



RGVQG News

August 2026

President's Threads That Bind

Join the many members of the Guild who are actively sewing - Join A Bee! The Killer Bee presentation by Jan Baethke should have spurred you on to greater achievements. If you could not attend the meeting - you sure missed an insightful program. Thank you, Jan, for letting us in on your Bee secrets.

Be sure to watch the next 3 months of Program Classes - an excellent opportunity to learn additional techniques, tips and tricks. The Program Speakers, for the remainder of the year, will ensure the excitement of quilting will be pushed to the forefront.

Think also about Schoolhouse classes. There are so many projects out there that are to be made, and the comradery is so inspiring. Do join in on the fun!!!!!! Dale Shafer has done an excellent job persuading Guild Members to teach classes - every class is a take-away learning tool for your personal library. The days for the Annual Guild Quilt Show in February are fast approaching. Be sure to complete those projects and register the items for display at the Quilt Show. REMEMBER - your project is an ART piece as well as quilted/sewn. You are the artist and the attendees love to see just how you accomplish the project that gives them inspiration.

GUILD VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN: For any board committee position, please contact me at [president @rgvqq. com](mailto:president@rgvqq.com). These board committee positions are open - Publicity and Historian. IF you have an interest, check out the Guild By-Laws and Standing Rules for further information of the job responsibilities plus contact the member handling the position currently. Your mentor is there, so you can be productive in this volunteer position. Truly think about taking on an active volunteer position of the Guild. It is a rewarding experience and become a member of the Guilds future.

Table of Contents

President's Threads That Bind.....	1
Programs.....	11
Membership.....	3
Retreat News.....	5
Sunshine and Shadows.....	2
Schoolhouse Classes.....	3
Military Service Quilts.....	2
Community Service.....	5
Scrap Block Draw.....	6
Facebook/Social Media.....	4
RGV Quilt Show.....	6
Bee News.....	10
RGVQG General Meeting Minutes.....	12
Treasurer Report.....	5
Newsletter Advertising.....	13
Foster Care Senior Quilts.....	13

Take the time to read over the Guild By-Laws and Standing Rules. These are the governances of the Guild and you ARE A MEMBER!

See everyone at the September 12, 2026, Guild Meeting - REMEMBER, the normal schedule is back!

Blessings to all,
Kathe Letulle - President@rgvqg.com



Military Service Quilts

Rosemary Kramer and Nancy Malmin

Well what an impact adding a **new size** has made. We have 20 requests for the **new lap size 45-48 x 58-60**. We need these in November for Veterans day. This size is like the 3 yard quilts; you can use those patterns. Find a easy one and the whole quilt can be made on your home sewing machine. Most can be put on a crib size batting and backing, with just a stitch in the ditch to hold it all together.

Hope to see some turned in September and October. Thank you. Have a good summer.

Military Sew Date

Register your plans to attend on the Guild Home page - [Please sign-up to attend](#). Kathy Stevens needs your name, phone number and if you want to purchase a lunch.

What: Military Sew Day, Saturday, 9/26/26
Where: Hidden Valley Ranch Clubhouse
Address: 7600 Long Dr, Palmview, TX 78572

Sew Time: 9am-3pm
Doors Open at 8:30am

Lunch: Bring your own lunch in a cooler OR reserve a sandwich, fruit and cookie lunch from a party tray from HEB. \$8/person
Sodas from the vending machine are \$1 each.

Supplies:

Bring your usual sewing supplies and machine. We have cutting mats, rulers, ironing boards and irons, but you're welcome to bring your own wool mat and personal iron, mats and rulers. Also bring any blocks kits you have completed share. or are currently working on and any fabric to

The **August 8th sew day** turned out wonderfully. 20 very productive people showed up! 10 quilt tops of the new lap size were either finished, started or blocks taken home to work on!



Sunshine and Shadows

by Jackie Landon/Kathe Letulle

If you know of someone who needs cheering up, is ill, or personal and/or family issues, please advise us by email to sunshine@rgvqg.com so a card can be sent.

