



Newsletter

No. 24

Editor: Elize Kemp

April 2024

Activities

2024

Quilt Teacher Accreditation Course 2023—2024



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From the President's Desk...

Dear members

This year we are celebrating the SAQG's 35th birthday! The SAQG has been the coordinating body of quilting in South African since it was founded in 1989 at the 3rd National Quilt Festival held in Bloemfontein. Our logo "speaks" of Africa – strong design elements with pure colours, and a "link" that symbolizes the SAQG representatives that acts as a link to the National Guild.

We celebrate that from 1986 – 1998 eleven Regional Guilds were founded and are affiliated to the SAQG, as well as a number of smaller Groups. Eleven Presidents served since 1989 with dedicated committee members to evolve the National Guild to where we are today.

Our celebrations kicked off this year in March with the Dolos block for National Quilt Day, thanks to two of our very talented members. Thank you for celebrating with us and making your "voice" heard! The SAQG Travelling Exhibition "A Stitch in Time" is still a celebration of cloth and stitch until July and so is the SAQG Raffle quilt, for which tickets will become available soon.

Nothing represents celebrations like a National Quilt Festival! We get together every two years to celebrate our skills and art, our achievements, knowledge and experience and most importantly, our connection.

Join us then in Pietermaritzburg in July for the 22nd National Quilt Festival which will also be the height of the birthday celebrations. Visit the SAQG Stall in the Exhibition Hall for a special exhibition by our quilt teachers, buy tickets for our raffle quilt or other memorabilia, collect a free gift or just come for a chat. Do not miss the BGM for more celebrations and treats – the graduation of the QTAC students, a special lucky draw and cake!

Google says that 35 is a reminder of where we are in life, and to take a moment to think what we have experienced. In doing that, let us take more moments and keep celebrating together in 2024 - our art, our talents, our connections and friendships, our voices in cloth – for whatever awaits us in the years to come.

Yours in stitching

Antoinette



Birthday Wishes from past Presidents

Rosalie Dace: 1989 – 1992

A big congratulations to the SAQG on our 35th birthday!

Filled with enthusiasm all those years ago, we formed the South African Quilters Guild in Bloemfontein at our 3rd National Festival. We had no idea what lay ahead for our group, country, or the world. All we knew for sure was that we wanted to make quilts, quilts and more quilts and share them with each other.



Certainly we have seen enormous changes in the world, personally, nationally and internationally that we could not have anticipated. However we have continued to make quilts. From that keen and maybe slightly unsure start, SAQG has forged ahead with encouraging and promoting quilt making in South Africa and southern Africa generally with 11 Regional Guilds and 5 Country groups who hold regular meetings where quilters can delight in each other's companionship and in seeing quilts.

We have lost dear friends and made new ones in that time. Hard-working volunteer members have created numerous resources for reaching out, encouraging, teaching and recognizing the various strengths and differing needs of our quilting community. Quilters have come together, communicated, and discussed in lengthy thought-provoking sessions. Among our resources as seen on our website (we didn't have that 35 years ago!), we now include an in-depth training course for judges, recognition of teachers and Master Quilters, a documentation of Heritage Quilts, a Quilters Hall of Fame, a Pro Dedicate Award, a Youth Academy and the intensely exciting and demanding biennial National Quilt Festival Awards with its variety of categories.

And all this was done while we kept making quilts, quilts and more quilts! That start in Bloemfontein, was a long time ago! Well done, and best wishes to all as we approach our 22nd Festival, Voices in Cloth.

Let's keep those minds and fingers flexible and stitching and work as a community to encourage everyone's individual creativity and keep making quilts.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday SAQG!

Administration

From the desk of the SAQG Membership Representative

If you would like to register as an Individual Member with SAQG, please have a look on the website for the application form or message Gail van Rooyen for more details.

Web site: www.quiltsouthafrica.co.za

Email: gailvan@global.co.za / membership@quiltsouthafrica.co.za

Due date for Guild Memberships: 30 April 2024

POPIA ACT:

According to the Popia Act, Guild Member details are no longer send to the SAQG. Only Guild membership numbers and the Guild Committee Member details are collected for the SAQG records.

