



# Sierra Mountain Quilters Newsletter

Next meeting: **March 5, 2015** Oakhurst Community Center Pavilion

*Doors open at 5:30*

*Business meeting at 6:00 followed by Show & Tell*

***Program: Cuddle Quilts - Judy Andes***

## Cuddle Quilts

At the March 5 meeting we'll be making Cuddle Quilts so please remember to bring your machines if you added your name to the sign-up sheet.

You'll need basic sewing supplies, such as a cutting mat, selection of thread, etc.

Our pattern is a simple one and we should be able to finish some quilts at the meeting. See you there!

We donated ten Cuddle Quilts to Madera County Sheriff's substation in Oakhurst in January and in February we delivered eleven quilts to Oakhurst Health and Wellness Center.

## Grocery/Shopping Bag Challenge

Thank you to everyone (19) who signed up. You do not need to be signed up to play with this challenge. I just wanted to be sure we had enough interest.

**Rules:** Any Size, any Design, any Pattern. Patterns are available at Bear Paw.

Completed shopping bags due at the July 9 Ice Cream Social Meeting. Have fun making your bag or bags.

**Ideas:** This is a great way to use some of your polyester threads for extra strength when sewing the bags. Use leftover blocks from another project, appliqué, English Paper Piecing, use stash or some new Kaffe Fassett fabric. Your choice!

Email me a photo and I will post them on my blog: If you are looking for directions on the T-Shirt Bag (not part of the challenge), check out my blog.

(<http://vivianhelena-creates.blogspot.com/2014/10/tee-shirts-transfigured.html>) or scroll down at: <http://vivianhelena-creates.blogspot.com/>

Contact me if you have any questions.

Vivian 559-642-6033

[vivianhelena@sti.net](mailto:vivianhelena@sti.net)



*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

## **Sierra Mountain Quilters Association**

General Meeting, February 5, 2015

President Kathy Millhollon called the meeting to order at 6 pm at the Oakhurst Community Center. Kathy welcomed everyone and led the flag salute. Kathy wished a Happy Birthday to everyone with a birthday in February. She also thanked them for bringing refreshments for the meeting. Two new members were welcomed.

Gene Pennington from the San Joaquin Woodworkers was introduced. He gave an overview of their organization. He talked about the toys and cradles the woodworkers make for donation to needy children. This past year SMQA donated 60 mattresses and 60 pillows and 150 quilts for the cradles to the Woodworkers. Gene expressed the appreciation of the Woodworkers Association for SMQA donations and requested that more quilts, mattresses, and pillows for are required for 2015 projects.

### **Old Business**

Kathy reported that the 2014 Audit was completed and that all Financial Records were in order. The group made the following recommendations: timely submittal of check request and members pay for newsletter postage, if mailed.

The By Laws and Policies & Procedures are due to be updated. Patty Spinelli, Lin Crow, Kathy Millhollon and Linda Pennington have volunteered to be on this committee. They will meet on February 24, 2015.

### **New Business/Reports**

The Minutes for the January 8, 2015 were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Patty Spinelli passed out forms for members to enter their quilts in the 2015 SMQA Quilt Show. There will be a limit of two quilts per member unless space dictates room for additional quilts. Sally Walker requested an improvement in ticket sales for the Opportunity Quilt. We have \$3,600 in sales so far. We are slightly above the number of sales this time of the year as in 2013.

Betsy Blum reported on the up-coming Programs and Workshops.

### **Announcements**

Patty Spinelli introduced a new 12"x12" challenge. It will be based on just one word. The first quilt will be "Friendship" and will be due at the April meeting. The next due dates are June, September, and December.

Kathy read a letter sent to the guild from a middle school teacher in Fresno. She is conducting an after school sewing class. A motion was made by Susan Campbell and seconded by Mary Roseling that SMQA donate fabric from Cuddle Quilts to the Kings Canyon's Creative Grizzlies. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy presented a book to SMQA donated by Lura Swartz for auction.

Judy Andes from Cuddle Quilts said she needed members to bring sewing machines to the March meeting. We will be making Cuddle Quilts. She also said she had kits for Wheel Chair Caddies and for Quilts. Members need to see Judy to take one home.

