don't forget to notify the Membership Crew
Thank you!

President's Message continued

We come back because, in a world that often feels disconnected, this is a place where people still look up, listen, and care.

Guild meetings are not just something that happens every two weeks. It is a living, breathing community—one that reminds us that it's never too late to make a new friend, to feel seen, or to find your place among others.

If you have not met the person sitting next to you, go ahead and introduce yourself and learn more about them.

Linda Ralleca

July / August 2026

August 2026

Program - August 20, 2026, at 10 a.m.

In-Person and Zoom

Get to Know Your Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Board Members

Here's a chance to get to know your 2026 SRQG Board up close and personal. The mission of the Board Members is to work quietly behind the scenes to support the growth and development of the Guild, its members, and the art of quilting in Sonoma County. Board Members will share a personal bit about themselves and one or two of the quilts they are currently working on.

Workshop - August 21, 2026

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sew Day at Luther Burbank Art & Garden

Make a Thread Spool Wreath with Patty Zack

Pack your sewing machine, your favorite projects, your seat cushions, a lunch, anything else that keeps you comfortable, and we will spend the day quilting together. And for those who are interested, Patty Zack will hold a small group workshop on how to make a Thread Spool Wreath for any occasion or season. (\$10 fee to attend this). Start saving your spools now!



Volunteer!

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






PET PROJECTS

Heart Pillows

Happy June!

I'll be dropping off the June Pillows to Lisa Sheppard on Thursday.

I'm happy to tell you that we have reached our goal and now have enough pillows for the rest of 2026. Please take this time to enjoy your summer and all the fantastic personal projects that are waiting for you.

We will restart the  Heart Pillow Project in January 2027.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and your efforts.

Janice Juul

Fifth Thursday Sew Day

July has five Thursdays, so we have the chance to gather together at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center for a Sew Day.

Here are the details:

Date - July 30, 2027

Time - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location - 2050 Yulupa, Sant Rosa 95405

Cost - Voluntary donations happily accepted!

We will be having another of our summer salad bars, so bring a contribution for the salad. We'll provide the greens and some dressings. You bring veggies (does anyone's garden have excess tomatoes yet?), croutons, cheese, protein, cornbread, eggs, etc. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING A BOWL/PLATE AND UTENSIL.**

To reserve your spot at the Sew Day, please email Elaine Ramires at edelrio1@mac.com or sign up at a July Guild meeting.

Hope you can join us!

Elaine Ramires

July / August 2026

Sew-a-Row

Wow! The Sew-a-Rows that are coming in are absolutely beautiful! Head on over to the website and see the photos that Linda Hooper has put there. We even have some Sew-a-Rows finished for the year., incredible – right!?!? Checking out a Sew-a-Row now means they won't be due until August 20. Some won't even be due until November 11. So much time! If there is a Sew-a-Row you would like to adopt, you can also phone or text me to arrange delivery. Thank you to everyone who is participating in Sew-a-Rows this year. You are all so amazing!

Eileen McAllister

2026-2027 Opportunity Quilt Xochitl's Garden



Designed and Constructed by
Shelley Bowers
Quilted by SRQG Affiliate
Margaret Davids, Cloverdale Quilting

"Get to Know You" Lunch!

Good news!

The 2026 Sonoma County Fair does not conflict with our General Meeting schedule, and we are thrilled to gather in person for an extra special meeting on Thursday, August 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vets Building. The Board heard your feedback: our Guild is large, and it is hard to know everyone. We are using this bonus in-person meeting to take time to get to know each other.

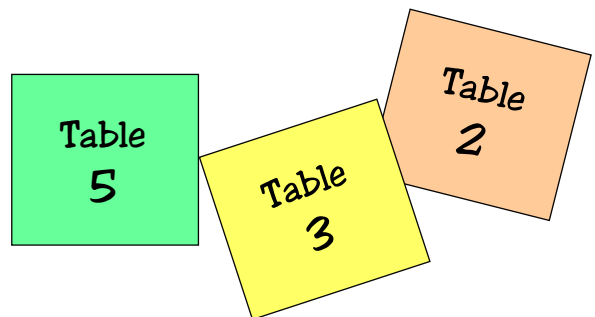
Event Schedule & Details

10 a.m. – Short Meeting (20–30 minutes).

10:30 a.m. – Games, Door Prizes, and Lunch! Bring your sense of adventure.

Random Seating

You will receive a random table assignment when you arrive.
Go with the flow and meet wonderful new people!



BYO Bag Lunch

Please bring your own lunch.
A dessert will be provided.