Schoolhouse Classes

by Dale Shafer and Nancy Malmin

Basic Schoolhouse Class info: with a few exceptions, we have classes on the third Thursday of each month. They are held at Pharr South, 1402 S. Cage. In Pharr (just past the big HEB at Ridge and Cage). We meet from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 or 3:00 p.m., and you can bring your lunch or go out to one of the fast-food places nearby. Class cost is just \$20, but sometimes a pattern is required, to avoid copyright infringement. We hope you find a fun class or two in our 2026 lineup!

Schoolhouse Classes

Saturday, September 19th

HST 11 Different Ways! - [sign-up](#)

Bonnie Hall

Thursday, October 15th

Miniature Quilts - [sign-up](#)

Vicki Guerra

Thursday, November 19th

Fidget Quilts - [sign-up](#)

Joy Paugh

Thursday, December 17th

Featherweight Maintenance - [sign-up](#)

Diana Wolf

Hoping you all take note of the Saturday class in September - especially for those who have week-day jobs. Excellent class for all! Please call me with any questions. Dale Shafer 956-330-5261

This is our tentative schedule for the rest of the year. As you can see, I'm doing several of the classes, but I will be happy to give those up, if someone comes forward with ideas/suggestions for something different. Please note that the September class will be held on a Saturday, especially for those

quilters who may have week-day jobs. This will be a very informative class for everyone, but especially for our newer quilters!

Membership Information

by Lynne Johnson, Membership Chair

Hi everyone. We currently have 247 members, which includes two New Members and one Returning Member. Remember, New Members only pay \$15 for the next two months. So tell your friends and family 😊

Aloysius alligator

Look for me on our webpage! Click on me and I'll take you to the **Members Only** page.



Remember what I am. I'm also the keeper of the directories. Please add a two-digit year to open a directory. **Members Only** page -

The Members Only page is protected by password. Aloysius alligator is the keeper of the password for the page and the directories. The Members Only page contains the following information:

- Directory
 - Current
 - Past
- Class Registrations Information
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Library Books
- Patterns
- Retreat
- RGVQG Bee Information
- Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild
 - BYLAWS
 - Standing Rules
 - Treasurers Reports

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 to 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.

Informational SMS (text) Messages

Informational SMS (text) Messages

We can send text messages to all our current members. If you are no longer a member of the guild, 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 or gentle reminders. You can reply STOP to opt out of any text messages from RGVQG.

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 will be changing the way we send emails.

We send 2-4 emails every month to all our active members. All of our guild related emails start with RGVQG.

Guild Emails -

The guild webmaster usually sends out at least two emails a month

- RGVQG Newsletter (after the meeting)
- RGVQG Meeting Notice (Thursday before the meeting)

Both emails are sent from

bonniemhall@rgvqg.com.

Please put this email in your contact list. This will help to direct the emails to your inbox instead of sending them to spam or junk.

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](#)

Retreat News

by Kathe Letulle - retreat@rgvqg.co

Dates for 2027 Retreats:

Friendship Star - March 8-12, 2027

Bluebonnet Friends - March 14-18, 2027

Be sure to sign up on the Wait List - as Life Happens and vacancies happen.

There is a grand time at the John Newcomb Tennis Ranch at New Braunfels, Texas. An experience of a lifetime with members who are willing to assist with any project issue.

LOST AND FOUND!

The list is growing!!! Are you Missing ITEMS from the quilt show and/or monthly meeting? If these items are not claimed by February, they will be added to the Quilt Show Boutique for sale. Call Kathe Letulle to claim!

956-272-2377

DESCRIBE and will be RETURNED TO RIGHTFUL OWNER!

1. Umbrella
2. Together in one Bag - Large 2026 Quilt Show T-Shirt and XL Denim Jacket
3. 25 oz Tumbler by CAMELBAK

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](#)

One thought to keep in mind, you can donate anywhere and report to us, as long as the receiving location is not also claiming it.

