



STITCH 'N TIMES

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild
P.O. Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
May/June 2024 • Vol. 48 • No. 3

President's Message

SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

When I think about SRQG's core values, charity is one of them: "To give comfort and show support to our community by making quilts for those in need." Charity is a powerful way for us to positively impact our community. You've heard me say a number of times how impressed I am with the generosity of our members. It comes in different forms: your participation in Community Quilts and the various projects that members are passionate enough about to solicit help from the members of our guild.

SRQG Sponsored: Community Quilts

SRQG has provided quilts and baby caps to various groups and hospitals since 1973. As of the end of 2023, our guild has donated an impressive 28,534 quilts to our community through our Community Quilts program. To learn more, go to the Community Quilts page on our website. We achieve this because not only do we have Laura Barret and Janet Tonkin driving this effort, but it is also our guild's primary charitable activity. Our members donate completed quilts and materials from their stash, and the guild also sponsors Quiltathons and Fifth Thursday retreats where time and space are dedicated so members can participate in making quilts that will be donated.

SRQG Approved: Projects

Many of our members have also approached us about causes they are passionate about. While not officially sponsored by SRQG (no Guild funding or resources are used), these activities align with our purpose. To differentiate them from the Guild-sponsored Community Quilts, we have started to refer to them as our **Pet Projects**.

Here are some examples of current and past Pet Projects:

- Santa Rosa Community Health, Baby Closet - a place where mothers can pick out baby basics for children up to 24 months (Rhonda Denny)

- Pomo Community - donations to promote the skill of sewing so that the community can create their ceremonial outfits (Linda Ralleca)
- Sewing Classes and workshops
 - ◊ Roseland Library Sewing Class (Debbie Faris-Cole)
 - ◊ Rincon Valley Library (Vicki David)
- Heart Pillows - for breast cancer patients (Janice Juul)
- Days for Girls - Cost-effective, safe, sustainable products to help women and girls manage their periods (Brenda Kobrin)
- Drives for those impacted by the Maui fire
 - ◊ Quilts (Jan Nilson)
 - ◊ Pillowcases (Linda Ralleca and Jeanne Parent)

Charity isn't limited to writing checks. It's about giving ourselves—our time, skills, energy, and compassion. When we share our quilts, teach a person how to sew, or donate our time, we practice charity in its purest form.

If you have a Pet Project, please get board approval before advertising it and asking members to help.

I am so proud of our guild members' contributions to the community, and I want to thank you for all you do!

Linda Ralleca



May 2024 Program and Workshop

Program: May 16, 2024 - Colleen Pelfrey 10 a.m. IN-PERSON - "Life with a Border Around It"

Colleen grew up in Northern California, attended college at UC Davis, and started teaching school as a fourth grade teacher in 1983. She retired in June of 2017. During 33 years teaching, she taught second through eighth grades, and a variety of subjects. She finished her teaching career at the middle school level, teaching what she refers to as the fun stuff ... math, art, drama, and physical education. She also taught dance to classroom teachers for the Northern California Art Project during the summer for 12 years, and still does an occasional dance workshop for educators.



She has been sewing since she was in the eighth grade (she sewed dresses back when she used to wear dresses). Her mom was a charter member of the local quilt guild, and her sister also quilted, so it made sense to try quilting. She made her first quilt after her first year of college in 1976. She made her second quilt much later in 1990. When her two sons got older, she started playing with designing quilts, and creating with and on fabric. Just as much as she likes quilting, she likes telling the stories that go along with her quilts, hence the lecture title of "Life with a Border Around It." In addition to quilting, she

likes hiking, biking, motorcycling (a Honda 700), cats, family, and hugs, not necessarily in that order.

In her lecture and trunk show, Colleen shares an eclectic collection of quilts. She starts with a few made by her great-grandmother, grandmother, and mom, and then moves on to her own quilting and designing journey. As she shares her quilts, she also shares stories about her quilts or stories that inspired her quilts. Don't be surprised if she throws in a quilting song or two.

Elaine Ramires

Workshop: May 17, 2024 - Colleen Pelfrey - "Notan Design"

IN-PERSON @ LBAGC \$50 for SRQG members

Notan in Japanese means "light/dark harmony." The technique taught in this workshop is based on a version of **Notan** involving cut paper.

We'll be using the same technique, only with fabric. After the initial instruction, participants will experiment first with paper, and then with fabric to create Notan designs.



Participants can choose whether to just play making blocks, or to choose a pattern and create a small quilt using blocks they have made. This works really well with any fabric that basically looks the same on both sides. My favorite fabrics are batiks.