Quilt Display

There is no formal Show and Tell, but please bring a favorite quilt to hang around the room.
Be sure to attach your name to your quilt so we can admire your work.



We look forward to seeing you all at this fun event on August 6!

Your "Get to Know You Lunch" Committee:

Elaine Ramires
Rhonda Denny
Sally Wingard
Carolle LeMonnier
Linda Ralleca

Block of the Month

Every thriving garden is made even more beautiful by the gentle buzz of busy bees. These remarkable little workers play a vital role in our world, pollinating nearly 70% of the major crops that help feed us, making them some of the most important creatures on Earth.

Did you know that there are approximately 20,000 species of bees? From social honeybees and bumblebees to solitary mason and sweat bees, each has an important job to do. Most bees live only four to six weeks during the summer months, while those born in the fall may live four to six months. The queen bee, however, can live an impressive two to three years. It's good to be queen!



We hope you enjoy creating July's Block of the Month. Have fun with your fabric choices, go wild with colors, and let your creativity shine. Don't forget to sign your name on the back of your block.

The drawing for this block will take place in September. Happy Quilting, Busy Bees!

Patty Zack

Fall Into Quilting At Camp Newman

The "Fall into Quilting" SRQG Camp Newman Retreat is scheduled for October 27–30, 2026, in Santa Rosa. This event offers four days and three nights at the beautifully renovated Camp Newman, including three meals per day and 24/7 access to the sewing room.

The cost is \$650.00 for a shared double-occupancy room. Single rooms are available for an additional 30%, and single ADA rooms are available at no extra cost.

Facility highlights include:

- * Sewing Room: Each quilter will have an 8' table in a space featuring floor-to-ceiling windows, a kitchenette, and outdoor access.
- * Lodging (Village 2): Rooms include a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee maker. The facility

July / August 2026

Community Quilts

Quilting Opportunity

We have lots of lap size (approximately 40"x60") quilt tops that have been donated by Members and are waiting to be quilted. We will provide the batting and backing. They can be quilted with a walking foot or a free motion foot. We would love to have you adopt one and share your quilting talents. Please contact Laura or Janet and we will get the quilt sandwich to you.

Doll Quilts

We give doll quilts to several organizations in December each year. A doll quilt should be no smaller than 14"x20". Please note that they are rectangular, not square. They are made up of a top and a back. There is no batting. This is a great use for leftover blocks or preprinted panels. We will start collecting them at our next meeting.

Merci, Gracias, Danke, Grazie, and Thank You

We can't overstate saying Thank You to everyone for your contributions to Community Quilts. One of the pleasures we have is receiving your quilts and tops and sharing the beauty and the story of the colorful quilts you donate. Sometimes we can hardly make it in the front door of the Veterans building without the red wagon receiving several donations. At the last "Sew Day" one of the members said "You are never off duty!" and she gave us two beautiful tops for Community Quilts.

To donate tops or finished quilts, please look for the red wagon with the Community Quilts sign in the back of the room at every meeting.

Janet Tonkin and Laura Barrett

features a large social area with comfortable seating, a TV, and a kitchenette.

- * Dining and Grounds: The dining hall provides all-day coffee, tea, and ice/water service with indoor and outdoor seating for dining. You can also enjoy outdoor areas equipped with rocking chairs and fire pits.

We are also planning several optional activities to ensure a fun and welcoming experience for everyone. We hope you join us for this adventure. Deposits are due now.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Sally Wingard



Carole Behlke, Jan Andrews, Mary Ann Hayre, and Gina Stater-Calhoun



Eileen McAlister, Janet Tonkin, and Maureen Porter.



Linda Emis, Toni Anderson, Laura Barrett, and Sandi McGuire.

MEMBER SPONSORED SEW DAY

2026



Left to Right: Becky Summers, Helen Anderson, Cathy Fautley, Vicki David, Diana Coddling, and Sandy Lee.



