



# STITCH 'N TIMES

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild  
P.O. Box 9251, Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
March/April 2024 • Vol. 48 • No. 2

## President's Message

### CONNECTIONS WOVEN IN THREAD

Since I moved to Santa Rosa, I have been seeking out my friends, relatives, and co-workers from the past. Maybe it's the stage of life I'm in, the physical distance, or that I've realized how tenuous life is.



There's something that binds us together. Whether forged through shared laughter, painful memories, or the quiet understanding of old friends, these connections weave a rich fabric of memories and emotions. And what better metaphor for these bonds than the humble quilt?

I will be leaving soon for a month-long trip to the Philippines, the birthplace of my parents, and where I spent my high school and college years. I plan to see friends and relatives (many of whom I haven't seen since I left Manila in 1982) and visit towns where my parents grew up. As my trip approaches, I am reminded that these relationships are the stitches holding our hearts together. Like a patchwork quilt, each friend brings a unique color, texture, and warmth to my life.

Childhood companions, college buddies, and work confidantes – they form the intricate patterns that define my existence. When I reconnect with an old friend after years apart it's like finding a forgotten quilt. The memories flood back – the late-night talks and shared adventures. These threads of friendship withstand time, fraying only to reveal their enduring strength.

More than the places I will be exploring, I look forward to the reunions I will have while there. We gather like patches at a reunion, each with our unique story. We will reminisce, laugh, and probably cry. And as we leave, I will carry a piece of everyone – a thread to weave into my own life quilt.

Reconnecting is an art, much like quilting. We reach out directly – a phone call, a message, a handwritten letter. Social media, too, stitches us together across time zones and oceans. So, let us cherish these connections – the old friends who never fade: the aunts, uncles, and cousins who always give support and have a family story to tell; the reunions that rekindle our spirits, and the quilts that warm us. We find beauty in the seams, strength in the stitches, and love in every thread. It's a patchwork of connections, stitched with care, and infused with the magic of shared moments.

A couple of years ago, I read an article in the Wall Street Journal about a woman who made a list of the friends she missed and made a plan to reach out to one person each week. There's a deep grounding when we meet up with old friends. It's a reminder of what built us. Who in your life would you like to reconnect with?

**Linda Ralleca**

## Challenge Quilt 2023 Display

You have one more month to see the exhibit of our Quilt Guild Challenge: *Two Fabrics My Way*.

The exhibit is creating quite a buzz at the Person Senior Wing of Finley Center. The exhibit is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa, through March 27, 2024. Be sure to check out the display cases on the first floor designed and installed by Toni Anderson.



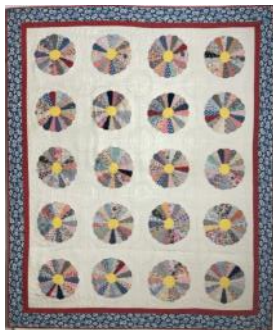
**Laura Barrett and Janet Tonkin**



# 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 22, 2024 – Anelie Belden “Jelly Roll Split Dresden” – Luther Burbank Art and Garden Center – IN-PERSON 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$50 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

## Cloverdale Citrus Fair Winners

Patti Bassignani - 1st and Best of Division

Laura Barrett - 1st

Judi Brooks - 1st and 3rd

Pam Brown - 1st and SRQG Best Workmanship

Trina Jahnsen - 1st, Cloverdale Citrus Fair Best of Show, two 2nds

Jim Jensen - Two 3rds

Marilyn Lira - 1st and 2nd

Dolores McCann - 3rd

Gina Stateler-Calhoun - 2nd and 3rd

Elaine Tucker - 1st

For future reference: per one of the judges, machine-sewn binding is frowned upon and can drop an award winner by one place, i.e. a first place-worthy quilt could drop to second because of the binding.

Congratulations to all the winners!

March Workshop continued ➔

## April 2024 Program/Workshop

**April 18, 2024 - LIVE Interactive lecture/workshop with Sherri Lynn Wood, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, ON ZOOM ONLY**

On April 18 SRQG will welcome Sherri Lynn Wood for a LIVE interactive lecture sew-a-long! Sherri will take prompts from Guild members to create a ruler-free improv quilt. After the demonstration Sherri Lynn will stay on Zoom with our Guild as we join her in creating our own pieces. This live sew-along is open to ALL SRQG members for FREE! So be sure to sign into the April 18 Zoom speaker meeting ready to create your own improv piece. No special supplies needed, but here's Sherri's suggestion:



Sherri Lynn Wood

*"Regarding materials... sewing machine, thread, mat, and rotary cutter, plus a pile of scraps. No need for folks to curate or bring special fabrics. It's scrap play. Size and amount doesn't matter. Whatever they want to play/experiment with. It's fine if they want to bring fat quarters but not necessary. They can use solids and prints or whatever they prefer."*

This fun interactive improv quilting demo begins with a short brainstorming session about the limits of patchwork, and how to easily apply those limits to access your creative flow and focus your improv patterns. Sherri will demonstrate a variety of ruler-free quilting techniques and the process of improvisational quilting by following audience prompts to improvise a quilt composition on the spot.

