



RGVQG News

August 2025

Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild, P.O. Box 32, Weslaco, TX 78599 - rgvqg.com

President's Threads That Bind

At our most recent meeting, we learned how to handle our WIPS, our Works In Progress, to reduce the number in the stack. It was a very inspiring program.

The Guild, especially the Show Board, is starting to meet again and is planning some interesting things for our next Show on the Island. Get involved, it is a great way to meet new people.

The Guild is continuing our community outreach into the Valley communities. We will be teaching "Quilting 101" type skills. Quilting fabric or sizeable scraps would be most welcome by the committee. Please contact Florea Flores or Josie McVey if you have questions.

Happy stitchin'.
Til later. Diana W

Sunshine and Shadows

by Jackie Landon/Kathe Letulle

If you know of those in the Guild who need a card of encouragement, get well card, sympathy card, please send the person's name and a general statement to sunshine@rgvqg.com.

Table of Contents

President's Threads That Bind.....	1
Programs	7
Membership.....	2
Retreat News.....	5
Sunshine and Shadows.....	1
Schoolhouse Classes.....	2
Military Service Quilts.....	1
Community Service	6
Scrap Block Draw.....	7
Facebook/Social Media	4
RGV Quilt Show.....	6
Bee News	7
RGVQG General Meeting Minutes.....	8
Treasurer Report.....	7
Newsletter Advertising.....	11
Foster Care Senior Quilts.....	9
Bylaws.....	3

Military Service Quilts

Rosemary Kramer and Nancy Malmin

A special thank you to the people that took the 7 bundled items that needed quilting. We have given out 28 quilts these last few months that has depleted our cupboard.

We gave out 18 kits for rail fence squares consisting of 2 1/2 " x 6 1/2" strips of red ,white and blue fabric. Sew white in the middle.

If you can cut or bring your scraps of red, white and blue fabric to the next few meetings we can make more kits. Solids and prints are welcome.

Schoolhouse Classes

by Dale Shafer and Nancy Malmin

Just a reminder that our Schoolhouse Classes will be starting a bit later this Fall. They are usually on the Thursday following the Guild meeting, though there are some exceptions. All classes are held at Pharr South, 1402 S. Cage, Pharr, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - an entry code is provided for access to the park. Many choose to bring their lunch; however, there are several fast-food options, along with an HEB in the immediate area, if you'd prefer. We will be having some basic classes, some more advanced classes and some that are just for fun - all for a fee of \$20.! Because of copyright laws, patterns are sometimes required - this simply cannot be helped.

We think you'll have a lot of fun in all of these classes!

October 16th - **Tiny Treat Bags**, by Dale Shafer
The little Halloween bags are so cute, and can be used as decorations or be given to your little great-grandkids. Think other holiday fabrics, too.

November 20th - **Hemingway Pouches**, by Kris Driscoll and Anita Schmidt
The Hemingway Pouches (2 sizes in our class) are so useful - one for eyeglasses, rotary cutter, telephone, etc. the other for an iPad or several notebooks. Use your most striking fabrics for these.

December 18th - **Magic Scrappy Quilt**
The Magic Quilt will amaze you! There is a chart to follow on the website. The "Square size" is the size of the center of the quilt you will have

before you add a border or borders. Just pick the size you want - most are for table toppers, baby quilts or wall hangings, but the largest sizes will make lap quilts. Once you pick the size you want, pick the size of the squares you need to use, from the first column. Just cut these squares and bring to class - 32, 50 or 72. Please call me if you have any questions.

Membership Information

by Lynne Johnson,
Membership Chair

I want to thank everyone for your efforts in recruiting and bringing guests to the Guild meetings. We have 14 new members since the last newsletter. Many of those started as guests! We now have a total of 261 members. Keep up the good work!

All membership numbers this year start with the first 3 digits being 250, so if you notice your membership number starts with those numbers you can be confident you're registered.

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership and are reaping the benefits of being in our guild.

