



STITCH 'N TIMES

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild
P.O. Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
July/August 2024 • Vol. 48 • No. 4

President's Message

WHAT TRULY MATTERS

I initially intended to write a different article for the July/August newsletter, but as the newsletter submission deadline loomed, so did the Point Fire at Lake Sonoma.

I wasn't in Santa Rosa for the 2017 Tubbs and 2020 Glass fires, but I experienced the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, and understand how disasters deeply impact people's lives, both during and after the event. The pandemic had a similar effect. Disasters have a way of disrupting our routines and compelling us to ponder life's profound questions. Disasters remind us that life is fragile and unpredictable. Suddenly, trivial concerns fade away. Moving to Santa Rosa and starting my life in retirement pushed thoughts of living in a fire and earthquake-prone area to the back of my mind. But this past weekend shifted everything to front-of-mind.

My husband and I reviewed our emergency and evacuation plans. As much as I value the comfort of my home (and my sewing studio and stash!), we went through the exercise of what to bring with us. On my list is an emergency kit ([Make A Plan | Ready.gov](#)), clothing, important documents, backup drives, medication, laptop, cell phone, and chargers. Most of my records, photos, documents, contact lists, and recipes are now online, so that helps a lot.

Given more time, I would add a few irreplaceable items with sentimental value – a few pieces of jewelry given to me by my father, husband, and mother-in-law, quilts, and a painting. It surprises me how much I am willing to leave behind and the items I want to keep.

Of course, given even more time and space, the list would include more clothes, shoes, and my sewing machine. If you've had to evacuate, what are the items you've taken with you?

When faced with loss, danger, or upheaval, we are often compelled to reevaluate our priorities. Health, family, love and friendships, and personal growth

emerge as the true essentials. Disasters serve as a stark reminder to prioritize these aspects of our lives and focus on what truly matters.

Disasters also test our individual resilience and highlight the strength of our communities. The collective support we offer in times of need, as exemplified by our guild, is a testament to the power of compassion and unity during challenging times. It is this support that brings comfort to others and each other.

Stay safe and cherish life,

Linda Ralleca, President



What Do You Want for Your Birthday?

Do family and friends ask you this question, and the reality is you do not really want or need anything? But, they really want to do something for you. SRQG has an answer to the dilemma. We now have a donation button right on the homepage of our website. So next time



someone asks you what they can get you for your special day, tell them they can **Make A Donation** to the SRQG, and it is as easy as can be.

On our homepage, [Santa Rosa Quilt Guild](#), there is a big red button that anyone can click on, and they can donate to our guild. Any member who wants to donate can easily do this and the funds go right into our checking account. Linda Hooper set this up and it doesn't cost our guild anything for this service. Thank you to Linda for making this happen.

This is just another way for our guild to receive monetary donations that help us maintain our guild and activities at the level we have come to enjoy.

Diana Codding, Treasurer

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. 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

Christmas in September!

I Hear Jingle Bells in September

In another effort to raise funds for our guild it was suggested that we have a Christmas sale. The Board decided the easiest way to do this is for members to bring in their unwanted Christmas fabrics and décor and we will have a special table or two back at the Treasure Table area at our September 5 meeting. We can put money in the tin cans just like we do on the usual Treasure Tables.

You have time to go through your Christmas items and decide what you want someone else to take home.

Christmas in September? Yes, September 5!

Ho Ho Ho!

Diana Coddling



August 2024 Program and Workshop

Program - August 15, 2024, 10 a.m. -

“My Design Process - From Concept to Quilt” by Tina Curran on ZOOM

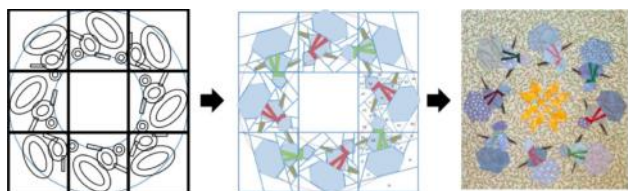
My interest in making art quilts was jump-started by seeing my dear friend Sara take a variety of patterned fabrics, cut them into pieces, and combine them in such an artistic way. As a life-long sewer (having experienced my first sewing triumph with a skating skirt I made in Girl Scouts), I took to quilting quickly. One of the great thrills with this art form is that my options are as infinite as those of a painter working on canvas -- landscapes, portraits, geometric patterns, abstract impressions, etc. I enjoy both the deep American roots of traditional quilting, and the unlimited possibilities today's art quilts present. Combining elements of both extremes is great fun, as I often use contemporary fabrics in century-old quilt patterns.