**Note - this workshop will take place DURING and AFTER the Speaker meeting and is FREE to all SRQG Members**

**Elaine Ramires**

***Inspiration Short and Sweet ...***

Comparison is the thief of joy.  
- Theodore Roosevelt

**Cherie Roux-Gooler**

## May 2024 Program and Workshop

**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**

**May Workshop continued on Page 5➔**

# Needle and Thread

by Jim Jensen

## Eileen McAllister

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild's current vice president is Eileen McAllister. A relatively new member of SRQG, she joined the guild in 2022.



She came to her love of quilting as so many of us have, through the commitment to the craft from her family members. Her grandma had weekly quilting groups when they would get together to quilt ... and talk. Her aunts were also into the utilitarian fiber arts, and could look at a piece of fabric and make anything. As a youngster, she enjoyed helping the women who were tying their charity quilts.

When she gave birth to her son, she had two quilts given to him and developed an instant fascination with the process. She officially had "quilting" on her bucket list. She "stalked" SRQG for about five years while she was working for the local school district. Her work became seasonal, and she decided to take Thursdays off so she could check out our meetings. A long-time friend of Rhonda Denny's, and Mary Wood from Scouting, she decided to take the plunge, and we're very grateful she did.

Eileen started out as a "necessity" quilter. When a friend was getting married, she decided to make them a quilt. As she turned to the internet for ideas, she found Jenny Doan at Missouri Star and discovered that her tutorials met her where she was at in her quilting journey. As with many things in life, she tended to bite off more than she could chew, and it took forever for her to finish that first quilt. However, she did learn to quilt in straight lines, and a lot about how to fix errors.

Eileen finds inspiration from a lot of other sources, too. Rhonda suggested that she join one of the several mini-groups that are out there, and she happily

## Needle and Thread continued

joined one that meets at Village Sewing Center. She appreciates the support and advice from so many members of the guild, not just from the mini-group.

Still exploring the ways to quilt, she looks forward to expanding her skill set. She likes a touch of modern, and fluxuates between solids and juvenile prints. She loves batiks since there isn't a "wrong" side, and revels in jewel tones.

Prone to finishing what she starts, Eileen has only a couple UFOs. Most of her projects have an intended recipient, and therefore, a deadline. There are baby quilts and graduation quilts to be done.

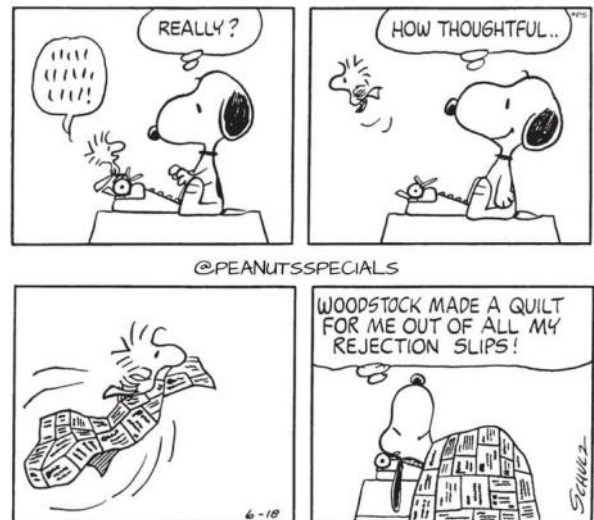
Eileen readily admits that she loves to interact with other quilters when she is with a group, and tends to not get as much quilting done as she should when she is at retreats, so if she has deadlines pending, she quilts alone.

She is grateful for all the welcoming and positive energy that starts at the welcome table. "It's like walking into a hug every meeting." She appreciates that this is a "judgement free" zone, and there is something of interest for everyone, no matter where they are in their quilting journey.

Eileen was very active in the Actor's Theater for Children. She loved to sing, and dance, and act. But better watch out ... she also has a black belt in tae kwon do.

We're so grateful that Eileen has chosen to share her energy and artistry with us.

## Jim Jensen



Needle and Thread continued →

## Opportunity Quilt

### **“The Mountains Are Calling”**

Time is running out! Get your raffle tickets now. The drawing for *The Mountains Are Calling* will happen on April 4. That means you have March 7 and 21, and April 4 to purchase your winning ticket.

I would like to acknowledge the Finley Center for allowing us to display the Opportunity Quilt and sell raffle tickets in the Senior Center Lobby while our guild challenge quilts are on display upstairs. If you haven't seen the display yet, it isn't too late.



**Candi Delgado**



Sew-a-Row

## Membership

The New Year is now not so new, but our Guild grew by six new members during January and February. Please take time to seek out and welcome these ladies:

Linda O'Connor  
Alice Miller  
Christina Thrash  
Linda Chaffin  
Sharon Harper  
Virginia Heller  
Ann Weber

The 2024 Membership Roster and Membership Cards are now in your possession. As always, please check your listing for accuracy and let us know if you need a correction or change.

**Jan Andrews**

May Workshop continued from Page 3

### **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**

## Technique Sharing Workshop (TSW)

Hello Santa Rosa Quilt Guild! TSWs are back. Yay! Chris Rogers, a divine creature and newer member, volunteered to be my co-chair with a smile.

What is a Technique Sharing Workshop? A TSW is a way for guild members to teach a technique they have found especially helpful in improving the quality of their quilts, and to share their quilting experience. These workshops are usually 10-15 minutes long and have been taught after general meetings in the past. Now, with the advent of Zoom and YouTube, members can share something they have found, or demonstrate their technique, and have it posted on our website, SRQG.org.

