



# Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

**May 7, 2026**

**Doors open at 5:30 P.M Meeting begins at 6:00 P.M.**

**Host Greeters: Anything with Fabric**

**Program:** May 7 Claudia Shearer How did I get here

**Workshop:** May 8 Improv Stripes

## SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

May 7, 2026  
Call to Order  
Flag Salute  
Welcome  
Reports:

Secretary - Minutes from April 2, 2026 meeting  
Treasurer - Dianna Conaway  
First Vice Presidents - Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson  
Second Vice President - Sue Walker  
Membership - Ku'ulei Arredondo  
Newsletter -Kathy Burrow  
Webmaster - Sally Walker  
Cuddle Quilts - Tricia Lacey  
Quilt Show - Maria Ciccarelli  
Opportunity Quilt  
Spring Retreat - Laura Gonzales  
Fall Retreat - Ku'ulei Arredondo

New Business:

Show and Tell  
Refreshments  
Program:

Claudia Shearer Lecture: How Did I Get Here? My Improv Journey

## 2026 Program Schedule

- May 7 Claudia Shearer How did I get here
- May 8 Improv Workshop Stripes
- June 4 - Ice Cream Social
- July 2 Footloose: Hidden Gems
- August 5 Hidden Gem Wendy Holt
- Aug 6 Workshop Janet Morita Ice Dying
- Sept 3 Darla Hall
- Sept 4 Workshop Free Motion Quilting
- October 1 Gwen Weedon 20 Years of a Quilting Journey
- Oct 2 Workshop Ocean Art Quilt
- November 5 Veteran's Day Program
- November 6 Workshop: Joan Earnest House Shoes
- December - Winter Luncheon

## Sierra Mountain Quilters Association General Meeting Minutes, April 2, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by president, Wendy Holt, at the Oakhurst Community Center followed by the flag salute. Wendy thanked Footloose for decorating the table and greeting and then recognized April birthdays and anniversaries.

Secretary, Rebecca Brannon for Janet Morita Laura Gonzalez made a motion, Patty Huff seconded, to accept the March 5, 2025, general meeting minutes. The motion carried.

First Vice Presidents, Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson Joan announced tonight, Doris Lantz will present "Art Quilts and Wall Hangings". On April 3, she will teach a Highland Cow Collage class. On May 7, Claudia Shearer will present "How did I get here? My Journey to Improv. Quilting". On May 8, she will teach a four-hour Improv. workshop. June 4 will be the ice cream social. On July 2, Footloose will present a trunk show. On August 6, Wendy Holt will present a trunk show. Janet Morita will teach a fabric dyeing class the following day. On September 3, Darla Hall will present a trunk show. On September 4, she will teach a free motion quilting class. On October 1, Gwen Weedon will present a trunk show and then, the following day, teach an Ocean Art Quilt class; November 5, will be a Veterans' program and then the following day, Joan Earnest will teach a house shoes workshop. December 3, will be the Winter Luncheon at 2:00 p.m.

Second Vice President, Wendy Holt for Sue Walker, reported the library sewing program for children will be July 7-9, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Ten volunteers are needed.

Treasurer, Wendy Holt, for Dianna Conaway the treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Membership, Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported we have 84 paid members with 44 members attending tonight.

Drawing winners were Mel Peters and Kathy Burrow. Fall Retreat, Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported the dates are Sept 14-17. It will be daytime only.

Newsletter, Kathy Burrow, nothing to report

Spring Retreat, Laura Gonzalez, reported those attendees who have not paid should pay tonight. She recommends bringing a light because the light is dim in the chapel. This is her last year to chair the Spring Retreat.

Cuddle Quilts, Sharon Sylvester for Tricia Lacey, announced 18 quilts have been turned in. Sierra Ambulance sent a thank you letter. Wednesday, May 20, is the next Cuddle Quilt workday at the library. Patterns are for fat quarters.

Quilt Show, Maria Ciccarelli, sent a report. She is looking forward to the completed opportunity quilt. Laura Gonzalez announced there will be prizes at the retreat for those who work on the opportunity quilt with Wendy.

New business: Sharon Sylvester announced Patty Weins' service will be April 11, at YLCC at 11:00 a.m. Charlotte Hickman announced Elizabeth Encoyand from Mariposa High School will receive our scholarship this year. Charlotte is retiring from the scholarship committee.

The meeting was followed by show and tell, snacks, and a presentation by Doris Lantz.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Brannon for Janet Morita, secretary.

## Wendy's Window

Happy May! April was a month of raindrops, and I hope May brings many flowers blooming.