Elaine Ramires

Fantastic Fusion Workshop



Elizabeth Anderson



Debbie Ward



Marilyn Droppers

June 2024 Program and Workshop

Program: June 20, 2024 - "Make Extraordinary Scrap Quilts" by Diane Harris, the "Stash Bandit" - 10 a.m. ON ZOOM ONLY

Diane Harris is a scrap quilt specialist. After 11 years as an editor for "Quiltmaker" magazine she formed *Stash Bandit* to help quilters bust through their stash and make quilts that are both unique and beautiful. She never met a fabric she didn't like. Her work is featured in a variety of publications in the U.S. and abroad. Diane lives on a working farm in rural Nebraska. Learn more at [Stash Bandit - Quilting Shenanigans](#), and on Instagram @stashbanditquilts.



Workshop: "Star Quar Scrap Quilts" with Diane Harris

June 21, 2024, on ZOOM ONLY 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and June 28, 2024, on ZOOM ONLY 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - \$50 for SRQG members

Cut scraps into one useful patch size and make these blocks without any fuss at all. Let Diane Harris of Stash Bandit show you the secrets to great scrap quilts!

Learn a fast and simple way to turn your scrap stash into a gorgeous starry sky - and so much more! Most fabrics work into these quilts beautifully, so you can use leftovers or your most favorite fabrics. Concepts include value, contrast, color, scale, difficult prints, and more, plus **many** ideas for using these units in a variety of ways. You'll catch a vision for how diverse fabrics can work together and become something much greater than the sum of its parts. StarQuar scrap quilts could not be more fun!!!

Skill level: Confident beginner and beyond.

LOOKING FOR A SUPPLY LIST? - It's all scraps, so raid your stash! Other than that: sewing machine, rotary cutter, mat, and iron. Join us for some scrap play!



How do you make a successful scrap quilt? Learn the best tips (and a few secrets) during this trunk show of more than 50 scrappy quilts made over many years. Discover ways to pull your scraps together, strategies for using your stash, and even what does *not* work. You may never make an ordinary quilt again!

Elaine Ramires



Elaine Ramires

Fantastic Fusion Workshop



Cherie Gooler



Eileen McAlister



Jan Nilsen

July 2024 Program and Workshop

Program: July 18, 2024 - 10 a.m. Colleen Granger "Playing with Precuts" IN-PERSON at Veterans Building

Colleen is proud to be an Air Force veteran where she worked as a helicopter mechanic for seven years. It was the Air Force that brought her to Alaska where she raised her family. This is where her quilting life began. She went kicking and screaming into the quilting world over 20 years ago, and she hasn't looked back.



Months after making her first quilt, she bought a Gammill quilting machine. She has been quilting for others ever since, but that's just the way she rolls.

She has had the privilege to teach quilting in Alaska, Arizona, California, and at the Quilt Festivals in Houston and Chicago. She is always ready to share her passion and knowledge with others. Her motto is "If you're not having fun, then you shouldn't be doing it" - whatever *it* might be.

Colleen will be presenting her program, "Playing with Precuts," where she will demonstrate use of precuts to create some of her patterns; she'll show tips and techniques for using pre-cut fabrics. Her presentation will also include a trunk show of quilts created with precuts.

Elaine Ramires

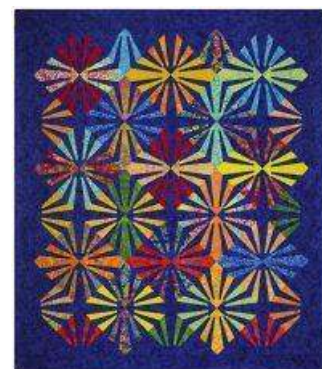
Workshop: July 19, 2024 Colleen Granger "Fantabulous" 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - IN PERSON at Luther Burbank Arts and Garden Center. \$50 for SRQG members

"Fantabulous" starts with a 10" square pack of 40 pieces. Combine those 40 pieces with 40 pieces of background fabric, and let the games begin.

Freezer paper templates are used to cut the fabric, no special rulers! Then mix and match to create a "fantabulous" fan-type quilt.

There are several layouts to try, or create your own!

The pattern is included in the cost of the workshop, so grab one of those layer cakes, or cut up some scraps and join us!



Elaine Ramires



Opportunity Quilt 2024-2025

The Lucy Boston Quilt

This stunning quilt was made by Sue Gragg with help from Lorna Fiori, Christine Gann, Vivian Valencia, and Liz Park. It is called "The Lucy Boston Quilt" in honor of the designer. This exquisite quilt is hand-sewn English paper pieced, and was beautifully quilted by Betty Upchurch.

The Opportunity Quilt raffle ticket sales will continue! There is a small group of members willing to sell tickets at SRQG meetings, and we'll be able to take the quilt to other venues, too. If you are aware of events, businesses, fairs, or quilt shows where we could present this beautiful quilt, please let me know.

Since this is a fund raiser for the guild, I decided to give it a go as chairperson. There are others willing to help too: Christine Gann, Lorna Fiori, and Candi Delgado have offered. If there are others who'd like to help, please let me know. Thank you for your support. This project is a major source of income for the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild, and I'm willing to give it my best effort.