Diane Ward said she was collecting money for the upcoming retreat at ECCO. Jean Richter stated that books from the SMQA library were on the back table ready to be checked out.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35

Followed by: Show and Tell

Presentation of Grocery Bags Project/Vivian Capone  
Sewing Circles: 'Bits and Pieces' and 'Sew Thrilled'

Respectfully Submitted, Jullie Vasquez for Margie Williams

### New Members

**DEWEY, Rhonda**  
 59306 Road 601  
 Ahwahnee, CA 93601  
 Home: 559-683-8816  
 Cell: 559-760-3401  
[rhondakdewey@gmail.com](mailto:rhondakdewey@gmail.com)  
 DOB 10/29

**DIMOREE, Melanie**  
 50703 Granite Butte Way  
 Oakhurst, CA 93644  
 Cell: 209-743-1817  
[mtnquilter@hotmail.com](mailto:mtnquilter@hotmail.com)  
 DOB 10/16

*Please make these new members feel  
 welcome at the upcoming meetings.*



### Treasurer's Report

by H. Ramsey  
 January, 2014  
 (Checking Account)

Balance Forward	\$8,975.81
(12/31/14)	
Income	\$5,273.00
Expenses	\$2,175.43
Bank Balance	
(1/30/15)	<u>\$12,373.38</u>
CD:	\$16,835
Savings:	\$11,620

### Big and Little Sisters

If you are new to the guild and interested in having a Big Sister, please contact me. A Big Sister could mentor and guide you with how our guild operates and help answer your questions. Additionally, we're always looking for a Big Sister who is willing to give back.

Donna Baxter 559 658-5933

### Greeters for 2015

March	Pat Pfankuchen Sally Walker
April	Charlotte Hickman Colette Wear
May	Nancy Swanson Peggy McNelly
June	Diane Ward Peggy McNelly
July	Ginnie Westfall Toni Morton
August	Helen Ramsey Carolyn Gaither
September	Pat Bauer Mary Wylly
October	Sammie Baker Susan Campbell
November	Judy Andes Rhonda Lloyd
December	Georgia Harvey Betty Fish

**Quilting Circles****By Sharon Lawin****March, 2015**

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting of **BITS & PIECES**. They will convene at Penni's home at 11:00 a.m. Each bring salad toppings, bread = Virginia, dessert = Colette. Their agenda will be the usual plus decisions on their quilt show raffle basket. Carpoolers meet at Payless Shoes at 10:45 a.m.

**FOOTLOOSE** ladies will be meeting Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Chris' place from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Members should bring whatever they are currently working on...and don't forget the "ledger" challenge!

The **MATERIAL GIRLS** will meet on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Bear Paw. Bring "show and tell" and two finished heart squares so that they can move to the next step of their "Quilt of Honor". If you cannot make the meeting, please get your heart squares to Nancy or drop off at the Bear Paw.

**SEW THRILLED** members will meet on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. They have several projects in the works. For further information, contact Linda Pennington.

Helen Ramsey will host the **THURSDAY THIMBLES** on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The **TUESDAY STRIPPERS** will gather at Kay Gaumer's home on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

The **WEDNESDAY WILDFLOWERS** completed their first month's BOM. Amy Blodgett was the recipient. Lissa Metzger has the month of March. Betsy Youngholm is in charge of their raffle basket for the quilt show, including collecting items and fixing the basket. A theme will be chosen at the next meeting. Patti Wiens has volunteered to be the WW historian. The group also committed to making cuddle quilts, as well as cradle quilts. Questions? Contact Sandy Johnson.

March will find the **YO YO'S** at Peggy's home on the 16<sup>th</sup>, planning a field trip.

*Save the Date*

*September 21 - 24*

*Fall Retreat*

## April Guest Program

**April 9 & 10 Judy Sisneros** Lecture: *You Make the Decisions*. Workshop: *Circle Pizzazz!* Judy's lecture will focus on how fabric selections can totally change the look of quilts. A punch of the right color can make your quilts come to life. Also, borders or not? Judy's workshop will have you working with circles. You may have seen her book of the same name *Circle Pizzazz!* Wonderful quilts! Five piece acrylic templates can be purchased at the class. <http://www.judysisneros.com>

**NOTE:** All workshops are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. Guest lecturers that are paid for by the guild will be free for members and a \$5 fee for guests paid at the door.

Sign up with Betsy Blum ([smqa2012@gmail.com](mailto:smqa2012@gmail.com)) or at meetings with Amy Blodgett, our new Assistant Program Director. Payment is expected at the time of sign up.

## Kathy's Korner

There are several reminders I wanted to let everyone know about.

At our last meeting we discussed collecting fabric for Beth Droge, a teacher at Kings Canyon Middle School, in southeast Fresno. She started a district wide initiative to involve students in extra-curricular activities, including the arts. She began a sewing club in her room after school and now has 21 students. She started with her own machines and fabric

and has requested support from our guild, Hancock fabrics, and the Kings River guild. We voted to donate fabric from the guild stash. If you want to contribute additional fabric or sewing notions, please bring those items to the March meeting.

