



PACIFIC PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

# Bits & Pieces

[www.pacificpiecemakers.org](http://www.pacificpiecemakers.org)

March 2008

Jeri Taylor, Editor

Volume 13, Issue 3



**MARCH  
MARCH 21  
12:30 P.M.  
GUALALA ARTS**

They don't call her "The Quilt Diva" for nothing. Karen Boutte, well-known quilt artist, teacher, lecturer, and author will be coming to Pacific Piecemakers Quilt Guild on Friday, March 21st to give a presentation entitled "African-American Quilts and Quilters." We will start by hearing a little quilt history, quilting during slavery, and after emancipation. Then Karen will move on to how she got started as a quilter, just how she became a quilt diva. We will learn what inspires Karen, and how she gets started when facing a blank design wall. Part of the presentation will feature Karen's fabulous trunk show of her own incredible quilts and wearable art.

Truly a diva, Karen is happiest when she's sharing her love of quilting with others, which is why she enjoys teaching so much. Quilting is an art form that encourages sharing. When she first started quilting, Karen didn't think of quilting as an art form. But when she was invited to participate in an open studio with several other artists, it was an eye-opening experience. Now she says that "making art is the most fun you can have that's legal!"

Join PPQG on March 21 at Gualala Arts Center. Coffee and social time begin at 12:30 p.m., with the business meeting and program following at 1:00. All are welcome. Non-members \$5.00



## **LITTLE RIVER QUILT SHOW**

Partners Gallery at Glendeven in Little River is proud to present an exhibition of the handquilted work of six North Coast artists, encompassing a variety of approaches to this ancient art. Works include the spontaneous and vibrant designs of Rita Martinez, the curvilinear designs of Catherine Booth, Amber Bell's small framed pieces exploring ideas of community, Ronnie Kemper's imaginatively colored contemporary designs, Julie Burns' explorations of Chinese lattice design and Shirlee Paoli's works embellishing traditional quilting ideas using recycled materials.

Also on view are works by gallery artists in a variety of media, Carleton Design hand-made carpets, and Christiansen-Arner water sculptures.

The reception is March 8, 5:00—8:00 p.m. This is, unfortunately, the same date as our Challenge opening, but the show will hang from March 6 through April 7, so there will be ample opportunity to see it.

The gallery is open Thursday through Monday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.. It is located at 8205 North Highway One, Little River (two miles south of Mendocino). Phone 707 937-3525, website [www.partnersgallery.com](http://www.partnersgallery.com).

Works by Partners are also available for viewing at Stevenswood next door and Mendocino Gems in Mendocino at 10540 Lansing Street.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I am pleased to be beginning my year as your president. It looks like a great year coming up. The program committee, led by Janet Windsor, has planned a wonderful series of lectures and workshops for us. Sue Arnold is putting together our programs for 2009 and I know they will be equally interesting and inspiring.

I have asked Marilyn Limbaugh to continue coordinating Quilts of Valor for another year and she has agreed. She did a great job this past year, culminating in the visit she, Carol Tackett, and Gail Sims made to the VA hospital to distribute the beautiful quilts you made. Please consider making another one this year. There are a

lot of our young men and women who need them. At the same time, please don't forget that we need comfort quilts for our own community.

One major project I hope to tackle this year is to develop by-laws for the Guild. These by-laws will be available if we have questions about procedure. Lynne Atkins made a good beginning when she organized job descriptions during her presidency. Most guilds do have by-laws and I have begun collecting copies of some of them. After all, why invent the wheel!? I would like to put together a committee of four or five of you to help with this process. There are a couple of people who have volunteered in the past and I hope they will serve as the nucleus of this committee. Please get in touch with me if you are interested. Once a proposed set of by-laws has been created, they will be made available for you to read, discuss, and vote upon them.

We have one last position to fill and that is Coordinator of Festival of the Trees. Carol Tackett has done a great job for the past two years and feels it is time for new blood. (I don't mean that literally!) This is a very important position, as we have raised enough money at this event to allow us to import some of the best quilt artists in the country to speak to us. Whoever takes this on will have a terrific round of help, including an angel on her shoulder named Carol. Please get in touch with me if you are interested. Perhaps two of you would like to co-chair this event.

Finally, I need to say a few words about membership and dues. Fully 20% of you have not yet paid your dues for 2008. It seems to me that \$40 is a modest amount to pay for the wonderful programs and opportunities the Guild offers. We depend on your dues to help balance our budget. I would not like to see some of you lose your membership because you forgot to pay your dues. If a member has not paid by the end of March, we will have to assume that she no longer wishes to be a member of the Guild. Please send your check to Gail Spencer.

Let's work together to make this a wonderful year!

Barbara Dunsmoor

## ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

Anna Hines reports that quilts submitted to the Ultimate Challenge will be insured for up to \$1000 while they are hung at the show, or more if a certified appraisal is submitted.

It is suggested that the quilts be shipped registered mail and insured for the quilt's value. The Post Office reports that an appraisal, a bill of sale, or evidence of the value of a similar quilt will all be accepted as proof of the quilt's value.

## CORRECTION

Last month in the Slate of Officers, "Elaine Rich" was listed on the greeting committee. That person doesn't exist! Elaine Reed does, and we thank her for serving!

## MEMBER INFO

Please welcome new members:

Gwen Sundstrom, P.O. Box 581, Gualala, CA 95445, 884-3718, September 4, [gunvor@myway.com](mailto:gunvor@myway.com)

Mirka Knaster, P.O. Box 261, TSR CA 95497, 785-1130, May 11, [knaster@aol.com](mailto:knaster@aol.com).

I'd like to thank all those that paid their 2008 dues and encourage any stragglers to get on it!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Marta Emmons	3
Karel Metcalf	8
Janet Windsor	11
Judy Castleton	15
Joan Rudman	16
Margaret A-Taylor	17
Pat Peterson	20
Sue Arnold	23
Mary Suhr	25
Suzy Bates	26

## GUILD GLIMMERS

"I am an artist," said Merle Axelrad Serlin at the beginning of her lecture last month. Her ability to make that statement was the subject of her talk, which described her journey from amateur quilter to unqualified quilt artist.

Like many of us, she began without aspirations to artistry and made mostly baby quilts. Seeing his own quilt displayed in a show, her young show once queried, "Have all the quilts here been peed on?"

However, her talent quickly shone through and she began winning ribbons in various quilt shows. Buoyed by this success, she made her first sale to a Kaiser Hospital, and from that point, she never looked back. As her quilts developed their own unique voice, she became more and more successful in marketing them. Her collages of rocks and water, and later, trees, are joyous examples of a sensibility that continues to explore and grow.

Merle told the story of being at a luncheon in her Temple, and, when someone asked "What do you do?" simplified the answer by saying "I am an artist." For a moment — having said this in Temple! — she waited for a Voice From Above to challenge the blasphemy! When that didn't happen, she began to realize what all of us who saw her work already knew: she is an artist of the highest