

Mother Lode Quilters' Guild Newsletter



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Volume 23, No.3

March 2026

Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month and there is no meeting in December. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Creekside United Methodist Church in Sutter Creek.

Remember to wear your name badge, bring Comfort Quilts and Show and Tell. When it's your turn, bring snacks. See you March 23, 2026

From our MLQG President -Penni Parsons

Hello ladies, well it seems that the end of February wanted to be memorable. I am sure that some of us are still cleaning up the mess that was left behind from the storm.

Just as we take time to assess our fabrics and prep them (maybe wash and iron) for use in a quilt, there is a considerable amount of time assessing the damage from a storm and figuring out how to tackle the situation. Like we do as quilters in selecting fabric, gathering the proper tools and preparing our sewing space, the same amount of prep is done for cleaning up after a storm. The one great difference is that quilters are able to stay inside a hopefully warm house and quilt. Not so for the cleanup crew, they are outside in the cold and working hard. The best part is that at the end of the day, they can come inside and wrap themselves in a nice warm quilt made with love. Now that's not so bad. is it?

Quilt Show-October 3 & 4



MARCH



Country Store - Heather Beers

Well let's all march to our machines and get sewing. I don't know about all off you but I have long list of things I would like to complete.

The Country Store continues to collect items in preparation for our quilt show in October. I was pleased that members took the new apron pattern and will bring it back to the next meeting.

I am asking members to get things to me no later than the August meeting. It is a lot of work to sort, price, and just organize everything for the show. I will need a little lead time to get it all done.

I hope everyone will leap into Spring with a smile. Have a wonderful month and I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting.

Smiles

Mother Lode Quilters' Guild
General Membership Meeting
February 23rd, 2026

Officers present – President Penni Thompson, Vice President Rebecca Albin, Treasurer Joanne Coss and Secretary Terrie Van Scyoc.

Order- Meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

Membership – There were 25 members present with 5 guests. Kathy Beach reminded the members that 2026 dues of \$35.00 are due and if not paid by the March meeting you will miss having your name in the guild roster.

Minutes – Penni asked the members if there were any questions or challenges to the minutes from the December 2025 meeting that were posted in the January newsletter. Minutes were approved by Rebecca Albin and seconded by Becky Podesta.

Visiting Opportunity Quilt – 3 Ladies from the Antelope Quilters' Guild brought their America's 250 years quilt to display and sell raffle chances. Dawn Schaaf won the Patriotic table runner drawn from ticket purchases this evening.

Correspondence – Terrie reported on an email that Penni had received from Jeffrey Foster representing the local Rotary club. He was reaching out to see if a representative from the guild would like to be a guest speaker at one of their meetings. We suggested that possibly one or two members may want to take this on as it would be good exposure for the guild. There was a Thank You card from the ARC of Amador thanking us for the donation of quilt.

We received a request from the Pacific Piecemakers of Gualala asking if we were interested in donating patriotic quilts or fabrics to make quilts for Veterans. They will be dedicating a monument in November and want to present their local vets with quilts. We discussed this and decided that we would rather put our resources into our local Veterans. Terrie will send a note in response.

Treasurer report – Joanne reported a balance of **\$13,460.79** at the beginning of the meeting.

Comfort Quilts – Gale Sunderland and Sherry Phinney are co-chairing the Comfort Quilts. Gale reported on the current items received and plans going forward. More items were submitted tonight.

Sunshine – Mary Beth Porter will be taking over the Sunshine committee as Lorrie Albin is currently unable. Rebecca gave an update on her mother's health situation. Lorrie has been moved home and is currently in Hospice care. Rita reported that Bunny's husband Skip has been moved to a care facility and Bunny's health is challenged as they have found a mass on her pancreas.

Vice President – Rebecca has a speaker planned for our March meeting. Jane Hopworth will be our March entertainment. Rebecca also showed some quick craft ideas that could be done for a class of projects that can be completed in a short time. A basket and casserole holder were shown.

Veterans Quilts – Penni reported on the plan to present Veterans with quilts at our Quilt Show.

Anelie has worked on an application form that will be available to all members to nominate local veterans. We would like to have a Veterans presentation every year starting with our quilt show in October. Anelie and Carla O'Dell will be working together to come up with a vetting process. The number of donated quilts will determine how many can be presented each year.

Phone Tree/Chain – After the January meeting was cancelled at the last minute, Penni realized that we need some sort of mechanism to be able to contact all members efficiently. She asked for a group to organize this and Rita, MaryBeth, Norma, Terrie and Penni will work together to get it accomplished.

Country Boutique – Heather showed a simple apron made out of a men's collared shirt and had directions available for members.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Terrie Van Scyoc MLQG Secretary

Let's Get Acquainted Rhonda Simpson

Each month Rhonda will interview a member. This month's interviewee is Donna Swanner

MLQG: How long have you been in Amador County?

DS: I moved here when I was twelve so I've been here 54 years but was born in Sacramento. As a kid growing up in Amador County, my cousin and I would ride our bikes from Shake Ridge Road to the Sutter Creek swimming pool, about nine miles and hitchhike back home looking for someone with a truck, so our bikes would fit. Didn't want to ride the bikes all uphill for nine miles.

MLQG: Are you married? Have kids?

DS: Yes, I'm married to Marvin and we'll celebrate 47 years at the end of this month. I met him at Jack's Chevron when I was seventeen. Marvin was employed at Jack's back in the day when gas stations would pump gas for us. Jack's was located on Main Street in Sutter Creek, currently the parking lot next to the Antique Gardener. I have a daughter who lives in Arizona and a son who lives next door to me. I have seven grandbabies.

MLQG: How nice to have gbabies next door. Did you work in Amador County?

