



THE PINE NEEDLE PRESS

PO BOX 3133 • GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 www.pinetreequiltguild.com

Volume 44 Issue 1

January 2026

Table of Contents

Anniversaries/Birthdays _____	14
Affiliates _____	14,15
Calendar _____	3
Community Service _____	8
Education Scholarship _____	9
Guild Challenge _____	7
Home Workshop _____	9
Inquiring Minds _____	17
Membership _____	6
Membership Form _____	16,
MiniGroups _____	3
Opportunity Quilt _____	10
President's Message _____	2
Programs _____	1,13
Opportunity Quilt _____	10
Quilt Show News _____	4-6
Round Robin _____	11
Row by Row _____	11
Share and Care _____	10

Pine Tree Quilt Guild January Meeting

What Goes Into Making Our Quilt Show?

How can you contribute to the success of the
Pine Tree Quilt Guild's 2026 Quilt Show?

Join us on January 6th to find out the perfect fit for
your skills to making this year's
Quilt Show the best ever!

January 6th, at 6:00PM

Doors open at 5:30

Grass Valley Charter School

Committee Leaders will be available to answers questions and
fill you in on their needs.



If you're thinking about a **New Year's Resolution**, consider more activity. According to this definition, Quilting would definitely fit the bill! **Quilting is a sport. It involves batting, running-stitches, pumping iron, hunting for fabric, hooping and ditching. Yea - I'm athletic!!!**



January 2026 President's Message

Hello, Quilty Friends and Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone made it through the holidays unscathed!

I love January with the Quilt Guild! Everyone is fresh and excited to hunker down and quilt whatever THEY feel like quilting, No pressures or obligations to finish something for others, just pure happy quilting pleasures for ourselves! This is our time to enjoy and we do so with like-minded people.



I do need to touch on a few subjects just to remind everyone as there has been lots of switching of venues, times, volunteers etc, so here goes:

The next four meetings will be at the Grass Valley Charter School (formerly known as Hennessy) January, February, March and April will be there, and the meetings will start at 6:00 pm with doors opening at 5:30 pm.

Parking at the school also needs mentioning. The area at the front of the school is for handicapped and those volunteers lugging in loads of equipment for the meeting. You can drop members off there and park elsewhere. There is space behind the school, accessed from Hwy 174. This area is not well lit, so please have your cell phones or flash lights to help with visibility. I would strongly discourage parking under the freeway! Traffic doesn't pay attention and crossing can be risky. Use Only as a last resort. That all said, I would strongly encourage car pooling.

Another point that needs mentioning is the few Board positions that still need to be filled. Most importantly is the Opportunity Quilt Marketing position. We desperately need someone to organize the display of our quilt at different venues. It's how we pay for our guest speakers, Jamboree, and retreat. Holly will be done in April, so please give it some consideration!

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing all your bright, shiny faces January 6th!

Cheers!

Frances O'Brien

President





Add To Your January Calendar

General Meeting	6:00 PM	January 6th	GV Charter School
		Doors open at 5:30PM	
PTQG Board Mtg	3 PM	January 8th	
Newsletter Deadline	6 PM	January 11th	sierrasue@icloud.com
Community Service	9 AM - 1 PM	Jan 15th	161 Nevada City Hwy, NC
Quilt Show Mtg	1PM - 3PM	Jan 20th	Eskaton 49er Room
Home Workshop	9AM - 3PM	Jan 22rd	161 Nevada City Hwy, NC
Quilting 101	9:30 AM -2PM	Jan 23rd	Methodist Church, see pg 8

Congratulations to Holly Miner and Sue Miller on being elected into the Guild Hall of Honor for their contributions to the Guild.

Coming February 3rd: Kitty Oliver: Have you wondered what criteria a professional quilt judge uses when evaluating a quilt? Kitty will present how she went from quilt maker to quilt judge, and what makes for an award-winning quilt. Mark your calendars for February 3rd!

Workshop February 4th Terry McFeely – Fun Techniques with Terial Magic

Mini Groups

Have you wondered when you were going to get into a mini-group? In January we will be having a get-together for those of you who are interested in forming a group. We invite you to join us on Sunday, January 11th in the meeting room in the back corner of Ben Franklin from 1 :00PM until 3:00PM.

