



THE QUILTING TIMES

From Our President

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2026

PAGE 1

**President's January 2026**

Happy New Year Quilters.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas. When the 3 grandkids come over my husband calls them the wrecking crew because chaos always ensues but it's a good thing. I look forward to the New Year and all the potential projects we will get to work on.

Stay warm and quilt on.

Blessings, Gisele

**January 20, 2026 Program
Leo Ransom—Journey of an Art Quilter**

Leo Ransom is an award-winning quilt artist, educator, and pattern designer known for striking fabric portraits and innovative approach to art quilting. With over 14 years of experience, he has mastered techniques that bring expressive realism to textile art, blending color, texture, and composition creating captivating pieces. His talent has earned him national recognition and his quilt Double the Hipster won first place in the Appliquéd category at the 2022 Quilt Con in Phoenix, and is part of the International Quilt Museum's collection in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Workshop: The Art of Fabric Portraiture (See Pg 7)

Wednesday Jan 21 @ 10:00AM @ Sewing Solutions Hub-Plano

Instructor Fee \$75.00 Classroom Rental \$20.00

with Leo Ransom needs several more participants for it to make.

Patriotic Shower for Operation Quilted Comfort

“Great things in the McKinney Quilters Guild are never done by one person.

They are done by a team of people.”

This is a shower to help get the New Year started to refurbish our patriotic, red, white, and blue fabrics and batting. Monetary gifts are welcome for Color Catchers and labels should you not have any fabric stash.

All are welcome to a Kit Cutting on Tuesday, January 28 at Sharon Wilhelm's house, 1809 Midcrest Dr, Plano Tx 75075 from 10:00am—2:00am. RSVP 972-743-3575. Bring a snack or lunch.

If you have any Patriotic Quilts, please bring them to the January meeting for Show and Tell.

Sharon Wilhelm and Malinda Krzyzanowski, Co-Chairpersons

**Next Meeting
January 20, 2026**

**Doors Open 12:00
Meeting 1:00–3:30**

**New Location Map Inside
Trinity Presbyterian
Church (East Side)
5871 Virginia Parkway
McKinney, Tx 75071**

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McKinney Quilters Guild Minutes - December 16, 2025 (Please silence your cellphones)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by President Gisele Oakes. She welcomed all members and visitors and asked if there were any changes or additions to last month's meeting minutes or Treasurer's report needed. There were none; they will be filed for audit.

Betsy Whiteman, Sunshine and Shadows – Melissa's daughter is improving from pneumonia. Cynthia Fisher had surgery. Bonnie Landon had very serious back surgery from which she is now home from the hospital. Her pain meds are under control. From Plano Guild – Tisha Harms, from the Plano Guild has pancreatic cancer, please pray. Carolyn Kerr is having knee replacement surgery. Marianne Baltzer's brother-in-law passed away. As we enter 2026, let's pray for sunshine over our days.

Roxy Gross – Membership: 120 members in total. Fifty members were present today; there were no visitors. For 2025, we have had 12,691 service hours.

New Board members for 2026 were introduced.

President: Gisele Oakes, Membership Officer: Ronnie Stone,

Vice President/Programs: Beth Smietana, Education Officer: Jeannie Neckar,

Treasurer: Julie Cadenhead, Information Officer: Sharon Wilhelm,

Secretary: Debbie Evans

Brief Committee Chairmen reports:

Sharon Wilhelm: Operation Quilted Comfort – two thank you notes from Veterans in Bonham and a letter from rehab were received for the donated quilts. Sharon was touched by the letter and will bring it to read next month.

Pauline Garrett: Meals on Wheels - was not present but sent a report. She turned in ten (10) comfort boxes filled with food and other items. The wish lists for 50 MOW clients were fulfilled for Secret Santa. This was a great job for MOW by our Guild.

President's Gratification Acknowledgements – Mary Marrone for always being there to help; for Betsy Whiteman for consistently letting all of us know what's going on with our people; for Ronnie Stone for making so many quilts; for Carolyn Kerr for her work for Ryan's Cases for Smiles and to Elaine Henry for her work for Project Linus.

Julie Cadenhead, Treasurer, re the Budget for 2026: \$10,280 this year (last year \$10,000). Roxy moved to pass the new budget. Deb Merrill seconded the motion. We have a new Budget for 2026!

A letter of thank you was received for Nadine Darby and the Guild. Debby Garza, whose mother (a quilter) had recently passed away, requested someone in our Guild to finish hand quilting her mother's quilt. Nadine Darby took the project on. In response for the lovely finish, Debby gave a \$150 donation to our Guild.