Aloysius alligator

Look for me on our webpage! Click on me and I'll take you

Members
Remember
I'm also the
directories.
two-digit year
directory.



to the
Only page.
what I am.
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Please add a
to open a

BYLAWS And STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Kathe Letulle, Chair

At the Guild General Business Meeting in November 2025, you, the membership will be asked to vote on the Proposed Guild By-Laws and Standing Rules. These proposed changes have been approved by your Board. This task is done every 2 years.

For your convenience, the links for the Draft of the Proposed By-Laws and Standing Rules changes have been added to the Guild Website at the very bottom of the Members Only Page. This information will also be on the Guild Facebook page as well as the Guild Newsletter. If you do not know the password for the Guild Website, please either email me as stated below, text or phone at (956-272-2377)

The Committee - Mike Hall, Donna Otto, Josie McVey, Carmen Avila, David Lerma and I are asking that each of you READ (several times if necessary and not scan or speed read) the proposed By-Laws and Standing Rules. If you have any concerns, please identify the data area (e.g. BL Article 3, 5.02 or SR Section 2, Number 4) then list your concern with a suggested revision and reasoning for the change. Email this to me at quilterstntkorner@gmail.com by September 8, 2025. Remember that the By-Laws are not to be restrictive so be sure to refer to the Standing Rules as that is where the further definition of the By-Law is found. Please compare the two to ensure that your concern may be answered.

There will be an email sent to all members, with the compiled concerns reference link, so that everyone will be on the same page for a full discussion. This discussion will be an agenda item at the Guild Meeting on September 13, 2025.

You, the members of the Guild, are the governing body and with By-Laws and Standing Rules, we can view the future of the Guild in a positive manner.

Thank you in advance.

Education Outreach Program

We have some thrilling news to share! We're launching an exciting new Education Outreach Program designed for our community, replacing the traditional scholarship approach. We've heard the community requests for sewing and quilting classes, and we're ready to bring them to life!

The RGVQG is teaming up with the McAllen Library's Palmview Branch, located right here in McAllen, to make this happen! Mark your calendars because our very first class kicks off on September 8th from Noon to 2 PM, and we'll be creating a fun hand-sewing coaster together.

We're thrilled to announce that we're not leaving the lower Valley behind! The RGVQG is launching an exciting new class right here at the Rio Life Community Church, led by our amazing chair, Heather Nelson. Get ready for a fantastic experience! More detail coming soon.

If you're interested in volunteering and being part of this fantastic journey, I would love to hear from you—just text or call me at 956-648-4833. Let's help the community create something special together!

Happy Volunteering,
Florea Flores

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In Memoriam

We want to keep an updated digital slide show that allows us to honor the members who are no longer with us. Please notify Bonnie Hall when you are aware of someone who has passed. She keeps a file of names and obituaries, but she is not always aware of a death. It does not matter if the person has returned up-North or hasn't been a member recently, we want to remember them. Each of you is the key to making sure no one is left out.

Informational SMS (text) Messages

We will be able to send text messages to all our members after they've paid their 2025 dues. If you haven't paid your 2025 dues, you will not get any text messages from RGVQG. The text messages will be short messages asking you to check your email for additional information, e.g. "Please check your email regarding Saturday's Guild meeting" or "Please check your email regarding this month's Newsletter".

The first text message you get will be like the following: "Please add +1 833-935-5165 to your contacts as RGVQG. These text messages will be from the Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild."

RGVQG Emails Update

We use the Benchmark bulk email service to send 2-4 emails every month to all our active members.

Benchmark started to use a 'smart sending' feature recently. This feature will occasionally skip sending an email to a recipient that doesn't regularly open their email. They'll skip once then send the next email. People may

not receive the Guild Meeting notices with the zoom link.

Please, at least, open any emails you receive from the guild. All of our guild related emails start with RGVQG.

Give with Bing

Another way to support RIO GRANDE VALLEY QUILT GUILD is through Give with Bing. Microsoft Rewards lets you support RIO GRANDE VALLEY QUILT GUILD through its Give with Bing program. After signing up and selecting our organization, you can earn rewards points just for searching the web with Bing. Microsoft then turns those points into cash donations to us.

