



# Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

**JANUARY 4, 2024**

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

Program: 2023 Rd2CA recap by Lynn Gray

Cuddle quilt fabric giveaway.



## President's Message

First of all, I'd like to thank Bev Gulley and Betsy Blum for their excellent job as co-presidents for the last 2 years. With all their travels, they managed to keep the ship running smoothly, with consistent and thoughtful leadership.

Let me introduce myself. I joined the guild about 6 years ago. It didn't take long to become addicted to quilting! I started by doing a lot of sewing for Cuddle Quilts, then became Cuddle Quilt Chair the following year. After that, I became Membership Chair for 2 years. I guess if you hang around the board long enough, they ask you to be president. So here I am, and I hope to do a good job for you all. Please be patient with me, as I have little experience with public speaking. I promise I'll do my best!

Quilters, we all agree, are a very friendly and positive group. If you meet another quilter anywhere, the conversation can quickly become animated and enthusiastic. Let's all cultivate this attitude, and become as warm and inclusive as possible to new & old members. Try to get to know each other, as we all have one of our major joys in common. Imagine finding nearly 100 people in our little mountain community with the same obsession! We're really fortunate!

So, let's make it another great year with SMQA. And remember, we need each and every one of you to make this year the best it can be. Please use every opportunity to contribute by joining a committee, sewing a cuddle quilt, signing up for workshops, attending a retreat...whatever you can do. It makes the guild experience so fulfilling. Cheers to 2024!

*Sue Johnson*

## SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS AGENDA

### SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS

**January 4, 2024**

**Call to Order**

Flag Salute

Welcome

### Reports

**Secretary** - Minutes from Dec. 7 meeting

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents** – Sally Walker & Lynn Gray

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents** – Joan Earnest, Bev Gulley

**Treasurer's Report** – Lisa Kernaghan

**Membership** – Janet Morita

**Newsletter** – Charlotte Hickman

**Webmaster** – Sally Walker

**Cuddle Quilts** – Tricia Lacey

**Quilt Show** – Maria Ciccarella

**New Business**

**Show and Tell**

**Program:**

**Lynn Gray recap of 2023 Rd2**

**Cuddle Quilt Fabric giveaway**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Joan Earnest

November 30, 2023

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

Balance 11/1/2023 \$5,450.88

Credits in November 123.91

Debits in November 1,701.69

**Ending Balance** \$3,873.10

(11/30/2023)

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT****BALANCE** \$19,384.38**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents' Message**

As I'm writing this I'm still basking in the afterglow of our Winter Luncheon. By the time you're reading this Christmas is behind us and the New Year is upon us! Reflecting on the Winter Luncheon, it was so wonderful to see all of you there to enjoy a good meal (thanks Bee's Bakery), have a few laughs and share your creative Show and Tell items and UFOs.

We thanked the outgoing officers and swore in the new. Sinta gave us some tough orders to follow this next year. If you missed her installation, well what can I say except you would have to have been there! What a hoot! Betsy and Mark put together an impressive and touching video recapping the 2023 SMQA year. We collected a grand total of 111 Sew Powerful Purses. Sue gave out outstanding door prizes and made sure that one person didn't go home with half the prizes. Good plan Sue! Penni had us in stitches with the poem she read, Ode to my Wife, the Quilter and Lynn topped it all off with a different version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.' (both poems are linked on our SMQA homepage). That's it in a nutshell. To those of you who weren't able to attend, you were missed.

Our schedule for next year is full and promises to be entertaining and educational. See the 2024 Programs listed in this newsletter. There will be more details to come later. Here's to a wonderful New Year!

PS a special thanks to the Footloose Sewing Circle who worked tirelessly and without grumbling on table toppers, Manzanita tree center pieces and the Scandinavian folded star ornaments and to all who helped with set up and take down for our Winter Luncheon

Sally

**2024 Program Schedule**

**January 4** - 2023 Rd2CA recap by Lynn Gray. Cuddle quilt fabric giveaway.

**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 8** - 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

**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

**Thank You SMQA**

Thank you all so much for the beautiful basket and the keepsake card signed by all of you! Both are greatly appreciated. I look forward to continuing to serve the Guild as co-2nd VP.

Bev Gulley bevgulley@yahoo.com

## **Sierra Mountain Quilters Association General Membership Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 12:57 p.m. by presidents, Bev Gulley and Betsy Blum, at the Oakhurst Community Center followed by the flag salute. They recognized the contributions of officers and committee chairs and presented gifts to them.

Wendy Holt made a motion, Nancy Swanson seconded, to accept the November 2, 2023, minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.