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!

August 2026

No reports submitted

Treasurer Report

The Guild's Revenues and Expenses are currently in-line with the projected 2026 budget.

The evaluation of Quicken's bookkeeping software for potential adoption for both Guild and Show use is currently in progress.

You can view the actual revenue and expense data and other treasury documentation by:

Accessing the rgvqg.com website. 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. For any questions or comments, I can be contacted at Cell # 740-398-4142 Email rgvqg.treasurer@gmail.com or treasurer@rgvqg.com

Submitted by Mike Hall

Scrap Block Draw

by Chris Cowan

Under my community service umbrella/hat each month I'm going to specify a block pattern, colors and size. Blocks collected will be made into a donation quilt. Hope you'll join in.

At the August meeting I suggested the Four Patch Fun Block that we've been making for the military Service Quilts, but using your 2-1/2" strips. Suggested colors are fall ones, gold, green, brown, orange, etc, and a coordinating light or neutral. You'll need at least 20" of



each fabric. 10" of each will make two 4-1/2" four patches. The remaining is cut in 4-1/2" rectangles to be sewn on their short edges and

attached to the sides of the 4 patches as shown. Finished block is 8" so unfinished block should be 8-1/2".

For more information, check Bonnie Hunter's blogspot. It was her Leader and Ender block for last year.

Looking forward to seeing what you make!

RGV Quilt Show

by Laural Powell and Joy Paugh

45th Annual Rio Grande Valley Quilt Show - Rhythm in Blues - A Sapphire Celebration



The framework for the yearly Rio Grande Valley Quilt Show, "Rhythm in Blues a Sapphire Celebration," is coming together for February 12-13, 2027, at the South Padre Island Convention Center.

We are extremely fortunate to have Laural Powell on the team, who has been diligently following her publicity timeline and keeping us moving in the right direction. Jani Shoemaker is also working alongside me as co-chair, laying the groundwork for the 2028 show. Jani's marketing and IT background has been invaluable to making our 2027 show a success.

Please take a look at the updated Quilt Show page on the Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild website. While you are there, please register a

quilt or two. As this is our 45th celebration, your participation is an integral part of our community. To thank you for your time and contribution, everyone who registers a quilt will receive a small token of appreciation.

The Theme Challenge and Quilt Challenge rules are now listed on the website under the Quilt Entry and Information section, as well as on our Facebook page.

Additionally, we have several updates and volunteer needs:

- Demos Chair Needed: I am looking for someone to chair the demonstrations committee. I have a list of topics and volunteers ready to present; I just need an organizer to lead the committee. Please call me if you are interested.

- Hotel Rooms: We are currently working with the Convention Center staff to secure reasonable hotel rates. Consider gathering a few friends to share a room and planning a weekend on the island to enjoy the show, take a class, and volunteer.

- Tote Raffle: Marilyn Henzs is looking for a minimum of 12 to 14 attractive, sturdy totes for each day of the show. The tote raffle is one of our main fundraisers.

- Boutique Donations: Carmen Garza is seeking donations for the boutique. Please fill out the survey of items included in this newsletter.

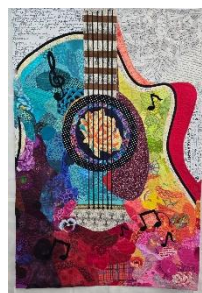
The profit from the quilt show allows our guild to host national speakers, fund fabric for military service projects, and give back through our educational outreach program. Thank you for your continued support in making the 2027 Quilt Show a success.



Opportunity Quilt Update

This year's Opportunity Quilt prizes are: 1st Place: 71" x 71" Blue Pickle Dish Quilt;

2nd Place: 24" x 35.5" Guitar Wall Hanging;



3rd Place: Big Katahdin Tote with 4 inside pockets

and a zippered top made using the same fabrics as the Blue Pickle Dish quilt. Made by Joy Paugh.