The program is free--you just need to sign up with a Microsoft account. As of May 2021, Microsoft Rewards has donated more than [\$6.5 million] to nonprofits around the world. Join now RIO GRANDE VALLEY QUILT GUILD (Give with Bing)

Microsoft Edge uses Bing. You can also get the Bing app for iPad, iPhone and Android. Please call Bonnie, 740-398-1629, if you need help setting up Give with Bing.

Social Media Expansion

by Laural Powell



We have

expanded our social media presence! For some time, the Guild has had a **closed Facebook group**, as Rio Grande Valley Quilt

Guild. This means you must answer some questions and then be allowed into this group.

The Guild Board has voted to keep this group



members only. This is to provide a space for our members to post and comment where they will know it will only be seen by Guild members.

The Guild Board also understands some may want to share what our guild is doing with their friends. Then others are introduced to our guild through our quilt show and/or community service efforts and want to know more about our guild. So, we created a **Facebook page at Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild Texas**. This page can be viewed and followed by anyone interested in our guild.

Additionally, we have reactivated the Guild's **Instagram account**, which anyone can follow at **Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild or @rgvqgtx**.

So, now anyone can follow the Guild on our Facebook page and Instagram account, while Guild members can have privacy by joining the Guild's closed Facebook group. If you need help accessing any of these, contact me at joinfb@rgvqg.com.

Retreat News

by Kathe Letulle

**2026 RETREAT DATES -
New Braunfels, Texas -
John Newcomb Tennis Ranch**

Friendship Star - March 9 to 13, 2026

*Red Polo Shirt - \$30 each -
last date to order is January 15, 2026*

Bluebonnet Friends - March 15 to 19, 2026

*Blue Polo Shirt - \$30 each -
last date to order is January 15, 2026*

Begin signing up on the wait list at any Guild meeting or contact me at the information below. Although the retreats are filled, life happens, and openings become available.

At each retreat, one day is specific retreat color shirt day - either red for Friendship or blue for Bluebonnet. Such a sight to see everyone in their retreat color shirts and take a beautiful picture. Be sure to get your shirt ordered if you do not have one...just let me know if you wish to purchase one ---you can catch me at a Guild Meeting, snail mail or at my home.

The Laughter, willingness to assist your fellow quilter goes way beyond the beyond, and the overall positive vibes that radiate at each retreat, make these retreats very special.

Now to begin planning the 11th year we will RETREAT at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, Texas. These folks are such a pleasure to work with for our stay at the "RANCH". Can you believe that we have been going to the RANCH this long! A Grand Experience. BUT JUST REMEMBER - this will also be the 27th Guild Retreat to date.

IF you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,
Kathe Letulle
1001 Segovia - Mercedes, TX 78570-7100
956-272-2377
retreat@rgvqg.com

Friends of the Guild

Now visitors and friends can sign up for more information about the Rio Grande Valley Guild. A link is available on the home page of our website just below the Welcome message.

Limited emails will be sent to these individuals. An initial email will have information on our website, Facebook pages, and how to become a member. An email will be sent just prior to the Quilt Show as a reminder. Possibly an additional one as needed.

Do you know someone or want to share this link with them?

[Become a friend of the Guild](#)

Community Service

by Chris Cowan

It's great to be part of such a generous group! Remember you can report online or print a donation form to bring to a meeting and/or mail it to me. [Click for On-line form](#)

We need to update the online site. Please go to the locations by city and see if we need to remove or add locations. Let us know so we can get it up to date. It would be greatly appreciated!

Bonnie Hall took a donation of 6 pillows, 71 poppy blocks and 4 blankets and 30 quilts to Victoria. These items are going to the flood victims in Kerrville. My Fabric Friends has an ongoing project with the poppy blocks and they are having a Zoom sew in. For further details check later in the newsletter.