Program reminder for next month – we will be at our new location, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5871 Virginia Pkwy, McKinney, TX, (972) 542-4629. If you are facing the church, our entrance is on the left-hand side (east). Next year, however, we will come back to our current church for December party.

Let's Celebrate! Lorraine Brown, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT December 2025

Beginning Balance	\$ 19,184.97
Deposits	\$ 510.00
Distributions	<u>-\$ 1,351.23</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 18,343.74

New Annual Liability Insurance Paid

Sunshine and Shadows

Cynthia Fisher had surgery.

Bonnie Landon had a very serious back surgery.

Tisha Harms from the Plano Guild has pancreatic cancer.

Mary Ann Baltzer's brother-in-law passed away.

Betsy Whiteman's daughter & family have moved into their new home in Pensacola, FL.

I pray that this coming year will bring lots of sunshine into your days and may the shadows be few.

Carolyn Kerr had knee surgery.

Malinda's Newpew's baby is home from the Hospital. Betsy



2025 was a booming year for Ryan's Case for Smiles! Nationally the goal of delivering the 3 millionth pillowcase was achieved in the Spring! Amazing for this non-profit founded in 2007 by a mother in Pennsylvania who made a pillowcase to brighten her son's hospital room as he battled cancer. He (Ryan) later lost his battle with cancer but a movement had been sparked and McKinney Quilter's Guild has become a part. During 2025 the Guild completed 797 pillowcases topping 2024's 559!

From Ryan's National the following message, "To all who share their hearts in big ways and small, your kindness is the magic that strengthens us all. Thank you for the LOVE stitched into each day – you brighten this mission in every way."

Carolyn Kerr

December Door Prizes We Appreciate Your Generosity!

Thanks to the Quilt Shops for their generous gifts to our guild. Thank you Missouri Star and our Guild Members for their donations! And especially to Deb and Malinda for the gathering!



Best Little Retreat Center, Dallas, Tx

Box Car Quilts, Aubrey, Tx

Downtown Dry Goods, McKinney, Tx

Fabric Fanatics, Plano, Tx

Hoops & Needles, Plano, Tx

Linda's Electric Quilters, McKinney, Tx

Pinckey's Too, Farmersville, Tx

Prairie Quilt, Hennessey, Ok

Quilt Country, Lewisville, Tx

Quilt Mercantile, Celeste, Tx

Missouri Star, Hamilton, Mo

The Old Craft Store, Carrollton, Tx

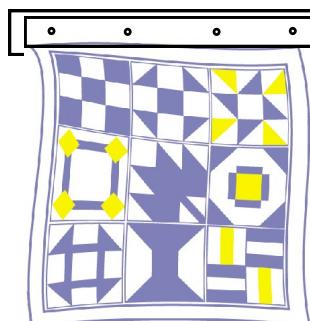
Urban Spools, Dallas, Tx

Please remember to send a Thank You to our donors. If you do not have any thank notes, please see me. I have some! Deb Merrill

Calling all Quilt Shop Lovers!!

If you love visiting our local area quilt shops, Deb would love your help with picking up door prizes. If you have a few hours a month to help, **please chat with Deb. 214-226-3440.**

Quilt Hangers



By Quilt Ideas

Quilt Hangers & Accessories Div.

1809 Midcrest Drive

Plano, Texas 75075

Phone 972-424-7791

Email: patterns@quiltideas.com

Websites: www.quiltideas.com

Loren & Sharon Wilhelm

Advertising Rates

Business Card (3 1/2" x 2") \$ 6.00/month or \$12.00/quarter (3 consecutive mos.)

Quarter Page (4 1/4" x 5 1/2") \$10.00/month or \$24.00/quarter (3 consecutive mos.)

Half Page(5 1/2" x 8 1/2") \$15.00/month or \$36.00/quarter (3 consecutive mos)

Format: Microsoft Publisher or Word, PDF or JPEG.

Contact the Newsletter Editor Sharon Wilhelm 972-424-7791 or sharonwilhelm@tx.rr.com
Payment to McKinney Quilters Guild and Mail to Sharon Wilhelm, 1809 Midcrest Dr, Plano, Tx 75075



Remember to renew your membership!



