



STITCH 'N' TIMES

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild

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

November/December 2023 • Vol. 47 • No. 10

President's Message

Would or Could or Should

I like to listen to Audible books while I am doing busy work like my hand sewing or working in the yard. I get caught up in the words and the story I listen to. I recently started listening to a book about communications. In the first half hour of the book I was intrigued by the author who was talking about the meaning of words. This was funny to me as I have had many conversations with my husband about the very meaning of a word. I will give you an example: several years ago he was going to make appointments for us to get massages, and I said the sooner the better for the appointments. He got off the phone and said the appointments were three weeks out. I asked if that was the soonest they had available. His reply was that he thought three weeks was soon. Of course, I got in a tiff and soon after a friend stopped by and intervened in this rather cool discussion. I have tried to convince him that he cannot make up his own definitions of words because words have meanings. What is your definition of the word 'soon'? It matters in what context we use it, I suppose. Semantics are the logical aspects of the meaning of words and phrases, and to think some folks study this area of language. For me it would be a never-ending study when using the meaning of words between myself and my husband!

And then I thought of an assignment I had years ago in a class, but I do not remember if it was an English class, or a writing class. The assignment was around the words 'could,' 'would,' and 'should.' And it went something like this: If you ask someone if they 'could' do something this questions if they *are capable*. If you ask the same with a 'would,' that requires a yes or no sort of reply. If you say to someone, they 'should' do something, this is more of a command. So, if you want someone to take the garbage out, it probably might be something like this: Would you please take the garbage out soon, within the next 10 minutes? This way you define the parameters of your request. But if you ask if they could take the garbage out, you are simply asking if they have the capabilities.

I am always trying to be better at my communication, and learn better ways of speaking and writing. Thanks to the help of Jim Jensen and Sharon Fry, they have given me great guidance and they are just two of the teachers I have had regarding writing and communication these past two years.

Now the meaning of words can vary depending on our experiences in life. For instance, let's talk about the meaning of a farm or a ranch. Many folks will acquire a few acres and call this their ranch. Or others will have some farm animals and say they have a farm. I grew up in an area where a ranch was many, many acres of a crop or two. The farms I knew were comprised of a large quantity of animals, like the dairy farms. But some city folks may never have seen a dairy farm with hundreds of cows, or a ranch with acres of crops where the crops extend to the horizon. My husband has a friend with a 'ranch' in Wyoming which has thousands of acres with some cattle who are free ranging. This is a different sort of ranch, but one I can relate to as he is raising cattle; they just are not fenced in.

And what is the definition we hear of a 'quilt'? I hear it referred to as a blanket, but we all know it is so much more than a blanket. A blanket has several definitions, and none of them are 'a quilt.' The definition of a quilt does not include the term 'blanket.' Running a quick Google search in the quilt vs. blanket question, it is even more confusing. One definition said there were three kinds of quilts. What? We all know that is not the case. But the thing about a Google search is if you keep going, you will probably find what you are looking for to confirm what you were already thinking.



How we speak, the words we use, and how we put them all together transmits a message beyond the spoken word. In the past two years you have read my ramblings about all sort of topics: hot vs. Cold, color theory, being welcoming and friendly, 1/4-inch

January 2024 Program and Workshop

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Elaine Ramires

February 2024 Program and Workshop

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skills learned:

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

\$50 for SRQG members.

Elaine Ramires

March 2024 Program and Workshop

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

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



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

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

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



March Programs and Workshops continued

**March 22, 2024 – Anelie Belden
“Jelly Roll Split Dresden” – Luther Burbank Art
and Garden Center – IN-PERSON 9 a.m.-3:30
p.m. \$45 for SRQG members**

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

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



Elaine Ramires

2023 Programs

The November 16 Program will be a group presentation from the *Santa Rosa Mostly Modern Group*. They will be sharing their quilts that illustrate one or more of the modern quilting design elements.