My art quilts have been on display in multiple art shows and quilt shows, as well as in national quilt magazines ("Quilters Newsletter" magazine and "Quiltmaker") over 20 times, and in three books (including Ricky Tims' "Kool Kaleidoscopes").

While I have no formal art training, I have taken some wonderful classes over the years. However, I know my greatest learning has come in the over 10,000 hours I've spent making more than 125 art quilts to date. And it's exciting to realize that there seems to be no end to this learning curve.

As a quilt pattern designer, I am often asked if my designs come to me fully formed. The answer, of course, is "no." The goal of this lecture is to demystify the design process I use by breaking it down into its elements. I'll provide many examples of the design and execution challenges I've faced, and my solutions to overcome them. My hope with this lecture is to inspire other quilters to design their own quilts.



Elaine Ramires

Workshop: Tina Curran - “Wreath-o-Rama” Holiday pillow August 16, 2024, and August 23, 2024, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on ZOOM

\$50 for SRQG members

Get ready for Christmas in August, and make a wonderful Christmas present -- or keep it to dress up your own home!



We'll make the “Ring of Houses” Christmas pillow. This 18” pillow is made from paper-pieced quilt blocks. The pattern is available on Tina's Etsy site. Purchase the pattern for the workshop *before* the workshop so you can download and print it to be ready for the class. The link to purchase the pattern (either as a download or paper pattern to be mailed to you) is on the workshop website at this link:

[August 2024 - SRQG 2022-24 WORKSHOPS \(weebly.com\)](https://www.srqg.com/2024-workshops)

Elaine Ramires



October 2024 Program and Workshop

**Program: October 17, 2024 10 a.m. - Laura Fogg
"Creating Depth in Landscape Collage"
IN-PERSON at Vets Building**

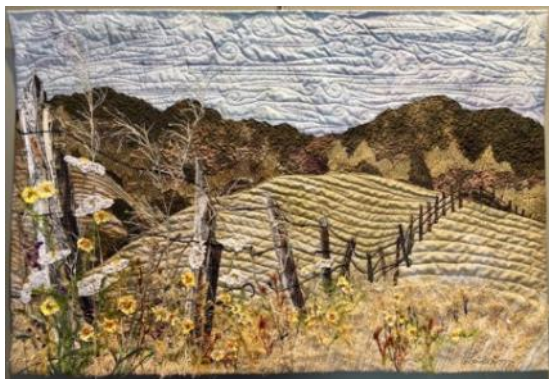
I have been an art quilter for twenty-five years. My work is shown regularly in major quilt shows across the country, including Visions, Quilt National, and numerous SAQA shows. Articles and photos of my work have been published in most of the quilting magazines in the U.S., as well as in a number of national and international books and calendars on art quilting. I have also been featured in two documentary films (one by the American Quilters Society and the other by Lifetime TV in conjunction with the Vagina Monologues production), and on the Alex Anderson show.



I am the recipient of two art-related awards in Mendocino County - the Women's Art: Women's Vision award in 2008, and the Art Champion award in 2012.

I have lived all of my adult life in Mendocino County where I worked for 30 years as a teacher of the visually impaired. In that capacity, I won the "Schoolmaster of the Year" award in 2011. I am now retired.

I was an art history major at UC Berkeley, with a minor in art, and I have a Master's in Education from the California State University-San Francisco. I am mostly a self-taught quilter, although I studied briefly under Natasha Kempers-Kullen many years ago. I currently lecture and teach art quilting classes and retreats throughout Northern California.



Landscape Collage

**Workshop: October 17, 2024, 1:30 - 6 p.m. and
October 18, 2024, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

"Creating Depth in Landscape Quilts"

Two-day workshop with Laura Fogg at Village Sewing Center, \$75 for SRQG members

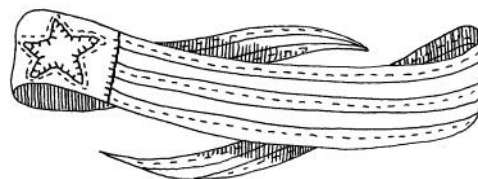
When Laura last visited with us in 2022, her workshop sold out and there was a long waitlist. Don't miss out this time! Our friends at Village Sewing Center have offered to let us hold Laura's workshop in their space, so students can work on their projects uninterrupted for two days. After Laura's presentation on "Creating Depth in Landscape Quilts" with SRQG on Thursday, October 17, head over to VSC and take a deep dive into "Collage Quilting."

