

Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild, Inc.
Incorporated August 1980



www.sanantonioquilt.org
210-984-6149

March 9th Guild Meeting

9:00 am - Doors Open
10:00 am - General
Business Meeting
Saint Andrew
Presbyterian Church
8231 Callaghan Rd,
San Antonio, TX 78230

Redbird
Quilt
Company

Karen Miller

Remember to
bring to the
meeting

- Name tag (wear it)
- Library books, & DVDs
- QPC projects
- Bright Hopes quilts
- Smiles for everyone

President's Letter

March is here, so warmer weather can't be far behind. As March begins, many of us automatically pull out our green fabric in honor of St. Patrick's Day. There are some beautiful green fabrics in the stores this year. I don't know about you, but I'm stocking up! Speaking of stocking up, I'll just remind you that National Chocolate Chip Cookie Week is also observed in March. Use that information as you will.

I have wonderful news to share with you: Our 1st VP Kami Ricks will serve as Online Auction Chair! She is working closely with Marketing Committee Chair Linda Casias as we begin building a team and laying out a plan of action. There will be multiple elements to this effort, and many opportunities for members to play a part. We will have more specifics for you soon as we move further into this new territory.

Special thanks to President Pro Tem Dea Jae Shore for chairing our January and February general meetings. She'll just say, "That's why I'm here." Maybe so, but typically not in two consecutive months. Dea Jae wears many hats. We thank Janet Miller and Janis Frankenberger for lightening that load by serving as fabric coordinators.

I attended both January and February meetings via Zoom. I'm pleased to report that it worked just as well onboard a ship in the West Indies as at my house in San Antonio. Without Zoom I would have missed the entertaining presentations by Barb ShROUT and Eileen Linares. Thank you both for helping to make those meetings special. Be sure to check the Programs tab on our website for information on future programs.

Sincerely,
Elaine

CONGRATULATIONS ROSEBUD RECIPIENTS!



PROGRAMS 2024

March: Karen Miller of Redbird Quilt Company with Aurifil threads.

Sign ups begin for the June workshops with Beth Cunningham – see guild webpage under Calendar.

April: Jean Ann Bryant presents “What quilt personality are you?”

May: Guild Birthday/Workday
Voting on the Biggie Bag Challenge tops

- Mary McCarthy, 3rd VP for Programs

WALKER RANCH BEE

Come one come all, we need to get our numbers up, for the quilting group on the Third Wednesday of the month. We have managed to get the same 3rd Wednesday for this next year. The only thing that has changed is we can meet at 9 am and sew till?....

Remember they have no services. Bring coffee snacks or whatever unless you want to eat there. There’s a Ninchas about 1 block away. Now you know that you all have handwork to do, so if you don’t want to bring machines. Or get your fabric and patterns out, and bring your cutters, and scissors, and cut the next quilt.

Our next bee is March 20th, all are welcome!

Call Shirley if you have any questions at 210-452-3801.

**Welcome New Members!
Terri & Jeanelle**



All guild members may advertise in the newsletter one free business card size each year. Must be quilt related.

NEWSLETTER INPUT

DEADLINE is Midnight the Monday after Guild meeting. E-mail:

quiltnews@sanantonioquilt.org

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

	Monthly	Yearly
Full page ad	\$60.00	\$660
1/2 page ad (horizontal - 7 x 4 3/4 vertical - 3 3/8 x 9 1/2)	\$30.00	\$330
1/4 page ad	\$15.00	\$165
Business card (2 x 3.5)	\$10.00	\$110

BUSY FINGERS WORKSHOP



JEANNETTE JAY - BAGINEER
BAG MAKING CLASSES IN MY HOME STUDIO

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 210-219-8880
busyfingerssa@sbcglobal.net

[instagram.com/mamajay55](https://www.instagram.com/mamajay55)
[etsy.com/shop/busyfingersworkshop](https://www.etsy.com/shop/busyfingersworkshop)

GSAQG BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 5, 2024

President Elaine Staller called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Elaine Staller, Dea Jae Shore, Cindy Shutt, Gail Clover, Jean Hardies, Melissa Allo, Kami Ricks, Mary McCarthy, Ida Kujawski, Ina Ramirez

Not present:

Guests: Linda Casias, Janet Craig

President – Elaine Staller

1. The January Board Meeting Minutes were approved with correction (removed “Special” from 3rd VP for Programs” title)
2. Calico Roses to be given to Melissa Allo and Carrie Beltran for work on Winter Retreat. Rose Buds will be given to Kami Ricks, Linda Casias, Linda Maldonado, TJ Wolf, Bernie Farris and Vonnie Maglinte for their help with Winter Retreat.
3. New Braunfels Guild will be attending February meeting with their raffle quilt.
4. Austin Quilt Guild will have their raffle quilt at the June meeting.
5. Officers need to be updated on the Guild website.