Jani Goodwin and Dolores McCann



Linda Ralleca



Joanie Bellinghausen and Bev Fleming



Michelle Trimble's Stunning Improv Sunbursts



Left to Right:

- Linda Ralleca
- Lynette Whitman
- Elaine Ramires
- Chris Rogers
- Mary Ann Hayre
- Sharon Harper
- Joan Rousseau
- Front: Michelle Trimble

Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

Got You Covered

Mom used to say that the biggest difference you could make in a living space was paint. And perhaps she was right. But a close second is fabric in what are called "soft furnishings." Quilts, of course, on beds, walls, and furniture, and also table linens, bed linens, pillows, and such. And slip covers. These are not as intimidating as they may sound. They are easier than garments. For one thing you can stick pins into the furniture while fitting. If you do that with people they tend to object. Furniture stands still for fittings, but people not so much. Most of all furniture doesn't radically change size before swimsuit season or after holiday season. There might be changes, so measure both sides of the sofa front and make a separate pattern for each. If you are making a slip cover

for Grandpa's chair you might want to add an extra pillow before making your pattern just as Grandpa had to add a pillow before he played his annual starring role as Santa Claus to the little ones. But a change in furniture size and shape tends to be gradual. If it isn't, you need to find out why. In the 1960s, when the world was younger and we were in graduate school in Marin



Jackie and her cat, Pangur Ban on the road to New Orleans.

County, some neighbors moved into a furnished apartment with a lump in the sofa. "Well, nobody's perfect," they said as they happily plopped down. About a month later the lump moved and then crawled out revealing itself to be a very large and very hungry boa constrictor. Pet snakes must have been popular at the time. A similar boa constrictor came up from the toilet in another apartment in the neighborhood thus delaying indefinitely the potty training of any resident toddlers. But generally your furniture doesn't move, and if it does you need to figure out why.

The first step toward making a fitted slip cover is to make a pattern. Older articles will tell you to use

newspapers for this and I think that's what I used the first time. If I were doing it again, I'd use packing paper, ironed out. Pin the paper to each part of the sofa [or chair or footstool] and draw with a pencil where the seams are. Then give yourself a ¼" seam allowance. Don't assume that the piece is symmetrical. It isn't. And neither are you. Mark where each piece goes, such as "left front" or "right front." Have a bit of extra fabric at hand just in case. I have never made a slip cover with striped or plaid or napped fabric, but if you are brave enough to do so figure in extra fabric to accommodate that. Then cut out the pieces checking for fit as you go.

You might want to pin a note on each piece indicating which goes where. You will almost certainly want to put piping in the seams as you go. It makes a nice finish and emphasizes the lines of the piece. When I slip covered my Morris chair in blue and white cotton I used white piping. But it would have been better if I had used blue. It would have looked good for longer. By the way, when you cover a flat part, like the foot rest extension of a Morris chair, you can just put elastic all around the edges of the piece like a shower cap for someone with an oblong head. Most slip covers you will want to close at each side in back.

How does all this work? For forty-some-odd years my family lived in a craftsman bungalow with the oak craftsman furniture from my great grandparents' farm and other pieces similar in style. The dining room, living room, and a big alcove were joined by arches and had white walls, shaped ceilings, and oak woodwork. The shaped ceilings were painted blue. At first, we used a 1920s day bed as a "sofa." It was the first piece I ever reupholstered. I found somebody's 1927 school excuse in it when I did. White Naugahyde. This was a very easy place to change seasonally. Put a Christmas tablecloth on the round oak table. Put a Christmas pillow on the daybed. Our pillow was a camel with very long legs in a Christmas print. Put the Christmas tree in the front window of the alcove. Done. Later we bought a sofa-shaped sofa. Whoever chose the fabric for this sofa didn't speak 'little kid.' It was far too light and fragile for our two little boys. I didn't have time to make a fitted slip cover. So, I covered the sofa with a Morris print sheet from Macy's. Willow leaves. It was pretty pricy for a sheet but very inexpensive for a slip cover. And it lasted a long time and worked well. At one time a purple marker bled all its insides into that cream and light green sheet. About 8 washings and lots and lots

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued next page →

Little Bits continued

of oxygen bleach later all the purple ink came out. Pretty good! Much later in our family life I wanted to change the look of the living room and dining room again. The kids were older. So, I made a tailored slip cover for the sofa in a print of red and pink roses on black. The piping was deep rose red. With the scraps from that slip cover and rose fabric from the same collection [Walmart] and scraps of ribless corduroy in deep red and moss green left from my maternity clothes I made a throw to carry the colors to another part of the room. With this we used cups and saucers with roses on them. No two were alike but they all had roses. Thus, with very little money and not much time we freshened up our house. The last slip cover I made was much smaller. I bought a doll-size sofa for my favorite collectable dolls [Sasha] which are 2" shorter than an American Girl. The sofa was a sort of seasick green so I slip covered it. I did something I would never do with real children. I used white. White quilted fabric from Walmart with over-size black piping. I made a blank canvas of it so that I could seasonally drape a little doll quilt across the back and/or add tiny pillows. This approach works for big people too.