In the meantime, please consider what you would like in a group. Do you want to be in a group that focuses on learning new skills or perfecting ones you've already learned? Do you want an embroidery group? Would you like to perfect your free motion quilting? Please come with something in mind, even if it's just being open to learning something new and getting to know some of your fellow Guild members better!

A few treats will be available, and yes, they will include Chocolate!
Please RSVP to Beth Stagner at bethstagner@mac.com or 925-383-7188

Ruth Bertaccini

Judy Hamilton

Sue Miller

Beth Stagner



Happy New Year to One and All!

May all your New Year's resolutions include a lot of quilting projects! Have you started your show entry quilt? We can't wait to see the lovely designs displayed at this year's show.

Our 2026 Quilt Show will celebrate our 40th Show and promises to be an amazing tribute. We do have one Committee that still needs leadership. This is Set-up and Take down which also includes hanging the quilts. It's amazing seeing this part of the show all come together.

Show planning is full speed ahead. All Guild members are invited to attend our meetings. Many thanks to our new members who attended meetings this fall and experienced a "birds eye view" of the wonderful discussions that happen for each important decision.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 20th, 1:00pm, at Eskaton in the downstairs meeting room.

Reminder: Quilt show committee leaders are looking for help in many different ways with various time commitments. At the January Guild meeting members will learn about volunteer opportunities and be able to speak to committee leaders about the specific needs of their committees. Our hope is a volunteer opportunity will be matched with every interested Guild member. Be sure to ask questions about volunteer needs and time commitment so a great fit for every volunteer will be found.

Here's to a Terrific '26 Quilt Show!

Sophia Day Desiree Davila Sue Miller
Holly Miner Beth Stagner





Quilt Show Volunteers

Margaret and Judy will be at the next Guild meeting taking sign ups for volunteering at the Quilt Show. The dates of the show are April 25th and 26th but we also need help on the 3 days preceding the show. We have 230 shifts needing your support. Not only do you help your Guild, you also get free admission to the show and are entered into a drawing for a free Speaker workshop.

You may also sign up via the Guild website after January 8th.

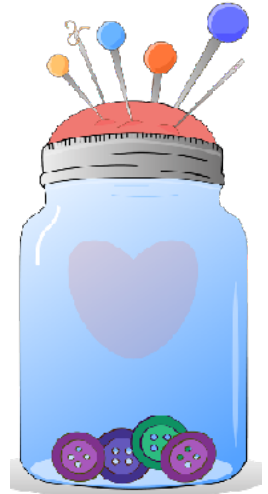
Thank you (in advance).

Judy Hamilton and Margaret Vodicka

Silent Auction 2026

Michaele King and Laura Greenman

It's time to start thinking about what you'd like to make or donate for our Silent Auction at the 2026 Quilt Show. As always, items like quilts, pillows, baby/kid quilts with books, aprons, hot pads, vintage quilt tops, quilt kits, and new or gently used equipment (sewing machines/quilting accessories) in working condition are usually top sellers. Other items are welcome, of course, anything you think would make a great donation. Mini groups might consider making a quilt to donate. Your generosity is appreciated and all the proceeds help our Guild. You can drop off donations at the general meetings or community service or contact one of us for pick-up or delivery.





Raffle Baskets

Mariah Bath and Ruth Bertaccini

Want to donate a basket for the raffle at the Quilt Show but not sure what works? Baskets do well when there is a theme. Wine in a wine basket, chocolate in a chocolate or goody basket, stuffed animal in a kid basket, etc. Baskets that have lots of items related to a theme, such as fabric, notions, original patterns and other items do well.

Here is a list of themes that have worked well in the past.

- Food - Chocolate, Tea and/or coffee, Wine
- Christmas
- Colors - blue basket, yellow basket, rainbow
- Asian fabrics
- Art quilter's basket
- Patriotic Red, White, Blue
- Animals - Cats, dogs, domestic and/or wild.
- Nature - lake, water, forest, flowers
- Seasons - Autumn leaves, Floral Beauties, How Green is my Valley
- Holidays - Valentines, Veteran's Day, 4th of July, Halloween, Spring/Easter
- Kids - 123, ABC, Sleepy time, teddy bears, Super Heroes, Race Time

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ruth Bertaccini

As 2025 winds down, we've added a total of 35 new and returning members to the Guild this year. Our latest newbies are Kelly Burke and Carol Bentley. The Guild's Board members have had discussions regarding the increased membership and the implications in making decisions on our meeting venue/s. This is no easy task and 2026 will present a few challenges so we ask that our members stay informed and be patient and understanding during these "growing pains".