The 2024 budget was voted on and approved as published in the newsletter. The annual audit will occur in January. Wendy Holt, Shirley Savarino, and Joanie Madaus will perform the audit and Lisa Kernaghan will attend. The treasurer's report as published in the newsletter will be filed for audit.

Sally Walker and Lynn Gray presented thank you gifts to Bev and Betsy.

Sinta Borland performed the installation of officers for 2024. The officers will be:

President - Sue Johnson

First Vice Presidents - Sally Walker and Lynn Gray

Second Vice Presidents - Joan Earnest and Bev Gulley

Secretaries - Betsy Blum and Kay Marshall

Treasurer - Lisa Kernaghan

Spring Retreat, Laura Gonzalez, announced the dates, April 10-13. She is hoping to provide daytime and nighttime availability at ECCO.

Sally reported we collected at least 110 purses for the Sew Powerful Purse Project. She also mentioned the Toys for Tots boxes and money canister available for donations tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Morita, secretary.

## 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

## New Year's Resolution anyone?



## QUILT SHOW 2025 – UPDATE Maria Ciccarelli, Chairperson

Our Opportunity Quilt, SOLSTICE SWIRL, is coming along beautifully. The top is done and is being quilted. We are hoping to have it at our January meeting. Tickets, for members to start selling and buying, will be handed out. This is going to be an easy sell. The quilt top alone has already helped sell tickets!

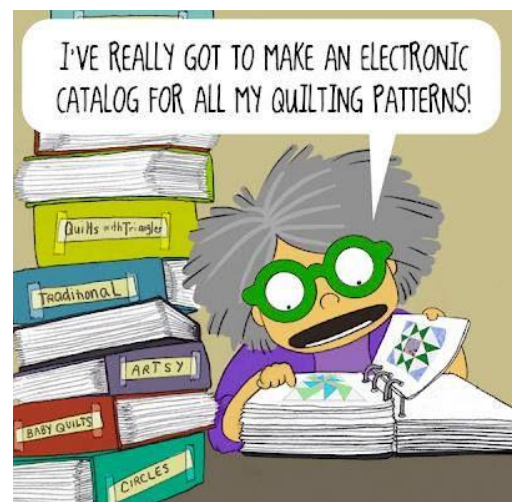
Stay tuned for more Quilt Show 2025 updates!

## For Sale:

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





## CUDDLE CORNER

Tricia Lacey

It's been an amazing and busy year for the Cuddle Quilt program. This year, we took in so many cuddle quilts and other things that we were able to donate 94 cuddle quilts, 95 wheelchair bags, 135 pillowcases, 9 isolette covers, 44 heart pillows, 64 scent hearts, 93 belly bands and 14 bibs. We donated to the following organizations: Oakhurst Healthcare, Valley Children's Hospital, Helping Hands, Hinds Hospice, Terry's House and Fresno County Social Services. Way to go ladies!

In 2024, we will have a Cuddle Quilt Committee. The following people have volunteered to do one or more of the jobs: Sandy Eigenman, Laura Donahue, Joan Earnest, Barbara Graas, Shirley Savanno, Margie Williams, Lissa Metzger and Deb Austin. Thank you, ladies, for helping me in the next year.

Thank you, Rhonda Dewey, for your help this past year.

Next Cuddle Quilt workday is January 24 at the library from 9am to 1pm. Bring your sewing machine, if you want to sew, or your rotary cutter and cutting mat for making kits.

If you have any questions, or would like to help with Cuddle Quilts next year, please call me.

Tricia Lacey (530)680-3741



**The Sew Powerful Purse Project was a big success! Over the past several months Lynn Gray and Sally Walker have headed up the project with a goal of 100 purses sewn by December. That number was more than surpassed when Sally reported we collected at least 110 purses for the Sew Powerful Purse Project. The purses were displayed on a beautiful Christmas tree and onto the wall behind.**

## AMENITIES

Linda Miller

Patty and Curtis Vincent  
Mel and Dick Peters

Sympathy  
Sympathy

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





### 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](mailto:janet@rjmorita.com) with any questions.

**OAKHURST MACHINE EMBROIDERY & SCAN-N-CUT GROUP** is **welcoming new members.** The group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 10 am at Bear Paw. At our last meeting, we decided to alternate months between the Oakhurst Machine Embroidery & the Scan-N-Cut Groups. Please let Maria Cicarelli 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.

Come join us January 22, 2024, when we will be using the Scan-N-Cut



**Footloose Circle** presented their quilt to Barbara Graas' husband, Alan, at Westmont, his care facility, on Veterans Day. They brought a hammer, nail and ladder and hung it up in the community room.

