

NEWSLETTER

Next meeting January 6

Happy New Year

Please join us for a fun-filled AND educational program, when three of our members demo different quilting methods. **Jayne** will show us a variety of techniques for binding quilts; **Garnet** will show how to make FUNctional quilted bags, and **Margo** will teach us her six-minute circle magic! Additionally we will have a fabric sale with some beautiful and BIG pieces, so bring your creativity and cash and be ready to jump in!

6 pm
Start
Time!!

Don't Forget..

- Money for Monthly Mini
- Show & Tell
- Block of the Month
- Cash for fabric sale
- Food to share



President's Message

Hello Petaluma Quilters,

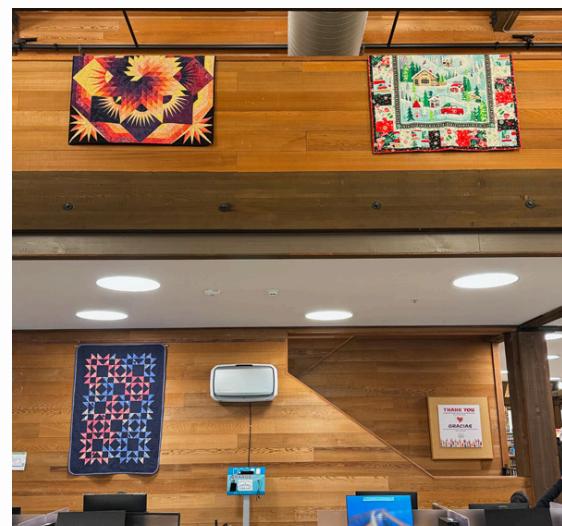
We have made yet another trip around the sun – 2025 is closing out. It seemed to go pretty fast to me! That said, we still achieved a great deal in 2025: we held a sewing class which we'll be following up on this year, we looked great at the SonoMarin fair, we had a mini show at the Mail Depot, we were in four craft fairs, we showed our opportunity quilt at guilds all over and at the Art & Garden festival, we threw a "Sew, Sleep, Repeat" sewing weekend, we had a round robin, we had a stocking challenge, we took a meeting to make fabulous crafts for the four craft fairs, we received grants from Friedman's and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, we decided to be a balanced budget guild. A LOT happened!

2026 can also be great but being a small guild, we must all be mighty. Volunteer where you can and volunteer often! Try to bring in new folks to the guild – diversity only makes us better.

Finally, our class at the library is coming up in January – you still have time to volunteer! In the runup to the classes we have quilts up at the library – go check out the new space and how our quilts enhance it! Also, the Petaluma Quilt Guild will be featured in the Towns Section of the Press Democrat on Sunday, January 4 – check it out!

Happy New Year!

Happy Quilting, Melissa



Board Meeting Minutes

12/17/25, via Zoom

Attending: Melissa H, President; Shari K. Treas.; Julie S., Sec'y.; Margo C & Julie S., Prog. Co-chairs; Ellie O., COTS; Jayne M., Military quilts, Kathy S., Membership

Balanced Budget Initiative – Shari gave the Treasurer's report, noting that fundraising was going pretty well, totaling \$11K, less expenses, and felt the Guild's finances are in pretty good shape. Membership is slightly less than expected, but affiliate dues, donations, craft sales, are all over budget. There will be more monthly meeting income and Opp quilt income for the first half of 2026. Melissa noted that Kirsten said she would have it done by first of year, but if she can't it may need to go to someone else. There will actually be three opportunity quilts this year – one to give away to Guild members who participate in creation of the other two.

Board – Melissa asked Board member whether they would continue in the 25-26 year, and said she would not be staying on as President. Board ongoing – Shari, Julie and Margo said they will stay. Shari suggested recruitment of an Asst. Treasurer to learn the ropes – which takes time.

Library – Guild quilts have been hung up in library, to inspire and encourage people to sign up for classes. Kim, Margo and Gigi are conducting three Beginning Quilting classes at the library in January. Melissa will talk to Kim about the use of electronic sign-ups for volunteers.

PR – We will be featured in Towns section of Press Democrat on Jan 4. Ellie expressed concern about the quality of the article, given the interview that took place.

Programs – Laura Fraga, who lectures on Dear Jane quilts, has been booked for the April meeting. We will want guild members with Dear Jane quilts to bring them to the meeting. One more speaker (total of three) will be booked for this fiscal year. March will have a Guild craft making meeting – but someone is needed to lead it. Some kind of participatory activity (round robin, quilt-along, orphan block, challenge, etc.) will be scheduled in the first few months of 2026. Kathy S volunteered to teach a name badge project. A half-day Guild class or retreat is also being considered.