Members are assured that all personal information is kept strictly confidential and is not shared with anyone.

SAQG Committee Members

Portfolio	Representative	Guild	Contact	Email address
President & Travelling Exhibition	Antoinette Kriel		042 2941143 / 083 556 3043	info@quiltsouthafrica.co.za
National Quilt Festival (Convenor & Manual)	Leanne Stewart	Kwazulu-Natal	083 654 7096	gregleahome@gmail.com
QTAC Coordinator (ad hoc)	Jenny Hermans		073 664 6311	jenny@renehermans.co.za
Community Projects	Frances van Schalkwyk	Oranje	072 216 8015	francesvanschalkwyk9@gmail.com
Country Groups	Cathrine Kotzé	Lowveld	083 626 4431	lunafarmstay@gmail.com
Heritage, Hall of Fame, Winners Album	Elsa Brits	Vaal Triangle	016 973 3205 / 083 287 7446	elsa.brits@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Gail van Rooyen	Golden Rand	083 683 5493	gailvan@global.co.za
SAQG Festival Stall	Rosie van Dyl	East Coast	076 814 3998	rosvd@polka.co.za
SAQG Newsletter	Elize Kemp	Outeniqua	072 248 6492	elize.kemp15@gmail.com
Secretary	Leonie van Zanten	Dias	082 371 7419	leonie.vanzanten@gmail.com
Teachers Forum, Website & Social Media	Diana Vandeyar	Good Hope	066 562 5646	diana@vandeyar.net
Treasurer	Una Mostert	Jacaranda	083 415 0096	mosuna.6270@gmail.com
Vice President, Judging & Master Quilters	Paul Schutte	Golden West	072 291 7077	paulschutte2@gmail.com

National Quilters Day 2024



South African Quilters' Guild

Promoting Quiltmaking in South Africa

National Quilting Day

Quilt South Africa 2024

Dolos Quilt Block

by Dewald Compion



Photo by Dawie van Niekerk



National
Quilting Day!
Saturday, March 16,
2024

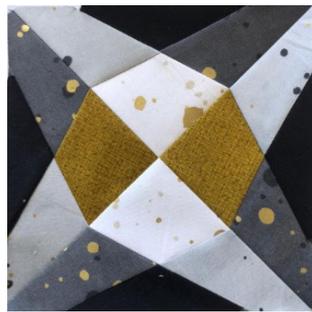
The Dolos Block Pattern



This beautiful block was designed by Dewald Compion on commission from the SAQG. It is derived from a rich history which could be read as part of the pattern. The pattern can be downloaded from the SAQG website.

www.quiltsouthafrica.co.za

The SAQG Committee also created beautiful blocks using the Dolos Pattern.



QTAC 2023 - 2024

The SAQG Quilt Teacher Accreditation Course 2023-2024 has ended.

The final assignments have been marked and results will be made known in May. Well done to the students who have worked very hard and grown so much over the past year and have successfully completed the course to gain SAQG Quilt Teacher Accreditation. We hope to see them at the SAQG BGM on 7 July 2024 at the Festival where they will graduate and each receive their badge and certificate. We will be happy to include the names of these teachers to the list on the website and the Teachers' Forum.

Thank you to the Tutors, Marline Turner, Paul Schutte, Elsa Brits, Mari Strydom, and Diana Vandeyar, Antoinette Kriel and Jenny Hermans.

Each Tutor brings their experience, expertise and empathy to help enrich the course and uphold the high standards. They have put in many hours of work, guiding and assisting students and marking the work submitted. We are grateful for their commitment to serve.

The SAQG will only offer the QTA Course again in the future (possibly in 2026) should there be enough interest and the tutors are available.



SAQG meetings at Festival 2024

SAQG Teachers' Forum – Friday, 5 July 2024 at 19:15

SAQG Judges' Forum – Saturday, 6 July 2024 at 19:15

SAQG Biennial General Meeting – Sunday, 7 July 2024 at 17:15

Join us for special birthday celebrations!