Our guild is thriving because we have volunteers who share their time and talents. If you are looking for a way to be an active member, we are looking for members who would like to teach or share a technique. We can then schedule workshops for the coming year. There are approximately six TSWs a year.

**Rhonda Denny**

# National Quilting Day

## Celebrate National Quilting Day 2024 - Saturday, March 16

Mark your calendars, Santa Rosa Quilt Guild members! Let's make **March 16th** a day of creativity, community, and countless stitches by honoring the rich tradition of quilting. As the days lengthen and the sun warms our days, it's time to gather our fabric, thread our needles, and celebrate **National Quilting Day!**



### Why National Quilting Day Matters

Quilting isn't just about piecing together fabric; it's about weaving stories, memories, and love into every stitch. Our quilts are more than cozy covers; they're heirlooms, art pieces, and expressions of our creativity. National Quilting Day is our chance to celebrate this timeless craft and share its magic with others.

### How Can You Participate?

1. **Label a Quilt:** Preserve your quilt's story by adding a simple label. Don't let its history fade away!
2. **Share a Quilt:** Display a quilt outside your home or in a window. Let its colors and patterns inspire and comfort your neighbors. Snap photos and share them on social media with the tag **#nationalquiltingday** and **#srqgnationalquiltingday**. Let's create a virtual quilt show!
3. **Document Your Quilts:**
  - ◇ This National Quilting Day, take a moment to document your quilts. Add those labels you've been putting off! Visit the Three Steps to Documenting a Quilt Guide on the Quilt Alliance website: [How to Document a Quilt | Quilt Alliance](#) .
  - ◇ Interview a family member or friend as part of the **Go Tell It!** project. Capture their quilting stories and keep our heritage alive.
  - ◇ Host a documentation day with a group of guild members. Share techniques, tips, and tales.

National Quilting Day continued →

National Quilting Day continued.

4. **Inspire Someone to Quilt:** Teach your child/grandchild to quilt or invite a neighbor to one of our meetings. There's so much creativity in our Guild!

**Happy Birth Day, Baby!** Let's revive a project founded by the National Quilting Association. Make a quilt for the first baby born on National Quilting Day in our local hospital. Find a free downloadable pattern and instructions on the National Quilting Day website.

### Get Inspired

Explore the [National Quilting Day graphics](#) to spread the word by downloading free NQD 2024 posters to display with your quilt. Choose from standard posters or customize them with your details and the SRQG Logo.

Standard Posters: Letter (8.5" x 11"), Legal (8.5" x 14"), Tabloid (11" x 17")

Posters with Customizable Panel: Add your own information!

### Let's Stitch Together!

National Quilting Day is for everyone whether you're a seasoned quilter or just starting your patchwork journey. Get more ideas from the Quilt Alliance website: [National Quilting Day | Quilt Alliance](#) .

I'd love to hear how you will celebrate National Quilt Day. Send me a note or a photo, or if you post it on Social Media, tag it with **#srqgnationalquiltingday** (and **#nationalquiltingday**), and we'll celebrate them again during our April Meeting.

*With love and fabric,*

**Linda Ralleca**



# Remember Me ...



## **Jeanne Parent**

I met Jeannie in the 80s when she lived in a big blue house with her husband John, a firefighter for the SFFD, and her whole wild tribe of five kids. They sponsored me into the Santa Rosa Ski Club in 1989, and our families skied together. Jeanne and I were both interested in graphic arts and photography, and in the 90s we shared the task of the ski club newsletter which meant printing, folding, stapling, addressing, and mailing them, all by hand; what a job.

Jeanne and I were there for each other when we lost our husbands.

She was a master gardener and started her own vegetables and flowers in her little greenhouse, and always had a menagerie of various animals living with her who came and went from their yard or coop, into the house and out, like Cinnamon, her 14 year-old chicken. And when I say “out,” those bunnies were always finding a way out – out of her yard and up the street.

We painted together, and took classes including painting portraits of our pets.

Jeannie could play the ukulele. She joined a group where she regularly met and took lessons.

Jeannie had once worked as a chef and made amazing fancy things like you only see in bakeries.

## Remember Me ... continued

But two years ago, when she made a gingerbread sleigh at Christmastime, we laughed our butts off when it slowly caved in as she tried to fill it with cookies.

Did you know Jeannie still watched *General Hospital*? I mean that has been on the air for 60 years, and my mom and grandma used to watch that.

Jeannie always had friends around her, and besides dinners, she had sleep-over parties where we would go on hikes, cook things, drink wine, and just have a blast.

And as you are aware, she was a quilter. Jeannie finally got me to join her quilt guild a couple years ago, to meet all of you. She made quilts for her family, the community, babies, and gifts for everyone. She went on quilt retreats and made BOMs. One BOM that we both did was “The Girl Next Door” quilt. We entered them in the Santa Rosa County Fair and Jeanne won a first “Best Use of Color and Design” award.

Jeannie was an amazing friend and was loved by everyone she ever met.