Ticket envelopes contain 24 "Business Card size" blue entry tickets with a line for Name and a line for Phone Number be sure to write legibly, 2 each prize information business cards that can be used as a receipt if needed and 1 double sided prizes picture card.

As of the August guild meeting, we have received \$601 in ticket sales. The Women's Fishing Tournament netted \$151 and we collected \$106 dollars at the guild meeting. PLEASE check out events coming up in your communities, town or neighborhood where we might display the quilt, promote the guild and sell tickets. Thanks for such awesome results this early and especially during the summer months. If you have NOT picked up your tickets yet, please plan to do so at one of the upcoming guild meetings.

Each guild member is politely asked to sell or purchase at least one envelope of tickets. Ticket prices are: \$1 each; 6 for \$5 or 24 tickets for \$20. We accept cash, checks, and app payments using either Cash App or Zelle. Some guild members prefer to just donate \$20 and not sell or purchase any tickets and some choose to pay \$24/envelope because that's the value if each ticket was to be sold separately.

We currently have 254 paid members for 2026. At \$20/envelope of 24 tickets, if each member sold or purchased one envelope, we would gross $254 \times \$20 = \$5,080$.

*****Please note monies are to be turned in when the tickets are turned in. Prepaid tickets can cause confusion and bookkeeping mistakes.*****

Quilt Showing Schedule: By August Guild meeting I hope we will begin to assemble a calendar of dates and locations where the quilt will be displayed and tickets will be sold. I know Sam's in Harlingen is already in the works. If you know of a place where you think the quilt could be displayed safely and tickets sold, please contact (me) Kathy Stevens: 972-467-4269 or Joy Paugh 913-226-6781. I do not answer unknown numbers, so either text me or if you call, leave a message and I'll return your call asap.

The **Totes and More** headed up by Marilyn Hensz will look somewhat different. Marilyn has asked that individuals or even Bees donate a bag. The donors, whether they are a Bee, friends, or a single member, can choose to donate the bag only or fill the bag as well. The tote bag criteria: Approximately 17" Wide x 15" Tall x 6" deep. This is an average size. It

can be larger or smaller; but keep it close to those dimensions. The tote also needs to be able to stand up on its own, therefore some stabilizer may be needed for the sides., As always, we want the totes to be very attractive so that guests will want to purchase raffle tickets to win their favorite bag.

2027 T-Shirts and drink Tumblers carry the logo that Laural designed for this show. The 32oz Tumblers are \$25.00. Your name put on the back for an extra \$5.00.



The Tshirts will be short sleeve V-neck and Crew necks, long sleeve Crew necks in white and blue. Small through Extra Large are \$25.00 and 2X & 3X are \$30.00.



There will be an option on the Guild Website under the Quilt Show page to purchase these two items. Orders processed will be available at the following Guild meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Publicity Distribution Team for the 2027 Rio Grande Valley Quilt Show

Help us spread the word across the Valley!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with distributing posters and promotional materials throughout the Rio Grande Valley, and surrounding counties during **January and February of 2027**. We would

like to have at least one person for the Upper Valley and one person for the Lower Valley. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Guild and help make this year's Quilt Show a great success.

Volunteer Responsibilities:

- Deliver flyers and bookmarks to fabric shops, museums, libraries, community centers, and local businesses
- Keep a simple list of locations visited
- Represent the Quilt Show in a friendly and positive manner

What We're Looking For:

- Reliable transportation
- A friendly personality
- Love for quilting and community involvement
- Ability to travel within the Rio Grande Valley

Flexible scheduling — you can choose routes and times that work best for you. Be part of the team that brings the Valley together through quilting!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Laural Powell
qspublicity@rgvqq.com

Boutique

by Carmen S. Garza

The B-zzy Bees are pleased to run the Boutique this year. We are excited to make it a successful one. We need your help! To create a Boutique that you and visitors to the show want to purchase from, we are asking that you fill out the survey found below. Let us know what items you think would be good sellers.