President Pro Tem – Dea Jae Shore

1. Linda Casias has agreed to be the backup person for the website.
2. EBlast info: mini retreat and summer retreat info.
3. Janet Miller and Janice Frankenburger have accepted to be the Guild’s Fabric Coordinators.

Secretary – Melissa Allo – 3 calls received.

Treasurer – Cindy Shutt

1. The balance as of January 31st is \$70,324.43 with \$65,324.43 available to the guild.

1st VP for Special Events – Kami Ricks

1. Mini Retreat is scheduled for 3/22 – 3/23. Sign-ups will begin in February.
2. Summer retreat date is July 19th – 23rd, 2023. Sign-ups will begin in February.
3. Auction discussions continue. Auction Chair still needed.
4. 2025 Show location contract has been signed.

2nd VP for Information – Ina Ramirez

1. Ina is working on the newsletter.

3rd VP for Programs – Mary McCarthy

1. February presenter is Eileen Linares.
2. March program is Karen Miller. Class sign ups continue in February.
3. April program is Jean Ann Bryant.
4. May will be the Biggie Bag Challenge reveal.

4th VP for Services – Jean Hardies

1. QPFC will be meeting after monthly meetings when no teacher workshop is planned.
2. The first set of Library books will be for sale at the February meeting.
3. Ida Kujawski reported on updated bee list.

5th VP for Community Outreach – Gail Clover

1. Gail Clover communicated with each of the Committee Chairs.
2. A group of people went and visited with Derek at Roy Maas to discuss needs and expectations of quilts donated.
3. Frances Contreras will be working Bright Hopes. Linda Nash will help to get organized.

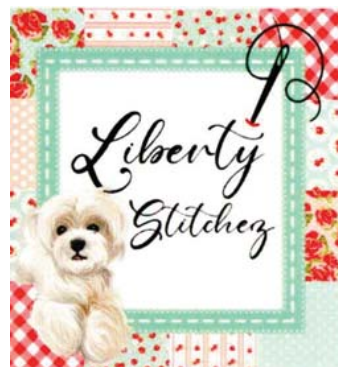
Parliamentarian – Ida Kujawski – was not able to report due to technical difficulties.

Old Business: Policies will be reviewed on Monday February 19th at 7pm.

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned: 8:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Allo, Secretary



Denise Wilcox
Longarm
Quilter

530-295-7193

libtystitchez@yahoo.com



GSAQG General Meeting Minutes February 10, 2024

President – Elaine Staller (attended by zoom)

President Pro-Tem Dea Jae Shore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church.

1. The January general meeting minutes stand approved as published in the newsletter.
2. Calico Rose given to Melissa Allo and Carrie Beltran for Chair and Co-Chair for Winter Retreat.
3. Rosebuds given to Linda Casias, Linda Maldonado, TJ Wolf, Bernie Farris, Vonnie Maglinte, Kami Ricks for their assistance with Winter Retreat.

Secretary – Melissa Allo

1. 3 phone calls received. People requesting help with finishing and repairing quilts. Please see Melissa Allo for information.

Treasurer – Cindy Shutt

1. The balance as of January 31st is \$70,324.43.

President Pro-Tem – Dea Jae Shore

1. Membership dues are being collected.
2. Janet Miller and Janice Frankenberger will be the Guild's Fabric Coordinators.

1st VP for Special Programs – Kami Ricks

1. Spring Mini retreat will be 3/22 – 3/23 at Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church. Linda Kirk will lead. Sign ups begin in February. \$35.
2. Summer Retreat will be 6/9 – 6/13 at Valley Ranch Retreat & Event Center in Camp Wood. Sign ups begin in February. \$150 deposit, total cost \$415
3. The 2025 Quilt Show Chair is Melissa Allo, Co-Chair is Emily Naasz

2nd VP for Information – Ina Ramirez (not present)
– nothing to report

3rd VP for Programs – Mary McCarthy

1. March – Karen Miller will be teaching and presenting on free motion quilting with

lecture and trunk show. Class sign-ups continue.

2. April – Jean Ann Bryant will be presenting on “What quilt personality are you?”
3. May – Biggie Bag Challenge Reveal and Guild Workday.

4th VP for Services – Jean Hardies

1. Door Prize – Nancy Beasley
2. Golden Carrot – Yvonne Spears
3. QPFC will have meetings after monthly meeting when no workshops are scheduled.
4. Ida Kujawski announced a new bee. Please contact Ida for more information.

5th VP for Community Outreach – Gail Clover

1. Bright Hopes- Frances Contreras. Frances has asked for help with making bags kits and bags.
2. Community Education- Sandy Doyle and David De La Garza.
3. Storybook Quilts- Vicki Ash. Announced a need for a quilter for a new quilt that has been turned in.
4. Community Quilt Angels- Janet Miller. Nothing to report.
5. Block of the Month winner – Jackie Randall won 56 blocks!