August 52 items, 1132 hours, \$8207 value

RGV Quilt Show

By Renee Darkis

Quilt Show Links



The following are links to various quilt show information and forms. They will be updated soon to 2026 information.

Register your Quilt this is the form to register your quilt for the show

Quilt Show Facebook Page

2026 Quilt Registration Categories this is information on the categories for the show

Quilt Preparation Guidelines this helps you prepare your quilt for drop-off

2026 Quilt and Theme Challenges the rules for the Quilt (previous Chair's Choice)

Challenge and

the rules for the Theme (previous Challenge) Challenge categories.

Quilt Appraisal Registration the form to get a quilt appraised

Boutique Pledge the form to pledge items for the boutique

Silent Auction Donation the form to donate an item to the silent auction

Quilt Show Committees this is a list of the different quilt show committees, please consider filling a vacant committee position.

Volunteer Registration the form to become a volunteer for the quilt show (Feb 14-15, 2025) or any quilt show related activities, e.g. showing opportunity quilt, drop-off, pick-up, etc.

Treasurer Report

The 2025 Budget information & the monthly Treasurer's Reports are posted to the guild website's Members Only page. You can view these documents by:

Accessing rgvqg.com.

Click on the "Members Only" tab.

Enter the appropriate password

Scroll down to the bottom of the page

Click on "Treasurer Reports"

Click on the appropriate document

If you have any questions or comments, I can be contacted at:

Cell # 740-398-4142

Email rgvqg.treasurer@gmail.com

Respectfully, Mike Hall

Bee News

Queen City Bee

We have finished our work at the Weslaco Library for now. The closing ceremonies were a great success and we want to thank all who attended. We greatly appreciate your support in any way that you helped with this venture, we thank and are very grateful for all the donations, those who came by and visited with us, any help that you provided great or small is truly appreciated. None of this would be possible without you.

Bizzy Bee

The Queen bees for the newest Bee in the Guild are none other than Jennifer Bernal and Raquel Echeverria. They are starting off their

Bee with a total of 19 members. They continue to meet on Thursday at the Weslaco Library from 5 to 7:30 pm. We will continue to keep you posted on our activities.

Scrap Block Draw

by Chris Cowan

On pause until further notice

Programs

By Josie McVey

We are getting to the end of 2025! Just a few more classes that I hope will spark your interest and you will be wanting to sign up. Keep in mind that you will always learn something at these classes and you will be around some of the best people, your quilting friends are great people to be around.

Please check out the information on the Program Classes on rgvqg.com, for more information, pictures, supply list and to sign up. Please sign up early to get all the preparation that is needed for the classes done in time.

If you have any ideas for 2026 please send them my way.

Friday, September 12, 2025 -

Barbara Gary - [Tea Time Placemats](#) -

This is already on our website and you may sign up now. You may order your pattern from Barbara Gary on the website; if you already have one, you need not purchase another one. Quilters This N That Korner also has the pattern for only \$20 and you may, of course, order your pattern from Kathe.

Saturday, September 13, 2025 -

Barbara Gary - Lecture & Trunk Show - 9 am

Friday, October 3, 2025 - Debbie Baker -
T Shirt Quilt Class

Saturday, October 11, 2025 - Debbie Baker -
Lecture "Bed Turning" and Techniques Used! Rio
Life Church at 9 am.

November 8, 2025 - Lorelai Kuecker
Pigs in a Blanket on Zoom!
"Stitch by Stitch: A Youth Quilting Journey!"
Guild members may bring your daughter(s)
and/or granddaughter(s) to listen to this
inspirational speaker.

Friday, December 12, 2025 - Regina Earley -
Scrappy Applique Class - Fast, Fun and Forgiving
Workshop.

Saturday, December 13, 2025 - Regina Earley -
Lecture & Trunk Show

RGVQG General Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2025

Heather Nelson, secretary

Diana Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The meeting began with Leanne Parsons sharing strategies for completing unfinished quilting projects and introducing a discount code for her PDF patterns. She discussed her "WIPs Be Gone" challenge and provided advice on managing and completing work in progress quilts, emphasizing the importance of setting deadlines and celebrating finished projects.