## **Lisa Gamble**

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The first thing that comes to mind when I look back on my time with Jeanne is what I heard her say all the time, which was “I want to do that!” She wanted to do everything. She was a devourer of life, a true adventurer. She had stories upon stories, about attending concerts in NYC, about living in San Francisco, about being a baker, about being a skier, about her love of animals. Did you know she used to live off grid on her own in the mountains? Did you know she was a single mom with five children? She was fearless. She was creative. She had humor and strength, and a fire in her eyes.

The last retreat we attended together I told her about a trip I had planned this year to New England for the “Turning of the Leaves.” She said “I want to do that!” So of course I invited her to join me. The very next day after we returned from our retreat, she booked that trip with me. She walked the walk, and she amazed me.

Jeanne told me she used to go to the Finley Senior Wing to play ukulele. When I told her I wanted to play Hawaiian music for my birthday party, she brought her ukulele and led the birthday song. She was so fun.

Remember Me ... continued →

Remember Me ... continued page 8 →

## Remember Me ... continued →

The last time I had a long talk with her was when I was sick and isolating at home with shingles. She stopped by my place and had a nice visit with me after the guild meeting. I didn't know how much I missed being around people until that time with Jeanne. She filled the room with joy and cheered me right up.

I feel so lucky to have had Jeanne in my life. She was an inspiring lovely woman who will be missed by me and by anybody that was lucky enough to have known her. I will carry her photo with me when I go on my trip, and think of her every day.

### **Toni Anderson**

#### *Our Jeannie in a bottle.*

So many memories and thoughts come to mind when I think of Jeanne.

She was tiny in stature but larger than life. Gentle in manner and compassionate.

Just like a "Jeannie in the bottle," she always showed up when needed by a friend. She was a spontaneous, selfless volunteer. Everyone was enchanted with her ability to jump right into any situation and offer help. No one she met remained a stranger for long!

She loved her family. The children she bore and others she raised as her own and, of course, her grandchildren. I'm still not certain of the exact number! Does anyone know the answer?

She was creative. Jeanne was a wonderful cook with canning abilities galore. Sewing and quilting were a mainstay for her. She loved the ukelele, had musical talent and shared it.

She loved animals; her dogs, her bunny, chickens, and all sorts of creatures.

She snow skied with two replaced knees. She was a daredevil in disguise! She loved Hawaii. She regaled us with tales of her incredible experiences with well-delivered storytelling leaving everyone in stitches, literally!

Was there anything that Jeanne could not accomplish?

Her infectious humor, laughter and giggle. Don't forget those twinkling eyes.

Jeanne will be remembered for making the world a better place for all who knew and loved her. She lived an honest and full life that was cut way too short. I am missing her already.

### **Genelle Voorhees**

## Threads Up Clothing Sale

My idea of having a clothing sale to make some money for our guild has become a very big idea! At our March 7 General Meeting, we will have an overwhelming amount of clothing that will be available for sale at reasonable prices.



This was not just a money-making thought; it was also about the upcycling we all need to do, to not always be buying everything new. We all need to do our part to help our planet by recycling, upcycling, and working with what is available.

We have been collecting men's and women's clothing, and hangers. Candi Delgado, Alana Colburn, Caroline Pope, and Janel Sugiyama are all putting an effort in to make this sale a win-win for the guild and our members. The guild wins with some extra funds, members get to purge their clothing and then take home something new-to-them. I have already found a couple of items I just had to buy, and I have not even seen all of the items yet.

*Keep in mind that you might find an item that has the perfect fabric for one of your quilting creations. Don't forget that a shirt or blouse has quite a bit of fabric that can be used.*

We want you to invite your family and friends to come on in for this meeting so they too can buy some of these items. They are welcome to come in before the meeting to shop, stay for the meeting and shop at our break, and again before we close the sale and donate the left-over items. If your peeps do not want to attend the meeting, but want to check out our sale, have them stop in about noon before we wrap up the sale. Remember your donation is always tax deductible.

There is a LOT of clothing, so bring a bag and some extra cash or your checkbook.

"We all have a relationship with garments. Garments journey with us, keeping us warm and protected, embodying our inner selves as outer expressions, as we navigate experiences and environments. Clothes are loved and cared for – altered, mended, and transformed as tastes and trends change – as well as exchanged and discarded. Recycling and re-inventing garments is not a new phenomenon but the careful balance of our relationship with the clothes is becoming more widely interrogated as we approach important climate milestones." - Selvedge Magazine

### **Diana Coddling**



## Ponder

This is the definition of “ponder”: think about (something) carefully, especially before making a decision or reaching a conclusion.

This evening I am sitting with a warm cup of tea, in my pajamas with a room heater keeping me toasty in my sewing room. I just opened the box of quilt blocks that were gifted to me. Each one brought a smile to my face. The diversity of the blocks is just like that of our guild members.



I will have to look at these blocks and “ponder” how to assemble them. I have a nice design wall at our place in Nevada, so it would seem like the best place to play with a layout. Plus, when we go to Nevada, I usually have fewer obligations and interruptions. And, I don't have grandma duties of babysitting my littles when I am there.

A lot of times I must sort of mull things over to come to a conclusion or resolution. I may have to think about an issue from several different angles before things just click. I think it will be that way with my quilt blocks. I will likely move them around and play with the design and color combinations before I settle on any final arrangement. Don't expect to see a finished quilt anytime soon, but know that it is in the back of my mind, and I am pondering its creation ... or two.