Parliamentarian – Ida Kujawski – nothing to report

General Announcements:

Please remember there are 4 ways to get Guild information (Webpage, Newsletter, Eblast and each other).

University Methodist Quilt Show will be on February 23, 2024 from 9am- 4pm \$10 entry fee.

New business – none

Old business – Board members will be meeting to review Policies. Please submit any suggestions you have to Melissa Allo, Secretary.

Member attendance – 94

Guests – 2

New members – none

Name tag fine collection \$2.90

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Allo, Secretary.

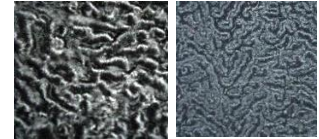
3.2024 Pieces of the Past, 166: **Faux Fur**, by Ellen Hernandez

While looking through old emails I discovered a note I sent to a childhood neighbor about her mother's mink stole. In the 1960s the girl was a toddler when her parents had her older brother and me babysit one night. We were both about 10. He wanted to dress up in his dad's formal suit and told me to put on his mother's mink coat. We were parading around the house and suddenly the parents came home. The mother was so angry about her mink, and I was promptly sent home with a scolding. I only recall seeing a few women wearing fur stoles and neck wraps back then. Did they all end up at thrift shops? I wonder, when did we get faux fur?



Animal pelts have long been used – can you say caveman? - to make hats, gloves, boots, jackets, and coats, and for trade. And for almost as many years, faux furs were made. The Romans made exotic appearing faux fur from dyed animal hair. The ancient Chinese used shaved silk that was tufted to look like fox and mink. In the 1800s a French chemist created *astrakhan*, a mixture of wool and silk that looked like the baby lamb fur native to the Caspian Sea region. *Oublie* was the first synthetic faux fur made from fat and oil in France in the late

1800s. It was mostly used in industrial settings but set the stage for future synthetic discoveries.



Real astrakhan vs faux

During WWI the US taxed real fur as a wartime measure. Soon fake fur manufacturers were overloaded with orders. Inventers created quite unusual pile fabrics made by looping yarns. Alpaca hair and silk were also used and later on synthetics such as Orlon. Fabrics resembled leopard, gazelle, and mole. Then came mink, beaver, chinchilla, seal, raccoon, ermine, pony, and others. Some products were difficult to discern from the real thing.



Well into the 1960s Hollywood and couture perpetuated the status symbol of the fur coat. Mink was the most expensive fur. At the same time, animal activists more publicly protested the killing of animals for fur, especially endangered animals. These efforts propelled the production of fake furs in the 1970s. Unfortunately, the use of real fur rose again in the 1990s, and protests increased as well. PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, held sometimes disturbing protests with bloody posters and naked women who

would *'rather go naked than wear fur.'*



The battle between supporters of natural fur and faux fur continues to this day. In 2017 Paris *Vogue* and Gucci committed to being completely fur-free. Burberry, Michael Kors, and Versace followed suit. The Netherlands, second-largest mink fur producing country, will have all mink farms closed by this year. New inventions are in production such as lab grown BioFur. Ecopel creates fur from recycled ocean plastics. On the flip side, new protests against faux-fur are developing, claiming chemical productions are not eco-friendly.



How do you know you have faux fur? It has a knitted base that is easy to stick a pin through, unlike leather. A test strand that is burned may melt and will smell like plastic.

Tips for sewing faux fur: determine the nap direction before cutting; cut the knitted fabric, not the fur, from the back with sharp blades; comb through long pile fabrics; you may be able to sew a hinge seam which does not require seam allowances; use strong needles; increase stitch length.



Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild					
Treasurer's Report					
For the Two Months ending February 29, 2024					
	YTD Actual	2024 Budget		YTD Actual	2024 Budget
REVENUES			Storage facility	\$746.00	4,476.00
Ordinary Income:			Rent (Meetings)	\$500.00	3,500.00
Interest		600.00	Janitorial	\$50.00	500.00
CD Interest			Membership expenses:		
Other income			Membership Supplies	\$114.53	100.00
Donations	\$2.00		Stationery Purchase		150.00
Garage Sale			Newsletter / Directory Printing		200.00
Library Book Sale	\$25.00		Postage		100.00
Stationery Sales			Zoom Subscription	\$170.70	160.00
Magazine Sales	\$26.00		Webpage		0.00
Nametag Fines	\$3.90		Quilt Show		0.00
Newsletter Postage			Auction		3,500.00
Dues - Membership	\$3,921.00	3,500.00	Community Activities:		
Newsletter / Directory Ads	\$30.00	250.00	Bright Hopes	\$126.76	800.00
Workshops	\$735.00	1,100.00	Storybook Quilts		250.00
Fund Raising:			Community Education		150.00
Quilt Show			Quilt Angels		500.00
Auction	50.00	10,000.00	Mini-Retreats		\$2,000.00
Self-Sustaining:			Retreat - Summer		\$12,000.00
Retreat - Summer	\$4,655.00	\$12,000.00	Retreat - Winter	\$11,281.56	\$13,500.00
Retreat - Winter	\$11,281.56	\$13,500.00	Total Expenses	\$-	\$47,686.00
Mini-Retreats	\$1,050.00	\$2,000.00	Net	\$-	\$-
Total Revenues	\$21,779.46	\$42,950.00	Ending Frost Operating	\$7,943.67	
EXPENSES			Ending Frost Savings	\$15,000.00	
Administration:			SSFCU CD's & Savings	\$39,487.48	
General Administration	\$30.00	500.00	SSFCU Wright Class CD	\$11,734.35	
Bank & CC	\$73.93	500.00		\$74,165.50	
Computer Equipment	\$108.24		Liabilities		
Insurance	\$161.60	2,000.00	2025 show deposit	\$(5,000.00)	
Office Supplies & Postage	\$29.99	200.00	Total Guild Funds	\$69,165.50	
CPA / Tax Return		600.00	Cynthia Shutt, Treasurer		
Telephone	\$20.12	125.00			

NEW TIME for Quilt Projects Finishing Committee!

AFTER the guild meeting EACH MONTH THAT WE DO NOT HAVE additional activities.

Plan to stay for an hour or so to see what QPFC has to share with everybody. This is a fun way to get more involved...you can do as much or as little as you wish, and you'll get to know people and see what quilts and projects are in progress.

We will meet about 30 minutes after the guild's full meeting ends. Plan to stay, bring sack lunch if you'd like.

Everyone welcome. Please come.

Thanks, Ida

Programs Calendar

March: Karen Miller, Aurifilosophy

- Sign up for the March classes at the February meeting.
- Cost is \$35 for all day Friday and \$25 for half day Saturday.
- The classes in March will be our **Eleanor Wright Grant** classes. If you are a member and register for the class and then attend the class your enrollment fee will be returned to you.

April: Jean Ann Bryant, What Are Quilt Personality Are You?

May: Guild Workday

Needs Lists for March Workshops with Karen Miller

All workshops are held at Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church Approximately 9 – 4 on Friday, approximately 12:30 – 4:30 on Saturday

Bring your lunch

Friday, March 8 – Free Motion Machine Quilting including echo, swirl, pebble, ribbon, and paisley BUT NOT feathers. Good working knowledge of you sewing machine is recommended. Bring the manual or user guide, if possible.

- Requires \$4.00 purchase of a panel from the teacher (roughly 18”x 21”)
- Backing and batting roughly 20”x23” Backing is suggested as a busy fabric to hide bobbin color changes
- Recommended to bring 1 or 2 extra fat quarter sized sandwiches (top, batting, backing) to practice motifs
- Sewing machine with a darning foot or a free motion quilting foot (a rounded foot is the teacher’s preference and she’ll tell you why)
- Thread in blue, pink, green, grey, black, etc.- different weights of Aurifil thread will be demonstrated
- Needles size 90/14 - Topstitch, Quilting, or Microtex Sharp (Superior Titanium Coated Topstitch assortment suggested)
- Basic quilting supplies: Thread snips, pencil & paper to practice designs, extra bobbins, air or water soluble marking pen, basting pins and tape
- Optional: Quilting gloves – highly encouraged – available for purchase – Machingers by Quilters Touch favorite of instructor
- Optional: Quilters Preview Paper by Quilters Touch (transparent Mylar-like paper to assess quilting design over fabric)
- Optional: Machine Slider or Glider or comparable Teflon sheet so fabric will glide across machine bed
- Recommended: Extension table or large flat, machine flush surface for supporting quilt
- If you are comfortable basting a quilt sandwich, use the method of your choice on the practice pieces prior to the workshop. Pin basting will be discussed during class.

Saturday, March 9- Free Motion Quilting Feathers

A basic knowledge of free motion quilting, previous beginning quilting class **required NOT for Beginners**

Class Prep!! Prepare 3 Fat quarters or 18” squares of quilt sandwiches prior to class

- Sewing machine with extension table or flat, flush surface
- Darning foot or free motion quilting foot, open or closed
- 1 to 2 yards light colored plain cotton fabric, cut into fat quarters or 18” squares
- Spools of high quality 40wt or 50wt cotton (Aurifil recommended)
- Quilting gloves (Machingers recommended)
- Quilt basting pins
- Sketching paper or tablet and pencil to practice FMQ motifs
- Marking tool: Hera marker, water soluble blue or purple pen or other temporary marking tool
- Optional: Supreme Slider by LaPierre or comparable Teflon sheet
- Bonus: Feathered Pumpkin Template to participants

25th year

Silver Jubilee!

