

# Willow Woods Quilt Guild

## Newsletter January 2024

Meets the Second Saturday of each  
month at Elks Lodge  
26584 Highway 18,  
Rim Forest, CA

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### Month at a Glance

Upcoming Events for January and Beyond:

- January meeting will be Saturday, January 13th at 10:30
- Stay-n-Sew following the meeting
- Road to CA quilt show - January 17 - 20th in Ontario, CA

Special items to bring to the next meeting:

- Show & Tell items! What have you been working on?
- Your \$40 dues for 2024



## Incoming President - Pat Duebbers

New Years Greeting!!

Thank you for the opportunity to be the guild president. We have so many talented, generous and dedicated quilters in our group. I am excited about the variety of possibilities that will come our way in the next year - Pamela's programs, Jen's Challenges, and special events planned by Sylvia and Darrell. We're here to meet your needs. Please come to the January meeting with ideas you'd like to see incorporated in our meetings.

A big thank you goes out to Kelli. Her calm, steady and focused leadership "righted" the guild after the pandemic. She also took on the challenge of getting our "non-profit" status back. This has involved hours and hours of work. I am so glad she's continuing this endeavor. I have big shoes to fill.

The guild's image has been "We're small, but we have a big heart." The success of the Quilt Walk showed what we could do. I think we can also add "and, we get things done ." I hope to build on that.

See you at the January meeting. Bring your ideas for the coming year and your sewing machines.

Pat Duebbers

## ScrapTastic - Pamela Abell

Dear sweet quilting friends,

While sewing on the guild gift exchange item for this year, several ah-ha moments occurred dealing with my fabric stash's organization (needs help and curating) and the lasing effects of the 24 large flying geese units I sewed for the round-robin (positive energy amazingly enough).

## Holiday Fabric

After pulling out my holiday fabric plastic bin for the first time in a few years, I realized that I had just tossed in donated scraps and baggies of leftovers which I had never looked at. A bad idea. Dumping out the contents forced a new tactical plan that included the following 3 strategies:

1. Trash any sub-standard fabrics remnants of low quality. Easy!
2. Ugly designs – keep a few as my quilter's challenge to make them work somehow.
3. Coming to terms with what size/shape of scraps to keep or let go of. Here is where years of farm-frugality and 'don't waste' training came up, which surprised me by how strong it was. I needed to overcome it if I was to do better with my stash and make better quilts.

I also had to seriously re-define how small of a scrap I would use in my limited quilting time. I knew the smallest strip size I will use and that is 1 ½ inches for mini-log cabin blocks, etc. No problems there.

Where I had the ah-ha moment was with the 'crumb sized' scraps. Three years ago, I made 2 test crumb blocks and didn't find much pleasure or beauty in them. They seemed visually chaotic and pushed against the sense of pleasure I find in quilt geometry. Why did I keep the crumbs then?!

I tossed the 'crumbs' out and am keeping my smallest scraps to 2" squares or rectangles and 1 ½ inch strips, all on the straight of fabric grain. No more crooked cuts or semi-bias edges. I cannot tell you the freedom of having defined my new limits has been.

### Lessons from the Guild group quilt

Part of my gift exchange project involved trimming off 70 two-inch HSTs. Now, two-inch HSTs are very tiny. Normally I would throw them out but instead, was able to add them to the corners of ugly-fabric 4-patches to soften the harsh lines. Hey, after sewing over 400 of them together for the group quilt, 70 of them was nothing!



# Challenges - Jen Lanak

## UFO Challenge

I thought we would change the UFO challenge up a little this year. At the next meeting, I challenge you to write down and submit (or email me) a list of the UFO's you intend to finish this year. As you complete the UFO's on your list and show them at the meetings, I will enter you into a drawing for end of the year prize. The more UFOs you complete from your list, the more chances you have to win. YES, the UFOs need to be on your original list completed in January! IF, you complete all of your list and want to create a new one later in the year, that will be allowed. So, take a good look at your UFOs and decide which ones will make your list!

## Roll the Dice - Remixed!

Same concept as last year, but different results.

You will need one 6-sided dice to play, and you will be rolling multiple times.

Roll#1 = Theme. Instead of specific colors, instead we will have general themes.

- 1) Spring (think pastels, flowers, etc.)
- 2) Summer (nice bright colors)
- 3) Fall (leaves, fall colors, etc.)
- 4) Winter (red/white, blue/white, snowflakes, snowballs, winter trees, etc.)
- 5) Christmas
- 6) Modern (this could go in a lot of directions!)

Roll #2 = Accent Block to use. This is different from last year. This block does NOT need to be dominant, but it must appear somewhere on your quilt. It could be in a border or part of a more complex block. Good luck!