Trina Jahnsen



2023 Opportunity Quilt

“The Mountains Are Calling”

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



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

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

Candi Delgado

President’s Message continued from Page 1

seams and adjustments, creativity, rhythm and balance, unity, and so much more. I appreciate those of you who took the time to read my rambling thoughts on different topics. You have heard me at the meetings, and I can’t even remember some of the things I should or should not have said.

I just want to share some of the words that come to mind for me regarding the past two years of being in the position of Guild President: interesting, enjoyable, educational, privileged, and accepted. I am not going to give you the definitions of these words as I will let you use your own definitions from your own experiences. I will say that it has been a real treat for me to find the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild and become one of the members of this group. I had no idea that as ‘soon’ as I joined the guild, I would feel so comfortable and accepted.

Thanks for reading this and let’s chat when we get a chance.

Diana Coddling

November/December 2023

2024 Board Nominations

According to our guild’s Bylaws, as Parliamentarian I put together a Nominating Committee of guild members; two members representing the current Board (Debbie Faris-Cole and Rhonda Denny), and two members from the general membership (Carolle LeMonnier and Mary Wood). We emailed back and forth, asked everyone for recommendations, and talked at meetings, and came up with a terrific group of people to serve on our 2024 Board. The thirteen people were recommended to the 2023 Board and were enthusiastically and unanimously approved.

The nominees were introduced at our October 5 meeting, and announced again on October 19. Voting takes place at the November 2 meeting.

President: Linda Ralleca

Vice President: Eileen McAlister

Secretary: Debbie Faris-Cole

Treasurer: Diana Coddling

Programs/Workshops Coordinator: Elaine Ramires

Programs/Workshops Coordinator-Elect: Debbie Ward

Parliamentarian: Sharon Fry

Members-at-Large: Jan Andrews, Laura Barrett, Rhonda Denny, Rena Ferrero, Linda Hooper, and Jeanne Parent

As you can see, we have a very nice balance of newer guild members who will bring fresh ideas, along with seasoned members. The new Board will be sworn in at the first meeting in January. As always, we hope that everyone will give the Board their support throughout the coming year.

Sharon “the Librarian” (and Parliamentarian) Fry

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



www.srqg.org

Welcome Committee

Hello Santa Rosa Quilt Guild!

The Welcome Committee (WC) could use some more good ideas on keeping new members “in the know” and having more seasoned members shepherding the new. Our Lady Diana has suggested more outreach; thank you cards and follow up phone calls, seat-saving, chaperones, and tours around the room, meeting committee chairs, and how this and that work together to make all things quilty and beautiful.



Please step up to support the new and curious by offering to sit with someone you haven't met yet. If you want a friend, be a friend. Smile, introduce yourself and say, “Welcome to the *actual* happiest place on earth!”

WC has three lovely ladies, Loni Mac, Leti D, and Anni D. These ladies have been shepherdesses for many years. They are awesome. However, we need more to meet the needs of the guild as we continue to grow and flourish.

Another interesting idea is ‘Thank-You’ cards. If you have a random thank you card, consider donating it to WC. Once upon a time Jan W, made seat covers that read ‘Welcome to SRQG’ for designating saved seats in the front row for newcomers. We will be using these seat covers again, slightly altered to fit the chairs at the Vets building. If you see someone sitting alone, introduce yourself and, perhaps, offer to assist.

(A great conversation starter might be to simply ask the newcomer how they heard about SRQG and what brought them in.)

Thank you ever sew much for your kind attention,

Rhonda Denny

Welcome Committee
Loni, Leti and Annie,
Add your name here.



Membership

Happy October!

In August, September, and October, we had quite a few NEW members join our guild.

Please look for these ladies and make them feel welcome!

Beverly Fleming
Lisa Denier
Judy Anderson
Diane Hoxeng
Elsie Chretien
Dolores Cortez
Shirley Johnson
Kelly Kenneally
Nancy McLerran
Denise Dixon
Jani Garces
Joyce Doughty
Betty Sargaser
Diane Dixon



Renewals for 2024 will begin on November 2, so get those checkbooks ready, and check the Membership Roster to make sure your listing is correct. The roster is updated after every meeting, and is available as a .pdf at any time, simply email me a request.