President
Gisele Oakes



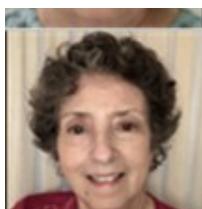
Vice President
Beth Smietana



Treasurer
Julie
Cadenhead



Secretary
Debbie Evans



Membership
Ronnie Stone



Info Officer
Sharon
Wilhelm



Education Officer
Jeannie Neckar

2026 Officers

Committee Chairpersons are published but **still need some volunteers to fill some committees.**

McKinney Quilter's Guild: 2026 Officers

President: Gisele Oakes mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/817-966-8445
Vice President: Beth Smietana mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/703-434-2984
Secretary: Debbie Evans mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/469-583-9471
Treasurer: Julie Cadenhead mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/214-641-7613
Membership: Ronnie Stone mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/214-335-6416
Education: Jeannie Neckar mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/719-510-2424
Information Officer/Newsletter: Sharon Wilhelm mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	972-424-7791 C/972-743-3575
Webmaster: Bonnie Landon mckinneyquiltersguild@gmail.com	C/214-707-6745

2026 Committees and Chairpersons

Block of the Month- Open

Christmas Luncheon- Open

Door Prizes—Deb Merrill-Chairperson,
Co-Chair- Needs Help

Education —Jeannie Neckar

Facilities -Guild Members

Friendship Blocks - Mary Ann Baltzer

Meals on Wheels —Pauline Garrett

Thanksgiving Boxes—Pauline Garrett

Santa Bags —Pauline Garrett

Membership —Ronnie Stone, Chairperson
Lorraine Brown, Co Chair

Name Tags —Ronnie Stone

Newsletter, Publicity -Sharon Wilhelm

Operation Quilted Comfort/Veterans
Sharon Wilhelm & Malinda K

Photographer -**Open Needs Help**

Programs, & Facilities Beth Smietana
Chairperson -

Workshops—**Open Needs Help**

Project Linus -Elaine Henry

Retreat/Spring -Red Boot Retreat- Hillsboro, Tx Carol Surrells & Lisa Terry

Retreat/Fall —Box Car— Aubrey, Tx
Cynthia Weisz -Chairperson -Paula Washler

Retreat/ Day -**Open**

Ryan's CaseforSmiles -Carolyn Kerr,
Chairperson, Mary Shannon Co Chair

Sunshine and Shadows -Betsy Whiteman

Ways and Means -Officers

Website-Bonnie Landon

Yearbooks/Directory -Sharon Wilhelm
Photographer: **Open Needs Help**



**February 17th Program
Cindy Simmons of Electra, Texas
Brief History of Paper Piecing & Trunk Show**

Cindy will be speaking on Paper Piecing and be showing roughly 30 quilts.

**Workshop on Woven Ribbon Star
February 18th 10:00am to 5:00pm @
Hoops and Needles, Parker & Independence, Plano, Tx**

She will be teaching a Judy Neimeyer pattern called "Woven Ribbon Star." Kits with fabric and patterns will be for sale. Be sure to visit the Workshop table at the January guild meeting for further information. Or contact Beth Smietana.



Beth Smietana is looking for a Programs Co-Chair. Someone who can help man the workshop table, and then book space to accommodate the class. If you are available to help her out, please see her at the January meeting.



In December 2025 alone we delivered 1,735 blankets. We meet the third Saturday of each month for a fun day of making blankets for children. January's theme is hearts in preparation for Valentines in February.

Project Linus McKinney group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month (January 13 & February 10) from 1:00-3:00pm in the Heard-Craig Carriage House, 205 W Hunt St, McKinney.

You are welcome to join Community Quilters in cutting quilt kits, quilting, binding quilts, each Wednesday from 9:00-2:00 at 1985 S. FM1138, Royse City, TX. Bring your lunch.

There are quilt kits for you to complete and return on the Project Linus table at the guild meeting.

For more information contact Regina Forthman, through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/286364431424615/> Project Linus Collin Cooke Grayson Rockwall Counties of Texas.