- 1) Log Cabin
- 2) Half Square Triangle
- 3) Flying Geese
- 4) USE Applique!
- 5) 9-patch
- 6) Rail Fence

Roll #3 = Social Interaction! In an effort to get us to talk to each other more, you must consult with other members on your project.

- 1) You are on your own, don't consult with anyone

- 2) Consult your best quilting buddy
- 3) consult a member of the guild whose last name starts w/ a letter between A & G
- 4) consult a member of the guild whose last name starts with a letter between H & Z
- 5) bring your plan to a meeting and consult the guild members present
- 6) Don't just consult, but also ask someone to contribute to your quilt.

I don't like putting size requirements on our challenges, however I would encourage you to try to make a quilt big enough to donate to the auction if it turns out you dislike your creation or just don't want to keep it.

Deadline is the September meeting.

Who is ready to Roll!

## 2024 Challenge of the Year - Animals!

In the past we have challenged ourselves to use one particular block or technique. We even stepped out of our comfort zones to try abstract. This year, we are going to try a general theme of animals. This will allow you to use your favorite technique or maybe try a new one. If you love piecing, there are many patterns out there that use traditional piecing to make animals - look at Elizabeth Hartman and Janet Fogg for inspiration. If applique is what you want to do, there is lots of fantastic inspiration out there in all kinds of styles. If paper piecing is your jam, check out Violet Craft and [Quiltartdesigns.blogspot.com](http://Quiltartdesigns.blogspot.com) (Janeen van Niekerk). If you just want to use animal fabrics, that's ok too. Just go with theme of Animals (we can include birds, reptiles, fish, etc. to broaden the theme a bit).

What Have You Been Up To?

## Judy Green

Hi Quilting Friends,

Happy New Year to you all. It promises to be a great 2024.

I am so excited to have our Installation at our next meeting and welcome our new officers.

See you all at our Saturday, January 13th meeting.

Love, Judy



# Darrell Harris

Greetings ladies,

I'm currently in Payson Arizona celebrating the holidays with my son and his family and my grandson's birthday on the 29th. The table runner I made for Zak, my son.

Also made a Christmas ornament for Kash my grandson. Wishing each and everyone a great New Year and hoping your Christmas was one of your best.



# Pamela Abell

I spent 3 days and nights with Mark, Tara and Madeleine, my 7-year-old granddaughter, for the first time since the lockdowns. It was lovely and I took the 1922 hand crank Singer.

While packing, I found some cartoon dog squares in my scraps along with sock monkey squares, which I matched up to make their dog a blanket as her first project. At the last minute, I added my 2 boxes of scrap strips just in case, not thinking she would take to sewing or maybe get bored.

We practiced sewing on Christmas Eve, which kept her occupied. She was fascinated and liked sewing and using the hand crank right away. She is left handed so it worked for her.

PROJECT # 1 - Once she learned the basics, she sewed the dog blanket front and back on the first day. Dogs on the front and sock monkeys on the back.

For the next 2 days all she wanted to do was to sew, so back to the Singer and pre-cut strips where she learned how to sew straight, sew long strips which I cut to make 4-patch blocks. She took one of the 42-inch strips, holding it vertically to show her mom and was quite surprised to see that it was almost as long as she was tall.

PROJECT #2 - She secretly picked out lovely, soft green fabrics for her mom's table runner, a surprise, sewing 28 4-patches. We had fun calling it the "green project" so no one would know what we were up to.

PROJECT #3 – Then she picked colors from the strips that she liked because she just wanted to keep sewing. She lit up when I said it could be a lap quilt for her. More 4-patches. I think she made over one hundred 4-patches in 3 days!

Heartfelt thanks to our guild and the contributions that were made to a 7-year-old-quilter...

Pamela



## Jen Lanak

My life is usually a bit chaotic, but the last few months have been more than usual. As you know, my mom was ill in November and I spent several weeks with her in Florida. We thought she was stable so I came home for a few days the first week of December and my mom passed away during that time. I went back to Florida for the funeral, etc. and ended up driving home across the country the week before Christmas. The open road is very therapeutic. It is a good place to grieve and reconcile your thoughts. I was alone for the first few days and then my friend joined me in New Orleans for the rest of the trip. By then, my tears had subsided and I was able to focus on the blessing that my mom wasn't suffering any longer. We even managed to have a little bit of fun. Good friends are the richest blessing of my life.

I don't mean to shift gears so abruptly, but I haven't had a chance to tell you all that my Koi fish quilt was accepted into Road to California. I'm looking forward to seeing it there later this month.



# Photos from our last meetings - Trisha Skalnik