Membership – the current Membership list to be sent to Guild members.

Meeting adjourned 5:09 pm.



Library News!

For three Sundays in January, the Guild will be providing a beginning quilting class at the recently remodeled Petaluma Regional Library. This is a wonderful way to publicize the Guild and connect with our community. There is no charge for the class, however the goal is to have the documentation, format, and project plans to recreate this program in other venues. Sewing is trending back (even our local downtown fiber shop is offering sewing classes!) so now is the time to seize this opportunity! Hopefully, we will raise awareness and attract new membership while gaining experience in teaching our craft. We will be making the quilted pillow shown in the picture below. This project will let us highlight many quilting processes such as strip piecing, seam nesting, chain piecing, stitch and flip, half square triangles, points, bias, sashing, quilt sandwich – it's a blockbuster of a pillow!

And to add to the excitement, Melissa has arranged for us to hang quilts at the library to further raise our profile and "market" the class! There is no better visibility than showing the public the artistry in cutting fabric into little pieces and sewing it back together again!

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? We are still looking for people willing to loan large (6' x 24") rulers, cutting mats, large fabric scissors, and sewing machines. We are limiting class participation to 10 students. If it fills up, the plan is to have 5 members sitting between 2 students in each class. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gigi, Margo or Kim.



Military News

Hello Quilters. Can you believe another year has come and gone. The homeless Veteran quilt project has been successful. We did not hit last year's total of 64 but you should be pleased to hear we made 54 quilts in 2025. On Thursday, December 11th, 2025 I delivered the completed quilts to Nations Finest in Santa Rosa. They had just placed 17 homeless vets and they couldn't wait to hand out a quilt to each of them, what a nice Christmas present. I can't tell you how many times I heard "they really love and appreciate the quilts" and it was repeated to me while in their office. I was told one vet was waiting for his housing assignment and is currently living in his car. A phone call was going to be made to him as soon as I left to invite him to come by the office and pick up a warm quilt that would help with these cold nights. They hope to place him in housing soon. We appreciate all of you who have helped with our guilds outreach to those in need. Thank you.

There will be 3 yard bundles of fabric and patterns at the next meeting. You can choose your own pattern that you enjoy making or choose a new pattern to try. We have some quilt kits for those who don't want to decide what to make. Either way, come by the table and check the choices out. Warm wishes to you and may 2026 by a happy, healthy new year. Keep on stitching, Jayne and Nancy



November Craft Fair Extravaganza -

Final Numbers Are In!

The final numbers are in! The Guild participated in three craft fairs during the month of November. With our fiscal year financial goal raised to \$2000 in gross sales, Ways and Means knocked itself out providing kits, fabric, and patterns to members to inspire participation and creativity. The results were fantastic! Just look at these gross sales numbers:

The Grand Bazaar (2 days)- \$1360; Elks (1 day) - \$442; Rohnert Park (2 days) - \$889 TOTAL : \$ 2691*

* That well exceeds our proposed gross sales goal (\$2000), as well as our proposed total membership income (\$2200) as well as our proposed Opportunity Quilt income (\$2200) and we are only halfway into our fiscal year!

Worried about the actual ROI after fees and taxes? The cost of all booths was \$410, the cost for Square over all 5 days was \$36 so...Ta Dum... with net sales of \$2245, our ROI was 503% (Gross Return from Investment minus Cost of Investment/Cost of Investment). Even after paying sales tax, we will be over \$2000 on a NET basis.

Our Top Ten (actually 11 because we had a few "ties") selling items were:
Potholders - \$262 Quilts - \$245 Tea Towels \$165 Gift Bag Sets \$160
Embroidery Scissors \$160 Casserole Pads - \$98 Teddy Bear Play Sets - \$90
Microwave Heat Pads - \$80 Phone Pillows - \$80 Gnome Mug Rugs - \$70
Sales Baskets - \$70

Some interesting analysis: The "Small Stuff" - eyeglass cases, handwarmers, first aid kits, tissue covers etc designed to bring people to our table were 8% of our total sales. Not bad.

The Holiday items - including the Scandinavian Stars, the Gnome Mug Rugs, casserole pads, gift bag sets and fancy Christmas Stockings and wall hangings were 18% of sales - this is a strong message for future holiday fairs.