I'm happy to see that our online and hard-copy renewals have been steadily rolling in with 65 received so far. Please try to complete this before we get close to the January 15 deadline for printing a new roster.

Lastly, please remember to sign in when you attend a general meeting or have a friend sign in for you. We use attendance records to inform different committees when they need to plan events. Also, please remember to wear your name tag or ante up the 25-cent fine to help defray the cost of the paper name tags. It takes a village to make things run smoothly for all of us.



Guild Challenge

Margaret Vodicka and Kris Cook

It's Not Too Late - Sign Up for "Read Me - Use Me" Guild Challenge

Are you looking for a New Year's Resolution? You could decide to challenge yourself, be creative, or learn a new skill. Joining our Guild Challenge could help you fulfill your resolution. Or, it can just be a fun project that you could see displayed at our April Quilt Show. If you haven't had a chance to sign up, pick up your Challenge Material at our January General Meeting. The Challenge Material is a randomly chosen magazine page and a piece of fabric that is identical for all participants. Using the magazine page for inspiration, create a project with the following:

- Any technique(s) can be used.
- Fabric: In addition to using some or all of the provided fabric, one may use anything else - all colors, patterned, solid, dark, light, with embellishments, etc.
- The quilt must be no larger than 30" per side, and completely finished with a sleeve and label.
- Save the magazine page that relates to your quilt since you will submit it along with the quilt.
- The Challenge Quilt will be displayed at a special exhibit at our Quilt Show in April.



Please keep your quilt a secret.

Any questions, contact
Kris Cook or Margaret Vodicka,
Guild Challenge Co-Chairs





Community Service

Nancy Holtz



Community Service continues to provide support to organizations in the area. This year we distributed over 260 quilts. In December we donated quilts to those in Hospitality House who are transitioning into permanent housing.

Community Service also donated 37 dog beds to Margaret Mickelson's (Keller Williams Realty-Penn Valley) drive to donate dog beds to local shelters. This is one way small scraps of fabric are used. We try hard not to throw anything away!

There will only be one meeting in January because January 1st is the first Thursday. We will meet on January 15th.

Beginning in February we will resume meeting on the first and third Thursdays from 9-1 at the back of the Nevada County Historical Society building next to Sierra Presbyterian Church at the wonky corner of Ridge Rd and Nevada City Hwy. All are welcome.





Quilting 101

Joan Mosley

The enthusiastic ladies of our Quilting 101 class are looking forward to the class beginning in January. If you are unable to join us, or want to be taken off the waiting list, please let me know before the first class.

Quilting 101 is designed to help beginning quilters gain confidence and skill in the basics of quilting. We meet monthly, January through October, with the exception of April. (Quilt Show) The class is free to all Guild members but you bring your own supplies and equipment. Each month's session will focus on a particular block and the skills needed for its creation. We also visit other areas of quilting, such as fabric and color choice, layout, reading a pattern, and finishing techniques.

Our class meets on the **third Wednesday** of the month, 9:30 to 2:00. The first class will be on January 21st at our new meeting place: the **Grass Valley United Methodist Church**.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:
jmos919@gmail.com or sjmosley4@comcast.net.



Education Scholarship

Sheri Doerr

Applications for the 2026 PTQG Education Scholarship, given in memory of Guild members Jeanne Gill, Carol Phillips, and Myrna Raglin, are now being accepted!

This award is open to any Nevada County resident graduating high school this year and who will be pursuing a course of study in fiber arts, textiles, graphic design, or other fine arts related fields in their first year of college study. Previous high school recipients of this scholarship who are beginning a second year of college are also eligible to apply. Find the application for this year's \$2,500 award and the address for submissions by mail or email under the "Activities" tab on the PTQG website.

Photographic evidence of three of the applicant's creative works must accompany the application. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2026.

Once again the Scholarship Committee is eager to welcome this year's applicants and affirm the generous support that our Guild continues to extend to Nevada County's youth!



Opportunity Quilt Marketing News

From Holly Miner, OQ Marketing Chair: Nice weather brought many shoppers to the Nevada County Fairgrounds for the 2025 Country Christmas. Our Opportunity Quilt “Royal Kaleidoscope” and the special holiday quilt “Puppies First Christmas”, made by the Busy Bees Mini Group, looked great in our regular location in the Northern Mines building. The “Puppies” quilt included two pillows created by Robi Holmen.

