



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Meeting begins at 6:00 pm.

Host Greeters: Material Girls

Program: Cyber Security, Sally Moreno, Madera County DA
And Dr Hannah Kaplan, Oakhurst Physical Therapy



President's Message

Marching forward into 2024. January was the month of Road to California. I hope a lot of you were able to attend. Such an inspiration! Or if you're like me, also a bit of a reminder of how my skills will never reach the art form that has become the high level of quilt making that we see at these shows.

On further reflection, we realize that we're all on our own path of improvement and skill development. What it's really about is just enjoying the process and pride in what we have been able to achieve. Just making those adorable baby quilts, quirky holiday quilts, adventures in bag making... all the fun stuff. We can continue our skill building by taking classes from noted instructors right here at our own guild. For practice there's always whipping out a Cuddle Quilt where you can feel free to experiment. We have so many ways to move along this road of the joy of quilting.

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best." *Henry Van Dyke*

SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS

February 1, 2024

Call to Order

Flag Salute
Welcome

Reports

Secretary - Minutes from Jan. 4, 2023 meeting

1st Vice Presidents – Sally Walker & Lynn Gray

2nd Vice Presidents – Joan Earnest & Bev Gulley

Treasurer's Report – Lisa Kernaghan

Membership – Janet Morita

Newsletter – Charlotte Hickman

Webmaster – Sally Walker

Cuddle Quilts – Joan Earnest

Quilt Show – Maria Ciccarelli

Spring Retreat – Laura Gonzales

Fall retreat - Ku'ulei Arredondo

Block of the month - Sinta Borland

New Business

Show and Tell

Program:

Cyber Security- Sally Moreno, Madera Co. DA

Posture for Quilters - Dr. Hannah Kaplan.

Oakhurst Physical Therapy, and a request for dresses for little girls in Africa.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa Kernaghan

December 31, 2023

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance 12/1/2023 \$3,873.10

Credits in December 11,354.12

Debits in December 2,089.78

Ending Balance \$13,137.44

(12/31/2023)

SAVINGS ACCOUNT BALANCE \$9,385.34

(12/31/2023)

Daytime Meeting March 2024

There was an error in the last newsletter and also on the website (which has been corrected). We are trying something new and different in **March of 2024**. First of all, our regular guild meeting will be a **daytime** meeting and our Cuddle Quilt Program. We have extended the hours to have more time to sew. Who knows, maybe some of us can get a cuddle quilt done from start to finish! The meeting will be Thursday, March 7th, from 1pm to 5pm. Hopefully by letting you know ahead of time, you can schedule your work and personal appointments accordingly, as it applies. The other change from the norm is that our workshop the same month will be on a **Saturday** to hopefully accommodate those who work during the week but would like to attend one of our classes. Mark **Saturday**, March 9, 2024 on your calendars for a Celtic Knot Workshop taught by Bev Gulley. It will be held in the Raleys Gathering Room from 9am-3pm.

2024 Program Schedule

February 1 - Madera County DA, Sally Moreno. Topic: Cyber Security. Dr Hannah Kaplan, Oakhurst Physical Therapy on improving our posture and discomfort and a request to make dresses for little girls in Africa.

March 7 - Cuddle Quilt Program - 1pm - 5pm. Please note daytime hours.

March 9 - Workshop - Bev Gulley teaching Celtic Knot 9am-3pm

April 4 - Pat Robertson's Trunk Show. She was the 2023 Kings River Quilt Festival featured artist.

April 10-13 - Spring Retreat

May 2 - How to... stations hosted by guild members.

June 6 - Julia McLeod. Lecture: Everything But Cotton

June 7 - Workshop: Starting with Silk

July 11 - Ice Cream Social

August 1 - Susan Nash. Lecture: Learn to Collage Quilt the Laura Heine Way

August 2 - Workshop: A Laura Heine Collage, design TBD

September 5 - Scarlett Rose. Lecture: A View from Both Sides

September 6 - Wendy Holt Stool Workshop

September 9-13 - Fall Retreat

October 3 - Jane Haworth. Lecture: Journey as a Quilt Artist

October 4 - Workshop: Cats & Dogs Fabric Collage Workshop

November 7 - Claire Marks' Trunk Show

November 8 - Workshop - Foundation Pieced Table Topper

December 5 - Annual Winter Year End Luncheon

Meeting Survey

Daytime meetings, Saturday Workshops... why the changes? The **NCQC article on page 4** does a good job explaining why guilds (including ours) are experimenting with different meeting times. We would like to know your opinions regarding daytime vs evening meetings. Please read the article and then take this [brief survey](#), or jot down your thoughts and drop them in the suggestion box we will provide at the next meeting. The survey will also be linked on our website [homepage](#). Thank you for taking time to let us know your thoughts.