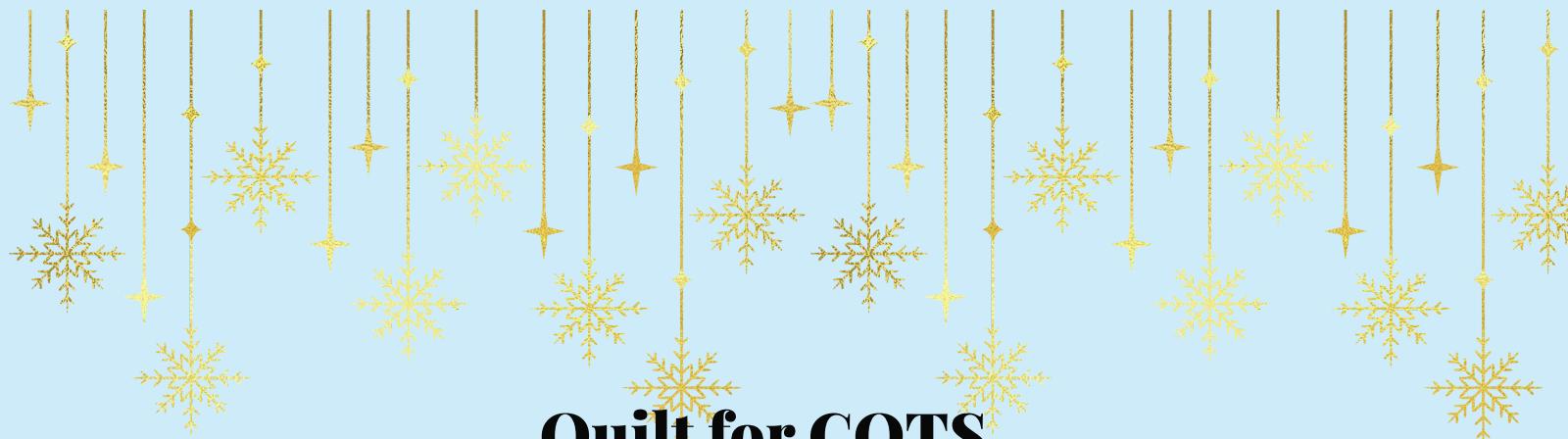
Quilted and appliqued items including tea towels, hen potholders, turkey casserole pads, wall hangings and fancy Christmas Stockings and small quilts - were a whopping 30% of sales pointing us to the community's appreciation of craftsmanship. Fabric matters, artistry matters.

Sold Out Items – if we had more, we could have sold more –

Embroidery Scissors
Gift Bag Sets (sold out twice)
Mug Rugs (sold out three times!)
Teddy Bear Play Sets
"Just Chicken in on You" Chicks
Quilted Hen Potholders
Casserole Pads
Bowl Cozies



We still have Spring Markets and Fairs to make these numbers even better but congratulations to every member of the Ways and Means crew, to all the makers, and to the volunteers who staffed the booths over 5 days. Special thanks to Amanda who helped me set up and take down, (while also keeping me calm with her Zen demeanor) for all three fairs.



Quilt for COTS

Quilters for COTS have done some extra sewing and quilting at home, so we were able to donate 10 more quilts to the Voices Project, which helps young people who age out of foster care. The homeless shelter received 7 quilts and pillowcases in Nov. and 14 quilts and pillowcases as of Dec. 15. The clients of COTS send their thanks for the beautiful and colorful quilts. They feel honored to be receiving handmade and heartfelt gifts of quilts. THANK YOU for your continued support of this project and the homeless of our community. HAPPY HOLIDAYS! Quilters for COTS

Monthly Mini

Our monthly mini for January is a sweet bird and birdhouse quilt from our President Melissa. Thank you, Melissa.

The monthly mini sign-up sheet now has several new donors. Thank you for supporting our guild with your creative donations. **The months of February and May are still open.** Hopefully someone will sign up for February at our January meeting.



Affiliates



January Birthdays

Garnet – Jan 3
Jayne M – Jan 9
Gigi – Jan 19
Metha- Jan 19
Becky L – Jan 24
Sally – Jan 26

Officers

- Melissa H - President
- Kathy/Sue - VP Membership
- Margo/Julie - VP Programs
- Shari K - Treasurer
- Julie S - Secretary

Committee Chairs

Block of the Month - Fran Z

Castoff Table - Laura L

Hospitality - Jane H

Military Quilts - Jayne M

Monthly Mini - Sherri G

Mother Hen - Gigi & Sharon J

Newsletter - Amanda C

Opp Quilt 2026 - Melissa

Quilts for COTS - Ellie O

Retreats - Debby L

Ways & Means - Kim

Webmaster - Amanda

Sew Much News

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Sew Much News

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1/2 page 6 mo \$75 1yr \$125

Full page \$50 each time.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS
THE 15TH OF EACH
MONTH!!!!**