Bluebonnet Shop Hop

March 13 - March 23, 2024

Visit Every Shop & You Can Win!

GRAND PRIZE:
 Pinwheel Place
Retreat Center

2 Night Quilt Retreat for Up to 8 People!

GIFT CERTIFICATES TO EACH SHOP

FIRST PLACE \$100 per store

SECOND PLACE \$50 per store | THIRD PLACE \$20 per store

& PRIZE BASKETS!

PARTICIPATING SHOPS

**Austin Sewing
Machines
Round Rock, TX**

**Mesquite Bean
Fabrics
San Antonio, TX**

**Gone Quiltin'
Bandera, TX**

**HollyDee
Quilts
Luling, TX**

**Memories
by the Yard
San Antonio, TX**

**B & B Quilting
Buda, TX**

**Honey Bee
Quilt Store
Austin, TX**

**Sew Special
Quilts
San Antonio, TX**

See full details on
www.BluebonnetShopHop.net



Phoenix Quilting Long Arm for Donation

I am on the Vestry for St Andrews Episcopal Church in San Antonio. We were gifted a Phoenix Quilting Long Arm from an estate of one of our parishioners. We don't have a use for this item, and it is taking up a big space that we could utilize in other ways. I was wondering if there is anyone who might be looking to provide a donation for this item? I was given your organization information from my daughters Mother-in-law. If you would know of anyone interested, they can reach out to me at (210) 725-2290 or at this email address: Michelle.Garza@cardinalhealth.com. I'm including a link to pictures, but can text them to anyone that might want to look at them.

Congratulation to our Block of the Month Winner - Jackie Randall!!



Sewing Machine for Sale

Working condition antique sewing machine with table for sale. Price is \$250. If interested, please contact Naimah Ahmad, phone (210) 883-6404.



Contratulation to our Golden Carrot Winner - Nancy Beasley

Calico Rose Awarded to: Melissa Allos



**2024 GSAQG Summer Retreat!!
Rock Around the Block!!**

Valley Ranch Retreat & Event Center
105 Mockingbird Lane
Camp Wood, TX 78833
4 nights - Sunday June 9 - Thursday June 13, 2024
Check in 3pm, check out at noon.
Meals included - Sunday dinner through Thursday breakfast. \$415/person
Reserve your spot with a \$150 deposit.
Pay In Full due NLT May 2024 Guild meeting.
Summer Retreat Contacts:
Linda Casias and Linda Maldonado

SPRING MINI-RETREAT 2024

Fri March 22. 9am to 8 pm
Sat March 23. 9am to 4pm. \$35.
We have 30 paid attendees.
If you missed out, PLEASE sign up for the retreat wait list. There are always cancellations, some at the last minute.
Linda Kirk - Lkirk65@gmail.com

PAULA NADELSTERN

KALEIDOSCOPE & QUILTS: STATE OF THE ART:

**MARCH 8TH -
APRIL 7TH**

2024



MARCH 9TH AT 5PM - ARTIST RECEPTION

RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY QUILT ARTIST PAULA NADELSTERN
WILL SHOWCASE TEN OF HER WIDELY-KNOWN QUILTS ALONGSIDE
KALEIDOSCOPIES FROM THE BREWSTER KALEIDOSCOPE SOCIETY.

TO SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOPS AND LECTURE PLEASE
EMAIL [KERRARTSCENTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kerrartscenter@gmail.com)

Zoom Information for the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild Meeting

Wendy Quilter is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

When: Sat, November 11, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Where: On Zoom

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054868999?pwd=RHU1d3BMMzNlOC9VRkhpS2VlaHJHdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 5486 8999

Passcode: 607875

WOW! What a great Testimonial!

I am a retired librarian from Saint Mary's Hall (14 years). In the 14 years I was at Saint Mary's Hall, I was so fortunate to be able to promote your program to other librarians and to share with the children in our Lower School your beautiful quilts and storybooks. They loved them! I even offered workshops at the Region 20 Library Resource Roundup promoting your quilts. Now I have been asked to be a mystery reader at my grandson's school on March 28. I would love to bring 2 or 3 of the quilts and storybooks to his school in Austin for my Mystery Reader Program. I think your program is so unique and wonderful and I love that you all share your talent and the beauty of quilt making in such a meaningful way. I have called and left messages as well, but I have not been able to get in touch with anyone. I hope you will allow me this opportunity and you know I will take very good care of your quilts and deliver them back to you good as new. In the past, I have made PowerPoints to accompany the quilts (Coat of Many Colors) and I would like to donate these CDs to you to accompany the books for the libraries. I retired in 2015 and technology has really seemed to take over a lot of libraries since then. I am so happy to see your program is still going strong promoting books and reading and quilting!! Please let me know if you will allow me to borrow 3 quilts and storybooks for my Mystery Reader Program at my grandson's school in Austin. I would like to pick them up about a week before and will return them immediately after I have shared them with the children on March 29. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Linda Abati
Former Lower School Librarian at Saint Mary's Hall
210-823-1120

Congratulations Door Prize Winner!