Special thanks to Sue Miller for all her help with this event and great appreciation for those who volunteered to sell tickets.

The “Puppies First Christmas” quilt made \$884. The winner, Linda of Grass Valley, has donated this quilt back to the Guild and the Busy Bees decided to donate it to the Silent Auction!



My time as Opportunity Quilt Marketing and Scheduling ends December 31. I want to mentor the next Chair or, hopefully, team replacing me. Get a group of friends together and contact Frances O'Brien.

SHARE AND CARE



Do you know someone in the Guild who is under the weather and can use some cheering? Whether it

is an illness, surgery, or a loved one, please let me, Anne Wilson, know so I can send an appropriate card. Thank you!

Anne Wilson, Chairwoman (See roster for Anne's phone and email.)



Find us on 

Has anyone recently finished a quilt? Let's share on our FB Page

www.facebook.com/PineTreeQuiltGuild/

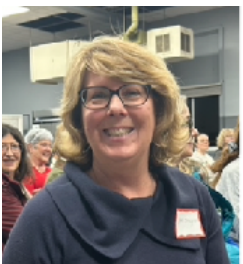


Row By Row



Got your row-by-row quilt top row finished? Well, you still have a little time before the 2026 Row-by-Row (RBR) begins! Finish your quilt top row by January 14, 2026, before the Row-by-Row (RBR) event starts.

Sessions are in Ben Franklin's Classroom at 10:30 am and 5:30 pm. Bring your quilt row, completed RBR note sheet, and any fabrics for the black bag. Everyone will present their row, then Karla, Beth and I will randomly hand you a bag to work on. You'll have one month to add a row to the quilt you receive.



For questions, contact Jeanne Pincha-Tulley (jpinchatulley@gmail.com).

We are excited you are participating in this adventure!

Karla Rogers (530) 470-3645

Jeanne Pincha Tulley (530) 913-2823

Beth Stagner (925)383-7188

Round Robin

Peggy Vierra

Our Round robin group will be meeting the third Thursday of each month starting January 15th through June. We will meet at Ben Franklin at 5:00. The meeting will last no more than an hour to exchange bags. It will be structured like the Row by Row Challenge where you will add a new row to someone else's project except we will start with a central piece and work around that theme, hence the Round Robin.

We are looking forward to having fun coming up with a new look. Everyone is welcome, no matter your experience.

Please contact Peggy Vierra (530)913-2243 or Frances O'Brien (530)575-0708. If you signed up earlier and haven't heard from us give us a call. We are preparing bags with all the information to give you ahead of time.

Looking forward to seeing you!



Home Workshop

Theresa Finn



Exciting classes are in store for you with Home Workshop for 2026. January will open with Holly teaching binding and finishing techniques. February will be a sewing machine pad plus with Beth. March will be an art quilt with Sophia and April will be a zippered mesh bag with Henri. Coming up we'll have a second EPP class with Erica, quilted bog coat, and a surprise class during the summer with Mariah. In September Annica will be sharing how to create postcards. We'll also host a gathering for making quilt tops for Community Service in October. November and December are silent.



Looking forward to seeing you in January!

Happy New Year!







Affiliates 2025

The Hand Quilters	530-432-0505
Susie Hardy Designs	530-478-0223
Mariah's Sew Aloha	808-345-3112
Star Designs Longarm Quilting	530-277-4327
Ben Franklin	530-273-1348
Fat Lady Singing	530-432-1646
Precision Quiltworks	530-470-365

Another thank you to our affiliates from 2025.
The Guild members appreciate your support.

TheHandQuilters@gmail.com

susiehardy@comcast.net

mariah.bath@gmail.com

Call for an appointment

benfranklin-crafts.com

eagle1238@comcast.net

precisionqw@hotmail.com



Happy Birthday!

1	Judy Speller	2	Susan Pollard	3	Allison Durham
4	Joan Hartung	4	Marna Duncan	7	Mari Weaver
7	Evelyn Mehrkens	10	Teal Marich	13	Karen Smith
15	Carole Hribal	15	Susan Mincks	15	Rhonda Horne
16	Carolyn Christiansen	18	Rosa Montgomery	21	Robin Petersen
22	Donna Switzer	24	Cathy Stone	25	April Durham
29	Diane Wetzel	31	Lanie Nepper	31	Sue Marshall



Happy Anniversary!