When I am in my sewing room in Santa Rosa versus my sewing room in Nevada, I seem to get a different creative vibe from each place. Sometimes it is simply because I work on totally different projects in each place. But, maybe it is because the scenery and environment are so different. I guess this is one reason quilt retreats are so productive. We get out of our regular patterns and enjoy a more creative environment, or at least an environment that nurtures creativity.

My experience with the guild has been so nice and rewarding. Yes, it has been rewarding. Don't be afraid to say “yes” to being involved, or even telling someone you will help them or give some guidance. This past year we had a Show-and-Tell from our

## Ponder continued

newest members. Dang, there is some awesome talent within our guild, and I really hope we can get a few of the members to do workshops, either a full day or two, or even a mini workshop, to share those skills. The inspiration that I get at Show-and-Tell is never-ending. Sharing your talents and techniques would be a lovely way to inspire others, not only to hone their quilting skills, but also a way to bring members together in a small group and get better acquainted.

Know that your volunteering in our guild, no matter what you do, will be appreciated and you, too, may come away feeling rewarded.

Thank you to everyone who made a block for me.

**Diana Coddling**



## Mystery Quilt



The **Mystery Quilt** committee (all two of us) has selected the 2024 mystery for you to solve. We will be revealing the clues via a monthly email beginning in late February. Then, you can begin selecting your fabric and cutting!

Clues will be given each month through July. We'll also have printed instructions available at our guild meetings. AND, you'll have a chance to use your half-square triangle skills (a clue). Our goal is to complete the blocks and assembly of the top by August so that finished quilts can be shown at our November meeting. We hope you'll like our choice, and we're excited to see your finished 2024 Mystery Quilt.

**Rena Ferrero**

**Jan Andrews**

Ponder continued →

## UFO Challenge

I'm entering another "critter" unfinished appliqué quilt that I started in 2008! It's to be a long narrow quilt approximately 9" x 42". The quilt has a beach at the top with a bird and sea shells and descends through various undersea critters from a sea turtle, monk seal, jellyfish, parrot fish, and in the very dark depths, an angler fish and sea anemone.



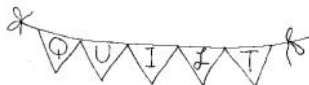
There are various aqua and blue fabrics as the background, getting darker as the sea goes deeper. My problem: I didn't leave my background fabrics wide enough and in lining up my critters to be in line, I lost some of my outer edges. Not only that, but my quilt also began to be out of alignment and curving a bit. Darn. Now I need to take it apart, cut new background fabrics and then appliqué it again. I've always liked this quilt very much, so I'm anxious to work on it and have the top finished by next September. Maybe even completed; but for now, will work toward the top being finished.

How about you? Do you have a UFO stashed away possibly long forgotten, or found periodically when you look for something else? We would love to see it, and I encourage you to pull it out and return to its creation.

At the first meeting in March participants will show their UFOs to the guild and declare whether they will finish the project or some phase of it. Each entry will require a \$5 entry fee. The completed challenges are due at the first meeting in September, at which time we will reveal our UFOs to the Guild. If participants meet their goal, they will have their \$5 returned and receive a fat quarter of fabric and chocolate.

The start of the new year is the perfect opportunity to find our UFO's and select one (or more) projects we would love to finish. Join me.

**Elizabeth McDonnell**



March/April 2024

## Sew-a-Row



We checked out over 20 Sew-a-Row starters at the Quiltathon in February. Wow! It was exciting to see the enthusiasm. Keep on the lookout for an opportunity to adopt a Sew-a-Row for the next rounds. Row 1, which is out now, is due back on or before April 4, so you may get an opportunity for a head start on the next row if one comes in early.

A few things to remember: Anyone can contribute a starter row. We want everyone to participate. Starter rows contributed now will be lovingly stored and be used for the 2025 Sew-a-Row program. Sew-a-Rows are not community quilts. They are yours to keep if you like. Sew-a-Rows are a way to collaborate with friends. It is fun, and if you get stuck, there are plenty of quilters around to ask for help. You can even contact Sharon "the Librarian" and she can pull books with ideas, she had quite a few at the Quiltathon for us to look through.

Photographs of the Sew-a-Row starters are on the guild website. Check them out! And if you see one you would like to work on, email me and I will reserve it for you for the next round. Thanks for your enthusiastic participation!

**Eileen McAlister**

## Cloverdale Library Sewing Classes

Our first class in January was a hit! With smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts six participants successfully completed their tote bags during class. I would like to thank Donna Poe for offering to help on such short notice when we discovered we needed help. Shelley Bowers, Linda Aylor, and I had a wonderful time assisting the participants.

We have two more on the schedule for March. Debbie Ward and Janet Horrall will be joining us to help teach in March. Also, thank you to Chris Nolan for the donation of three sewing machines, and Kate at Bolt for loaning three sewing machines.

Without the support of these and other individuals, as well as the guild, these classes wouldn't be possible.

Candi Delgado

## Roseland Library

### Roseland Library Display Quilts

The Roseland Library loves having our quilts on display. Patrons look forward to the monthly changes. This year, we are not doing themes, unless someone wants to. In 2024, the Roseland Quilt Displays will have a different Featured Artist each month.