Yvonne Spears



FREE TO A GOOD HOME!

I am writing on behalf of my wife who was a quilter. However, she is no longer able to quilt but has a large quilting frame that I made for her. We are moving and we have nowhere to store it. I am willing to deliver it for your use. It is 96 inches long.



Thank you for your consideration. Phil Shoemaker,
email address: philshoe1940@gmail.com.

A Husband's Speech On Quilting

As you know, I'm a lawyer when I'm not sewing (or knitting). As such, I subscribe at work to e-mails that tell me of the latest decisions of the important courts here in Canada. There is one such e-mail prepared weekly by a local law firm. I always scroll to the end where, after the serious stuff, there is a section titled "Last Word". Today, it was about a speech given at a conference on quilting (Quilt Canada 2010) by Allan Fradsham, a criminal court judge in Calgary, Alberta, where the conference was held. Here's the text. It's long but amusing, and so worth a read:

"When, some years ago, Gloria told me that she was going to build upon her years of sewing experience, and take up "quilting", I thought she was telling me that she was going to take up a new hobby or a new craft. I was completely oblivious to the fact that what she was really announcing was that she was taking up membership in a tightly knit (if you'll pardon the expression) group of individuals whose loyalty to one another makes motorcycle gang members seem uncommitted, and whose passion for quilting activities makes members of cults look positively disinterested. As is the case with many spouses, I was completely unaware that there existed this parallel universe called quilting. However, to be completely unaware of a world-wide sub-culture operating right under our noses and in our homes is a bit obtuse even for husbands. But there it is, and here you are. And, most oddly, here I am. You might wonder how all this came to pass; I know I certainly do.

I cannot now identify what was the first clue I detected indicating that Gloria had entered the fabric world equivalent of Harry Potter's Hogwarts. It might have been the appearance of the fabric. Bundles of fabric, mounds of fabric, piles of fabric, towering stacks of fabric. Fabric on bolts, and stacks of small squares of fabric tied up in pretty ribbons (I later learned these were "fat quarters" which to this day sounds to me like a term out of Robin Hood). The stuff just kept coming into the house as though it were endless waves crashing onto a beach. And then, just like the waves, the most amazing thing happened: it would simply disappear. It was as though the walls of the house simply absorbed it. Meters and meters (or as men of my generation would say, yards and yards) of fabric would come into the house. It would arrive in Gloria's arms when she returned from a shopping excursion. It would arrive in the post stuffed in postal packs so full that they were only kept together by packing tape (these overstuffed Priority Packs are the equivalent of me trying to fit into pants I wore in law school). These packages would arrive having been shipped from unheard of towns and villages in faraway provinces or states or overseas countries (I am convinced the internet's primary activity is not to be found in pornography; that is just a ruse, the internet's real function is to facilitate the trafficking and distribution of fabric). Wherever we went, be it in Canada, the U.S., Europe, wherever there was a collection of more than three houses, Gloria would find a quilt shop from which she would pluck some prize from some bin with the enthusiasm and unerring eye of an archaeologist finding a new species of dinosaur.

And of course, the reason that there are quilt shops everywhere is because there are quilters everywhere, and I mean EVERYWHERE. A few years ago, Gloria had been visiting her sister-in-law in Kelowna. While there, she found and purchased a Featherweight sewing machine. I understand that making such a find is a matter of such joy that it may eventually attract government taxation. When it came time to fly back to Calgary, Gloria worried about what the people at airport security would have to say when she tried to take the machine onto the plane. She need not have been concerned. Now, airport security takes pride in preventing me from carrying onto a plane a small squirt of toothpaste left in a rolled-up toothpaste tube if the tube in which it is lodged did at some point in the distant past, contain a prohibited amount of toothpaste. My spot of toothpaste is a national security threat. However, when it came time for Gloria to go through security with the Featherweight, which is made of metal and has needles in secret compartments, airport security came to a standstill. Why? Were they about to confiscate the machine, and detain the person who dared to try to board with it? Of course not. They gathered around it in awe and admiration, asking Gloria questions about where she had found it, and expressing admiration for her good fortune in finding it. And why did Gloria get such warm treatment when I am shunned for trying to maintain some degree of oral hygiene? Well, the answer is obvious; the assembled airport security staff were all quilters, complete with the secret handshake. Maybe, I should have twigged to what was happening when the washing of all this fabric led to having to replace our washing machine, which was clearly not designed for such industrial use. Now, let me pause here. I understand that there is an intense debate within your world about whether or not fabrics should be washed upon purchase. I do not wish to be caught in any crossfire between the two camps, for all I know, as an outsider, I may not be authorized to even know of the controversy. I do suspect that if men were making the decision, quilting would involve a lot less fabric washing and a lot more beer drinking.