Jan Andrews

20 Year Members



Members who reached 20 years of membership with Santa Rosa Quilt Guild will be honored at our December 7 meeting at the Veterans Building and on Zoom. Come and be inspired by the stories of how these members got involved in SRQG, and find out what has kept them in the Guild for 20 years.

Diana Coddling

Roseland Library

Pins and Needles Sewing Club

The Pins and Needles Sewing Club will start again in January with the hope of finding some beginning sewists. One class will be in the mornings, likely from 10:00 – 12:00; the other class in the evenings from 5:00 - 7:00. Many members tell me of people they meet who would like to take sewing lessons for free. It is easy to go on the Library website, find Roseland Library, go to Events, and look for Pins and Needles classes. I am also available by phone or email.

The Sew-cial/Quilt Circle

The Roseland Sew-cial Circle meets on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings from 4:00 – 7:00 each month, with the exception of December. The participants can work on whatever sewing projects they want with help from Karin Wesner, Sheila Ramos, and Debbie Faris-Cole. Special mini-lessons will be taught each time, including mending jeans, precision piecing, reading patterns, and sewing in zippers. Most participants are working on quilt-making. Anyone can come to these meetings.

Sewing Machine Giveaways

Recently, we have had the opportunity to give five sewing machines to deserving participants of the Roseland Pins and Needles Sewing Club. At Rincon Valley three sewing machines were given to participants who really needed and appreciated the sewing machines. Thanks to the generous donations by the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild members, we are able to help more people learn to sew.

Debbie Faris-Cole

Debbie Faris-Cole

Roseland Library Display Quilts

The theme for the October Library Quilt Display was Fall. Three beautiful fall themed quilts were lent to the library. Jim Jensen lent his quilt called "Be Leaf" which is perfect. Caroline Pope lent her gorgeous fuchsia and orange quilt with fall foliage. Janet Shore lent her quilt which is a spiral block with sparkly embroidered motifs. These three quilts look fabulous in person. I hope you had a chance to see them.

Debbie Faris-Cole



Jim Jensen



Caroline Pope



Janet Shore

Rincon Valley Library

The Rincon Valley Library Sewing Circle completed its first two sessions of Basic Sewing and Basic Quilting. Our students are making three basic blocks that can be made into a table runner, if desired.

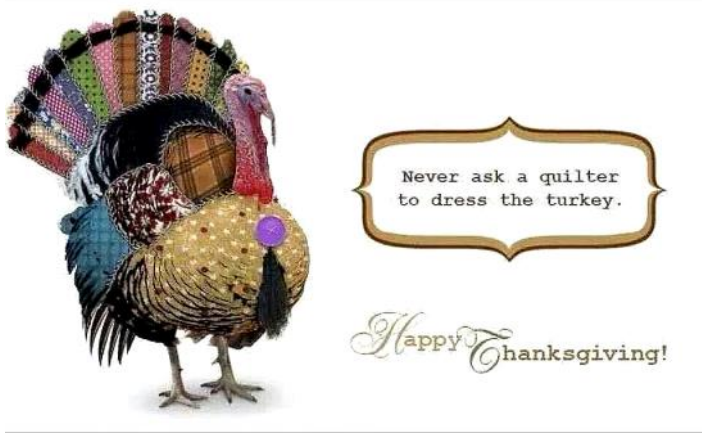
Thanks to our generous guild members, we now have a full complement of sharp scissors for our students. We could still use a few 6" or 6-1/2" square rulers for them.

We would also like to give a big shout out to Chris and Ann Nolen for thinking of us and donating sewing machines that work, as well as donating several for our students to take home. We are very, very happy about that.

Following this series on Beginning Quilting, RVLSC will take a break until after the new year, but we look forward to having more fun in 2024.

Vicki David
Helen Anderson
Jan Andrews

Carolyn Meigs
Karin Wesner



Sewing Machine Donations

More sewing machines were donated to our local educational programs. Five machines were given to the Rincon Valley Library sewing classes being offered by SRQG members, and two machines went to Santa Rosa Junior College for Fashion Design program students. A big thank you goes to members Vicki David and Lyra Bobo for picking up the machines and getting them to the programs.