In January, Rhonda Denny showed her quilts of brilliant color and embellishments galore (see below). In February, Michelle Proto showed four quilts with intricate patterns and designs. Thank you to all who took the time to come by and see the displays.

#### Debbie Faris-Cole



Rhonda Denny



Michelle Proto

## Pins and Needles

### Roseland Sewing Classes

In February, the Roseland *Pins and Needles* Sewing Classes resumed. We are continuing the "Sewcial Sewing" class on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.. Everyone is invited to join in free sewing lessons, or just come to be with friends and make a project. All material and sewing machines are provided to the participants by the Santa Rosa Quilt Guild.

Our beginner *Pins and Needles* classes will be held during the day from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of every month. We are hoping to inspire a new generation of sewists. The teachers of the new class are Rena Ferrero, Karin Wesner, Sue Stone, and Pleasant Vitelli. Karin Wesner also teaches during the "Sewcial" class. If you see one of them, thank them for volunteering their time to teach others. And thanks to all of you for the donated fabric and machines.

#### Debbie Faris-Cole



## Rincon Valley Sewing Circle

The Rincon Valley Sewing Circle is back, following a hiatus during the holiday season. We are offering our basic sewing series for this session, and basic quilting for our March session.

We'd like to acknowledge Chris Nolen, who once again is repairing the sewing machines that are so generously donated to us. Many of these machines need a bit of serious T.L.C., and Chris is helping not only the Sewing Circle, but some of our members in need of assistance. Thank you, Chris!!

We can always use larger pieces of fabric for our tote bags, pillowcases, and Ten-Minute Table Runners projects, as well as strips for table mats, pot-holders, etc. Contact Vicki David or Helen Anderson with donations.

If you happen to be at the Rincon Valley Library on Mondays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., drop in and say "hello" to Helen Anderson, Vicki David, Jan Andrews, Carolyn Meigs, and Karin Wesner. We would love to see you!

#### Jan Andrews

# Remember Me ...

## **Earlene Maffioli**



Earlene Maffioli, a Guild member since 2001, was happiest spending time with her family and sewing/quilting. As it became more difficult for her to come to guild, Earlene was happy to keep up with things via Zoom.

She was the proud mother of sons Steve and Daniel and daughter Pam, grandmother to nine, and great-grandmother to young Gridley. After the 2017 fire burned Earlene's home, she moved in with Pam and husband John in Graton. This allowed her to enjoy many hours with her Granddaughter Lena who was learning about quilting, and time to watch Lena's son, Gridley, as he was growing up.

Earlene was also particularly proud of her grandson Dana who was a top-notch iron worker and whose work can be seen in area wineries. She was also proud of him for completely rebuilding his Coffey Park home that was burned in the 2017 fire, and had hopes that he would marry a lovely young lady he had met. In talking with Pam since her passing, I understand that Dana is now engaged and his intended is a NICU nurse who knows all about the quilts from SRQG. I think Earlene is doing a 'happy dance' in heaven!

Earlene shared with me that one of her grandsons was in the Marines, and I know if Earlene was here, she would go right to work on those red, white, and blue blocks that Lavella put out an 'ask' for! Earlene was always willing to go on family trips to meet with friends and family up until the last few years when that became more difficult. She struggled for 30 years with a lung problem, and in the last couple of years her sight was diminishing; in spite of those challenges, Earlene was happy and rich in family and she lives on in them all.

Catherine Earlene Maffioli – loved and missed by her family and by her SRQG quilt family.

## **Norma Viglienzona**



## Welcome Committee

Hello SRQG!

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild has a Welcome Committee. Yay! If you are new and or just excited about quilting, you are in the right place. Magic happens in SRQG. Between the desire, inspiration, and relationships SRQG has to offer, you are in the right space and place to have all your quilty imagining's come true.



If you would like to know the when, why, where, and what is going on at guild meetings, reach out to the Welcome Committee. We have a small troop of members that will hold a seat for you, take you around the room making introductions to various committees and how each one works, and show you how to check out over 3500 items from the guild library. (Note: one must be a member to check out library books.) The Welcome Committee will also tell you when our luncheons are, what Community Quilts are and where the quilts go, what a Quiltathon is, and what size and materials to use (there are requirements). The Welcome Committee is also the place to turn for information about guest speakers and workshops, mini groups, Block-of-the-Month, Sew-a-Rows, designated Sew Days, and even when to bring a dish to share. There is sew much more.

The Welcome Committee could use a few more volunteers to cover the needs of new members or anyone with questions or concerns. If you are a people person, step up. If you are shy, step up anyway. We're very nice.

Thank you!

**Rhonda Denny**

## 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**

# Little Bits with Jackie Pitts

Jewelry is never about monetary value. This includes soft jewelry. When Molly Brown was married using a paper cigar band as a wedding ring, she was just as married as when a more permanent (but equally flamboyant) version was made of metal. Jewelry is a ceremonial object like many old dolls and toys, quilts, and certain special things to eat. I recently saw a lady in her nineties crowned and ornamented with a jeweled sash as a queen. The little community of people who love a certain kind of doll were thanking her for starting the festival we were enjoying thirty some odd years ago. She has also written several books on this kind of doll. What could be more fit than a crown and sash?