Birthday Wishes from past Presidents

Marilyn Pretorius: 2002 – 2004

When I reminisce about my involvement with SAQG, the most important thing that stands out is the willingness of like-minded souls to give their time and expertise to grow our National Guild - from humble beginnings in 1989 to what we have today.



I would like to pay homage to those who played a significant role in the development of the Guild who sadly are no longer with us – Jenny Whitehead, Carolyn Kode and Sue Prins, Past Presidents as well as many others who served on the committees.

During my term of office, the website was brand-new and instigated by Carolyn Kode, access to the internet was through dial-up, expensive and terribly slow! Some Committee members did not have access to email, so their Meeting Minutes had to be faxed or posted via the Post Office!

During my time, one of the first courses to train Judges was run and the likes of Elsa Brits, Trienie Krugel and Roma Dunn (names I can remember) completed their courses during this time.

The Pro Dedicate Award was introduced by Carolyn Kode and the first recipient was Louise Rheeder from Senekal.

Since then, so much development has happened - the Teachers Accreditation Course, Judges Courses, Festival Manual, the website was revamped into a source of information, Zoom meetings, and needless to say that technology had made communication much easier...!

May SAQG continue to prosper and grow as our National Guild.

Happy 35th birthday!

Visit the SAQG Stall at Festival 2024

On display: the SAQG Teachers' Forum Challenge and the SAQG Committee quilt

Tickets for the SAQG Raffle Quilt available.

SAQG badges and pocket books for sale.

Collect a free gift!

See you in the Quilt Exhibition Hall!



12th SAQG Travelling Exhibition A Stitch in Time

Enjoy the collection of quilts at a venue near you before it is wrapped up!

Anglo Boer War Museum, Bloemfontein – 1-31 May 2024

“Voices in Cloth” National Quilt Festival, Pietermaritzburg – 4-9 July 2024

Contact Antoinette Kriel for more details - info@quiltsouthafrica.co.za



Quilting: older than 35 years...

Quilting, an ancient craft that spans the globe, has a rich and diverse history. Unfortunately, the exact origin of quilting is not well-documented, making it challenging to pinpoint its precise beginnings. However, here is some fascinating insights into the history of quilts:

Ancient Egypt: Some of the earliest known examples of quilting can be traced back to ancient Egypt. Quilted clothing and textiles were used for warmth and protection. Interestingly, quilted fabric was also employed as a shield against the scorching desert sun. The ancient Egyptians created cozy quilts to keep themselves warm during chilly nights!

Asia: Quilting has a long history in Asia, including Japan, Korea, and India. Evidence suggests that quilted clothing and bedding date back to at least the 4th century AD in these regions. Tombs and burial sites have yielded quilted textiles, emphasizing the importance of quilting in ancient Asian culture.

Europe: Quilting has been a popular form of needlework in Europe for centuries. Quilts from the Middle Ages provide glimpses into the creativity and craftsmanship of European women. The Crusades played a role in the evolution of quilting, with Turks wearing quilted fabric under their armour to stay warm in harsh climates.

United States: Quilting gained prominence in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. Women expressed their creativity through quilting while their men were away fighting wars or tending to farm work. Quilts became not only functional bed coverings but also works of art and storytelling.

In summary, quilting has woven its way through time, cultures, and continents, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, creativity, and tradition. (www.quiltinginfo.com)



The world's largest quilt is the AIDS Memorial Quilt. It weighs 54 tons and spans 1.2 million square feet. In 1987 it contained 1,920 panels commemorating people who died of AIDS. Now there are 48,000 panels. Most blocks are rectangles measuring 6 feet by 3 feet or roughly the size of a grave.