Expect this to be a fun, creative, beginner-friendly, out-of-the-box class. You do not need to have any quilting skills besides basic knowledge of how to do freehand machine quilting on your home sewing machine, nor do you need to be a recognized artist. You will discover the "artist within" as you play with the fabrics of your choice to create a small (about 18" x 24") collage wall quilt. Subject matter can be a landscape, a still life, or even a fantasy scene ... whatever moves you to want to create it in fabric. You will start with a photo of your chosen scene for inspiration and beyond that your own imagination is the limit. (One caution though ... for beginners it is smart to avoid subjects that include people, pets, or complicated architecture. You will get frustrated trying to get the perspective and details "right." It will be more fun to stick to nature scenes, where nothing you do can possibly be "wrong.")

Basic technique is raw-edge fabric collage, where cut or torn pieces of fabric (and/or other materials) are layered and freely arranged to create as much or as little detail in your piece as you see fit. Nothing is pinned or sewn until you are happy with your design, so the stakes are low and the composition can be changed infinitely. There are no patterns, no directions, and no rules.

The piece you create in class can be machine-quilted in class or at home.

Elaine Ramires



Opportunity Quilt 2024-2025

The Lucy Boston Quilt

The Opportunity Quilt ticket sales have started! The response from everyone at the June 6 meeting was very encouraging. I learned that some members buy \$20 worth of tickets at every meeting to improve their chance of winning. That's what Leslie Kruse did for the 2024 quilt, and SHE WON! ... and she's already bought some for 2025. This project is a major fund-raising project for the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild.

Tickets will not be for sale at a general meeting until September 5, but there are certainly other places, such as the Sonoma County Fair, where you can buy them. The beautiful "Lucy Boston Quilt" was English paper-pieced and hand sewn by Sue Gragg, with finishing help by Lorna Fiori, Christine Gann, Vivian Valencia, and Liz Park. Betty Upchurch machine quilted it.

It seems we're all set for the Sonoma County Fair display and raffle ticket sales. The quilt has been entered into the group category. I have also contacted two quilt guilds to ask if we can display the quilt and sell raffle tickets sometime in the fall. Bolt Fabric in Cloverdale is willing to let us set up and sell tickets there. Thank you for your support!

Rena Ferrero



The Lucy Boston Quilt
Opportunity Quilt for
2024-2025

Sew-a-Row

Guild members are working hard on Sew-a-Rows. We even had some Sew-a-Rows get adopted during Susan Silvey Sew Day!



We have quite a few Sew-a-Rows available for adoption, so go to our website, decide which one you would like to work on, give me a call, and I can bring it to you at our next in-person meeting, which is July 18.

We do have a couple Sew-a-Rows that are overdue, so please phone me, I am in the roster, and I can come pick them up so we can get them back out into circulation.

This year's Sew-a-Rows are turning out so cute!
Thanks to everyone who has participated so far!

Eileen McAlister

Membership

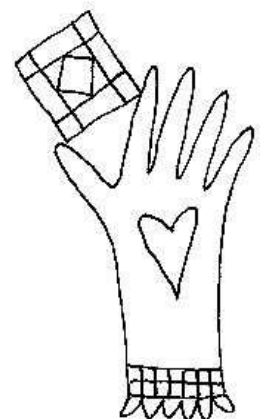
Four new members joined our guild during May and June!

Please seek these ladies out and make them feel welcome.

Judy Pudoff
Lynette Chandler
Laurie Sullivan
Danyelle Wilson

As always, if you have any changes to the information on our Membership Roster, please email me.

Jan Andrews



Friendship Blocks

It's wonderful to see all the fabulous blocks being made for our friends.

All but one of the current block requests are at capacity, and are being fulfilled as planned. The only block openings at this time are for Elaine's blocks that are inspired by a workshop that you've taken. Please sign up to make these for her.