The used machines were given to Chris Nolen by our members. Chris serviced and repaired them as needed, and made them ready to donate to students. He also added a printed instructional manual, and a case if there wasn't one. All got a simple tool kit for maintenance. It takes a village!

If anyone who would also like to donate a used machine, please contact us. Our contact information is in the roster.

Anne Nolen



Vicki and Chris



Lyra and Chris

Challenge Quilt 2023

The quilts from our Quilt Challenge 2023 **“Two Fabrics My Way”** will be on display in an exhibit at the Person Senior Wing of Finley Center January 9, 2024, through March 27, 2024. Toni Anderson has prepared an exhibit on **Quilting and the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild** for the display cabinet in the Person Senior Wing. We will send reminders via email and the January newsletter as the exhibit gets closer.

Please bring your Challenge Quilt (with the sleeve) to the December 7 meeting and give it to Janet Tonkin or Laura Barrett.

Elizabeth McDonnell



Rhonda Denny



Carolle LeMonnier

Sew-a-Row

The Santa Rosa Quilt Guild is in for a treat at the December 7, 2023, meeting. This is the day the Sew-a-Rows will be given to the winners. Each Sew-a-Row has been worked on by five quilters throughout the year. By roll of a die, one of the five quilters will win the quilt top. There are 29 tops to be given away. Members have been working on making some very special quilt tops which are beautifully done. Don't miss the giveaway.

Debbie Faris-Cole



Quilts for Maui

Our Guild is sending 10 quilts to Maui to be given to fire survivors. These quilts are mostly larger and have minimal or no batting, as requested by Marilyn, the owner of the Maui Quilt Shop. The quilts were made by members of SRQG.

Marilyn told me she has received about 3500 quilts from all over the US and some from out of the country. She has given out about 3000 quilts and continues to get requests from aid groups and fire departments. Most of the quilts have gone to individuals who know about the program and come to the quilt shop. The quilts seem to go out the door as soon as they arrive.

Marilyn will end her give-away program at the end of October as it has been quite an undertaking. She is so thankful for quilters everywhere who stepped up to help Maui.

We also sent \$500 worth of gift certificates (donated by SRQG members) for Target, Walmart and Safeway, in early September to Marilyn. The certificates are a nice, unexpected surprise for those picking up a quilt.

Thanks to all of our members who care about others in need and lend a helping hand. Most of us have had wonderful vacations in Hawaii and we wish those who live there to get their communities back as soon as possible. Having lived through the fires in our local community, our hearts go out to both the fires survivors and their families and friends.

Once again, **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!**

Quilters are the Best!

Jan Nilsen



Friendship Blocks

An update on Friendship Blocks: there are 11 requests available for Janet Tonkin's "Illusion block." instructions are online at our website. I will bring a few copies of the pattern for the Illusion block with me to the next meeting.

There is also one request available for Carolyn Meigs' "30s block."

Sharon Fry's Halloween block request is complete. I am sure we will be seeing what she has created with all the amazing blocks that everyone has given her. If you would like to request a block there is still time. To check your credits please go to our website. You will need three credits to request a block. If you are interested in making a block for Janet, or Carolyn please contact me. Thank you for being a part of this great program.

Jeanne Parent



Block-of-the-Month

The response to the October Block -of-the-Month was amazing, and so far we've received over 25 blocks! Many participants were attracted to the fall leaf pattern and the colors. In keeping with the fall color theme, we've chosen a simple block to use up all the fall colors in your stash.



The Block-of-the-Month for November is called "A Little Fall." It's from The Big Book of Strip Quilts from Martingale Press, and uses 2-1/2" strips. In keeping with our fall theme, use a variety of leaf colors in any combination pleasing to you: yellow, orange, rust, red, brown, and/or green. It should be easy to make so have fun! The winner(s) will have colorful fall blocks to use in an equally easy project.

The December 2023 block will be introduced in an email later this month and presented at our December 7 meeting.