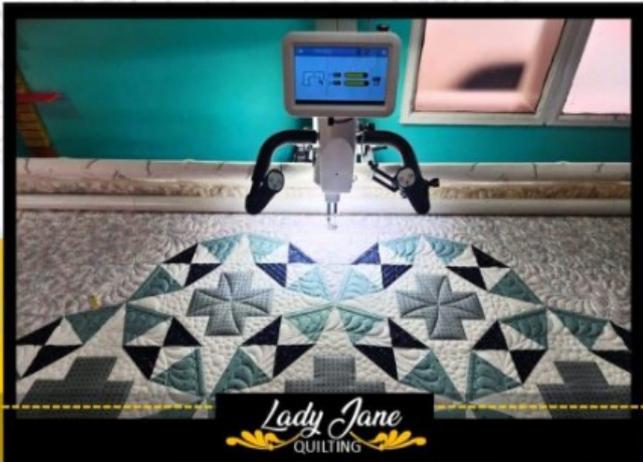


The world's oldest quilt in existence is the Tristan Quilt. It is in the Victoria and Albert Museum. It is believed it was made between 1360 and 1400.

SAQG at Festival 2024



South African Quilters Guild *Raffle Quilt*



South African Quilters Guild *Raffle Quilt*



Telene Jeffrey, from Lady Jane Quilting, writes:

Dear South African Quilters Guild,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the opportunity to quilt your official raffle quilt. It has been an honour and joy to contribute to such a wonderful project. As I worked on the quilt, I couldn't help but reflect on the rich tradition of quilting – a tradition that brings people together, transcends boundaries and celebrates the beauty of handmade art. Being part of this tradition through the SAQG raffle quilt has been a privilege.

I want to extend my appreciation to the entire SAQG team – the organizers, fellow quilters and everyone involved – for entrusting me with this project. Your unwavering commitment to promoting quilt making in South Africa is truly commendable.

The raffle quilt represents not only our shared love for quilting but also the spirit of giving back. It is a symbol of hope, creativity and the joy of coming together as a community. I am humbled to have played a small role in its creation.

May this quilt bring joy to its lucky recipient and continue to inspire quilters for generations to come.

I look forward to celebrating the 35th anniversary of the SAQG and the upcoming National Quilt Festival in Pietermaritzburg!



Tickets will be available from the Regional Representatives and at the SAQG Stall at the National Quilt Festival. The cost per ticket is R10-00. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the Farewell Function on 9 July 2024.



Birthday Wishes from past Presidents

Elsa Brits: 2004 – 2008; 2011 – 2015

Congratulations!

Our National Quilters' Guild is celebrating 35 years!

Any strong building rests securely on its foundations. It is this foundation that gives it the stability, flexibility, and strength to be able to withstand the elements of nature.

So too does the SAQG rest on a strong foundation: its members. It is the mission of the SAQG to foster an environment where all South Africans can reach their full potential in quilt making, nationally and internationally. The aims of the Guild are to promote South African quilters nationally and abroad, to establish basic rules and categories for the National Festivals and to support the Regional Guilds where possible.

Looking back on the past 35 years, I am happy to say that SAQG has done more than its job. Can you believe that this was written in 2004: The SAQG had entered the new technological age! Communication is increasingly done by email and today most regional Newsletters are sent electronically. Hard copies will soon be something of the past.

2004 saw the start of a certification programme for South African judges. Three tutor judges, Sue Prins, Rosalie Dace and Hazel-May Duncan, under the leadership of the SAQG portfolio holder for judging, Pat Mostert, spent two years getting the new judges qualified for this job. South Africa now has 18 accredited quilt judges spread reasonably evenly throughout all the different regions.

Under the tireless curatorship of Odette Tolksdorf, an exhibition of South African quilts has been entered into the World Quilt Competition since 2001 and in 2004 Paul Schutte took an exhibition of our quilts to the Alsace in France and taught lectures there. Again, five South African quilters took a very diverse SA exhibition to the Alsace in France in 2013 and I was involved with the judging of the international "Distortion" competition.

Pat Parker and Jenny Williams have taken quilts and their African inspired books to different countries and have taught many classes internationally.

Rosalie Dace has taken small exhibitions overseas and was nominated 'Teacher of the Year' by 'The Professional Quilter.'

Margie Garratt, with her 'Innovative Threads' exhibition took our fibre art to many different countries.

These South African quilters, and many like them that we do not know of, are the true PRO's of the SAQG and all its members and we thank them.

South African quilting is now well known and well respected internationally and our quilt teachers are in demand.

My best wishes go to all members of SAQG, and I know that the future of the Guild is in good hands.