TREASURERS REPORT : Please write up your concerns for next year's budget and give them to Mike Hall or a board member. Mike has

created a spreadsheet showing the revenues and expenses for the last 4 years for your information.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There were no corrections or questions for the June and July minutes so they were filed for archive.

MEMBERSHIP: Today's attendance had 12 on zoom, 50 in house and 3 guests. In the last month and half we have added 17 new members bringing us to a total of 258 members.

PROGRAMS: There has been a change to October's program class due to a conflict with the Houston Quilt Festival. The new date for the T-shirt quilt class with Debbie Baker is October 3rd. Reminder to please bring a young person with you to November's meeting. Our speaker is a young lady who has been sewing since she was 6 and now at 16 has her own business. I'm sure that she'll inspire all of us.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE: Everyone is invited to come to the new class forming at the Palmview branch of the McAllen library on Sept. 8. They are planning on starting with a hand sewing project. Volunteers are always welcome. Heather Nelson and Debra Cantu are working with the church to develop a sewing class. Donations are gratefully accepted.

QUILT SHOW: Renee has issued a challenge to everyone to make a baby or youth quilt to be entered into the donation category. After the show these quilts will all be donated to charity. Don't forget to stretch your imagination and enter your favorite Martian.

MILITARY SERVICE: Nineteen new quilt tops were turned in and the ones needed to be quilted have all found a quilter.

SCHOOLHOUSE: October's class will be making 4 Halloween goodie bags. You don't have to do Halloween. They will require 2 fat quarters and kits will be available for \$1. November's class will making the Hemingway bag. December's class will be doing the Magic Square Quilt. You will choose the block size that you wish to use. February is the Anything Goes Placement which can be done in 4 different sizes. March will be tackling the famous bucket hat.

WEBMASTER: Bonnie took a donation of 6 pillows, 71 poppy blocks and 4 blankets and 30 quilts to Victoria. These items are going to the flood victims in Kerrville. My Fabric Friends has an ongoing project with the poppy blocks and they are having a Zoom sew in. For further details check the newsletter.

The meeting ended with door prizes being given out and examples of our creativity being shown for show and tell. Kris Driscoll made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kathe Letulle seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Poppy Challenge
- 24hr Zoom
Session -
Aug 30, 2025
10:00 am



Please register if you want to be a part of the 24 hour Poppy Block Challenge. We will start promptly at 10am. CST. Every couple of hours I will get a count of how many blocks have been sewn. You do not have to sew for the full 24 hours, but...who will be the last sewer standing. We will have door prizes. Hope to see you then.

Cost: \$ FREE

Day 1 Bags

If you would like to participate for next year, let Bonnie Hall or Alyssa Gonzalez know. You can contact Alyssa, **text (best) or call her cell phone at (956) 578-3352** or via email agonzalez@nplexusrgv.com.

Debra Warner(This is an article written by Debi for Quilting Hub!)

Should I Have My Quilt Appraised?

Written appraisals are required if you are going to send your quilt to an on-the-road quilt show or one of the major national shows but for the average quilter, what is the value of a quilt appraisal?

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Should I Have My Quilt appraised?

"If you don't have a written appraisal and something happens to the quilt, your insurance will only give you the cost of a blanket from a big box store." We've all heard this statement when planning for a quilt show that will offer the services of a certified appraiser. Generally, this is true.

But my first experience with a quilt appraiser was so much more! The appraiser asked so many good questions about my quilt. It really made me think that I should probably be recording some of this information even if I

don't plan to have a certain quilt appraised. For example, she asked what batting was used in the quilt. Over time, this would be helpful to know.

She also asked about the origin of the fabric and KNEW when I wasn't complete in my answer. She told me that some of the fabric was older than what I had purchased. Oh yeah, some of it came from my mother's stash. I forgot about that.

Here are some things that you might not know about appraisals that might be helpful to you.