Rena Ferrero

Kay Hartman

Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

Sewing Free and Easy

By "free" I mean that you probably have the makings in your stash or can find them on the back table. By "easy" I mean not technically challenging. The patterns, if patterns are used, are free. As for thread, most of my own projects are made with WIH thread (Whatever is Handy,) often number 50 white from Walmart. I keep several mason jars of spools of thread in various colors. There are quite a lot of free patterns and tutorials available online. With all those goodies available, there is surely something you would like to make. Since it's getting toward Christmas I'll start with toys and ornaments. The simplest and best free toy pattern I know of is at [ann wood handmade](#) – it is her cat. It is made in two pieces, but has all four legs and the face turned toward you. There is a folk art vibe to this pattern which makes it suitable for infants or college students. It works well in prints of all sorts or solids. It comes in two sizes in case you want to make a family of them. If you have too many kittens, consider donating some to Rhonda's Baby Closet. If you make it for an infant consider drawing the eyes with a sharpie or embroidering them. Some enterprising infants are capable of chewing off button eyes and ingesting these. This warning comes from the proud mother of the only child known to endanger himself with a nurf ball. He took a bite out of it. There is also a free pattern for a frog doll and one for a rabbit, both very attractive and simple. But the cat is the best. There are downloadable free patterns for ornaments as well, among them sheep, owls, and stars.



[Pixie Faire Doll Clothes Patterns](#) has a number of free patterns for simple doll clothes. Just click on freebies. Among these are free t-shirt patterns to fit a wide variety of dolls. It is easy to improvise skirts for dolls by taking an oblong of fabric and making a hem on one long side and a casing for elastic on the other. T-shirts for dolls are easy to make from the good parts of defunct t-shirts for people. You will probably find a few of these lurking in your laundry room. The stained or faded part makes a good lint-free polishing rag.

[Spoonflower](#) has a gold mine of free patterns and tutorials. Their attached blog has a lot of them. Try

Little Bits continued

the Holiday shop for others. There are bow ties for adults, children, and dogs. There is a travel tissue pack – everybody with a nose needs one of these. I got mine as a table favor at a Guild event years ago. These would make such good stocking stuffers. And stockings – There are patterns for Christmas stockings, Advent calendars, earrings from fabric scraps, aprons of many kinds for children and adults, a doughnut-shaped dog bed, an adult size robe that needs no pattern, a scrunchie, baby shoes, potholders, luggage tags, and furoshiki, if you want help in gift wrapping. Furoshiki is traditional Japanese style gift wrapping with fabric. (Our Guild library also has a good book on furoshiki. Our web site has a tutorial on pillowcases which could be a good way to make a gift or to wrap a gift in another gift.) One of the more promising tutorials on Spoonflower explains how to make fleece lounge pants for the whole family using a pair of jeans that fit as your guide. This is done without harm to the jeans. I once used a similar method to clone a favorite skirt, an A-line with an elastic waistline. It was cut on the bias as was the original. With its matching big scarf it was a favorite outfit for years. Spoonflower is, on the whole, the source of a vast variety of useful patterns and tutorials which really are free.



[Free Sewing Patterns | Download Patterns | Mood Fabrics](#) offers a number of attractive clothing patterns which appear to be free. You do have to sign up to get their newsletter online for what may be the rest of your natural life. I haven't tried them. So be careful. There are coats and jackets and dresses and cargo pants. My own favorite is the Luthien dress. And, yes, it comes in your size.

Utility quilting can most certainly be done without a pattern. And this sort of sewing can save lives. One time in winter our car broke down in the middle of nowhere. We found a relatively safe place to park but it was so cold and so many hours till morning. We were glad that there was a cozy utility cover in the car! Many times we were glad there was one in the back seat. When we found the perfect spot for an impromptu picnic, we were ready. Sometimes a small person in the back seat would wake briefly to ask, "are we in the United States?" to be answered, "just barely" and go back to sleep. It isn't that utility

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued

quilting is done without regard to beauty. It works something like this: my grandfather's two sisters belonged to a quilting group in their church that made quilts to keep people warm. And then someone discovered that quilting was a Folk Art, so the ladies sold the quilts and bought blankets to keep people warm. At the Smithsonian we saw utility quilts made during the Great Depression. One had a caption that said that the maker made the quilt to keep her family from freezing, but she put the colors together the way she did to keep her heart from breaking.