Sierra Mountain Quilters Association General Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2024

Sue Johnson called the meeting to order at 6pm at the Oakhurst Community Center followed by the flag salute. Sue said she is surprised as anyone that she is president and encourages anyone who has concerns or suggestions to reach out to her.

Sue thanked greeters/table decorators Laura and Peter Gonzales plus birthday celebrants for bring goodies. She also recognized birthdays and anniversaries.

Free fabric was available on a table; these are left over's from cuddle quilts and the purse project. Any remaining fabric will be donated to the EMCSPCA Thrift Store.

Treasurer Report - Lisa Kernaghan - Motion was made by Laura Gonzales and seconded by Bev Gulley to accept the Treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter and it was filed for audit.

Nancy Swanson made a motion and Laura Gonzales seconded to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was carried.

1st VP Lynn Gray encouraged attendees to take home fabric and asked that Show and Tell items, following presentation, be placed on a table so members could see them up close. A reminder that a refreshment sign-up sheet is available and that members should bring snacks on their birthday month plus volunteer for an additional month. Sign-ups available for the **Celtic Knot** taught by Bev Gulley March 9 at Raley's Community Room 9-3.

Lynn shared the years program schedule.

2nd VP Joan Earnest and Bev Gulley admitted they are still trying to figure out their job but know SMQA will continue with sewing lessons for school age youngsters.

Membership- Janet Morita announced 41 members in attendance plus 1 guest and 2 new members. Reminder to pay your dues. Door prize winners were Ruthi Connor, Sinta Borland and Carolin Gaither.

Newsletter: Charlotte Hickman hopes everyone got theirs.

Cuddle Quilt - Joan Earnest and committee announced they can use more people at work parties. Next workday is January 24th at the library. Bring your machine and sewing kits or cut fabric to create new kits. Fresno County Social Services received 10 small and 2 large cuddle quilts.

Quilt Show - Maria Ciccarelli handed out Opportunity Quilt tickets. Postcards are not ready but she can text a picture out. She describes the quilt as "jaw dropping".

Retreats - Laura Gonzales. 13 people signed up for overnight and need 2 more overnights. Openings for day quilters available but sign up soon. April 10-13, 2024.

Fall Retreat - Ku'u'lei. Sept 9-13. \$39 per day

Mystery Quilt - Sinta Borland – Sign-up sheet and 2 clues now available. Size 66 1/2 inches square.

Program - Lynn Gray presented slide show from 2023 Road to California QS

The meeting is adjourned at 6:23

Respectfully Submitted by
Betsy Blum

**From NCQC Newsletter 2023 Volume 19
by Colleen Voet**

Two NCQC-member guilds in the greater Sacramento area, Pioneer (Rocklin) and Foothill (Auburn) have changed their meeting times from evening to daytime beginning in early 2023. In response to requests from members, both guilds independently did a survey of members and found overwhelming interest in daytime meetings. Before Covid, both had memberships of around 160-180 members. When they began meeting in person in 2022, each had maintained a membership of about 100-120. Members began commenting on their reluctance to drive to evening meetings, especially in the winter when weather could also be a factor. Subsequent surveys, culminating in votes, resulted in Pioneer electing to meet in the morning and Foothill meeting in the early afternoon. Nevertheless, it was a difficult decision for the guilds' boards. Each had a handful of members who were still working and could not attend a daytime meeting. "It felt like we were kicking them out of the guild," said more than one board member. "Although we need younger members," said another, "the reality is that we just don't have them." In both guilds, most members are in their 70s, with the youngest being one or two in their 50s. There is also concern about the ability of older members to do the work required to put on a quilt show, take Opportunity Quilts to other guilds, maintain a guild's storage unit, and sometimes move chairs or tables for an activity. It has required guilds to reconsider their fundraising efforts and recognize that they may need to find – or hire – other people to do some of the physical work. In the meantime, however, most current members are happy that they didn't have to quit the guild because of night driving, and that their concerns were heard. Some former members are returning. Both guilds are getting new members, many of whom cite daytime meetings as a significant factor. There is no doubt that this has become an important issue for many organizations, not just quilters guilds. **And there are no easy answers.**