If you have three credits and would like to request blocks to be made for you, please make a request so that we keep this program going forward.

Have you made a quilt with the blocks that you requested? Please send me pictures of your finished project. Next month's *Stitch'n Times* issue will feature our "Friendship Block Creations."

We're all excited to see what you've done with them.

Lisa Gamble



Ride Along



Heart



House

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



Pickles



© Brian Crane

July/August 2024

Block-of-the-Month

Summer is upon us! A great way to enjoy your day is to create a piece of art and avoid the sun and the heat. It took a while, but I finally discovered creating a quilt or painting is so very satisfying. Sometimes I am so engrossed in creating that I forget to eat lunch or dinner. Yes, that is totally unlike me to forget to eat! But no need to worry, as you can see, I make up for any and all lost calories.

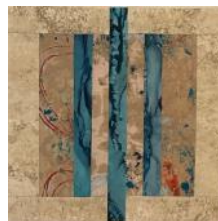
So, how do you feel about creating? My guess is since you are a quilter, creating is satisfying to you, too. If you don't want to set aside the time to create a quilt at this moment, the Block-of-the-Month can step in and help. Oh, yes, it is satisfying. Since I have settled into my BOM position, doing the BOM does the trick for me. Give it a try. I, and I am sure others, love to see the blocks that are submitted. Talent abounds in the SRQG!

Congratulations to Barbara Southard, winner of the March BOM, and Janet Tonkin, winner of the April BOM. Can't wait to see what will be done with these blocks.



Barbara Southard

At our July 18 guild meeting we will have the drawing for the May BOM, and at our September 5 guild meeting we will have the



July Block

drawing for the June and July BOMs. I am currently getting the instructions ready for the July BOM, which was called "Just Passing Through." I now call it "Altered Just Passing Through."

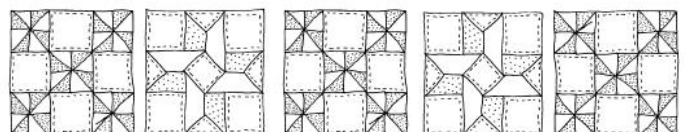
This block was designed by Weeks Ringle and Bill Kerr. It is from the quilt book Modern Blocks compiled by Susanne

Woods and published C & T Publishing. The BOM instructions and information for all blocks are on our website [Santa Rosa Quilt Guild](http://SantaRosaQuiltGuild.com).

Please submit your BOM with your name on one of the block's seams so I can complete a ticket to put in the drawing for you. If no name, no ticket!

Also, please feel free to contact me if you have any BOM questions, needs, or comments. Thank you for your participation.

Anni Donahue



Quilt Guild Challenge

Our Quilt Guild Challenge, **Blind Date with an Orphan Block**, was launched on May 2. We have had lots of interest and handed out many envelopes with orphan blocks. The challenge is due at the guild meeting on November 7, 2024.



Little Orphan Annie

If you decide to participate, 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 like to the three orphan blocks we provide. You may use any technique: e.g., piecing, appliqué, paper-piecing, fusing, 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.

If you missed out on requesting an envelope, please contact Laura Barrett or Janet Tonkin. We will have them available at the July 18 in-person meeting.

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

Laura Barrett and Janet Tonkin



Susan Silvey Sew Day



Mystery Quilt

Hopefully, you've been able to construct the various blocks for the SRQG Mystery Quilt Top. On July 1, the assembly instructions for the completed top will be posted to the membership via email.



If you have any questions, please contact Rena or Jan. You might get some blocks mixed up and have to redo them, so be sure to double check your layout.

We'll have printed instructions at the guild meeting on September 5, so look for the tri-fold Mystery Quilt display board. However, you'll probably want to have your top finished by then! Jan and I have ours finished, and we both decided to add a border. Of course that's up to you. Finished quilts or quilt tops will be shown at the November meeting. We're very excited to see what each of you has created.

Rena Ferrero

Jan Andrews

Susan Silvey Sew Day

We had a great time at the *Susan Silvey Sew Day* on June 13. Fifty members of SRQG joined in the fun day of sewing, socializing, and enjoying a lovely lunch from Zoftig Eatery.