If you like dolls you might say with me that a fine Bru (a classic French doll) is very beautiful. But Raggedy Ann is also beautiful in her own way. So it is with utility quilts. I had that brought home to me when, after visiting Mt. Vernon, we were hungry and trying to find a good place to eat. We followed a road with the unpromising name of Mordor which led to the city dump. We found a delightful barbecue place decorated with hand-made game boards and serving delicious food. On a prominent wall near the entrance hung a utility quilt made of wide wale corduroy work clothes in a gold color. With the nap going in every direction it resembled a topographical map. It was beautiful. When my husband was a boy he had asthma. His doctor, a kinsman, suggested sleeping on a sleeping porch. His mother made a quilt from the sound parts of family jeans, mostly legs. It was so warm that even when he had to break ice off it to get up in the morning, he slept warmly. As an adult he was never troubled by asthma. When I tried to replicate that quilt I started with an old sheet for foundation and just kept adding pieces of denim slightly overlapped and sewing them down. Direction of weave was not important in this method of construction. Another utility quilt was one I made for our then three year old. Toddlers are not known for taking care of their stuff. The little one liked his quilt. It was made of 12" squares depicting familiar things such as pencils and crayons. One day he dragged it to the floor heater and before it was found there was a hole scorched in it. I cut off that row of squares and finished the edge for a shorter but still liked quilt.

Utility quilts are especially helpful for homeless people. Sometimes they are made up as sleeping bags. It is especially important to keep everybody warm in that we now are finding the prodigal grandma and

Little Bits continued

grandpa as often as the prodigal son and daughter. All sorts of clean and cozy things have been known to be used in such quilts, even tattered blankets and defunct mattress pads on the insides. A friend in Stockton inherited her husband's mother's fabric stash. In it was a big piece of sturdy but dated print. Her church was making warm sleeping bags for homeless people so she brought the dated piece of fabric for that purpose. One day she saw the fabric again in the form of a sleeping bag tied to a homeless man's bike. She reflected that this was exactly where that fabric should be. Another sleeping bag from her church played a part in vindicating a man under suspicion. Late one night a woman was frightened by someone she couldn't clearly see and cried out. A homeless man sleeping in the bushes nearby leaped out of his sleeping bag and ran to her rescue. Whoever frightened the woman was nowhere to be found when the police arrived. They found only the homeless man. But his sleeping bag left in haste told its own story. He had run to help. Someone had done a beautiful job of utility quilting.

Be sure to check out these YouTube videos ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLpezOSciBY&ab_channel=BungalowQuiltingandYarn Quilt as you go utility quilts

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fnogQYxNo&ab_channel=JustGetitDoneQuilts Scrappy braid quilt uses batting scraps

Jackie Pitts



Little Bits continued →

Baby Closet

Hello, good and beautiful people,

The Baby Closet at Santa Rosa Community Health's Lombardi Campus has been a godsend for many families who have struggled to get by, in no small part because of you fine ladies and all of your fine work. As we close 2023, we reach the end of our third year supporting Lombardi Campus and the families.

The goal is to create fabric arts and perhaps those in need will fall in love with sewing as a benefit for themselves and their families. Being able to sew, and thus quilt, is a game-changer. I fell in love with sewing in 1980 while expecting my first baby. My stepmom was encouraging and incredible, she set me up with every possible gadget and fabrics and patterns and everything else. She made most of my maternity clothes and a complete layette for the baby. When Tawny's dad joined the Marine Corps, Tawny and I lived with my dad and stepmom, Pauline, for three months. In that time, Pauline gave me access to her sewing stash and her German engineered Pfaff and nylon scissors. I spent three months sewing my brains out and my future was set in stone. I want every parent to be empowered just as I was. It was one arena I could thrive in, regardless of stature or resources. The Baby Closet is about making and giving beautiful handmade basics that could be heirloom and encourage one to want beautiful things that they can make for themselves should that be desired.