1st Vice Presidents' Message

February is well known for our yearly visit from St. Valentine to celebrate love. February is also the month for Presidents' Day, a month in which we honor Black History and we also celebrate Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday in February this year. On top of all that we get an extra day of fun as 2024 is a leap year. February is also the coldest month of the year, a perfect time to sew up those quilts and cuddle up with those we love. It's also a good time to love and take care of ourselves. Since most of us are seniors, we are especially vulnerable to unlimited schemes to rob us of our identities and our money. It continues to get harder to recognize email and texts from our service providers, our financial institutions and even those we know and love from the hackers and SPAMers out there. Sally Moreno, Madera County DA will give us some insight on those problems. As quilters, we need to take care of our bodies so we can keep sewing in comfort. Dr Hannah Kaplan will help us with physical issues. We quilters are known for sharing our love and Dr Kaplan will introduce a project we can certainly wrap our quiltly hands around by making dresses for little girls in Africa.

Lynn

We are very excited about our 2024 line-up of Guild Meetings and Workshops! Thank you, Lynn, for presenting the Road to California 2023 recap at the January meeting. I was very sorry to have missed it. Please make note, in March we are trying two new things. Our monthly meeting will be a daytime Cuddle Quilt Program. We will meet at our usual place, the Pavilion at the Community Center from 1pm-5pm. This should give us more time to work on our quilts together; who knows maybe your group can even get a cuddle quilt done from start to finish! Are you up for the challenge? On Saturday, March 9th Bev Gulley will be teaching a Celtic Knot Appliqué Workshop. This workshop will be held from 9am to 3pm in the Gathering Room at Raleys in Oakhurst. You can sign up [here](#) or at the February meeting. Hopefully these changes will accommodate those who don't want to make the drive at night to attend a guild meeting and/or those who work during the week and can't normally sign up for a workshop. If you are curious about the thought process that went into scheduling our meetings differently, **refer to the NCQC article reprinted above**. The last line says it best "...there are no easy answers." The rest of the year is jam packed full of great programs and a total of six workshops! See the full schedule in this newsletter.

Sally

Membership Application and Dues

It's that time again, a new year and a new membership application! Here are some of the ways to join or renew your SMQA membership:

- 1) Copy and print the form in this newsletter then bring it to the next meeting or put it in the mail along with your payment.
- 2) Fill out a form provided for you at the next meeting, then pay in cash, check or with a credit card.
- 3) Click [here](#) to fill out the form and pay online.

2024 Refreshment sign-ups

We are asking each member to bring refreshments twice per year. In the past we only requested that a member bring snacks on their birthday month, but our refreshments were sparse, to say the least. Last year we asked members to sign up for a second month as well. Since then, our refreshment table has been laden with wonderful snacks.

Please indicate which two months you plan to bring refreshments by clicking [this link](#). If your birthday month is not convenient, no worries; please select a different month. Thanks for your participation!

Sally

AMENITIES

Linda Miller

Penni Simily
Diane Ward

Sympathy
Thinking of You

If you know of a member who would appreciate receiving a card, please let Linda know.

QUILT SHOW 2025

Maria Ciccarelli, Chairperson

The Opportunity Quilt, *Solstice Swirl*, is finished and it's AMAZING! I want to thank Wendy Holt for all her hard work. She really went above and beyond.



Summer Solstice by Quiltworx, adapted to use Jan Krentz's spiral lone star technique.