### Membership News

Welcome our new member, **Cynthia Sobel!** Introduce yourself, get to know Cynthia and make her 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       | Fabric Collage              |
| June      | Bits and Pieces             |
| July      | Anything with Fabric        |
| August    | Open                        |
| September | Bits and Pieces             |
| October   | Anything with Fabric        |
| November  | Footloose                   |

### The Torch Has Been Passed

Sally has been the Mystery Quilt Guru for several years now... and I have big shoes to fill... but what will be fun is that Sally will finally be making a mystery quilt that will be a ***mystery to her!***

If you have not yet signed up for the Fortune Cookie Mystery Quilt, please contact me or sign up at the January meeting. I will be glad to share the details with you...well, as much as I can.

Kindest regards, Sinta Borland



**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

Space is very limited so sign up today!!

\$100 deposit due at January's meeting. Checks payable to SMQA  
 (checks will not be cashed until March 2024)

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



|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Patty Spinelli   | 01/04 |
| Linda Pennington | 01/06 |
| Joanie Madaus    | 01/07 |
| Kristy Hammons   | 01/09 |
| Francie Gonzalez | 01/20 |
| Cynthia Sobel    | 01/29 |
| Laura Donahue    | 01/31 |



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.

### 'T was the Night Before Christmas

'T was the night before Christmas,  
And the quilts were not made.  
The threads were all tangled, the cookies  
delayed.  
The stockings weren't hung, the pantry was  
bare.  
The poor weary Quilter, was tearing her hair.  
Stacks of fat quarters, tipped over in streams.  
Visions of Log Cabins, had turned into dreams.

When what to her wondering eyes should  
appear,  
But a bus full of quilters with all of their gear.  
They went straight to work with just a few  
mutters,  
Sorting and stitching and brandishing cutters.  
The patterns emerged from all of the clutter,  
Like magic the fabrics arranged in a flutter.  
Log Cabins, Lone Stars, Flying Geese & Bear  
Tracks  
Each quilt was a beauty-even the backs.

Her house how it twinkled, her quilts how they  
glowed.  
The cookies were baking, the stockings were  
sewed.  
Their work was all done, so they folded their  
frames,  
And packed up their needles, without giving  
their names.  
They boarded the bus, and checked the next  
address.  
More quilts to be made, another quilter in  
distress.

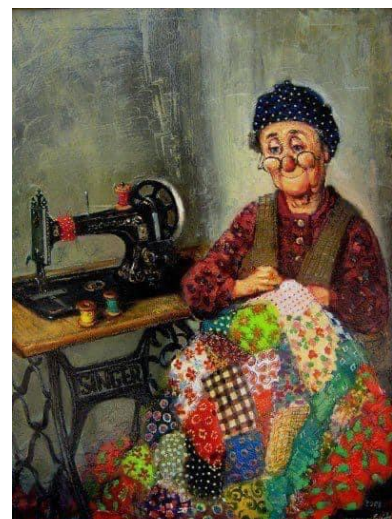
She heard one voice echo, as they drove out of  
sight,  
Happy quilting to all and to all a good night!

~Author Unknown

In case you missed this...

### Ode to my Wife, the Quilter

She learned to quilt on Monday,  
Her stitches were very fine.  
She forgot to thaw out dinner,  
So we went out to dine.  
She quilted miniatures on Tuesday.  
She says they are a must.  
They really were quite lovely,  
But she forgot to dust.  
On Wednesday it was a sampler,  
She says the stippling's fun.  
What highlights! What shadows!  
But the laundry wasn't done.  
Her patches were on Thursday,  
Green, yellow, blue and red.  
I guess she really was engrossed,  
She never made the bed.  
It was wall hangings on Friday,  
In colors she adores.  
It never bothered her at all,  
The crumbs on all the floors.  
I found a maid on Saturday,  
My week is now complete.  
My wife can quilt the hours away  
The house will still be neat.  
Well, it's already Sunday,  
I think I'm about to wilt.  
I cursed, I raved, I ranted,  
The MAID has learned to QUILT!





## *Winter Holiday Luncheon*



# December Show and Tell





## Services from our Advertisers

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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 free sews, Biennial Quilt Show, and fellowship.

**Membership:** *(Please circle one)*

Individual Membership: \$25

Family: \$35

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 \_\_\_\_\_

☐

⇒ 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sierra Mountain Quilters Association

P.O. Box 1359  
Oakhurst, CA 93644

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



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

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

### BOARD MEMBERS

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President                       | Sue Johnson                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents | Sally Walker and Lynn Gray  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:cthickman@yahoo.com)

**Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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  |