I want to shake it up a bit, so I'm asking for **Christmas stockings - and it's time for warm pajamas!** Normally we stick to the baby basics such as receiving blankets, fleece blankets, burp cloths, wet wipes, socks, dolly quilts, large tote-style bags, hand-knit newborn hats, books, and small, soft, stuffed animals or dollies. The closet serves sizes 0-2 years or 24 months. The diapers come from the Redwood Food Bank. No provision has been found at this time for wet wipes (so they're always welcome!). Anything larger in size goes to the pediatric clinic. This project can be found on the SRQG.org website under the 'Technique Sharing Workshop' tab. Scroll to 'Rhonda's Baby Closet' for ideas. Thank you sew much.

Rhonda Denny

P.S The stockings are the thing we use to show off our quilting skills and creativity. Any size is ok, any fabric is fine, think babies first stocking, any colors – think 'winter' in addition to Christmas. Let me know how I can help if you need more info. I'm in the guild directory.

A Christmas Quilt ...

Earlier this year our guild was gifted a lovely Christmas quilt. It was made by Dorothy Ingham, who joined the SRQG in 1983. She was one of our 20-year members last December. She was known for her hand quilting, as I believe this quilt is all hand-quilted. This quilt is embellished with many ornaments and decorative items.



Dorothy was downsizing and asked Laura Barrett to accept this quilt for the guild.

We will have this quilt on display and use it as a backdrop for photos at our December meeting. You can plan on taking photos with your friends with the quilt in the background.

It will then be auctioned off. The size of the quilt is 72 inches tall by 70 inches wide. There is already a sleeve for hanging. The proceeds from this quilt will benefit our guild.

Keep this in mind with the spirit of the season for our December meeting.

Diana Coddling

Our Happy Place ...

Is Our Guild The Happiest One?

It has come up several times that our guild is such a happy group. Yes, I must agree that generally we are a happy and fun group.

I think I know a few of the reasons. The first is because we all want to be a part of this group and make an effort to be here. And then there is our beautiful and cheerful Rhonda greeting us at each meeting.

Another very big reason is that we love to have new members and guests join us at any meeting.

And this is a good time to remind everyone that one of the reasons we stay in such a happy group is that we do not talk about politics or religion while at guild meetings. We all have our own opinions, and it is likely that we are not going to veer off our own sets of beliefs because someone at a guild meeting makes a comment or brings up a topic. Rather it is far more likely that we might offend others if they have dis-similar beliefs or opinions.

Let's keep it neutral and fun folks!

Community Quilts

Doll Quilts

If you want a quick way to make some children happy (girls *and* boys), then you'll want to make a doll quilt or two for our holiday donation. We give doll quilts to five groups: 4C's-Community Child Care Council, Welfare League, YMCA for Safe House, Salvation Army, and the Baby Closet.

Marlene Sullivan heads up this effort. Her instructions for making a doll quilt: they should be anywhere from 14" to 18" square, or a rectangle 14"x18". (Any smaller is too small to wrap a doll in.)

Cotton fabric for the top can be pieced or whole cloth, something appealing to a child. The back can be flannel, fleece, or cotton. No batting because it makes the quilt too stiff to wrap around a doll. Light quilting, straight-line or free-motion will hold the layers together.

Leftovers from quilts you've made are perfect for doll quilts.

You can bring the doll quilts to the November 2 and November 16 in-person meetings to be included in this year's holiday donations.

Thank you for joining in the Doll Quilt effort.

Quiltathon

Our October Quiltathon was a great success. About 72 people came together to work on many quilts to donate to the community. We completed 68 NICU quilts, 30 VOM quilts, and some other random-sized quilts. We also have quilts in all stages that will get us started at the next Quiltathon in February 2024.

It was a lovely day. Everyone enjoyed the time together. So many lovely quilts to look at, friends to visit with, and delicious popsicles to eat on a very warm day. (The popsicles were from Frozen Art, 500 Sebastopol Road, Suite B, Santa Rosa. frozenarticecream.com) They are right next to the Roseland Branch of the Public Library.)