Rena Ferrero



The Lucy Boston Quilt
Opportunity Quilt for
2024-2025

2024 Opportunity Quilt Winner

Congratulations to Leslie Kruse! She really, really wanted this Opportunity Quilt, and by golly she won it. Those mountains were calling to her. She wanted it so badly that every time the Opportunity Quilt was at our meetings she bought tickets, lots of tickets. Not only did Leslie help support our guild with her ticket purchases, but she got what she wanted. You all remember that when you have an opportunity to buy tickets for our new Opportunity Quilt.



Candi Delgado

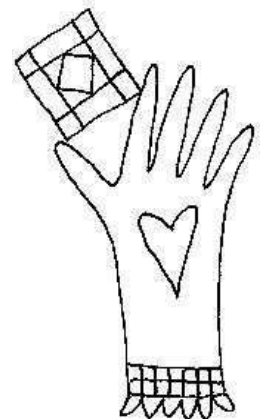
Membership

Please take a moment to look for the ladies who joined Santa Rosa Quilt Guild during February, March, and early April this year:

Lynne Mock
Nina Bersamina
Linda Vaughn
Louise Andresen
Heidi Eliot

As always, please check your listing in the Membership Roster for corrections or additions and let us know if you need a change of information.

Jan Andrews



Quilt Guild Challenge

We hope you are ready for this year's Quilt Guild Challenge. The challenge begins May 2, 2024, and is due at the guild meeting on November 7, 2024.

The 2024 challenge is called "Blind Date with an Orphan Block." You will receive an envelope with three different orphan blocks. Every envelope has a different combination of orphan blocks.

We challenge you to use all three orphan blocks that we give you on the front of a quilt designed by you. The quilt can be any size from a wall hanging to a bed quilt. You may add as much additional fabric as you choose to the three orphan blocks we provide. You may use any technique, e.g., piecing, applique, paper piecing, fusing, etc., or combination of techniques.

You may alter the orphan blocks you receive in any way your imagination leads you. All the envelopes have a number on them. We have a photo of the three orphan blocks in each envelope. We will use the photos when we have our "Big Reveal" of the Challenge Quilts at the November 7, 2024 meeting.

Please sign up and get your envelope at the May 2 meeting. If you decide not to participate in the challenge after taking an envelope, please return the envelope with the Orphan Blocks in tact by the July 18 meeting, or make a donation of \$5 to the Guild.

We will have goodies for everyone who participates, and an opportunity to display your quilt. Let your imagination soar!

Janet Tonkin

Laura Barrett



(Examples of "orphan blocks" from the Editor's stash. Not necessarily typical of the types of blocks available)

Mystery Quilt

We hope you've been able to select your fabric and cut it all out for the 2024 SRQG Mystery Quilt. Maybe you've even been able to make the first set of units! The May installment will soon be posted to the membership email list. You'll be making the last two sets of units to construct the blocks. You'll have the opportunity to use a different technique for making *Flying Geese* and *Square Within a Square* units. These will be the last units before beginning to assemble the blocks.



We'll have printed instructions at the guild meetings. Look for the tri-fold display board to find copies. If you have any questions, Jan and Rena are also available to help. We'll continue to give clues through July, and our goal is to have the quilt tops finished by August. Hopefully, you'll have time to quilt them to show at the November meeting. Of course, we couldn't help ourselves, and our tops are finished. We REALLY like them!!

Rena Ferrero

Jan Andrews



Technique Sharing Workshops (TSW)

We got off to a great start for the return of the TSW and the advent of "Supersizing" a few workshops from the 15 minutes we get after a meeting to 6-1/2 hours at the Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center (LBAGC). I hope everyone will find all of the TSWs pleasing and helpful and fun, sharpening our quilt making skills.

Kick off was in March with Jan Westerman giving a tutorial on using the guild's Accuquilt cutting machines and dies. The 15 minutes turned into 45 minutes and there was standing room only, like a sea of people at a concert. Many were able to get a turn practicing cutting the shapes, all attendees left with a die cut souvenir. Jan had handouts explaining how to find tutorials on YouTube. Janet Tonkin is the custodian of the cutters and dies. The guild website - SRQG.org, Library section - is where one can see our many dies and the machines. They do need to be checked out, just like a book from the library would be. The quilts I have made using die cut shapes make me look like I'm good.



Jan Westerman



Practice wreath made by Jim Jensen

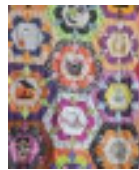
Supersized TSW - Betty Upchurch taught her group how to pin baste a quilt before quilting, and then started the free-motion quilting portion. We had 24 students, lots of snacks, and a lovely lunch in the garden. The weather was gorgeous. Thank you so much Betty for teaching another wonderful class.