[Boutique Survey](#)

Additionally, the Boutique can only be successful with your generous donations. Please fill out the [Boutique Pledge Form](#) and bring your donations to one of the Saturday Guild meetings. Thank you in advance for helping us have a successful Boutique!

◆ ◆ ◆ **Featured Guest Artist** ◆ ◆ ◆



We're thrilled to welcome Carly Mul, as the guest speaker and teacher at the 2027 Rio Grande Valley Quilt Show!

Carly Mul is a nationally recognized quilt artist known for her vibrant colors and inspiring creativity. Carly taught the Scissor Collage class for the Rio Grande Valley Quilt Guild a few years ago.

Whether you are an experienced quilter or just beginning your quilting journey, you won't want to miss the opportunity to learn from this talented artist. Stay tuned for workshop and lecture information!

Rhythm in Blues Quilt Show Classes - [sign-up](#)

This year our featured quilt artist, Carly Mul, will be teaching 2 classes for our show.

Friday, the [Agamy Stripe](#) class will be a 6 hour class. **Saturday**, the [Broken or Mended](#) class will be 4 hours.

Both will begin at 8am. The doors will be open at 7.30am to accommodate the students.

I invite you to look at Carly's website, carlymul.com.

The class registration and class supply list will be posted soon.

Sponsorship Info

See page 14 for updates

General Meeting Vendor Tables

During the May General Meeting, guild members gave their approval to continue allowing a Vendor table at the monthly Guild Meeting. Prospective vendors can sign-up for a table for the June 2026 - February 2027 meetings on a first come - first serve basis via an email request to: treasurer@rgvqg.com. Please reply to this message or use "Vendor Table Registration" in the Subject Line. The vendors will be contacted in the order of email receipt and offered their choice of the available dates. Any questions may be directed via email to: treasurer@rgvqg.com or to Mike Hall @ 740-398-4142

The Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum has invited the RGV Guild to exhibit quilts every year from January - March. Please contact Jani Shoemaker, janishoe@yahoo.com, 720-635-3890 to schedule your opportunity to show your beautiful work and promote your bee plus the guild. Quilts that have been shown at other shows/exhibits can be used or encourage your bee to find a theme and get started today. An open house will also be scheduled at the Museum for a meet and greet the quilter.

Current schedule includes 2027 - Queen City Bees and B-zzy Bees, "We've come a long way baby"

2028 , Q-Bees, theme to come later

Thank you

Jani Shoemaker

Bee News

Fiber Arts Bee

We're a warm and lively community that gathers on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 10 AM to noon at The Upper Valley Quilt Guild in Mission. Come join us and let your creativity shine in a fun and friendly atmosphere! We can't wait to see what amazing things you'll make! Don't miss out on the fun!

The Mission Bee gathers every 1st and 3rd Monday at the Upper Valley Art in Mission, where they passionately craft military quilts, stunning pieces for the Quilt Show, and heartwarming baby quilts destined for the Children's Hospital.

Queen City Bee

We are always very appreciative of your scrap donations that help us continue to help our community. We will continue working with the B-zzy Bee at the Weslaco Library. Plans are on the way to have our second 8 week class at the Weslaco Library for new participants during the months of June and July.

The QCB's also use your donations for making charity quilts. In 2025 a total of 98 quilts in various sizes and 37 grocery bags were donated. Starting this year, for the month of January 2026, we have already donated a total of 53 quilts in various sizes plus 11 quilted placemats. This certainly could not be possible without your scrap donations. Thank you for continuing to help us help others.

"Are you interested in the modern quilt movement?" Would you like to spend an afternoon with other quilters who are flexing their "Modern Muscles"? Debbie Williams, Ann Alexander and Nancy Tatro have formed a new group for that purpose.

We are meeting six times a year-January, March, May, July, September and November on the fourth Saturday of each month. Our next meeting will be on July 25, and will run from 1pm to 3pm in Room 1 at Fun N Sun RV park. The address is 1400 Zillock Road, San Benito. If you are coming to the meeting, please text Nancy at 603-867-6899 by the Thursday before. She will have a parking pass and name badge ready for you.