The craftsman house is gone. The little boys grew up. My husband and I grew old and he became very sick. I moved him to my childhood home in Santa Rosa where I could better take care of him. He died there, as had Mom and Dad. I expected that I would too. But my son, hearing from friends at church that I had been ill and needed looking after, scooped me up along with my cat Pangur Ban and drove me to where he lives. The last time he scooped me up there was a wildfire on three sides of my house. I am not under the same roof with my son and family. He and his wife, two red-headed boys, two drum sets, five cats are 75 yards away. I have one cat, Pangur Ban, and one violin. Pangur would willingly go anywhere with my son driving, even through the car wash. My son was the one who got Pangur out of Cat Jail, thus winning Pangur's absolute trust. My Santa Rosa house is still in the family with friends and relatives going in and out making repairs. My daughter-in-law has a background in property management. I have just moved into a pretty house with very little in it and I am having fun choosing furnishings. My son is a few feet away when I need help, and I am well cared for.

On the road trip we stopped at an Indian reservation for the bathrooms. Remember those blankets that we used to buy in Mexico for \$5 when you didn't need a passport to camp in Baja Territory? They are still made in Mexico, and they are still \$5. They are

Little Bits continued →

Craft Fair

Time to get crafting!

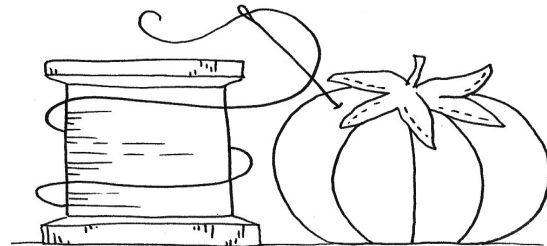
Our annual Craft Fair will be held November 5, the first Meeting of the month.

The Craft Fair is an opportunity for Members to offer their handmade items for sale to the rest of the Guild. It's a great opportunity to show off your creations. You will be selling to a friendly group that appreciates handcrafted items and food.

I will start taking signups at the first Meeting in July. To reserve a table, please complete the Craft Fair entry form and return it to me. You can request a half or whole table. There is no charge to be a seller, although a voluntary donation to the Guild is appreciated.

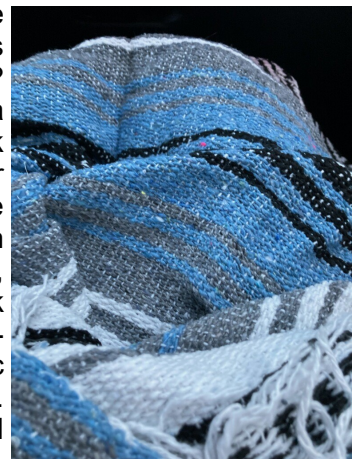
Please contact me if you would like an entry form or need more information.

Gale Davis



Little Bits continued

just the thing to toss over your lap on a chilly evening, or keep in the back seat of your car for sleepy kids or impromptu picnics. Their rough texture makes a nice contrast to smooth quilting fabrics. Somewhere in your life there's a fabric that says home to you. Blue denim? White eyelet? I know a lady for whom it's black buffalo checks. Whenever people who love her see black buffalo checks in paper plates, or giftwrap, or whatever, they pick some up for her. Somewhere there is a fabric that says home to you. Your soft furnishings need to be something that feels at home with that.



Mexican blanket, still a bargain at \$5.00.

Jackie Pitts

Friendship Blocks

2026 Guild Challenge

We're wrapping up the blocks for me, Lisa Gamble, that are about Sonoma. I will be accepting blocks until the end of July, so I can start making my quilt. You can still make a block of things you would see in Sonoma. Here are some ideas: a chicken coop, a greenhouse, grape stomp, Vintage festival, farmers mar-



Pam Steelman



Linda Ralleca

kets, racoons, Clo the dairy cow that's on the billboards with those funny sayings, Sears Point raceway, historic buildings like the Sebastiani Theater, vineyards., horses, goats, the Bear Flag, I.T. newspaper, etc. So many things to think about and I can't wait to see them. I am so looking forward to having a

quilt with blocks made by my friends. The blocks can be any size. Please sign your block on the front.

If you have three credits and would like to request Friendship Blocks, it would be really appreciated to keep this program going forward. You can check the updated list of credits on the website to see how many credits you have.

Lisa Gamble



Sharon Fry

Alana Colburn



Jim Jensen



Janet Tonkin



It is not too late!