8	Anita & David Dall
9	Rachel & Steve Pena
14	Lorena & Daniel Ferchaud
15	Cheryle & Ken Haas
24	Margaret & Milan Vodicka
28	Cindy & Larry Loper
29	Sue & Frank Marshall
29	Julie & Dave Ruark





Affiliates 2026

Kudos to Sally Monestier of Fat Lady Singing and Susie Hardy of Susie Hardy Designs for being the first to renew their affiliate memberships in the Guild. Thank you both for your support.



Long Arm Quilting
Embroidery • Interiors

Susie Hardy

(530) 478 • 0223

susiehardy@comcast.net

www.susiehardydesigns.com

P.O. Box 95, Nevada City, CA 95959



FAT LADY SINGING

It's not over til the fat lady sings...
and your binding is on!

A hand stitched binding service

Sally Monestier

530-432-1646

fatlady@comcast.net



Winning team of the Dress The Tree contest at our Holiday Party.



Karle deProsse as "The Tree"



Lucky winners at the holiday party.

Left: Janet Palmer

Middle: Sophia Day

Right: Sharon Kreiss





Inquiring Minds

Sue Miller

When I started writing these articles, I said they would be short, but somehow they always end up longer than I anticipated. We'll see how this month goes....A few words about techniques. There are quilting techniques for the quilt top. Briefly touched upon in earlier articles, there is simply sewing together precut pieces to create a design. One can also appliqué by stitching fabrics onto a background to create a design.

Foundation piecing can be done on paper or a pre-printed fabric. If done on paper, the paper is removed. If done on fabric, the fabric provides another layer for the quilted project. English paper piecing is a hand-sewing technique using paper templates and fabric to create intricate patterns.

There are also techniques for stitching the layers together. One can hand quilt and stitch the layers with a needle and thread by hand, A technique used in the early days of quilting before sewing machines became too popular. Later on machine quilting using a domestic machine became popular. Something that is still sometimes looked down upon by the "true" quilter. A walking foot helps feed the layers of fabric evenly, creating a straight or simple lined quilting design. Free motion quilting can be done with the feed dogs down on a domestic machine allowing the quilter to move the quilt and create any design. Longarm quilting can be done using a specialized long arm machine that holds the quilt and creates very large or intricate designs. Some of them are computerized.

The stitching methods also vary. Stitching directly in the seam lines of the quilt top is called 'In-The-Ditch' quilting and is more difficult than it sounds. One needs to concentrate on keeping the sewing lines where they belong. Outline or contour quilting involves stitching a short distance away from the seam lines to follow the shapes of the blocks or appliqué. With crosshatch quilting one creates a grid of parallel and diagonal lines across the quilt. Echo quilting has a repeated stitching shape in an outward pattern, producing a rippling effect.

Trapunto is a technique for creating a puffy, three-dimensional effect by inserting batting underneath a raised design.

I've been hearing the term Leaders and Enders and thinking it involved just using scraps to begin and end sewing blocks. Well, it is, but with a purpose. Bonnie Hunter wrote on her website how she loved chain pieced projects. She had 2" square scraps and would sew two together before starting her project's blocks to prevent those bird nests on the back that sometimes form with those first stitches of a block. It also saves thread and helps quilters use their stash more efficiently. More information can be found online at Bonnie's website, Quiltville.com.

If you have a favorite quilt designer or topic you'd like to know more about, let me know....we'll cover it next month!

If anyone can tell me what is special about this edition of the newsletter....they win a gift certificate.....first one wins....



Pine Tree Quilt Guild

Post Office Box 3133
Grass Valley, CA 95945

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PTQG Information

The Pine Tree Quilt Guild of Nevada County

Send address changes and corrections to:

PTQG Computer Records
P.O. Box 3133 • Grass Valley, CA 95945
or email Sophia Day smeyer@nccn.net

Mail membership forms and dues to:

PTQG Membership
P.O.Box 3133 • Grass Valley, CA 95945

Submit newsletter articles to:

Sue Miller, PTQG Newsletter Editor
sierrasue@icloud.com or mail to
11255 Banner Mine Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

Newsletter Deadline:

5:00 p.m._the Sunday following the
Thursday PTQG Board Meeting

See our web page for membership forms and information: www.pinetreequiltguild.com