Betty provided beautiful, pre-made quilt sandwiches for practice. Two of them! They were so cool. She made a sample of free-motion quilting designs and another with a wreath design. Thank you, presenters, for making TSWs "sew" valuable, increasing our quilting skills, making friends, sharing food, and learning from each other.

Next on deck? A Supersized TSW on May 23, 2024. Betty's second free-motion quilting and pin basting workshop will again be held at the LBAGC. The doors open at 9:00 and class begins at 9:30. The supersized TSWs cost \$10.00 for renting the space and \$10.00 for the quilt sandwiches Betty makes. Signups are open now. Note to guild members, we cannot pay our member teachers, it is a rule. Rent

and kits, that is all. Please make checks out to SRQG and Betty Upchurch \$10:00 each; send your sign up and payments to me at my address (in the guild roster) or in person at the meeting.

Free TSW on June 6, 2024, with the "Queen of Embellishments," yours truly. I have a headband pattern to share and samples of embellished quilts and other fun things I've made. I'll talk about the processes I use - and when enough is enough. If enough people are interested, I would love to Supersize a class.



Free TSW August 1, 2024, Jan Andrews will be teaching English Paper Piecing using Halloween Fabrics. This recorded demonstration will be shown during the meeting, which is Zoom only, not in-person.

A Supersized TSW August 2, 2024, Genelle Voorhees's "Big Bag" at the LBAGC. Details will be forthcoming very soon! Mark your calendars.

Your TSW team,

Rhonda Denny

Chris Rogers



Genelle Voorhees





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?

I have volunteered to take over from the Pointless Sisters to help make and distribute Heart Pillows for the Kaiser Breast Cancer Care team right here in Santa Rosa.



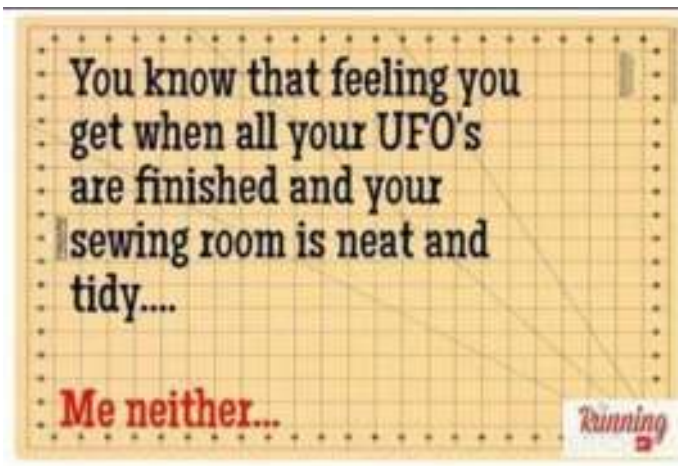
I would be so happy to have a few members to join me in this *very low key, zero stress, and highly rewarding* task.

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. My contact information is in the roster. Instructions and pattern are available at our meetings. If you are unable to attend an in-person meeting, I will happily mail you the information.

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

♥ Janice Juul



Roseland Library

Pins and Needles Sewing Classes

The beginner's "**Pins and Needles**" sewing classes continue on the first and third Fridays of each month. We started with twelve students in this new class, which has been very encouraging. We meet from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and the teachers are Pleasant Viteli, Rena Ferrero, Sue Stone, and Karin Wesner.



Our ongoing "Sewcial" class is on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 4:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m. This advanced group is working on zipper installations and finishing quilts. We have a committed core group of sewists that come each time, but anyone is welcome, including beginners.

We always have a project ready for anyone to work on, or they can make their own project.

Debbie Faris-Cole

Rincon Valley Library

The **Rincon Valley Sewing Circle** is back in full swing, teaching basic quilt block construction, as well as tips and tricks. We have approximately 12 people in class this time, several of whom are repeat participants.

As always, we are very grateful to Chris and Ann Nolen, who continue to support our students with functioning sewing machines. Chris also prints out the manuals for these machines and provides tote bags. He also helps our students if they have issues with their own machines. We can't begin to express our gratitude for his generosity!!

Any donations of rulers, fabric, and neutral threads are always appreciated.

Thank you,

Jan Andrews



2024 Awards

AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Each year the Awards Committee asks guild members to look around and think about people who have helped to make our Guild a better place.

The guild offers two very different types of awards. One is the Honorary Life Member (HLM). Only one HLM may be awarded in a year, and some years there are no recipients.



An HLM may be awarded to a Member for continued outstanding service to the guild. To qualify as an HLM a person must have been a member for at least five years as of the third Thursday in September (our Founders' Day celebration); and must have served one full term on the board, and one full term in a different board position or as a committee chair.

The other type of award is the Merit Award (MA). This may be given to an individual or a team that has dedicated an especially lot of time and expertise to a project beneficial to the guild. To be eligible, the nominee must be a member for at least two years by the third Thursday in September of this year.