You still have a couple of months to create a 30" by 30" quilt representing one (or more) of your favorite memories. The deadline is September 3 for the Guild reveal. Continue reading below for more information.

What is a Guild Challenge?

Many of our new Members may not have heard of the yearly Guild Challenge, or they may be wondering what it is all about. It's an opportunity for all Members to create a quilt based on a theme with specific parameters set by the Challenge Coordinator. Think of it as an invitation to create something outside your normal quilt making routines. Try new techniques, designs and/or ideas that you believe fit the theme and constraints set by the coordinator. This year's theme is "The Dash."

I have heard a lot about the "Dash" lately via posts and conversations. I looked up the definition of "Dash" and found it used in different ways, but the most relevant to our Challenge is: **A race over a short distance.**

Our lives are that short distance. Each of us has a start date, and when we pass on we have an end date. We all encounter wonderful and not so wonderful moments as we travel along life's path. It is the dash between those two dates that makes us who we are and defines our life after death. Think about those wonderful times in your life and select one of your favorites as the basis of your quilt.

Here are the parameters:

- Base your quilt on your favorite memory
- Finished size is 30" x 30"
- Colors are of your choosing, no color restrictions
- Add a 3" sleeve to the back of your quilt for displaying (with your approval)
- Finished quilts are due in September 3, 2026

Good news! We have been invited to show these quilts at the Finley Center in 2027, so put on your thinking caps and start sewing. Sign up at any meeting and let me know if you have any questions by contacting me.

Genelle Voorhees

Editor's Note:

If you would like to see the inspiration for this years' challenge, please refer to the March/April or May/June issues of Stitch'n' Times.

2026 Elected Board and Committee Chairs

2026 ELECTED BOARD

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

2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audits	Eileen McAlister
Awards	Sharon Fry
Block-of-the-Month	Patty Zack
Boutique	Betty Upchurch
Budget	Diana Codding
Challenge Quilt	Genelle Voorhees
Community Education	Debbie Faris-Cole
Community Quilts	Laura Barrett
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Taylor
Craft Fair	Gale Davis
Door Prizes/Gift Baskets	Sally Wingard
Email Coordinator	Sharon Fry
Fair Liaison - Santa Rosa	Gina Stateler-Calhoun

Fair Liaison - Cloverdale	Elaine Ramires
Fifth Thursday Sew Day	Lisa Gamble
Friendship Blocks	Sharon Fry
Historian	Carolle LeMonnier
Hospitality	Sharon Fry
Library	Jan Andrews
Membership	Jan Andrews
Mystery Quilt	Jan Andrews
Newsletter Editor	Jan Andrews
Nominating	Diane Hoxeng
Opportunity Quilt Ticket Sales	Rena Ferrero
Opportunity Quilt Design	Elaine Ramires
Proofreader	Sharon Fry
Retreat - Lake Tahoe	Vicki David
Retreat - LBAGC	Chris Rogers
Retreat - Camp Newman	Sally Wingard
Sew-a-Row	Eileen McAlister
Sewing Room Sale	Joy McGoran
Social Media	Linda Ralleca
Storage Unit	Sharon Fry
Sunshine	Janice Juul
Technique Sharing Workshops	Brenda Kobrin
Twenty-Year Members	Laura Barrett
UFO Challenge	Elizabeth McDonnell
Videographer	Linda Hooper
Website	Linda Hooper
Welcoming Committee	Rhonda Denny
Zoom Committee	Elaine Ramires
Zoom Sewcial	Karin Wesner

SRQG 2026 Calendar

JULY

- 2** General Meeting - *VBZR*
UFO Challenge Due
Christmas in July
- 9** ZOOM Sewcial
- 16** Program Meeting - *VBZ*
Pointless Sisters
5 by 5 Show and Tell Trunk Show
- 23** Board Meeting - *ZOOM*
- 30** Fifth Thursday Sew Day - *LBAGC*

AUGUST

- 6** Meet the Members Lunch - *VBZR*
TSW - Barbara Southard
"Quilt basting using pool noodles"
- 7-16** Sonoma County Fair
- 13** ZOOM Sewcial
- 20** Program Meeting - *In-Person, ZOOM*
Get to Know Your SRQG Board Members
- 21** Sew Day - *LBAGC*
Patty Zack : Making a spool wreath (fee \$10)
Sew Day is currently full, but contact Chris Rogers to be put on the wait list.
- 27** Board Meeting - *ZOOM*

LBAGC - Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center

VBZR - Veterans Building, ZOOM record only

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



WEAPONS OF MASS CREATION



Thank you Sharon Fry for sharing this!