But crowns and sashes are not the only soft jewelry. There are also bracelets, necklaces, brooches, badges, hair ornaments, and pins of various sorts, large and small. Some, like daisy chains, seem especially suited to the young, while many seem more suited to the adult. But there is something for everybody, even the dog and cat. Necklaces are probably the easiest. They can be made to slip over the head with no need for a fastening.



During one of the Hawaiian fads last century, it became customary to make stylized flower necklaces of crepe paper. The same basic technique can work well in ribbon. Using ribbon 1" wide or wider

(or you could use strips of felt,) run a gathering stitch through the middle and gather to taste. Keep turning the thing around so as to create "flowers." All sorts of necklaces and bracelets can be made with a crochet foundation, but here I am out of my territory, and into that of a local expert whom we all know and love. Many kinds of ribbon, especially grosgrain, can be used as-is as foundations for necklaces and bracelets. So can rickrack, especially if you lock two colors together such as red and white for something patriotic, or for Christmas to represent candy canes. Try two shades of green with stylized flowers hanging from them. This might be a good place to use any hand-dyed rickrack or shoelaces you have been saving. A pin can be made of anything you can fasten, either a jewelry finding pin or a safety pin to the back of. This ought to be obvious, but isn't so to everyone. Go ahead. I give you permission. Some of my favorite pins have been made like little pillows. These can be heart-shape, square, oblong, round, or something I haven't thought of. One of my very favorite pins was heart-

## Little Bits continued

shaped. It was maybe 1-1/2" across. I had at that time a red paisley blazer with many bright colors in it. I liked to wear this with jeans and a tee shirt. The pillow was purple blanket stitched around the edges in yellow. An old yellow charm of a ballet dancer hung from it, as well as various buttons. I enjoyed wearing that pin. Badges are even easier than pins. The easiest ones I know are basically tiny quilts. I generally make mine by taking the top and folding the edges around a scrap of batting cut to the right shape. I use very thin scraps of cotton batting. I sometimes even baste this.



I have cut the backing in an identical shape, preferably out of something that doesn't fray such as felt or interfacing. I pin the two together with at least two tiny brass safety pins, and hand blanket stitch them together all around the edges. You can use a machine if you want to. Then I sew a small safety pin to the back. This type of badge looks good front and center on a baseball cap, either doll-size or people-size. I have used an address stamp for the round design. I have used a Beatrice Potter animal cut from fabric to make a crest for a tiny blazer. I can imagine someone with hay fever wearing flowers in this way. In one of our volumes of *MINIATURE QUILTS* is a design for a brooch in the form of a stylized American flag which I have made several times, both for a man and for a woman. It was done by paper-piecing and can easily be done by hand.



I was a Scout. I hope you were, too. The fun, the friendships, and the growth in competency make this a great life-enhancing experience. The Boy Scouts as we all know were first started by accident by Baden-Powell who was trying to

keep young soldiers alive by teaching them survival games. When he came home to England, he discovered that young people had got hold of his training manuals, and that he had inadvertently founded the Boy Scouts. The Girl Scouts appeared soon afterward. One feature of these fine organizations is Merit Badges. You have to do certain things and show a certain level of competency (age appropriate, of

Little Bits continued →

Little Bits continued on page 14 →

course,) and then there is a Court of Honor and your badges are awarded. I don't know how many Brownie Scouts I've taught to make hand puppets so that they could complete the Dabbler Badge. A few families have done something in a simple informal way at home. They recognize something that a family member has done with a badge. One of these families is represented in a book in our guild library. I do not know what high human achievement is represented by a hand-drawn hippopotamus playing a drum set, but the recipient knows. And he sewed it to the inside of his go-bag. It is there to encourage him when his family can't be physically present. All day long people we know and love are doing fine and splendid things which should be recognized. And this is one way of recognizing them.

Travel badges are another big field to explore. Almost any destination will yield a beautiful machine embroidered patch that will outlast just about anything you sew it to. A few invisible stitches from the wrong side will do this, or you can use



your machine. If we Americans have a folk costume, it is denim. I once knew a small boy, a kinsman, who loved Baroque music. His little denim jacket had buttons (pins) with Bach's picture on them, the boy's name was embroidered on the back yoke, travel badges for places he had been were lined up on the back. He wore that jacket proudly. Yosemite. Golden Gate Bridge. How hard could it be to make travel badges for Treasure Island? Oz? Narnia? Many travel badges are round and about 3" across. Some are oblong with rounded edges, flag shaped, or shield shaped. What if 'travel' badges for favorite books were on a child's quilt or throw or pillow? Where would you like to spend this bedtime reading? This bout with the flu? This car trip? Middle Earth? Wonderland? There are wonderful choices to celebrate.

I know a young autistic man whose family was told when he was a baby not to expect him to walk or talk. Ever. He phones his grandmother twice a day, often while walking long distances. He has learned more than anyone else I know about public transportation, and spends time showing people who are disabled how to use it. He recently flew from California to Iowa and back alone to visit a friend. Perhaps there should be a merit badge for traveling alone for

Little Bits continued →

the first time. I'm gathering the makings for an Octopus Badge for the best multitasker I know. And how about the lady who makes preserves? A badge with fruit on it? How about looking for opportunities to appreciate people? How about noticing when someone does something wonderful even (or maybe especially) when this involves not making matters worse.