Nominations are due by the end of our Guild meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

For detailed information regarding Awards, please consult page 4 of the Guild's "Policies, Procedures, and Reference Manual" (found on our guild's website), or ask one of us on the Awards Committee. Also found in that same manual, in Appendices C and D, are lists of our past Awards recipients.

Sharon Fry (Awards Committee Chair)

Jan Andrews (Committee Member representing the Board)

Joy McGoran (Committee Member representing the General Membership)

Volunteer!

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



Library

Log on to our guild's website at www.srqq.org Click on "Library" on the left side where you will arrive at the Library's Home Page. There you will find a list of our newest acquisitions. If you do not see what you need/want/desire/lust after, at the top of the home page go to the link of the very helpful tutorial Linda Hooper wrote on how to use our library's website. Still can't find what you want? Email me with questions. You may email me with requests for me to retrieve from our storage unit and deliver to you at in-person guild meetings.

Not only does our library have over 3,580 books, plus various magazines and DVDs to borrow, we also have:

ACQUILT: We own three sizes of Accuquilt cutting machines and numerous dies and cutting mats. Contact Janet Tonkin to borrow items, which she stores at her home.

STENCILS AND TEMPLATES: Betty Upchurch stores these at her home.

RULERS: in the storage unit ~ contact Sharon Fry.

KNITTING NEEDLES AND CROCHET HOOKS: Contact Rhonda Denny.

FABRIC MARKING PENS: Sharon Fry has a variety in her tote bag to lend during meetings.

Sharon "the Librarian" Fry

Sew-a-Row

This year's Sew-A-Rows have gotten off on an amazing start. Thanks to everyone who has already adopted a Sew-a-Row (or 2 even!). It is so fun seeing all of the creative ideas. We will have loads available at the Quiltathon on May 2, so come ready to take one home!



Pictures of the most up-to-date versions of the Sew-a-Rows will be on the website soon. Drop me a line if there is one you are interested in reserving.

Eileen McAlister



Friendship Blocks

I am happy to see so many people supporting our Friendship Block program!

The new "Riding Along" block introduced at the April 4 meeting has only one spot left; so, if you would like to participate, you'll need to hurry to sign up. The "Welcome Home" blocks requested by Laura Barrett have already reached capacity with 20 pledged blocks. We still have three people needing to turn in their "Heart" blocks for Rhonda, and of course you can turn in a sample block from a workshop at any time. These are ongoing and unlimited in number.

If you have three credits you can request that members make any number of your choice of blocks. **Please step up and request blocks** as we are at full capacity with only one space left for only one block for sign up. If you'd like to see if you have enough credits to make a request, credits as of March 1, 2024, are online for you to check. I have updated the credits as each block has been turned in, and will update them online soon.

Lisa Gamble



Ride Along



Heart



Workshop

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



Block-of-the-Month

Where is the time flying off too? It was just Christmas, then Easter was here and gone. Usually Lent seemed to last a lifetime, but not this year. Now getting the May 2024 Block-of-the-Month instructions ready to be released! Hope you like it. As soon as it is on the website, an email will be sent with the block information.

News:

Congratulations to Kay Hartman, winner of the January BOM, and Carla Twitchell, winner of the February BOM.



Kay Harman



Carla Twitchell

At our May 2 guild meeting, we will have the drawing for the March BOM. Really beautiful blocks have been submitted. You still have time to submit your block for the drawing at this meeting.

At our June 6 guild meeting, we will have the drawing for the April BOM. Can't wait to see the blocks you will be creating.

Thank you for your participation in the BOM. Please feel free to contact me if you have any BOM questions, needs, or comments. Remember all BOM information is on our website at [Block-of-the-Month at the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild](#).

Anni Donahue



March



April



VOM Quilt Parade



Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

You CAN take it with you. No, not your cash. Your needlework.

If you knit or crochet you already know this. In other forms of fiber art, needlework by hand is no longer the norm. While the rest of us ponder hand versus machine work you can be on the Guild website choosing which books to check out on making pretty bags to carry your work. I would think that those who crochet would appreciate an inner pocket made like the pencil pocket you sometimes see on a man's shirt. This could hold the crochet hook.

Our foremothers sewed by hand of course. Machine sewing is a comparatively new thing. But nobody wants to go back to the days of hemming sheets by hand like in the movie *Little Women*. I sewed my own clothes and clothes for my children. I made my own quilts and quilted them. I did these things on a home machine. During the same time I made countless small toys, puppets for my puppet shows, Christmas tree ornaments, and even a few articles of clothing by hand. Neither method is more "real" than the other. It's a case of choosing the right method for your project.