We took the quilt to the *Road to California* Quilt Show and sold \$580 worth of tickets. Thank you to all the volunteers that made it possible for us to show our quilt. We received nothing but positive feedback and a lot of WOWs! We sold tickets to people all over the USA and different parts of the world. Sally and Wendy thought it would be fun to sell tickets to people from as many states and countries as we can. It will be a fun challenge!

Members' Opportunity Quilt tickets were handed out at the January meeting. If you have not gotten your tickets, please get in touch with me. All members must sell a minimum of 30 tickets. If you have sold (or bought) yours and you want more, please see me at the next SMQA meeting or Bear Paw. Please return sold tickets stubs, together with the money, at any SMQA meeting or at Bear Paw.

For the February meeting, we will be going over Show quilts criteria and category definitions.

Maria



CUDDLE CORNER

Tricia Lacey

What a great year 2023 was for our Cuddle Quilt program! Thank you for your extraordinary efforts that produced a total of 548 items donated to 6 different organizations.

Let's 'cuddle up' and SEW-24!

Mark your calendars for the afternoon guild meeting on March 24th at 1:00pm followed by a workday. Bring sewing and cutting necessities and stay after the meeting for some Quilty Fun! Don't forget to bring your reward cards to get stamped for items finished at the workday. Full stamped cards earn you a spool of Aurifil thread or a 45mm rotary cutter blade.

The Cuddle Quilt committee is looking forward to a fun and productive year! If you have questions about the Cuddle Quilt program, Cuddle Quilt workdays or helping the committee, please contact Tricia Lacey (530)680-3741.

Dream Frame Quilting Machine

By the Grace Company

Includes Stitch Regulator

Start Right Precision Cloth Leader

Contact Laura Gonzalez for more information at 559-676-0205



Celtic Knot Appliqué Workshop



9am-3pm **Saturday** March 9th, 2024

To be held in the Gathering Room at Raleys in Oakhurst.

Celtic Knot Appliqué Workshop taught by our own Bev Gulley. She is an award-winning quilter, our past Co-President and featured quilter for the SMQA 2023 Quilt Show.

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Beautiful Celtic Knot designs have been used in many ways over the centuries to adorn sacred documents, tapestries, and even stonework. They also make a lovely and intricate design for embroidery or appliqué. In this class, we will mark the background, explore 2 easy ways to make neat and consistent bias strips, pin, and then baste the strips in place as we weave them over and under to form the knot pattern. We should have plenty of time to start stitching them in place using an ordinary hand-appliqué stitch. I'll give you instructions to finish your project like the sample, but of course you are free to proceed as you prefer!

I hope that you will enjoy stitching the pattern in place by hand, but we will also review how the strips could be sewn down by machine.

Bev

Click [here](#) to sign up and pay online.

Click [here](#) for supply list download.



CIRCLE INFORMATION

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

Fabric Collage meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at Bear Paw from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. **We welcome new members and will help anyone who wants to learn about fabric collage.** Contact Janet Morita at 559-760-5018 or at janet@rjmorita.com with any questions.

OAKHURST MACHINE EMBROIDERY & SCAN-N-CUT GROUP is **welcoming new members.** The group meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 10 am at Bear Paw. We alternate months between the Oakhurst Machine Embroidery and the Scan-N-Cut groups. Please let Maria Ciccarella know if you would like to join either group. The more the merrier! Since most people are in both groups, emails will be sent to everyone in the groups.



Talk about a hard-core sewing circle! Anything With Fabric even met on New Year's Day to sew together. Way to start the New Year!

Membership News

Welcome our new members, **Cynthia Sobel and Elsa Murray!** Introduce yourself, get to know Cynthia and Elsa and make them feel welcome to our guild.

Circle Hostesses and Greeters for 2024

January	Laura and Pieter Gonzalez
February	Material Girls
March	Oakhurst Machine Embroidery
April	Sew Thrilled
May	Anything with Fabric
June	Bits and Pieces
July	SMQA Board
August	Fabric Collage
September	Bits and Pieces
October	Anything with Fabric
November	Footloose



Cynthia Sobel



Elsa Murray

Bev's Star Class Revisited

If you missed Bev Gulley's String Star class in 2022, she will be offering it at Bear Paw on April 19. Check with the quilt shop for further details.