Our thanks go to everyone who came and shared the day.

Upcoming Delivery of Quilts in our Community

We delivered 10 quilts and pillowcases to the Emancipated Youths through the program that Dorothy Murray organizes through Thrivent. Dorothy makes up a starter basket for the teens who 'age out' of the Foster Care Program at 18 years old. It starts with a laundry basket, and is filled with essentials like a bath towel, wash cloth, laundry detergent,

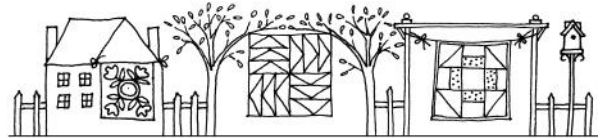
etc., and is topped with a large quilt (50" x 65") and pillowcase. See the photo of Dorothy with one of the quilts we donated.



In November and December we will be delivering lap-size quilts to Seniors through the Secret Santa program. We will also be delivering quilts to the NICU at the local hospitals. We may have one or two more deliveries of quilts as the need arises.

It warms our hearts to see the generosity of our members throughout the year expressed by the donations of beautiful quilts of every size, donations of fabric for backs and NICU kits, and donation of time at our Quiltathons in set-up, participation at the event, and clean-up. Thank you sew much!

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. |

Community Quilts continued →

2023 Elected Board and Committee Chairs

2023 ELECTED BOARD

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| President | Diana Codding |
| Vice President | Candi Delgado |
| Treasurer | Janet Tonkin |
| Secretary | Debbie Faris-Cole |
| Program Chair | Trina Jahnsen |
| Program Chair Elect | Elaine Ramires |
| Parliamentarian | Sharon Fry |
| Members-at-Large | Jeanne Parent Linda Hooper Kay Hartman Rhonda Denny Joy Wakefield Jan Andrews |

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Block-of-the-Month* | Rena Ferrero |
| Boutique * | Betty Upchurch |
| Budget | Janet Tonkin |
| 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 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Field Trip | Lynette Whitman |
| Fifth Thursday Sew Day | Elaine Ramires |
| Friendship Blocks * | Jeanne Parent |
| Historian * | Sharon Fry |
| Hospitality * | Carolle LeMonnier |
| Library * | Sharon Fry |
| Membership * | Jan Andrews |
| Mystery Quilt | Jim Jensen |
| Newsletter Editor | Jim Jensen |
| Newsletter Proofreader | Sharon Fry |
| Nominating Committee | Sharon Fry |
| Opportunity Quilt Ticket Sales * | |
| Past President | Genelle Voorhees |
| Retreat | Vicki David |
| Sew-A-Row * | Debbie Faris-Cole |
| Sewing Room Sale | Joy McGoran |
| Social Media | Linda Ralleca |
| Sunshine * | Janice Juul |
| Technique Sharing Workshop * | |
| UFO Challenge | Elizabeth McDonnell |
| Videographer * | Linda Hooper |
| Website* | Linda Hooper |
| Welcoming Committee | Rhonda Denny |
| Zoom Committee* | Elaine Ramires |

* Standing Committee

SRQG 2023 Calendar

NOVEMBER

2 General Meeting - VB and Zoom

Craft Sale
Voting 2024 Officers
Present 2024 Budget
Sew-a-Row: Final Row Due

16 Program - Santa Rosa Mostly Modern Group

23 Thanksgiving (No Board Meeting)



A gratuitous picture of my Bodhi helping me at the sewing machine. He and I wish you a very happy holiday!
Jim

DECEMBER

7 Holiday Potluck VBZ

Sew-a-Row Show/Lottery
Vote on Budget
20 Year Member Honor

14 Joint Board Meeting - Rincon Valley Library 10:15 a.m.



Holiday Potluck 2019

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Affiliates

BAY QUILTS

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

BOLT FABRIC AND HOME

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

CLOVERDALE QUILTING

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

MARIAN'S MAGIC NEEDLE QUILTING

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

QUILTED ANGEL

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

Volunteer!

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