I've been asked to explain how we fund the Sierra Mountain Quilter's Association. SMQA has one fundraiser to support our guild's work and activities. It runs for two years, with the Quilt Show being the highlight where we choose the raffle ticket winner for the Opportunity Quilt. Thanks to our members' participation, we were able to survive during and through the COVID pandemic. Together, in our own spaces, members made face masks for medical, fire, law enforcement personnel, and family members. We met in parking lots outside, each person masked, to collect the masks and coordinate delivery to the needed organizations. We were able to afford a Zoom account to continue holding meetings and keep each other informed and supported. When we were able to come back to in-person meetings, we were grateful and excited to begin the work of rebuilding our reserves and continue supporting the community and each other. If you appreciate the guild, fellow members, and programs offered after the general business meetings, games, cuddle quilt sewing, guest speakers, hidden gems, ice cream socials, winter luncheons, and social time, it's important to finish assembling the Opportunity Quilt.

That being said, the Opportunity Quilt paper piecing of the units is complete, phew. A couple of members have sewn four of the 10 units together; the same way we sew our traditional quilts. If you haven't had the opportunity to sew a seam on this quilt; I humbly request you to do so during assembly, which will make this quilt a true SMQA made quilt. A guild cannot rest on its laurels. We need to work together to show others the talent and commitment of our guild's members through this beautiful quilt.

Just wanted to share that I chatted with the Marine Auxiliary commander, and they mentioned they have six to eight service members ready to contribute to the veterans' quilts. I think one circle has already made three quilts to give out at our November meeting. If any guild members have service members they'd like to honor, they're welcome to join the presentation. Please let me know if your circle or you personally are interested in making quilts to gift to our local service members.

To wrap things up, here's a little inspiration: "Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible'".  
Audrey Hepburn

Thank you all. Cheers!

### Circle Hostesses and Greeters for

May: Anything with Fabric  
 June: SMQA Board  
 July: Footloose  
 August: Gonzalez Family  
 September: Bits and Pieces  
 October: Anything with Fabric  
 November: A Gathering of Stitches  
 December: Guild Board Members

### 2<sup>ND</sup> VP Susan Walker

Upcoming Summer Program.

The Oakhurst Library Summer sewing program has been scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 7 - 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. We need a total of 10 volunteers willing to bring their machines and teach a student one-on-one. We will be making small lap quilts with 5-inch squares. Signup sheets will be available at our meetings, or you can call me at 559-871-3720 or email me at [suewalker25@yahoo.com](mailto:suewalker25@yahoo.com). Please join us in mentoring new quilters!

**SMQA TREASURER'S REPORT RECAP**

Dianna Conaway  
March 31, 2026

**Checking Account**

Beginning Balance 3/1/26	\$9,842.36
Credits	\$522.89
Debits	-\$1,130.67
Ending Balance 3/31/26	<b>\$9,234.58</b>

**Savings Account**

Beginning Balance 3/1/26	\$9,441.63
Credits	\$8.90
Debits	\$0.00
Ending Balance 3/31/26	<b>\$9,450.53</b>

**CD Account**

Beginning Balance 2/1/26	\$10,532.04
Credits	\$0.00
Ending Balance 2/28/26	<b>\$10,532.04</b>

**Fall Retreat  
Save the Date:  
September 14th ~ 17th at ECCO  
Sign ups will begin in May**



**QUILT SHOW 2027 – UPDATE**

The Quilt Show Committee will be having its next meeting on Friday, May 29, at 2pm at Bear Paw.

The Opportunity Quilt, the stunning Carnival Flower – a Quiltworx Design, is being assembled and will be quilted soon. Tickets to sell will be available at the June SMQA meeting.

We still have one committee that needs to be filled, Opportunity Quilt Scheduling is still open. Please step up to help! You will have help in this area and will not have to do it alone.

If you enjoy the guild, join in the fun to keep it going. The quilt show is our ONLY fundraiser to keep us alive.

Thank you,  
Maria Ciccarelli – Quilt Show Chair

**Membership  
Ku'ulei Arredondo**

We are up to 93 members with the addition of two members this past month A Roster has been sent out to everyone in your emails. If you did not receive one, please let Ku'ulei know and she will see that you receive it. Our two members are:

**Our Mission**

Promote the preservation of traditional needlework and quilting techniques, while encouraging experimentation in contemporary application of these techniques. Educate the public in general about the value of artistic, handcrafted quilted items.

Encourage cooperation, fellowship, creativity, and quality craftsmanship.

**Amenities**

3 cards were delivered the month of April: 2 Thinking of You get well cards to Linda Pennington and Helen Brown. A Sympathy card was also sent to Sheila Hotovec.



Members are asked to bring snacks to guild meetings twice a year—once for their birthday month and once in another month of their choice. If you're unable to bring snacks on your birthday month, please select a different month instead. To sign up see Joan E. at our next meeting or click [here](#).