I did eventually discover where all the fabric went. It went into drawers, cupboards, shelves, and eventually it completely filled up a closet, which took up one full wall in Gloria's newly built "sewing room". What we now call Gloria's "sewing room", we used to call "the basement". I have discovered that one of the art forms mastered by quilters is the ability to purchase container loads of fabric, conceal it in the house, and camouflage the purchase so that it slips right under the nose of the unsuspecting spouse. As a loving and obedient spouse, I have on many occasions found myself in quilt stores where I serve two useful functions: I can reach bolts of fabric stored on top shelves; and I can carry numerous bolts of fabric to a cutting table. However, I have also started to listen to what is said in quilting stores, and one day, in a little quilting shop in the heart of Alberta farming country, I heard something that made it clear to me that quilters are so clever and, dare I say, devious, that there is really no sport for them in fooling we naive husbands. Gloria had decided to buy some fabric (which is similar to saying that Gloria had decided to breathe), and had gone to the till to pay for it. Upon running through Gloria's charge card, the clerk quietly said, "Now, when you get your credit card statement, don't be alarmed when you see an entry for our local

feed store. We run our charges under that name so that if a husband looks at the credit card statements, he will think that the entry is just something he bought at the feed store for the farm". That sort of financial shell game would make Goldman Sachs proud. I knew at that moment that there had been a major and probably irrevocable shift in the world's power structure. I concede it is basically over for the non-quilting husband. As you have been told, I sit as a criminal law judge, and as such I often find myself sitting on drug trials, or issuing search warrants in relation to drug investigations. I must say that the more I learned about the quilting world, the more I started to see similarities between that world and the drug world. It has caused me some concern.

We all interpret events from our own perspectives using the lessons we have learned through life. When I saw the extent to which Gloria's collection of fabric was growing, I began to worry. In the law relating to drugs, the amount of a drug one has in one's possession is an important factor in determining the purpose for which the person has the drug. For example, if a person is in possession of crack cocaine (to use a drug with an addictive power equivalent to fabric), one look at the amount of crack the person possessed. If the amount exceeds the amount one would realistically possess for personal use, then one may reasonably draw the inference that the purpose of the possession is not personal use, but, rather, it is for the purpose of trafficking the drug. So, you can imagine what I thought when I saw Gloria's collection of fabric grow to a point where she readily admitted that she could never use all that fabric in several lifetimes. I reluctantly concluded that I was married to a very high-level fabric trafficker. Mind you, in order to qualify as a trafficker, one does have to part with fabric, and I see very little evidence of that happening.

In fact, the more I thought about the parallels between the quilting culture and the drug culture, the clearer the similarities became. Consider the jargon. I have learned that this vast collection of fabric, which is stored in our house, is a "stash". Well, drug dealers speak of their "stash" of drugs. Gloria speaks of doing "piece" work. In the drug world there are often people who bring together the crack cocaine dealer and the buyer; think of a real estate agent, but not as well dressed, through perhaps somewhat less annoying. Those people speak of breaking off a "piece" of crack as payment for bringing the parties together. Sounds to me like a type of "piece work". Those who transport drugs are often called "mules"; I have frequently heard Gloria refer to me as her mule when I am in a quilt store carrying stacks of fabric bolts (or did she say I was stubborn as a mule?). Well, it was something about mules. And I should think that this whole conference is a testimony to the addictive qualities of quilting. In my role as a Sherpa, I have accompanied Gloria on various quilting expeditions, and I have been impressed by many things. One is, as I have mentioned, that no matter where one goes, there will be a quilt store. The proliferation of quilt shops makes Starbucks outlets seem scarce. One day Gloria led me into a hardware store, which seemed odd to me, that is until I discovered that, as I walked towards the back of the store, the store had become a quilt shop. The metamorphosis was extraordinary, and very crafty (if you will pardon the pun). At that moment, I knew how Alice felt as she followed that rabbit down the rabbit hole. Suddenly, one was in a different universe.

Another thing I have learned is that the operators of quilt shops have great business acumen. In one of Gloria's favourite shops, upon entry I am greeted by name and offered a cup of coffee. If the grandson is with us, he is allowed to choose a book to take home. It is all so friendly that I don't even notice that I cannot see over the growing pile of fabric bolts which fill my arms. I wish that my doctor did such a good job of distracting me when it is time to do a prostate exam.

I have learned that quilting is both international in scope and generous in spirit. I have learned that quilters are quick to assist those in need, and that they have always been prepared to stand up for what is right. For example, I think of Civil War quilts, which often conveyed messages about the Underground railway for slaves escaping to Canada. I think of the One Million Pillowcase Challenge, and the Quilts of Valour project. At one point, I thought of suggesting the creation of an organization akin to "Doctors Without Borders", but decided that an organization called "Quilts Without Borders" would indeed be illogical.