So what makes a good take-along project? First, something small (for me the size of a shirt or smaller), or something made in small units. This deserves consideration. When my mother was trying to learn to crochet, she started with a tablecloth made in squares. She made fifteen squares. They were fifteen sizes. She abandoned the project. (She knitted beautifully however, and did wonderful cross-stitch and needlepoint, and even tailoring.) If working in units isn't natural to you, choose a project that doesn't require it.

A portable project should also be something that you enjoy doing by hand. You are not thinking, "I could do this so much faster by machine." Probably you couldn't. Suppose you are making a little charm quilt like one I made with a finished block of 1"x2" or thereabout. How long would it take you to begin, sew, and end hundreds of 1-1/2" seams? Far too long, I would think! And when I look at mine I also remember the trip on which it was mostly sewn. Oregon in spring with a friend. Good conversation. Tea. The Willamette Valley in summer. The quietest state capital I've ever visited. My friend's kids whom I watched grow up now at the University of Willamette. The quirky statue group on the Capital grounds representing a parade of ducks. (I photographed one of



Little Bits continued

my dolls in the parade.) A project made on the go has built in memories.

Another friend, now in her nineties, used to go on long road trips with her husband, mostly on Route 66. She loved to make scrap quilts, and they were beauties. Hazel would sew little sample blocks, while Laurence drove Route 66 and they talked. She made the sample blocks to try out color combinations and such. At that time I used to give her a lot of my sewing scraps. With two active little boys, I didn't have time for full-size quilting. I was busy mending play clothes! One day Hazel handed me a stack of small blocks of simple geometric designs.



She explained that she made small blocks, but not small quilts. She knew that I made small quilts. What a treasure! Here were blocks with bits left over from Hazel's aprons and dresses, from my maternity smock, and from a little shirt I made for my son when he was a baby (I remember that it had vertical stripes, many of which I embroidered in by hand). There were also scraps from Hazel's daughter's baby dress. Our two families intertwined as they were in real life. Hazel and Laurence's daughter was the only babysitter my younger son ever had. When I look at that little quilt as I did this morning, I think of my friends, and of Route 66, and all the times we've had together.

Road trips offer a wonderful time for sewing, if you are not the driver. If you are the driver please, please keep your eyes on the road for everyone's safety including your own. Operating heavy equipment isn't your primary function in life, even if you like doing it. Don't be like the lady my son once saw (to his horror) driving while drinking coffee, nursing a baby, and putting on mascara. There are limits. However if you are the passenger and the driver isn't too nervous, you can get a lot of cool stuff done while, say, crossing Texas. Texas has wonderful people and fine things to do. But Texas has a lot of middle, and in places, not much scenery. For miles. And miles!

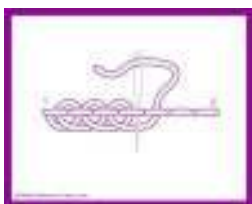
Hand embroidery travels extremely well. This can be done on plain fabric for the medallion of a doll quilt, or a patch for a redwork quilt for adults or children. I like to embellish ready-made garments with hand embroidery. This works especially well on denim, or chambray, or other solid color fabric. You can get

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued

special effects with stripes or checks or even prints. A flower on the shoulder of a simple blouse is classic, and not hard to do. An embroidered pocket would be a nice addition to many garments, especially for a lefty who often finds pockets on the "wrong" side. I have a chambray shirt which will probably be a work-in-progress until I wear it out. There are embroidered lines around the collar, the cuffs, and the button placket. It acts as a sort of sampler.



How do you do a Peking stitch? Oh. Yes. Of course I can wear it in the meantime as long as it doesn't have a needle in it. I wish I hadn't started with the cuffs, as they are likely to wear out first. From time to time, as the mood takes me, I add to the

embroidery. This approach works especially well with denim jackets, vests, bags, and backpacks. Names, pets, vehicles, musical gear, sports equipment, and a whole lot of other things can be used to personalize such a thing. And you couldn't think of a nicer present. If you need a straight line, go to a car place and get a roll of detailing tape. The late Susanna Lewis, expert needlewoman, kept her miniature smocking straight that way and highly recommended it. I used to know a retired policeman who embroidered baseball caps. His was a medical retirement when he hurt his back falling from a rooftop while chasing a bad guy. He had a distinctive style. You would never mistake his work for anybody else's. A baseball cap makes a good portable project.

When it comes to knits, the possibilities are even greater. Some embroidery stitches work better than others on knitted fabrics because they stretch better. Anything in the chain stitch family, such as feather stitch and lazy daisy works well. Outline stitch works. French knots. Bullion stitch. I wouldn't use satin stitch, except in very small areas. A onesie for a baby with feather stitching around the neck, and a sweet flower in front. Or a puppy face. Or a turtle. A little child's tee shirt with a Beatrice Potter animal embroidered on the shoulder. An older child's or adult's tee shirt with a favorite pet, or team, or musical instrument embroidered on the shoulder. This



Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued

makes a highly portable and finishable project. Unlike many projects for children, an embroidered tee shirt is unlikely to be outgrown before it is finished.