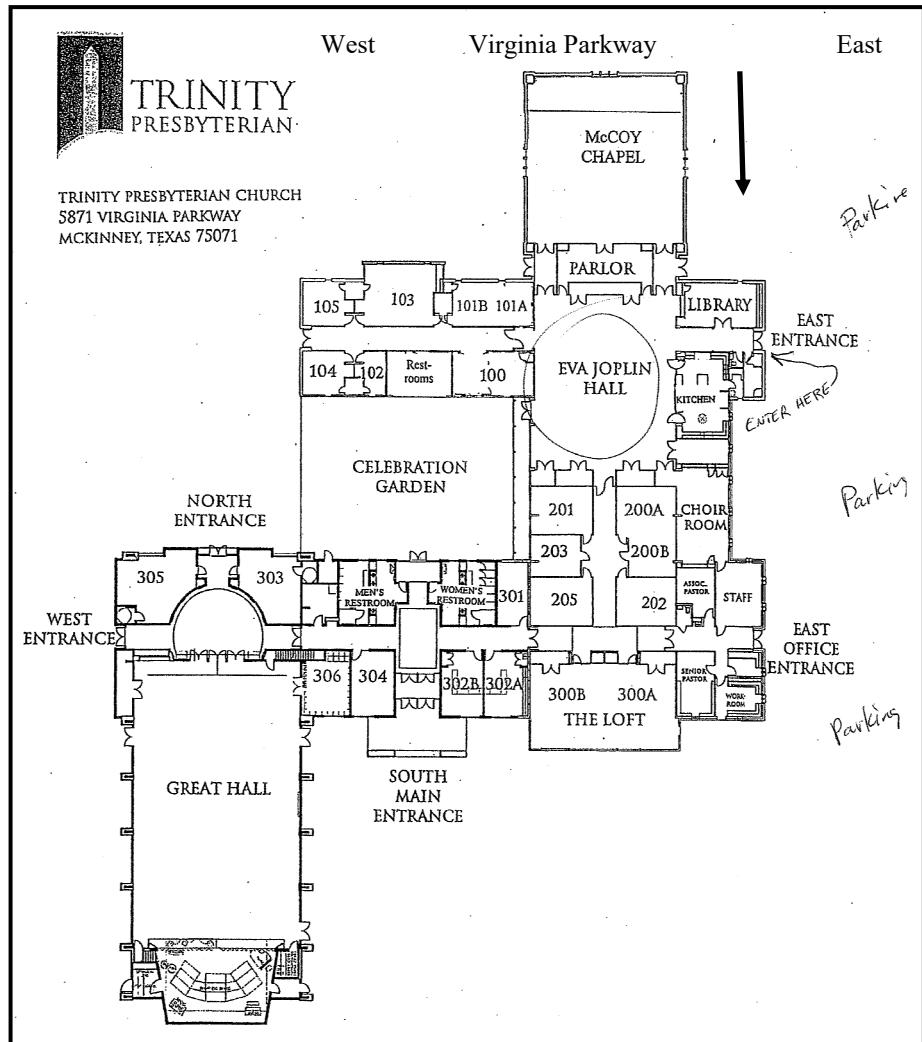
Elaine Henry

NEW MEETING LOCATION JANUARY 2026

MQG looks forward to our new meeting location at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5871 Virginia Parkway, McKinney, Tx 75071.

We will have the space from 12:00-3:00 - time to socialize, learn something new at an educational demonstration and enjoy a fun program.

Here's to a great year in 2026.



Membership

What a great year 2025 was with 121 members. Can we surpass that in 2026? We can with YOUR renewal. If you haven't renewed yet, bring a check for \$35 to the January meeting. Renewing assures you'll continue to receive the monthly newsletter and you will be included in the guild directory. You may also mail your check and membership form to

**Ronnie Stone
3413 Almond Lane
McKinney TX 75070**

And don't forget to enter your community service hours when you sign in. Last year's recorded total was 15,030!

Community Quilters'

Community Quilters' are located in Royse City, Tx Collin County. They are comprised of volunteers who come together on a regular basis to provide crocheted blankets and handmade quilts that are given out to children going through a traumatic event. The Community Quilters have three main purposes:

- Provide support to Project Linus whose mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gift of new, handmade blankets and afghans.
- Provide a permanent home to meet, work, and store supplies for the Collin, Cooke, Grayson, and Rockwall Counties Chapter of Project Linus.
- To provide support in the way of blankets or blanket supplies to other non-profits if and when needed.

Community Quilters Project Linus chapter, "The Henry Center", 1985 S. FM 1138, Royse City, Tx 75189 meet on Wednesdays in the building behind "Our Place" Retreat Center from 9:00am-2:00pm. Contact: Regina Forthman, forthmar@msn.com or call 972-998-3378.



Our Place Retreat Center,

1997 S FM 1138 Royse City, Tx 75189

Our Place Quilt Retreat is a cozy retreat created for 6-7 guests designed to meet the needs of quilters.