Susan Silvey

For those who are new to the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild, Susan Silvey stipulated in her will that a sum of money would be given to our guild. The board decided to create a "*Susan Silvey Sew Day*" to remember and honor Susan. This special day is scheduled for the second Thursday of June each year, near Susan's birthday, which this year was actually on the very day this event - June 13. The rental of the Vets building, as well as the luncheon, is a gift from Susan to all SRQG members who wish to gather to sew and/or just converse with long-time or brand new friends in a relaxed atmosphere. Mark your calendars for the second Tuesday in June next year, June 12, 2025, and join the fun.

Thank you Susan Silvey!

Elaine Ramires

Technique Sharing Workshops (TSW)

Technique Sharing Workshop June 6, 2024

Embellishing: When is Enough is Enough?

I hope you enjoyed the 15-minute share on my favorite part of life -- Embellishing!

Just a reminder of some of the processes I use:

- Be excited, inspired, and willing to play outside the ordinary
- Think about colors, natural elements (seashells, rocks), prefab (something already made, such as a broken necklace, or a UFO, or a practice block)
- Every *pretty* auditions but not every *pretty* makes the cut
- Use a tray with a towel (to keep items on the tray) -- my favorite is a tv tray
- Utilize small boxes and tins to put your pretties in (such as jewelry boxes)
- Sort your elements in a way that makes sense to you (color, size)
- Play with your ideas and imagine what makes you happy. When you have a great combination take a picture as this will help jog the memory
- Take your time, if it feels good, keep going -- if not, unsew
- I find that my pieces tell me what they want and when to stop
- Depending on the project, I like big chunky pieces followed by smaller fill-ins
- If beading is your thing, you will want beading needles (small eye, super thin needle)
- Have fun! When we are inspired, we are in spirit!

Anyone interested in indulging in this rich endeavor is welcome to shop in my drawers as a gift, take what you want. I want all of my people to have what the need to be a success

Thank you ever sew much,

Rhonda Denny



July/August 2024



Embellishments by Rhonda Denny

On deck for our next TSWs:

- Jan Andrews - English Paper-Piecing with Halloween theme - August 1 (via Zoom)
- Genelle Voorhees - Big Bag - Supersized TSW - August 2 @ LBA&GC (only 2 seats remaining) in this popular class - \$25.00 to SRQG (for rent and supplies)
- Toni Anderson - Trends in Modern Quilting - September 5

Rhonda Denny/Chris Rogers



Genelle Voorhees



Jan Andrews



Toni Anderson



PET PROJECTS



Roseland Library

Roseland Pins and Needles Sewing Classes

We have finished our nine-week beginners' sewing class with great success - we even learned how to install zippers! However, we are taking a break this summer from adult sewing classes and focusing on sewing classes for children ages 9 – 13. By request, we are making ChapStick holders, drawstring bags, journal covers, and an adorable cat wallet. We already have 12 students ready to attend starting June 17, 2024, for four weeks. The teachers are Sue Stone, Pleasant Viteli, Cathy Rieber, Rena Ferrero (our Spanish speaker), and Kay Hartman. Thank you so much to the volunteer teachers and those who have spent hours preparing patterns and cutting out fabric.



We are planning to continue two adult *Pins and Needles* classes in September, one during the day on Fridays, and one in the evening on Tuesdays. If you are interested in helping someone learn to sew, please let me know.

Debbie Faris-Cole

Quilt Japan

You may remember a young woman who came to our guild and interviewed some of our members. Her name was Chiyoko Tahara. She wrote an article about the “Pins and Needles: Introduction to Quilting” class supported by the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild. Pictures include presentations at the guild from the librarians, show-and-tell by the participants, and pictures of sewists and teachers at the library. As I do not speak Japanese, I cannot read the article, but Chiyoko tells me it is



Roseland continued →

Roseland continued

very complimentary about the guild reaching out to the community to teach sewing, and the library offering free classes. The magazine is full of beautiful patterns and designs of quilts that are being made and shown in Japan. Chiyoko said the Japanese are very curious and excited about American quilts; I told her we feel the same way about Japanese quilts. What a fun experience! Chiyoko Tahara has written several children's books you can find at Amazon. They are printed in Japanese and English, and written for young children.