We're a gated community, so drive to the gate code box and enter code 8506. Nancy will "buzz" you in. Drive through the gate, go straight to the STOP sign and take a left (That-Away Lane), take the first right on Stanley Blvd and drive three short blocks until you come to a large metal building on your right (the Rec Center). Drive to the end of this building and park anywhere. Room 1 is located at the far end of this building. If you have questions, call Nancy at 603-867-6899.

Programs

By Heather Nelson

September 11 - 12, 2026
Glenda Wilder



Glenda has been making things all her life, often creating new designs and patterns as she goes. When she sees a finished quilt that will wrap, comfort, memorialize, decorate, or commemorate a time or place

connects her to a shared collective of creators, past and present. Glenda's designs are intended for quilters of all experience levels that want to share this connection, brimming with history and the promise of creative new visions.

Friday, September 11, 2026

Boomerang Class - [sign-up](#)



A striking design was the first in Glenda's "Nothin' But Squares" collection and has been updated with a terrific polka dot fabric. It's the same great pattern and it's suitable for beginners and

experienced quilters alike! Works with precuts or yardage in a variety of sizes. Perfect for advanced chain piecing.

Saturday, September 12, 2026 - Lecture
Presentation by Glenda Wilder on "Quilting - Traditional, Modern and Everything in-between."

Friday, October 9th, 2026

Class by Kathy Tucker - [sign-up](#)

Description of the Class coming soon

Saturday, October 10th, 2026

Lecture by Kathy Tucker -

Description to be Announced.

Friday, November 13th, 2026

Patty Roebuck - [sign-up](#)

Class on a Jacket Quilt

Saturday, November 14th, 2026

Lecture by Patty Roebuck -

Topic to be Announced

Saturday, December 12th, 2026 -

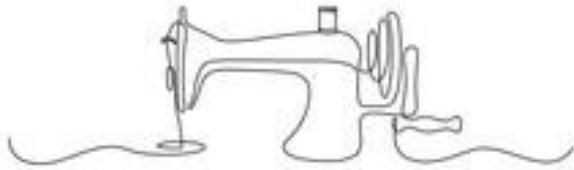
Lecture by Jean Impey —

Dynamic presentations packed with insights, humor, and creativity. Topic "Finding Your Passion and Running with It"

Pending Contracts:

Sue Heinz - Class and Lecture
To Be Announced

Rob Appell - Class and Lecture
To Be Announced



RGVQG General Meeting Minutes

By Linda Damon

RGVQG General Meeting Minutes - August 15, 2026

The August 15 RGVQG General meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Membership reported 50 members present, 4 guests, and 6 members on zoom. A quorum was present.

Jan's Baethke's program was a historical overview of the Killer Bees bee since the 1970s. She shared photos and group projects and events from past. She also honored members who were instrumental in developing Killer Bees into a vibrant, caring group of quilters. Jan shared the 2026-2027 agenda.

Ideas for programs and projects are decided by members.

Program chair Heather Nelson reminded member that Glenda Wilder's workshop Friday, September 11 is about advanced chain piecing and individualized design choices. Information on sign-up and the supply list and workshop prep is available on the rgvqg.com web site. At the general guild meeting on Saturday September 12, Glenda will present a trunk show and lecture titled Quilting - Traditional, Modern, and Everything In-between.

Treasurer Mike Hall presented the July budget. He reported funds available are \$16,855.26 in checking and \$4,197.88 in saving. The current balance of the first Bank of America CD is \$33,324.30. The second CD balance is \$22,339.76. This CD matures before the September meeting. Mike Hall recommended purchasing a CD equivalent to the principal and interest of this CD at the best terms available on September 11. The motion was seconded by Carrah Maney and passed. Mike also recommended purchasing a second Quicken software program specifically for the Quilt Show. This supports the earlier decision to have a separate treasurer for the Quilt Show. The motion passed to purchase the second Quicken software package.