Rebecca Brannon	May 21
Jeanne Brisendine	May 22
Shirley MacNeil	May 15
Kathy Milhollon	May 11
Heather Patterson	May 16
Mary Louise Peters	May 26
Helen Ramsey	May 24
Tracy Swan	May 25
Cynthia Young	May 12

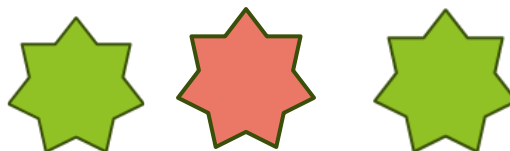
**May Refreshment Signups**

**Heather Patterson  
Shirley Mackled  
Rhonda Lloyd**

**2026 SMQA Scholarship Winner: Elizabeth Encoyand**

The SMQA scholarship committee met and has cosen Elizabeth Encoyand from Maripos County High School to be the 2026 recipient for the SMQA Memorial Sclarship. Elizabeth plans to attend the California Institute of Arts at the Columbia College and major in art and Psychipoly. Once she achieves her degree, she plans a career as a psychologist using art therapy with her Clients.

Elizabeth stated in her application "I believe that art is meant to hold many things at once. I create work that is settled in emotion, both my own, and the viewers and in the little moments where empathy forms. My art may evoke discomfort, desire, tenderness, or warmth, but above all, it invites reflection. Through it, we learn something about the world, and ourselves. My dream is not only build a career as an artist, but to create a space and opportunity for those whoo feel unseen or excluded, whose dreams may otherwise go unrecognized.



### 1st Vice President's Message Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson

What did you think of Doris Lantz's artwork? And she's only been quilting for 7 years? Some people just "have it", I guess. Great trunk show. And who can forget those eyes on her subjects. Then there was the Highland Cow workshop the next day.... ok, it was a little more difficult than we thought, but we had fun and the result was the cutest cow! Can't wait to see all the results at show and tell!

Our next presenter, at the May meeting, will be Claudia Shearer. She's a quilter from the Bay Area who started as a hobbyist and progressed to being a pro with a clear voice and a focus on Improvisational Quilting. She'll have a trunk show, and her talk is called: "How Did I Get Here? My Improv Journey." No more points and fussy measuring. She will touch on color theory and how to make those choices. The next day we get to put all this into practice with her workshop entitled "Crazy for Stripes." You've seen the sample and the pictures. It looks like so much fun! You can just relax and put something together that is enjoyable and visually pleasing. If you haven't signed up yet, please consider doing so...our programs depend on your participation. And I know you'll love it!

Our Ice Cream Social will be in June....a nice time to chat it up while indulging in deliciousness! Come and cool off and we'll just spend some unstructured time together! I look forward to this every year — don't you?

After that we've got Hidden Gems two months in a row, featuring the Footloose Circle in July, and then Wendy Holt's amazing work in August. And don't miss Janet Morita's "Ice Dying" class on August 7. After just a few hours, you'll take home some of the most beautiful pieces of fabric! You'll truly be amazed. And don't miss Janet Morita's "Ice Dying" class on August 7. After just a few hours, you'll take home some of the most beautiful pieces of fabric! You'll truly be

amazed. So don't be shy ... join in the fun. We try hard to find affordable and worthwhile programs. But of course, without participants it's all for nothing! Sign up and try something new or improve your skills in something you've done before. It's all about the comradery!



## CIRCLE INFORMATION

### ANYTHING WITH FABRIC

Anything with Fabric meets 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Oakhurst Public Library every Monday. Contact: Sue Johnson or Joan Ernest. **All are welcome.**

### A Gathering of Stitchers

#### Open to New Members

The Mindful Stitchers focus on letting go of daily distractions, focus on our stitching, taking time to enjoy each step of our quilting journey as we share and learn with each other. We meet the second & fourth Thursdays of each month from 10:30- 12:30 at various locations. Please call Rebecca Brannon 760-415-7212 for meeting information

**Bits and Pieces: Closed** At the Bits and Pieces April meeting, Doug Johnson taught us how to graft a quilt block design for a barn quilt. Then we worked on painting our barn quilts. Watch for the next newsletter to see our finished masterpieces.



**Footloose: Closed**

Cuddle Quilt Corner

Sandy Johnson and Tricia Lacey



The Month of May is the Gateway to Summer

Thank you to everyone who turned in Cuddle Quilts last month. We received 30 quilts. This was a wonderful donation.

Those quilts were distributed as follows: Sierra Ambulance: 5 quilts  
Terry's House: 5 quilts Fresno County Social Services: 5 quilts

There will be a workday on May 20 in the Oakhurst Library. We will be making cuddle quilts using mainly fat quarters. Time is 9:00 to 1:00. Please plan to join us. Bring a friend! New faces are always welcome.