Debbie Faris-Cole

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**



PET PROJECTS



Let's Read Outside

Linda Ralleca and Debbie Faris-Cole attended the first of the weekly summer classes for *Let's Read Outside* at Bayer's Farm in Roseland. *Let's Read Outside* is sponsored by Landpath, a local non-profit dedicated to getting people outside and into nature. Bayer's Farm is a collaborative of small gardens in the Roseland neighborhood. Many activities and classes that support the community happen under the direction of Jonathan Bravo at Bayer's Farm. *Let's Read Outside* is only one such activity.



Debbie Faris-Cole
Linda Ralleca

Let's Read continued

fast from the garden. A heartfelt thank you to all the members of the guild who have made quilts to support this program over the years. If you would like to visit Bayer's Farm, please let me know. They welcome us with open arms anytime. They have a calendar of outdoor events and classes on-line at [Bayer Farm - LandPaths](#). Most activities are free and open to everyone.



Debbie Faris-Cole



Jonathan Bravo

Let's Read Outside is a program that invites young children and their families to come and sit on a quilt, and hear a story in Spanish and English. The purpose

is to assist parents in learning ways to help their preschoolers become more literate in English and Spanish. The Roseland Library is also involved by providing free books to the families. At the end of the session, one quilt is raffled off to one of the children. The children are encouraged to bring their quilt to the next *Let's Read Outside* session.

The Santa Rosa Quilt Guild provides 20 quilts each May to support the summer program. Linda and I were invited to be honored for the quilts that are given. The crew members at Bayer's Farm are so appreciative of our efforts and think the quilts are beautiful. Once a year, they invite members of the guild to come and read a book and have a wonderful break-

Let's Read continued →

Baby Closet

Wow, we just finished our third year with a makeover, streamlined baby basics, and a lactation station has been added. This is exciting news for families in need of assistance. As of this writing, the "basics" are clothing (sizes newborn through 12 months), receiving blankets, quilts, burp cloths, soft stuffies, socks, and wipes.



Once the paint is dry and the furniture is in place, we'll post a photo or two.

What is happening with the items for 12 months and older? They are being separated into sizes and dispersed among families with children in those sizes. A call will be made to parents to pick up a fat bag of new and gently worn clothing for their children.

Thank you all so much for your generous donations to the baby closet. We wouldn't have one without the kindness of caring individuals such as yourselves ...

Rhonda Denny

Remember Me ...

Mary Reder

It is with sadness that I share with you that a former member of our guild, Mary Reder has died. Mary was an on-again, off-again member since 2010 due to health issues (sometimes her own, sometimes because she was caring for a beloved pet).



Mary Reder is responsible for introducing our guild members to the Accuquilt cutting system when she generously donated her Go! Baby and a few dies to our library.

Clare O'Brien, a mutual friend, emailed me news of Mary's passing.

I met Clare and Mary (REAL Librarians, as opposed to me, a FAKE Librarian) when I stopped in at the Sonoma Library and asked for assistance many years ago. Clare and Mary looked at each other and then asked me if I were "Sharon the Librarian" from the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild. I wondered what I had done wrong THIS time. They calmed me and explained that they had been reading my library reports about quilting books online as they were both quilters. I hoped that I looked presentable, and then admitted to calling myself a Librarian, even though I have no formal training as they did. They welcomed me into their fold and we have been buds ever since. Once again, quilting has opened doors for me and given me dear friends I may never have encountered.

Mary's generosity and humor will always be remembered by those who were fortunate to know her.

Mary Hernandez

Mary Hernandez sadly succumbed to cancer and pneumonia this past May. I knew Mary just in passing to say "hi" but never really ever spoke with her. Rather shy and quiet, this is the only photo of Mary in our guild's Show-and-Tell archives.



Mary's son, Tony, contacted me via email sharing the news of his mother's passing. After emailing back and forth a bit, Tony told me that his father asked if there was someone who could finish the quilt Mary had been working on. Tony delivered the quilt top to me after a guild meeting. Fellow Guild Member Ellindale Wells had told me that Mary had been a member of the Pointless Sisters Art Quilt Group for a while, and that Mary had participated in their Water Challenge project, therefore I was expecting to see a something in a contemporary style, so I was surprised when I found the unfinished quilt top was made from 30s



fabrics. Fellow Guild Member Nancy McDermott, who told me Mary had a great eye for color, gave me a few pointers on how to proceed with the quilt top. As Mary's husband will use the quilt as a lap quilt, I decided to back it in flannel to make it comfy and cozy. Having no 30s flannel fabric, I went in a totally different direction, and wait until you see what I did with the



back when I share the finished quilt at our next in-person meeting. If only I had known Mary ... but working on finishing her quilt has made me feel close to her.