At the February meeting we began taking photos for the SMQA Quilt Show. If you plan to enter a quilt and have not had your picture taken for the entry form, please come to the April or May meeting where additional photos will be taken. No photos will be taken at the March meeting as the opportunity quilt will be traveling to another guild to sell raffle tickets.

We all need to remember to sell and turn in the proceeds from our raffle tickets!

Kathy Millhollon

## Quilt Tour October 2015

Barbara Lockwood of Empty Nest Travel Club takes groups to New England in October to see the spectacular fall foliage and a quilt shop every day plus the New England Quilt Museum in Mass.

Interested? You can contact Barbara at [barbaralck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbaralck@sbcglobal.net) or call her at 831-234-0973.

## Amenities

Cards were sent in February to:

Margie Williams

Mary Brand

Contact **Linda Miller** if you know a member who would appreciate us thinking of them. 683-6007

### March Birthdays

McBride, Christina	3/10
Vincent, Patty	3/10
Gaither, Carolin	3/12
Marshall, Kay	3/13
Stillman, Eldine	3/15
Hyde, Nancy	3/16
Kinsel, Trudy	3/27

**Please bring birthday snacks  
to our March 5th meeting**

*We wish you all a very Happy  
Birthday!*



### 2015 SMQA Meeting Dates

Mar 5	Aug 6
Apr 9	Sep 3
May 7	Oct 1
Jun 4	Nov 5
Jul 9	Dec 3

### OPPORTUNITY QUILT TICKET SALES

Please take advantage of every opportunity to sell tickets to friends or family. Better yet, sign up with Sally Walker to take the quilt to a guild meeting in another, nearby city, or a location where you think tickets could be sold. We are all responsible for helping to reach our \$8,000 sales goal. You can pick up additional tickets at every SMQA meeting or at Bear Paw Quilts.

Thank you for helping us reach our goal!

Sally and Mel

### 2015 SMQA Directory

The 2015 SMQA Directory will be given to everyone at our March 5 meeting. Please look at your listing to be sure it is correct. Let me know if any correction needs to be made: [dicknmel@netptc.net](mailto:dicknmel@netptc.net).

Thank you. Mel Peters

*Directory Addition:* Anneliese Krader  
Cell: 559-676-7435



## Quilt Show Banner

As part of the preparation for our upcoming quilt show the Chairs, Virginia Corriea and Sharon Cox, went in search of a local company that could produce an outside banner to advertise the show.

After describing the sign lettering to Mike Muscato at Art Rout Signs, Mike realized that his wife, *Mary Ziebarth*, is a member of the guild. Mike then generously offered to donate the quilt show banner to the guild.

Please show our appreciation and thanks whenever you can.



## "Word" Quilt Challenge

Patty Spinelli is leading us in a 12" x 12" 'Word' Quilt Challenge.

The first Word Quilt is due at the April meeting. The word is "FRIENDSHIP".

Make a 12" x 12" quilt of what the word 'Friendship' means to you or how you would describe the word in a quilt. In April you will receive the next word. We will be making four 12" x 12" Quilts.

The due dates are the meeting days in April, June, September, and December.

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## Mystery Quilt 2015

Not familiar with a "mystery quilt"? Here's how it works: As you begin, the finished pattern/design is unknown. After a member is signed up and paid, Chris Hudson will purchase a complete pattern for each person. The first "clue" (construction steps) will provide you with fabric requirements and cutting instructions. A new clue is provided each month at our regularly scheduled guild meetings--just enough to keep you guessing! In October or November you will receive the final construction steps and the 'mystery' will be revealed. Those with a finished top (not necessary to have it quilted at this point) are asked to share with everyone at the December Christmas party.

This year's pattern is **"Just Around The Bend"** by Debbie Caffrey.

**Finished size:** Lap/Twin (or larger by adding borders).

**Fabrics required:** 3 (usually high contrast).

**Skill level:** 2 - challenges such as partial seaming, on point settings, more fabrics.

**Number of possible settings:** 11.

**Cost:** \$6.50.

Currently there are 24 members signed up. Please have your payment to Chris (642-6685) no later than the March 5 meeting.

For those participating, if you miss a meeting, you may pick up your clues at Bear Paw Quilts & More.

Hope you join us...it's lots of fun!!

Submitted by Chris Hudson

## For the Love of Quilting

by Diane Martin

It's been quite a love affair! The Sierra Mountain Quilters Association has shown its love for quilting with quilt shows for 31 years! The 2015 Show will make it 32 years. How did this romance begin?