*Sandy Johnson*

**Improv Stripes Workshop with Claudia Shearer**  
**Friday, May 8, 2026, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM** (doors open 8:30)  
Oakhurst Community Center Pavilion

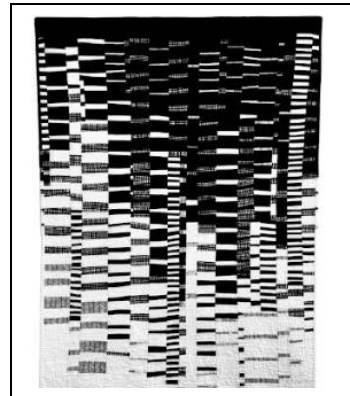
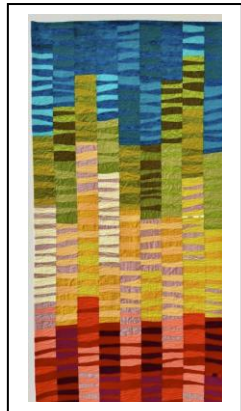
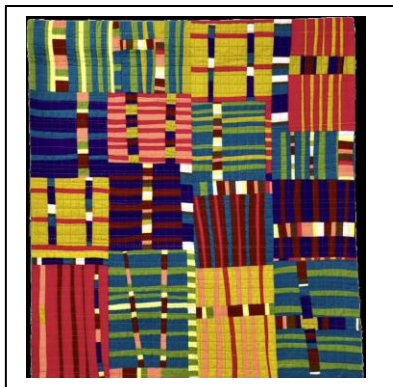
Explore color, value, and contrast while creating dynamic stripe designs. Learn to build stripe sets, combine units, and refine your composition with confidence.

Open to confident beginners through advanced quilters.

**Fee:** Members \$55 (cash/check) | \$57.50 (credit)

Register [here](#) for credit card payment or pay by cash/check at a meeting or by mail (SMQA, PO Box 1359, Oakhurst, CA 93644).

Supply list and details available on our website, [click here](#).



*Spring Retreat*





# April Show and Tell





**Notice:**

I am giving away my late son's Husqvarna Viking Designer Epic 2 embroidery machine to a passionate embroidery artist. If you know of a fellow professional embroiderers, fashion designers, interior designers, costume designers, quilters, family or individual that might be interested, please forward this email to them.

**Sara Roberts**

Email: [sararoberts021@gmail.com](mailto:sararoberts021@gmail.com)

# Services from our Advertisers

**BEAR PAW QUILTS & MORE**  
**OPEN**  
**TUESDAY - SATURDAY**  
**10AM - 5PM**

FABRIC NOTIONS CLASSES

MACHINE REPAIR

LIKE US ON **facebook**

**559-683-7397**  
40761 Highway 41—Suite 7, Oakhurst, CA

If you are interested in advertising your Long Arm Skills, certified class skills or other services and would be interested in Advertising in the Newsletter please contact Kathy Burrow at [katsmountain@gmail.com](mailto:katsmountain@gmail.com) or see form listed on following page. Please

**MacNeil Quilts**  
Shirley MacNeil  
MacNeilQuilts.com  
559.970.3201



# Sierra Mountain Quilters Association ADVERTISING FORM

Business: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Rates:**

Business Card	\$50
Quarter Page	\$100
Half Page	\$175
Full Page	\$250

Prices to be pro-rated by quarter

Please send ad/business card and payment to:  
Sierra Mountain Quilters Association (SMQA)  
Attn: Newsletter Chairperson  
P O Box 1359 Oakhurst, CA 93644  
Email ad/business card to: [katsmountain@gmail.com](mailto:katsmountain@gmail.com)



**Sierra Mountain  
Quilters  
Association**

P.O. Box 1359  
Oakhurst, C 93644

[sierramountainquilters.org](http://sierramountainquilters.org)



Visit us on  
Facebook

[facebook.com/SierraMountainQuiltersAssociation](https://facebook.com/SierraMountainQuiltersAssociation)

**REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME  
BADGE AT THE NEXT MEETING!**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- President Wendy Holt
- First VP Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson
- Second VP Sue Walker
- Treasurer Dianna Conaway
- Secretary Janet Morita

*Board meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month. Send Newsletter submissions to:*

[katsmountain@gmail.com](mailto:katsmountain@gmail.com)

**Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- Amenities Linda Miller
- Circles
- Cuddle Quilts
- Historian
- Parliamentarian
- Membership
- New Member Support
- Newsletter
- Quilt Show Chair
- Webmaster
- Spring Retreat
- Fall Retreat
- Tricia Lacey
- Peggy Myers
- Rebecca Brannon
- Ku'ulei Arredondo
- Ku'ulei Arredondo
- Kathy Burrow
- Maria Ciccarelli
- Sally Walker
- Laura Gonzalez
- Ku'ulei Arredondo