Cheryl Duke continued

mented that Cheryl had a good life with her husband who Cheryl married after knowing him for a month. Cheryl said the minute she saw him she knew they would be married. We lost Cheryl to Cancer on March 18, 2024, but through her quilts, smiles, and stories, Cheryl lives on in our hearts.



Cheryl Duke

Cheryl Duke joined SRQG in 2008. Cheryl brought sunshine into the room when she was able to attend guild meetings, in between working, traveling, and spending time with her family. Margo Pitter (one of the guild's fantastic Hospitality crew) shared with me that she met Cheryl in 2020 when Cheryl needed someone to put bindings on quilts for her. Margo came to the rescue and finished over 50 quilts for Cheryl, which Cheryl then gave to her friends and family as "good-bye gifts." Margo told me that she enjoyed the time she spent with Cheryl, meeting at Badass Coffee for pickup and delivery. Margo com-

Cheryl Duke continued →

Sharon "the Librarian" Fry

Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

Making Scents

If something offends our eyes, we can close or avert them. If there is too much or the wrong sort of sound, sometimes we can stop our ears. But if there is an unpleasant smell, we still have to breathe. The sense of smell is in a lot of our early memories - the smell of home, of Grandma's house, of holiday meals. One of my early memories is from just after sugar ceased to be rationed. I came in from play to find our home smelling as if it had dropped out of Heaven. For the first time in my lifetime Mom was making strawberry jam.



Other scented memories are less pleasant. They used to put real chemicals in children's chemistry sets. One day when I was about ten, Mom and Dad were out and I was in the care of a family friend who knew, if possible, less about chemistry than I did. She taught me how to hemstitch and how to use a hair from my head to invisibly mend my coat. But chemistry wasn't her thing. I was tired of making ink with my chemistry set, so we looked for something else to do and finally settled on something involving Sulphur. I measured out a teaspoon of the yellow stuff and was heating it over a gas burner of the stove when it caught fire. The flames rose about a foot high seeming to fill our tiny kitchen and pouring out thick clouds of smoke. I rushed to the sink to put out the flame but it didn't go out even under the running faucet. Finally, we put out the fire by burying the spoon in the sand of the back yard. The teaspoon of course was ruined. But worse than that, Mom and Dad came home to a house every inch of which smelled like fire and brimstone. They didn't say much. But there was a new rule: no chemical experiments without a parent present.

The most troublesome smells to deal with are organic ones. They are often offensive and tend to stay. Say the cat/dog/visiting toddler has committed a social blunder (e.g., peed, pooped, or barfed) behind your sofa on a carpet. The sooner you act, the better. You don't want to give microorganisms a chance to make things worse. First scrape up all solid matter. Then scrub the area and a bit beyond it with vinegar. This will prevent other less pleasant smells from developing. It also signals the dog or cat that, no, this is not the right place to do that. Whether it sends any signal to the toddler or not is uncertain. You will find him in the kitchen finger painting with

Little Bits continued

catsup. Vinegar is safe to use around humans, and pets, and most fabrics. The strong vinegar smell goes away quickly, except for those whose noses are close to the floor, such as cats and dogs.

Another good way of dealing with microbes is alcohol, cheap vodka in particular. We learned this from the wardrobe mistress of a theater company. If your stage clothes have to make it for another day, take a plant mister (the kind you spray water on delicate plants with or use to keep the cat at a distance while you eat your tuna sandwich). Fill this with cheap vodka and spray it on the costume, especially the inside. Let it air dry. Alcohol dries very quickly. Your fellow players will probably not mind being near you next day. You can also make a good air freshener by cutting vodka with water and perhaps adding a drop or so of essential oil (lavender or rose for instance).

When you want a pleasant smell to faintly touch the air, there are the essential oils. You can get them at the European Grocery Store and probably other places. Ask around. These can be used to make or refresh sachets or, in the case of Oil of Catnip, catnip toys. Several things have been used to hold the scent of the essential oils used in sachets, including rice. The most recent thing I've heard of using is vermiculite, familiar to gardeners (though not to me). There's an article on making sachets on the [The Graphics Fairy - Vintage Images](#) where you will also find hundreds of designs, mostly free and in the public domain, just waiting to be printed on photo fabric and used in your quilts and wearable art.