*From the Program for the 1983 Quilt Show, **For the Love of Quilting**:*

"During the summer of 1981, Judy Crawford, Marge Hoyt, and Betsy Blum expressed a desire to start a Quilt Association in Oakhurst. With this desire, an organizational meeting was held Oct. 18, 1981 in the Oakhurst Fabric House classroom. Nineteen women attended this first organizational meeting, elected officers and set the meeting nights as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Sierra Telephone Bldg. At the time that the quilt association was begun, publicity stated that **'the only requirement for membership is a love of quilting.'** Since 1981, the Association has made three group quilts, had several speakers and demonstrators - among them Roberta Horton, and participated in community events, such as the MADDS festival. The Association now has a membership of 50, meets at 7 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at Yosemite High School, and is thrilled to be presenting our **FIRST QUILT SHOW!!**"

On **June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>** of this year, SMQA will be holding its 20<sup>th</sup> quilt show, *Sierra Blooms*. Quilt shows and the raffle of opportunity quilts are the only fund-raising activities of SMQA. Proceeds support programs, room rental, insurance, amenities, and charitable work of the association. This is why it is vital that all

members make a sincere effort to support the sales of raffle tickets. Without these sales, we



*Program for SMQA First Quilt Show 1983*

can't pay the rent! Contact Sally Walker to find out about the many opportunities available for selling tickets.

Quilt shows allow SMQA to present the art of quilting to the community and honor the hard work of its members. The quilts in SMQA shows are submitted by members with all levels of quilting experience. Even children have had quilts displayed in SMQA shows! SMQA members are especially happy to see quilts submitted by new members. The last show, in 2013 had over 90 quilts on display and close to 400 visitors.

Let's keep the love affair flourishing! Pick one or two of your favorite quilts and submit them to the 2015 show!



## Cradle Presented to SMQA

A representative of San Joaquin Fine Woodworkers' Association (SJFWA), Gene Pennington, presented a doll cradle to SMQA.

The home location of SJFWA members extends from Porterville to Mariposa. Some of the members construct fine furniture; others turn wood into art objects such as bowls, even pens. Many of the members Gene called "Elves" transform slabs of wood into all wood toys that are given to less fortunate children at Christmas.

One of the toys constructed is a doll cradle which includes a quilt, mattress, pillow and a doll. In 2014 SMQA created 150 quilts, 60 mattresses and 60 pillows. Five other quilt guilds added 350 more quilts and 440 additional mattresses and pillows. These generous donations allowed the woodworkers to donate 500 completed cradle sets. They also donated 3,000 other wood toys.

To show appreciation for SMQA's efforts Gene presented to the guild on behalf of SJFWA a cradle, quilt, mattress and pillow with a stuffed toy in addition to a doll stroller and cutting board made of maple and walnut.

Gene requested that we continue our generous quilting efforts during the balance of 2015 to produce sets of one each cradle quilt, mattress and pillow.

So, Ladies, get out those scraps or left over blocks you've been saving and start sewing! These are quick and easy to create. Please bring your finished items to our monthly meeting. Linda Pennington will collect the completed items and pass them on to the Woodworkers.



Gene Pennington with cradle

### Instructions for Cradle Quilt, Mattress & Pillow:

*All fabrics must be washable*

Finished sizes:

Cradle Quilt: 16" to 18" square

Cradle Pillow: 4" x 5-1/2"

Cradle Mattress: 5-1/2" x 16"

You may make the quilt pillow case style or with a binding.

Matching sets are preferred however the mattress and pillow can be made from muslin and stuffed with polyester stuffing, flannel, or batting.

## February Meeting Show & Tell







*Sew Thrilled Circle Members*



*Bits & Pieces Circle Members*



**Sierra Fiber Arts**  
 7462 N Fresno Street  
 Fresno, Ca 93720  
 (Fresno Street at Alluvial)  
 559-432-8900  
[sierrafiberarts.com](http://sierrafiberarts.com)

Complete the learner's class's (\$50) and rent the Longarm Machine for \$15 per hour and quilt your own quilt.

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## 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  
TAG AT THE NEXT MEETING!**

### BOARD MEMBERS

President	Kathy Millhollon
First Vice President	Betsy Blum
Second Vice President	Patty Spinelli
Treasurer	Helen Ramsey
Secretary	Margie Williams

*Board Meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. the last  
Monday of each month at Yosemite Bank  
Community Conference Room.*

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amenities	Linda Miller
Big/Little Sisters	Donna Pike-Baxter
Circles	Sharon Lawin
Cuddle Quilts	Judy Andes & Lissa Metzger
Historian	Donna Pike-Baxter
Hospitality	Footloose Circle
Librarian	Jean Richter
Membership	Mel Peters
Newsletter	Linda Pennington
Parliamentarian	Jullie Vasquez
Quilt Show Chair	Virginia Corriea & Sharon Cox
Webmaster	Sally Walker