SMQA Spring Quilt Retreat
April 10-13, 2024
Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst
(ECCO)
43803 Highway 41 Oakhurst

3 nights, 4 full days with access to sewing room 24 hrs per day- includes 9 meals

Rates:

Double Room \$420

Quad \$365

Private \$515

Day use (9am to 5pm) \$39 per day includes lunch

There is still an overnight room available. Space is very limited so sign up now!!

\$100 deposit due now! Checks payable to SMQA
 (checks will not be cashed until March 2024)

For more information contact Laura Gonzalez 559.676.0205
 lauragonzalez42090@yahoo.com



Betty Fish	02/02
Loretta Pesetski	02/09
Teri De La Torre	02/10
Jean Richter	02/22
Lupita Delk	02/07



We are asking members to bring snacks on their birthday month and one other month of their choosing, and if they are not able to bring on their birthday month then choose a 2nd month that works. Sally Walker will send out monthly email reminders.



The following people signed up for refreshments for the February Meeting.

Deb Austin
 Rebecca Brannon
 Joan Earnest
 Lynn Gray
 Charlotte Hickman

January Show and Tell



Road to California



Some of the "Road Warriors"



Rhonda's quilt takes "Best of Show!!"



Selling opportunity tickets at Rd2CA

Services from our Advertisers

BEAR PAW QUILTS & MORE

OPEN
MONDAY - SATURDAY
10AM - 5PM

NEW FABRICS WEEKLY

FABRIC NOTIONS CLASSES

LIKE US ON **facebook**

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

A Thread Above Quilt Studio
Longarm Quilting Services
Jeri Carney ~~~ 559.760.5125

athreadabove@gmail.com
www.athreadabovestudio.com

AUTHORIZED
VAC SEW

ENJOY A 10% DISCOUNT!
FABRIC, NOTIONS, ACCESSORIES and MORE
(SOME EXCLUSIONS APPLY)

ORDER ONLINE
SHIPPED TO YOUR HOME OR PICK UP IN STORE.
WWW.AUTHORIZEDVACANDSEW.COM

AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR:
BERNINA Handi Quilter
brother **JANOME**

3 ON-SITE CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS
WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS
5233 N BLACKSTONE AVE FRESNO CA 93710
559-439-2560

SMQA Members can show their membership card to receive the 10% discount.



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association 2024 Membership Form

Your membership dues support the many functions of SMQA including meetings, speakers, workshops, newsletter, website, quilting retreats, circles, biennial Quilt Show and fellowship.

Membership: *(Circle one)* Individual: \$25; Family: \$35; Half Year: \$12.50

Date: _____

Please Print Clearly

NAME: _____

Day of Birth: *(Month/Day)* _____

ADDRESS:

Street Address _____

Mailing Address *(if different from above):* _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

PHONE: *(please ** preferred number)*

Home _____ Work _____

Mobile/Cell _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

☐

⇒ **Email** _____

Check box if this is a new email address or a corrected address (refer to our directory).

Email: Newsletters are delivered via email. If you don't have an email address and can't access our website at www.sierramountainquilters.org to view the newsletter and you are unable to have a friend print a copy for you, it can be mailed to you.

Note: Please mail your check to SMQA, P.O. Box 1359, Oakhurst, CA 93644

Membership Chair Use Only:

Date Paid: _____ Check number _____ Credit Card: _____ Cash _____ Amount: _____



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association

P.O. Box 1359
Oakhurst, CA 93644

sierramountainquilters.org



Visit us on
Facebook

facebook.com/SierraMountainQuiltersAssociation

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

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Sue Johnson
1 st Vice Presidents	Sally Walker and Lynn Gray
2 nd Vice Presidents	Joan Earnest and Bev Gulley
Treasurer	Lisa Kernaghan
Secretaries	Betsy Blum and Kay Marshall

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

cthickman@yahoo.com

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

New Member Support	Open
Amenities	Linda Miller
Circles	Mel Peters
Cuddle Quilts	Tricia Lacey
Historian	Laura Gonzales
Webmaster	Sally Walker
Parliamentarian	Laura Donahue
Membership	Janet Morita
Newsletter	Charlotte Hickman
Quilt Show Chair	Maria Ciccarelli