3 uniquely decorated bedrooms, vanity area in each bedroom, 6 work stations with comfortable



chairs, 6 small side shelving units for individual cup holders and scrap/thread bins, cutting & pressing stations, 2 large design walls, fully equipped kitchen, large picturesque porches, and outdoor seating & fire pit.

Owned and operated by Community Quilters of Royse City, Tx. Contact Regina Forthman for reservations: forthmar@msn.com or call 972-998-3378.



Leo Ransom Workshop "The Art of Fabric Portraiture"

This will be a full day workshop where you will learn the technique of layering fabrics with a cut away process. Leo is offering 14 different patterns to choose from.



Wednesday January 21, 2026 @ 10:00am

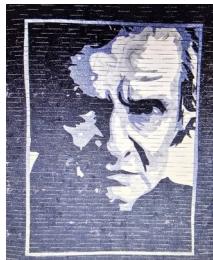
Sewing Solutions Hub, 1900 Preston Rd, Plano, TX 75093

Instructor fee: \$75.00- Classroom rental: \$20.00

Kits available: \$20.00

Student Cancellation Policy- Students may cancel their workshop registration up to 14 days before the scheduled date for a full refund. Cancellations made fewer than 14 days before the workshop, students will receive a 50% refund as materials, planning and class preparation will already be underway.

However, students are welcome to transfer their spot to another participant at no additional charge. If the instructor must cancel for any reason, all students will receive a full refund or choose to transfer their registration to a rescheduled date.



Meals on Wheels

It has been a hard year for me with back surgery but you didn't let that stop you from being so generous to Meals on Wheels Harvest boxes and Santa bags.

Harvest Boxes—Thank you to all you ladies that fill Boxes or contributed foods to fill boxes for the Meals on Wheels. There were 10 boxes delivered from the MQG.

Santa Bags for 41 Clients—Another big thank you for picking out 41 men and women clients to purchase Christmas Gifts for the holiday season. All were returned and Meals On Wheels distributed all 41 Christmas Gifts to the clients for Christmas.

I spoke with the staff at Meals on Wheels and they expressed their utmost appreciation.

Until next fall, may each of you have a healthy and joyful 2026. Pauline Garrett

Spring Retreat Information

Red Boot, April 29 – May 3, 2026

19 HCR 1309, Hillsboro, TX 76645



Join us for 4 nights at the Red Boot Retreat in Hillsboro! We've made arrangements for 26 of our members to have a wonderful and fun getaway.

The retreat will begin at 12:00pm on Wednesday, April 29th and will end on Sunday, May 3rd at 12:00pm. The cost of \$421 per person includes the 4 nights stay and 11 meals beginning with dinner on Wednesday. There is a continental breakfast each morning as well as lunch and dinner served on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and Brunch at 9am on Sunday.

Registration forms will be available at the January 20th meeting. A \$50 deposit will hold your place, and the remaining amount is due by March 15th. Please complete the registration form and mail with your deposit (checks made payable to McKinney Quilters Guild) to the attention of Carol Surrells. Mailing address is on the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Terry at 469-733-6394 or Carol Surrells at 214-697-5318.

What To Bring

- Join or renew your membership.
- Remember to bring back the quilts you took to finish for the Veterans, Project Linus Quilts and Ryan's Case for Smiles Pillowcases.
- Wear your nametags so we can get a name and face together especially all our new members. (New Members get your picture made.)
- Don't forget when you sign in with Ronnie to post your volunteer hours each month. As a 501(c)3 organization, our goal this year is 15000 hours. You can count any volunteer hours you do for other organizations also.
- Greeters: Lorraine Brown & Roxy Gross

January Birthdays

17 Linda Samsury
 21 Debra Malone-Reeves
 23 Kris Kouzeles
 24 Mary Ann Hayes
 29 Roxanne Garrett

Please bring a snack.



Pinkeys Too Quilt Shop

1300 W Audie Murphy Pkwy #1,
 Farmersville, TX 75442
[\(972\) 784-3080](tel:9727843080)
 Pinkeystoo.com

Monday	10am - 5pm
Tuesday	10am - 5pm
Thursday	10am - 5pm
Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 2pm
Wednesday & Sunday	Closed

February Birthdays

5	Rosie DeLeon-McCardy
9	Nadine Darby
10	Ronnie Stone
17	Kathy Chambliss
18	Carol Anne Johnson
21	Robin Fisk
22	Candy Koharchik
25	Cynthia Weisz
26	Bertie Ferrell
26	Mary Ann Baltzer
27	Lillian Hughes
28	Marsha Minchew

Please Bring a snack.

Advertising Rates

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