If your travel plans include flying, you will need to be especially careful not to bring tools that will alarm anyone, or make them think of terrorists. One little crazy quilt of mine had most of the embroidery done in flight somewhere between San Francisco and London. This was before 911. Now, I think there would be an objection to the small sharp scissors in my sewing kit. But, if all you need scissors for is to cut thread, why not take a container of dental floss, or even the empty container with the little cutter, which is, I think, unlikely to be mistaken for a weapon. Of course almost anything could be a weapon. My son once held a workshop to show a group of church ladies, many of them small and slight, how to hold off an intruder with a broomstick. But I don't imagine that embroidery scissors would be anyone's weapon of choice.

In addition to embroidery, yoyos would make a good travel project. You put your cut circles in a sandwich bag with a needle and thread, and something to cut thread with. Done. The finished yoyos, on return, could be embellishments for quilts or garments, soft jewelry, elements for toys. You can make a lovely doll quilt out of them. The needy children whom the guild serves might love to have such a doll quilt. Or you could sew together a long string of yoyos, and wind it around your Christmas tree. Or you could sew a long string, and make triangular banners of yoyos, 4,3,2,1, to sew to the string for a really cute bunting. English paper-piecing travels well, as do small foundation-pieced projects.



Little quilts, small dolls, and toys, doll clothes (especially for any doll smaller than Barbie) pincushions, eyeglass cases - all make good travel projects. Many of these things would be far less fun and more work if attempted by machine. I recently thanked the designer of my long-time favorite doll pajama pattern, mentioning sewing on a pair of doll pajamas from a sandwich bag while waiting for my family in a parking garage in San Francisco.

At PIQF last year I bought a small kit from Lexi Christian [Lexi Christian Designs \(alderandalouette.com\)](http://alderandalouette.com), who had a booth there. The kit contained all that was necessary to make a small

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued

rabbit: the pattern, good wool felt, wool stuffing, and even a suitable needle and thread. The rabbit works up at 3" tall, not counting ears, or 4" including the ears. This bunny resembles the Velveteen Rabbit of book fame. He is sitting upright. The first thing I thought about him is how nice he would be to put in the Christmas shoeboxes. He is sweet and soft and would leave lots of room for school supplies and hygiene items. He turned out to be surprisingly easy to make. I couldn't find wool felt in a color I liked for him, and I didn't like the results in craft felt. Then I tried the pattern in fleece scraps from the back table. Magic! It doesn't fray, so you can sew it with butted seams right-side-out using a whipstitch. French knots for eyes. Pompom for tail. I made twenty of these bunnies just before Easter, stuffed them with fiberfill, and gave them to grade school children, asking them not to share the bunnies with baby brothers and sisters, as a truly enterprising infant could chew off and ingest the pompom tail. This advice comes from me as the proud mother of the only infant known to have endangered himself with a nerf ball. My son took a bite out of it. But for anyone who can be trusted not to eat the tail, this is a charming toy and not at all hard to make. He would make a lovely travel project either as a toy or as a Christmas tree ornament, perhaps sticking out of a miniature stocking with a sprig of holly between his paws as in the book.



Christmas! "God gave His children memory that in life's garden there may be roses in December." Yes, but also Christmas trees in June. It is lovely to sit in the cool of the beach, or my front porch, or the shade of a favorite tree, making Christmas tree ornaments unhurriedly when Christmas is many months away. Accompanied by the ghosts of Christmas past and yet to come, I can take time to dream. A great many Christmas tree ornaments are suitable for traveling projects. Ann Wood's Christmas trees and mice (available as free patterns on her web site) come to mind. Tiny quilts or pillows in traditional patterns are good too. Small toy-like shapes are always welcome. Load up your sandwich bags and give it a try.

Jackie Pitts



Mental Health

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

Many people have a silent disease that affects them or family members. It is something that really is not talked about enough, but I think that with May being "Mental Health Awareness Month," we can say a few words about this disease and how our quilting can help.

I found this blog titled "12 WAYS THAT QUILT MAKING IS GOOD FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH."

[12 Ways that Quilt Making Is Good For Your Mental Health \(sewcanshe.com\)](https://sewcanshe.com)

Now there is so much information for us to grab on the internet that we can gather some useful information. It is easy to find articles that state how research has shown that engaging in creative mindful activities can help with stress reduction and enhance moods.

For myself, I find that spending some time sewing and quilting enhances my mood. Then add to that the fun guild meetings we have. We never know who is struggling, so encourage your fellow guild members to be creative and give them a warm smile.

Diana Coddling

Upcycling - Bling

Upcycle Some Bling

In another fun effort to raise funds for our guild, we are collecting costume jewelry for an upcycle sale.