Sunshine and fresh air are also helpful in dealing with unpleasant smells. Moderation is important here.

There are things which can be used to absorb an odor. I once received a musty smelling vinyl doll for my collection. I put Stinky Baby, sans clothes, on top of the litter in a freshly opened bag of cat litter with a paper towel between her and the litter. Several days later Stinky Baby was nice to be near. Later, the cat used the litter for the traditional purpose. I'm told activated charcoal can be similarly used. This technique may be just the thing for older, damaged, or badly stored fabrics in your stash.

Jackie Pitts

Little Bits continued →

Community Quilts

It is summer and time for traveling, visiting family and friends, and eating some wonderful summer fruits and vegetables. Hope you are getting a chance to do all of these things.

Summer is also a chance to catch up on those projects and finish some quilts and tops. Please bring your finished quilts and tops to donate to Community Quilts to our in-person meeting on July 18. Look for the red wagon with the Community Quilts sign. We really appreciate all the colorful, creative, and beautiful quilts and tops you make and donate.

We will be delivering NICU quilts to the hospitals in July and August. The families really appreciate our quilts. Thank you.

We can really use tops and finished quilts in the 40" x 60" size for Valley of the Moon, and seniors, and the "Let's Read Outside" program. Please make the tops no wider than 42" as our batting is 45" wide.

We have batting and backing available for you to quilt the finished tops you have made for Community Quilts. Please contact Janet Tonkin or Laura Barrett to make your request.

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.

Sonoma County Fair



The Sonoma County Fair takes place at the Sonoma County Fair Grounds in Santa Rosa, California, August 1 – 11, 2024. This year's circus theme is "**The Greatest Fair on Earth.**"

Entry fee is \$2.00 per entry.

Entrants will receive a free pass to the fair when their items are delivered.

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild and Moonlight Quilters will be demonstrating quilting as we have been doing for years. You will receive a free pass for volunteering.

Start getting your quilts ready to enter: remember they need to be finished within a specific time frame, and meet all the various criteria that are detailed in the Entry book. There may be some new categories for quilting this year.

Cash awards are back per each quilt class: First place - \$25; Second place - \$20; Third place - \$15.

The guilds will be giving their usual awards, too.

Best of Show and Special awards will also be awarded.

Online Entries are found on the website [Sonoma County Fair And Event Center](#).

Click "Fair Ag & Competitive" entries, scroll down to "Home Arts for Quilts."

Delivery of quilts to the fair is July 11.

Gina Stateler-Calhoun

Fair Demo Coordinator



2024 Elected Board and Committee Chairs

2024 ELECTED BOARD

President	Linda Ralleca
Vice President	Eileen McAlister
Treasurer	Diana Codding
Secretary	Debbie Faris-Cole
Program Chair	Elaine Ramires
Program Chair Elect	Debbie Ward
Parliamentarian	Sharon Fry
Members-at-Large	Jan Andrews Linda Hooper 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 Codding
Retreat	Vicki David
Sew-A-Row *	Eileen McAlister
Social Media	Linda Ralleca
Sunshine *	Janice Juul
Technique Sharing Workshop *	Rhonda Denny
UFO Challenge	Liz McDonnell
Videographer *	Linda Hooper
Website*	Linda Hooper
Welcoming Committee	Rhonda Denny
Zoom Committee*	Elaine Ramires

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

* Standing Committee

SRQG 2024 Calendar

JULY

- 4** Fourth of July - NO MEETING
- 18** Program - VBZ
Colleen Granger -
Playing with Precuts It
- 19** Workshop - LBAGC
Colleen Granger -
Fantabulous
- 24 - 27** PIQF
- 25** Board Meeting - Zoom

This aisle really speaks to me...



AUGUST

- 1** General Meeting - ZOOM ONLY
- 1-11** Sonoma County Fair
- 15** Program - Zoom Only
Tina Curran -
Design Process
- 16** Workshop (Part 1) - Zoom Only
Tina Curran -
Holiday Pillow
- 22** Board Meeting - Zoom
- 23** Workshop (Part 2) - Zoom Only
Tina Curran -
Holiday Pillow
- 29** Fifth Thursday Retreat - Sew Day - LBAGC

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
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