DS: Yes, I love having them next door, grandkids walk over when they need Grandma time. I just retired at the end of December after 26 and a half years at Amador County Social Services as an Administrative Supervisor.

MLQG: Where was Safeway when you moved here?

DS: It had just moved from where True Value is in Jackson to where Grocery Outlet is now.

MLQG: What other interests do you have?

DS: I belonged to a Bob Ross painting club and the instructor would teach Bob Ross techniques; we did oil paintings. I like to cook (soups are my specialty) and love to bake cheesecakes. I also have a pretty extensive bead collection that I used to make necklaces and earrings with. I plan to organize my collection now that I'm retired. I was also a Girl Scout leader for seven years, when my daughter was young. That is how I met Carla O'Dell because both our daughters were in it together.

MLQG: How long have you been quilting?

DS: For about fifteen years. I've also taught my husband to sew pieces for me and we've made about 7 quilts together. The first quilt he helped me with was a cactus quilt which is more of an art quilt than traditional quilt. But I do prefer traditional quilts and even better if they come in a kit.

MLQG: What do you like and dislike about quilting.

DS: I'm not a fan of cutting out the fabric or sewing on binding. I have started machine stitching my binding with a decorative stitch on the front of the quilt, and like it much better now. The part I most enjoy is the piecing.

MLQG: Do you pre-shrink your fabrics?

DS: No. I do wash the quilt before I give away with a color catcher.

MLQG: Do you like to sew with a shoe on or off?

DS: I always sew with flip flops on.

February Show and Tell



Upcoming Quilt Shows



Pine Tree Quilt Guild
Milestones and Memories
April 25 - 10am - 4pm
April 26 - 10am - 4pm
Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95949
www.pinetreequiltguild.com

Amador Valley Quilters
Quilting With Friends
April 25 - 10am - 4pm
April 26 - 10am - 3pm
Trinity Church Gymnasium
557 Olivina Ave.
Livermore, CA 94551
www.amadorvalleyquilters.org

Amador County Fair 2026 **Becky Podesta**

There is still plenty of time to get projects ready for our County Fair. Although this year's information, besides the theme of, MORE COWBELL, has not been released, last year there were 9 divisions of quilt categories. Most of the divisions were subdivided into classes.

Small, having a perimeter of less than 216 inches, Medium 217-299 inches and large 300+ inches.

Divisions were: Applique, Art, Miniature, Mixed Technique, Pieced, Other Quilted items, Hand pieced or Hand quilted, Novice and Original Design. The division of Other Quilted Items, would include garments, where you made the quilt, table runners, bags and anything else quilted that does not fit into other divisions.

Our Guild has many talented ladies! The fair has many other areas to consider making entries.

A gift basket or wreath, using fair theme. There is a baked foods and confections category with many many divisions and classes under each division. Preserved and Dried Foods category.

Clothing and Textiles with many divisions of sewn, crocheted, knitted, cross stitch, weaving and hand spun yarn.

We have seen several garments made by members, taking an already existing quilt and repurposing it into beautiful jackets. These items would be entered into - sewing - wearing apparel. There are many other areas where you can enter to showcase your talents. Our fair always needs more entries so consider entering this year.

Membership **Kathy Beach - Chloe Albin**

It was great to see everyone at the February meeting. There were 25 members and 5 guests present.

Please pay your dues at the March meeting if you have not yet done so. Dues are \$35.

Treasurer's Report **JoAnne Coss**

Treasurer's Report for February 2026

\$14,544.82	Beginning Balance
\$ 1,915.73	Income
\$ 1,633.98	Expenses
\$14,826.57	Ending Balance

Hospitality



Trudy Bauman
Penni Parsons
Gale Sunderland
Nancy Horst-Jones
Donna Swanner
Carla O'Dell

Sunshine **Mary Beth Porter**

Mary Beth Porter is now in charge of Sunshine cards for the guild. If anyone knows of someone who is sick or in need of a smile or sympathy card etc., please contact her

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Suzy Morton	3/6
Sherry Phinney	3/6
Kathy Allen	3/7
Tacy Zschokke	3/18
Mary Rose Olmstead	3/19

It's Quilt Show Year!!! Stars, Stripes and Stitches October 3rd and 4th 2026

Our Guild is not large but we are always able, through the help of you as volunteers, to put on a great quilt show. Please help us make this a reality once again this October.

How can you help?

Along with volunteering to help or take on a committee which is fun and a great experience, you can also help our show by doing the following;

Quilts – Submit one or two quilts (made in the last 2 years) to display in the show. Finish those quilts early to avoid pre-show stress. Entry forms will be available in the May newsletter. The final date to turn in your entry paperwork is the August meeting where you can bring your quilt(s) to be photographed if needed.

Show Boutique – Make a few items to sell at the Boutique. Heather has many ideas and patterns to share, and most are quick, fun and easy to make in multiples. It is always a beautiful display.

Country Store – Donate gently used items such as notions, trims, fabrics, craft items, yarns, tools and machines to name a few.

Silent Auction – We need between 35 and 45 items to hold the auction. These items can be small quilts, table runners or toppers, napkin or placemat sets, pillow cases, pillows, aprons, purses and totes, rugs, stuffed and crocheted items, wreaths, jewelry and sewing machine lamps. We have had it all!

Town Merchants – Another form of advertising for the show is to place posters and a small quilted item in participating Merchants in Sutter Creek from Labor Day weekend until our show. These items do not have to have been recently made.

If you have questions about any of this please talk to one of us at a meeting.

Sincerely,

Quilt Show Committee

Anelie Belden, Terrie Van Scyoc, Dawn Schaaf, Heather Beers, Rebecca and Lorrie Albin, Donna Swanner, Trudy Bauman and Carlene Drake