If you are interested in volunteering for the position of Historian or Guild Publicity, please contact President Kathe Letulle at president@rgvqg.com.

The next Schoolhouse class is Saturday, September 19. Bonnie Hall will present Half-square Triangles - 11 Ways. Laural Powell described the revised Quilt Show sponsorship categories. Vendors are also

committing to the show. Show merchandise continues to be available at guild meetings. Opportunity Quilt ticket sales total \$705.00. Volunteer opportunities and the form to sign up are also on the guild website. Hotel information for the 2027 RGVQG Quilt Show is now available on the guild website, rgvqg.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

Day 1 Bags

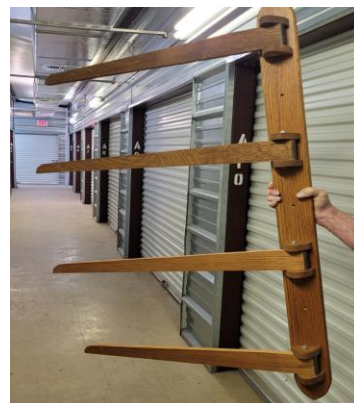
If you would like to participate for next year, let Bonnie Hall or Alyssa Gonzalez know. You can contact Alyssa, **text (best) or call her cell phone at (956) 578-3352** or via email agonzalez@nplexusrgv.com.



TANGIBLE ASSETS COMMITTEE

The Guild's Tangible Asset committee has a vintage 1923 Singer Sewing machine w/cabinet and a 4-tier quilt rack available for sale. Prices are negotiable. Contact Mike for details.

In addition, the committee has approximately 300 yards of fabric available for distribution for educational or charitable projects. Use the Tangible Assets Form, located on the Forms Page of the website to request access to this material.



Quilt show Sponsorships

This year we are focusing on sponsorships for our show. The Sponsorships categories are listed here.



The Legacy of Nifty Fifty Quilters Continues

By Teresa Drummond

May, 18, 2026

In 1995, I casually flipped through a quilting magazine looking for inspiration and stumbled across a small ad for a one-on-one United States quilt block exchange. That tiny ad sparked an idea much bigger than I ever imagined — a centralized quilt exchange where every participant would receive a quilt block from all fifty states, not just from the organizer. What began as a dream quickly grew into organizing fifty quilters to complete a total of 2,500 quilt blocks.

At the time, none of us realized that we were creating something far more meaningful than quilts. We were building friendships, sharing our life stories, and stitching together a community that would span the entire country.

The early days were not always easy. After receiving a discouraging letter from one participant, I nearly gave up on the project entirely. Thankfully, my friend Wendy Smith stepped in beside me, and together we began mailing letters to quilt guilds across the country seeking participants. As the Internet slowly emerged into everyday life, Wendy began posting notices on quilting bulletin boards online, and little by little we filled all fifty states.

Participants shared history forms explaining their blocks and the meaning behind them. Fabric samples were mailed to ensure colors would coordinate. Soon the project became much more than a block exchange. The stories, creativity, and compassion of the quilters transformed it into a nationwide friendship quilt.

One of the most touching moments came when my son Sean used the signature blocks from the exchange for a fifth-grade project. Quilters added charms, buttons, appliqué, and heartfelt messages to their blocks. Sean thanked participants by mailing fossilized shark teeth from his Potomac River collection, and one quilter even sewed a special pocket into her quilt to hold his gift.

Over the next several years, the Nifty Fifty Quilters continued to grow far beyond that original exchange. What started with one group eventually expanded into thirty completed quilt swaps, including themes like, southwestern, patriotic, Civil War, 9/11 memorial, state flowers and many others that connected quilters across the United States through shared creativity and storytelling.

Our Twenty Plenty International Quilt Exchange was created after the first few Nifty Fifty quilt swaps were completed. What began as a national friendship quilt project soon expanded across the world, bringing together quilters from over forty countries through a shared love of quilting and cultural connection. Participants exchanged quilt blocks representing countries from North/South America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa. Like the Nifty Fifty groups, Twenty Plenty became much more than a quilt exchange. It formed lasting friendships between women from different backgrounds and cultures who may never have otherwise crossed paths.