We will accept your donations at the two meetings in May. The sale will be held June 6.

The donated items can be in great shape or even broken. This is the meeting that our dear Rhonda Denny will be teaching a Technique Sharing Workshop on how to embellish your projects. Rhonda will show us how to use miscellaneous pieces of jewelry as well as other items for embellishing your quilts and other projects.

Be ready to renew your blingy style with some of the lovely donated pieces of jewelry, or to jump start your embellishment style.

Please contact Diana Coddling with your questions about this event.

Diana Coddling

Community Quilts

Quiltathon, May 2, 2024

Our next big event is the **Quiltathon** on Thursday, May 2, at the Veteran's 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.

One of the greatest needs we have is for members to bring their sewing machines and to sew around the edges of the layered quilts with a walking foot, or to do quilting with either a walking foot or a free-motion foot. If you are able to bring your machine, don't forget either a free-motion foot or a walking foot.

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. We will send out an email to everyone with the details on what tools and supplies you need to bring on Quiltathon day.

The doors open at 9:30 a.m. for individuals to set up their sewing machines, or find a spot for the other activities. We will start cleanup at 1:30 p.m. and leave by 2 p.m. Be sure to come and join in the fun.

Delivery of Quilts

On April 4, 2024, we had our annual quilt parade of the 100 quilts for Valley of the Moon Childrens' Home. It was a beautiful, lively parade complete with music as our members paraded the 100 quilts around the room. Brianna from VOM introduced the program for the children to all of us and let us know how treasured these are by the children, even years later.

We will be giving 20 lap size quilts to the 'Read Aloud' program in May.

We have backing and batting available for all members for quilts you make for Community Quilts. Con-

tact Janet Tonkin or Laura Barrett and we'll arrange to get it to you.

You can bring finished quilts and tops to all in-person meetings. Look for the red wagon with the "Community Quilts" sign. Our thanks to each and every one of you for all your generous and creative contributions of finished quilts, quilting, quilt tops, and fabric that all add up to support our community in such a colorful and loving way.

Janet Tonkin

Laura Barrett



Laura Barrett and Janet Tonkin
Quilts for Valley of the Moon

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.

2024 Elected Board and Committee Chairs

2024 ELECTED BOARD

President	Linda Ralleca
Vice President	Eileen McAlister
Treasurer	Diana Coddling
Secretary	Debbie Faris-Cole
Program Chair	Elaine Ramires
Program Chair Elect	Debbie Ward
Parliamentarian	Sharon Fry
Members-at-Large	Jan Andrews Linda Hooper Mary Ann Hayre 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 *	Rena Ferrero
Past President	Diana Coddling
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 Coddling
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

MAY

- 2** **General Meeting - VBZR**
 Quiltathon
 Challenge Quilt Introduction
 Awards Nominations Now Open
- 16** **Program - VBZ**
 Colleen Pelfrey -
 Life with a Border Around It
- 17** **Workshop - LBAGC**
 Annelie Belden -
 Notan
- 23** **Board Meeting - Zoom**

**Change of
 Information?**
 Don't forget to notify
 the Membership Crew
 Thank you!

JUNE

- 6** **General Meeting - VBZR**
 Award nominations due
 Sew-a-Row - Row 3 due
 TSW - Rhonda Denny - Embellishing
 Your Quilts
- 13** **Susan Silvey Sew Day - VB**
- 20** **Program - Zoom Only**
 Diane Harris -
 Making Extraordinary Scrap Quilts
- 21** **Workshop (Part 1) - Zoom Only**
 Diane Harris -
 StarQuar
- 27** **Board Meeting - Zoom**
- 28** **Workshop (Part 2) - Zoom Only**
 Diane Harris -
 StarQuar

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

FOGBELT QUILTING COMPANY

Megan Schofield
4991 Newanga Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
707-738-2364
Hours on demand
www.fogbeltquilting.com
megan@fogbeltquilting.com



Murphy's Laws of Quilting Fons & Porters Love of Quilting Karen Buck

1. No matter how much of a particular fabric you have for the quilt you want to make, you will always be half a yard short.
2. Even if you own 200 shades of blue thread, you will not have the one that matches the project you are starting.
3. If you have a piece of fabric 10" wide and need five 2" wide strips, you will cut one of these strips 2 1/2" wide and be short one strip.
4. You will always run out of bobbin thread 1" before the end of the last border seam.
5. The scissors and pincushion, even if you have six of each, are always on the other side of the room. You will not discover this until you sit down.
6. The only beverage you will never spill on your project is water.
7. When you measure twice and cut once, the piece is still too short.
8. Your computer will crash just before you can save the design you have worked on for two hours.
9. If a pin goes astray on the floor, you will step on it.
10. You will break your last sewing machine needle at midnight...the night before your quilt is to be turned in for the guild quilt show.