Many years ago in somebody else's country, we looked out of our tent door and found that we were surrounded by about 30 guys with machine guns. My husband was explaining to them that, no, the madman with the tomahawk was not with us, even though he was our countryman. The guys with machine guns seemed to have trouble believing this. I picked up our usually feisty toddler and carried him outside the tent. He stayed asleep. With all that curly hair and in his little yellow footie pajamas he looked angelic. They all do when they are asleep. The machine gun guys decided that this was a family camping, and not part of tomahawk man's circle of friends. Contrast this with the same little boy a few years later in the back seat crossing the border while leading his little brother in singing, "Remember The Alamo." See what I mean? Sometimes people merit our thanks and appreciation just for not making matters worse. Where do you put a badge? Well, the flat kind whose construction I've described above goes nicely on a cap, or a vest, or a glasses case, or soft luggage. A cat or dog would have it sewn to the blanket he sleeps on. Very few dogs and cats enjoy wearing clothing, though one cat I know, traumatized by a hurricane, insists on being clothed at all times.

**Jackie Pitts**



**Cuteness Interlude**

**My Grand-Nephew  
Benson enjoying the  
quilt I made for him.  
Jim Jensen**



# Community Quilts

## Quilts for Veterans

We received a very generous donation of \$500 from American Legion Post 489 of Sonoma in late January. The Commander of the Post attended a BBQ at the Santa Rosa Veterans building this summer in which SRQG donated many beautiful quilts for the veterans. They have to close their small post in Sonoma, and were so taken by the generosity of SRQG to the veterans that they made this generous donation.

Lavella Cassinelli heads up the effort to make the quilts for veterans. In 2023 Betty Upchurch quilted most of the quilts for the veterans, and Mary Wood put on the binding and the labels. Thank you to this dynamic team for making such a positive impact on our local veterans.

*Red, White and Blue* blocks: Thank you to so many quilters for donating your red, white, and blue blocks to Lavella for the quilts for veterans. We will make this an ongoing collection. If you have blocks to donate please bring them to any in-person meeting, label them "For Lavella," and give to Janet Tonkin or Laura Barrett.

## Highlight on NICU Quilts

We have a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) quilt on display in the lobby of the Person Senior Wing of Finley Center. They are really enjoying our Challenge Quilt exhibit and display windows, and requested a quilt for their lobby. Be sure to check it out.

We will also have a display of NICU quilts at the Roseland Library in the month of April. We will include a sign about SRQG and our efforts with Community Quilts.

## Delivery of Quilts and Upcoming Events

Santa Rosa Quilt Guild donated 1,232 quilts in 2023. Wow, that represents lots of fabric, backing, batting, piecing, and quilting! Details of where we donated the quilts can be seen on page 17 of this newsletter.

## Annual Quilt Parade

April 4, 2024, will be our annual quilt parade of the 100 quilts for Valley of the Moon Childrens' Home. It will begin with an introduction by a Valley of the Moon representative. Prepare yourself for a feast for the eyes as our members take each of the quilts for a turn around the room at the meeting at the Veterans Building. This is a long-standing tradition and a much loved event.

We have backing and batting available for all members for quilts you make for Community Quilts. Contact 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. Thank you to each and everyone 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 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

# 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 *	Diana Codding
Past President	Vicki David
Retreat	Eileen McAlister
Sew-A-Row *	Linda Ralleca
Social Media	Janice Juul
Sunshine *	Rhonda Denny
Technique Sharing Workshop *	Liz McDonnell
UFO Challenge	Linda Hooper
Videographer *	Linda Hooper
Website*	Rhonda Denny
Welcoming Committee	Elaine Ramires
Zoom Committee*	

## 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

## MARCH

## APRIL

- 7** **General Meeting - VBZR**  
 UFO Challenge Begins  
 Mystery Quilt Introduction  
 Threads Up Recycle Clothing Sale
- 21** **Program - VBZ**  
 Annelie Belden -  
 Dresden Dance
- 22** **Workshop - LBAGC**  
 Annelie Belden -  
 Jelly Roll Split Dresden
- 28** **Board Meeting - Zoom**

- 4** **General Meeting - VBZ**  
 Sew-A-Row: Row 2 Due  
 Valley Of the Moon Parade  
 Opp Quilt 2024 Drawing  
 Opp Quilt 2025 Introduced
- 18** **Program - Zoom Only**  
 Sherri Lynn Wood -  
 Ruler Free Improv Mashup
- 25** **Board Meeting - Zoom**



Sew-a-Row





## Distribution of Community Quilts for 2023

## Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Affiliates

Disabled American Veterans	1
Doll Quilts	300
Emancipated Foster Youth	12
Kaiser NICU	120
Let's Read Outside	20
Living Room	7
Local Veterans	405
Maui Fire	10
Public Health Visiting Nurses & Teen Parents	90
Raffle	3
Seniors	32
SR Memorial Hospital Neonatal ICU	40
Sutter Hospital Neonatal ICU	40
TLC-Foster Care	24
Valley of the Moon Children's Home	126
Windsor Rotary	2
<b>Total Quilts</b>	<b>1232</b>

<b>Other Items</b>	
Pillow Cases Emancipated Youth	12



### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fogbeltquilting.com)  
[megan@fogbeltquilting.com](mailto:megan@fogbeltquilting.com)

## Volunteer!

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