The exchanges also supported charitable causes. Participants created additional quilts for breast cancer fundraising efforts and quilt museums. We hosted gatherings in Stafford, Virginia, where quilters from across the country came together to sort blocks, sew quilts, laugh, and form friendships that lasted long after the final stitches were sewn. Our Nifty Fifty 1 breast cancer quilt had collected signatures from across the country of those affected by breast cancer. It was donated to the Michigan State University Museum. The quilt was featured in the book *Quilts and Health*

by Marsha MacDowell, Clare Luz and Beth Donaldson.

<https://niftyfiftyquilting.com/charity>

Some participants faced difficult life events during the exchanges — illnesses, divorces, job changes, and even the loss of beloved members. Yet the quilting community always rallied around one another. One guild completed blocks for a member who passed away during the exchange, reminding all of us of what quilting has always represented: compassion, connection, and shared kindness.

One of the most meaningful stories to come from our quilting community was *Brenda's Wish Quilt*. Brenda Neily, a breast cancer survivor from Massachusetts, became deeply involved in our Nifty Fifty and Twenty Plenty swaps after attending one of our quilting gatherings in Virginia. Inspired by the friendships and spirit of the groups, she went on to host several NF swaps while also helping organize breast cancer charity quilts. Sadly, Brenda's cancer returned during this time, yet she continued working tirelessly on the quilting groups for as long as she could. Before she passed away in 2000, Brenda began planning a surprise friendship quilt for me using a beautiful Hoffman fabric she had carefully chosen because she knew it was my favorite. After her passing, Marjorie Young and many Nifty Fifty quilters from across the country completed Brenda's vision by creating blocks and sewing the quilt together. The finished quilt became far more than fabric and thread for me— it became a lasting symbol of friendship, love, generosity, and the deep bonds formed through our quilting community. Brenda's story continues to remind us that quilts often carry the hearts and memories of the people who create them.

Then life moved forward. Families grew, careers changed, and eventually the groups went quiet. After thirty completed swaps, Nifty Fifty Quilters took a fifteen-year pause.

But quilting friendships never truly disappear. Nifty Fifty Quilters is beginning a new chapter. We have relaunched our quilting community with a brand-new website: Nifty Fifty Quilting at www.niftyfiftyquilting.com

The website showcases the history of our exchanges along with more than 70,000 quilt block photos created throughout our many swaps over the years. Our goal is to build a strong quilting community by connecting quilters through online chat rooms, shared projects, and new creative tools. The new site also includes software that allows quilters to visually design their quilt blocks and entire quilts online by uploading their own fabric samples, experimenting with sashing and borders, adjusting colors, and resizing quilt layouts. It combines the tradition of quilting friendships with modern technology to inspire creativity and connection for quilters around the world.

Even more meaningful, we are beginning Nifty Fifty 31 — *A Healing Quilt Swap*.

<https://niftyfiftyquilting.com/swaps/nf-31-journey-into-the-light>

This new exchange represents healing, friendship, encouragement, and renewal through quilting. Much like the original swaps, the goal is not simply to exchange blocks, but to create connections and support one another through creativity and kindness. Quilts have always told stories, comforted hearts, and carried love through every stitch. NF 31 continues that tradition. Our swap will be creating three charity quilts to raise awareness for: Breast Cancer, Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence.

Looking back over the journey from that first 50-state exchange in 1995 to today, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for every quilter who helped make Nifty Fifty Quilters what it became. Thousands of blocks were exchanged, countless friendships were formed, and together we created

a quilting legacy stitched together with generosity, laughter, resilience, and heart.

As we begin again with NF 31, we welcome both returning members and new quilters to join us in continuing this beautiful tradition. Because quilting has never only been about fabric and thread. It has always been about the people behind the stitches.