There are standards that quilt appraisers follow. Quilt appraisers are well educated and are certified by professional organizations. If you are curious, you can research this information.

Be aware that a retail associate at an antique store is probably not certified. Also, if the person offers to purchase the quilt, you most likely aren't dealing with a certified appraiser as this violates their ethics.

The appraiser will need to see the quilt in person. A photograph will not tell the appraiser enough about the fabric and the workmanship. There is more than one way to appraise a quilt. Just as in real estate, some are valued at the fair market price. That means the value assigned is the same as that for which a similar quilt has sold. This method means that you may be able to purchase a similar item for the specified amount. The comparable quilts would be similar in pattern and fabric. These quilts may not appraise for as much as the owner might wish, but certainly more than a big box store blanket.

Fair market value is the only method available for vintage and antique quilts.

Another method is reconstruction of a similar quilt. This method might be used when a quilt is unique in idea, construction, etc. These quilts generally have no market equivalent and might appraise at a higher value than expected.

Labor-intensive design elements used in reconstruction would increase the replacement price.

Due to the above, an appraisal should be done every three to five years. Let's face it, times change.

A history of quilt sales by a quilter would also be taken into consideration. Sales receipts for such sales should be given to the appraiser.

A complete description of the quilt, including photographs, measurements, and the appraiser's workmanship comments are included with the appraisal.

Today's Internet feed contained a photo of a quilt recovered after the tornadoes in Tennessee. Luckily, the quilt was in pristine condition. The finders are trying to return the quilt to the rightful owner. An appraisal document would most certainly establish the ownership of such a treasure.

Asking the question, "Should you have your quilt appraised?" The answer is:

What if your children found your great grandmother's quilt carefully stored in your attic? Would they value it? Would they treat it differently if a certified appraisal statement was packed with it? I think we know the answer is, "Yes!"


100% Cotton Fabric
Cotton and Wool Batting
Notions
 1001 Segovia
 Llano Grande RV Resort
 Mercedes, TX 78570
 (956) 272-2377
 quilterstntkomer@gmail.com
 Kathie Letulle - Owner
Call for an appointment

Quilters
This N That
Komer
 Mercedes, Texas



The Copp Family's Framed Center Pieced Quilt (42" x 42") by Blair W. Mahan

Framed Center/Medallion Quilts showcase works from the American Quilt Study Group. For the 2021 Biennial Quilt Study, AQSG members were challenged to study a Medallion quilt and create their own original work inspired by it. "Inspiration" quilts range from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Some of the new quilts might be mistaken for the originals, while others offer a fresh take on a classic look.

"Framed or Medallion quilts have been a favorite of quilters for over 200 years. It's exciting to see contemporary interpretations of classic Medallion quilts, especially in a manageable size," Mangum adds. **This exhibit is sponsored by the Lucille Gaebler Klein Foundation.**

Finally, **Rebound-Renew-Reimagine** displays 19 quilts from the Manhattan Quilters Group. For many members, the enforced isolation of the Covid-19 pandemic had brought a time of reflection and new experimentation with previous techniques and materials. The decision was made to create quilts with titles that begin with a "re," which often carries meanings as "again and again" and suggests a look backward while moving forward.

"Open yourself to the art that these quilts possess. Some artists included are Ludmilla Aristova, Rachael Dorr, Paula Nadelstern, and Victoria Findlay Wolfe," Mangum says. "This show demonstrates the power of hard times in the hands of dedicated artists. They translated their experiences of loss and grief and separation into artwork that makes us feel revived."

Visit **The Texas Quilt Museum Store Online** to purchase fabric, patterns, books, T-shirts, one-of-a-kind jewelry and craft items, and more at www.texasquiltmuseum.com/store



Recrystallize (40" x 49") by Iris Gowenlock, quilted by Adi Taiwar

The Texas Quilt Museum is located at 140 W. Colorado St., La Grange, Texas 78945. Hours are 10 am-4 pm Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. For more information, visit www.TexasQuiltMuseum.org. Also see us on Facebook, Instagram, X, and Threads!