And of course, there are the resultant quilts. We have quilts throughout the house. They adorn beds, chesterfields, the backs of chairs. They are stacked on shelves, they are stored in drawers, they are shoved under beds, they are hung on walls. There is even one on the ceiling of the sunroom. They compete for any space not taken up with the fabric, which will eventually result in more quilts. I live in a cornucopia, which disgorges quilts instead of produce. I have decided that quilts are the zucchini of crafts. But who can complain? Quilt seriously, each one is a work of art, and an instant family treasure. While family members and friends are delighted to receive them, I churlishly begrudge seeing them go out the door.

Though I tease Gloria about the all-consuming nature of her obsession, I am constantly amazed at the skill necessary to create those works of art. I stand in awe as I watch her do the mathematics necessary to give effect to (or correct) a pattern. When she quilts, she combines the skill of an engineer, a draughtsman, a seamstress, and an artist. Her sewing machines require her to have, as she does, advanced computer and mechanical skills. She knows her sewing machines as well as any Hell's Angel knows his Harley. She uses measuring and cutting tools and grids, which would challenge the talents of the best land surveyors. In short, I am very proud of what Gloria does, as each of you should be proud of your own skills and creations. They are impressive and very evident at this Conference. On behalf of those of us who wouldn't know a binding from a batting, I simply ask that when you finally and formally announce that have already taken over the world that you find some simple tasks for us to do to justify our existence. You might call those tasks... the QUILT PRO QUO.

Gloria and I very much appreciate your warm hospitality this evening.

In closing, the hotel management has asked me to remind you that those found cutting up the tablecloths for quilting fabric will have their rotary cutters confiscated and forfeited to the Crown."

by Allan Fradsham, Criminal Court Judge, Alberta, Canada

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
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FIESTA OF GEMS
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Fun for the entire family!

2024 Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild

Bees: groups of friends who share their love and quilting

Open for new members; contact each for more details.

Morning Bees

Bee	Day	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
Quilt In (handwork only)	4th Wednesday	10 am - noon	Memories by the Yard 8015 Mainland	Mary-Ruth Flores mrf357@gmail.com	210-410-4337
Great NW Library Bee	3rd Saturday	10 am – 1pm	SA Library 9050 Wellwood St. SA, TX 78250 Grissom//Culebra	Alicia Santiago 2109138508@spectrum.net	210-219-2875
Villa Bees	2 nd & 4th Monday	1-3pm	Villa de San Antonio Retirement Home	Linda Nash 1014lindanash@gmail.com	210-722-4741
Queen Bees <i>closed</i>	Every Friday	9:30 a.m. - 12:30	Members take turns hosting	Elaine Staller restaller@aol.com	210-863-5102
Piecemakers (charity quilts)	2 nd & 4 th Fridays	9am-1pm	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church	Lani Nunley booandpiesmom@yahoo.com	210-680-4182
Crazy Bee	1 st & 3 rd Fridays	9am-1pm Low Bldg Fee	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church	Lani Nunley booandpiesmom@yahoo.com	210-680-4182
Finishing Bee	4 th Thursday	11am-1pm	Members' home	Jean Hardies ljhardies@gmail.com	210-885-00158

Afternoon and Evening Bees

Bee	Day	Time	Location	Contact	Phone
QPC Bee	1 st Monday	1-4 pm	Western Hills Christian Church 8535 Huebner	Mary-Ruth Flores mrf357@gmail.com	210-410-4337
Hand Bee	Every Wednesday	12:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Encino Branch Library on Evans Road	Beverly Uhl mikebevu@gmail.com Naimah Ahmad naimah_k@yahoo.com	830-438-3667 210-883-6404
Walker Ranch BEE	3 rd Wednesday	9 am	835 W., Rapsody	Shirley Carter shirley.carter9243@gmail.com .	210-452-3801
Landa Bee	1 st Sunday	2-5pm	233 Bushnell	Viki Ash vikiparis13@gmail.com	210-315-7533
Shavano Bee	2 nd Monday	2-4pm	Member's home	Ida Kujawski ibkbbk@yahoo.com	210-381-9618

Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild, Inc
P.O. Box 380522
San Antonio, TX 78268

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March Schedule

March 4 Board Meeting **7:00 PM**
on Zoom

March 9 General Meeting **10:00 AM**
Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church AND
on Zoom

Check out the calendar on our web page for
Bee meetings and other Guild related events.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

REGULAR DUES **\$ 28**
SENIOR (65+) **\$ 21**
YOUTH (6-18) **\$ 7**

Send check to:
GSAQG
PO Box 380522
San Antonio, TX 78268

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Term expires December 2024