Voices in Cloth National Quilt Festival 2024



Memorabilia on sale at the Festival



Message from KZN Quilters Guild Chairlady: Ruth Archer

Imagine arriving at an International Quilt Show to see no quilts. That would be a disaster of great magnitude.

We do have quilts fortunately, but we need LOTS more. More quilts that belong to you and are sitting in your cupboard. (Check your rules though about 20 year old, moth eaten, flea ridden, greatly loved, cuddled and icked on quilts. They might not be acceptable.)

You may think that you're not good enough but has anyone loved your quilt, your colours or your design? Then enter it. Not all of us Josephine Soaps win prizes or are perfect in everything we produce but others have appreciated the beauty of it.

Minimum size is just 50cm by 50cm. You can make a quilt in 6 weeks... I know, I have not started one yet. If you have made a 100-little-voices-in-cloth for John Cole-Morgan, then it is just 20cm bigger.

The Philosophy of 35!

The number 35 accumulates business and material! The number 35 is also creative, especially in relation to expressing itself — and insists on the freedom to do so. 35 does like to have fun, especially when it involves its creative aspects and for expressing its personal sense of freedom. Other aspects of 35 include a tendency to be optimistic, tolerant, adventurous, and curious — so long as it fits within 35's sense of realism.

For 35, balance between material accumulation and building of works that benefit the community is important. Similarly, acquisition and exchange need to be balanced.

It approaches life with an eye to efficient accomplishment of goals.

The numerology essence of the number 35 generally is comfortable interacting with others, personally and socially.

The deep down basic essence of the numerology number 35 is building something of value to society. (<https://affinitynumerology.com>)



SAQG Affiliated Country Groups

For more information, visit: <https://quiltsouthafrica.co.za>

[Textile Art Group South \(TAGS\) Quilters' Guild](#)

Area: George, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, Knysna

Chairlady

Wilma Smit



[Golden Gate Quilters' Guild](#)

Area: Bethlehem, Harrismith, Reitz

Chairlady

Rentia Wolmarans



[Sandveld Quilters' Guild](#)

Area: Bultfontein

Chairlady

Hannelie de Wet



[Quadrille Quilters' Guild](#)

Area: Roodepoort, Horizon View

Chairlady

Yvonne Jordan



[Kokerboom Quilters' Guild](#)

Area: Karas, Namibia

Chairlady

Riëtte Wasserfall



SAQG Affiliated Regional Guilds

For more information, visit: <https://quiltsouthafrica.co.za>

DIAS QUILTERS GUILD



Nelson Mandela Bay and surrounds

Chairlady

Chiquita Vosloo

OUTENIQUA QUILTERS GUILD



George, Mossel Bay, Oudtshoorn, Wilderness,
Sedgefield, Knysna and Plettenberg Bay

Chairlady

Ina Meyer

ORANJE QUILTERS GUILD

Bloemfontein and surrounds

Chairlady

Christa Gouws



VAAL TRIANGLE QUILTERS GUILD

Sasolburg, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging and
Meyerton

Chairlady

Ronel Fick

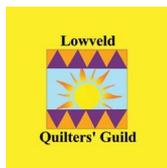


LOWVELD QUILTERS' GUILD

Nelspruit, White River, Barberton,
Sabie, Lydenburg, Malelane and
Komatipoort

Chairlady

Amanda Brugman



GOLDEN WEST QUILTERS GUILD

Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, Carletonville and
Fochville

Chairlady

Alta Pothas



GOLDEN RAND
QUILTERS GUILD



Johannesburg and Gauteng

Chairlady
Rali Eifler

JACARANDA QUILTERS GUILD

Pretoria and surrounds, Midrand,
Bronkhorstspuit, Modimolle,
Cullinan, Bela-Bela, Hartbeespoort

Chairlady
Una Mostert



KWAZULU-NATAL
QUILTERS GUILD



Midlands, South and Northern Natal coastal
area's, Pietermaritzburg and Durban

Chairlady
Ruth Archer

EAST COAST QUILTERS' GUILD

East London, Bathurst, Port Alfred, Bathurst,
Queenstown and Stutterheim

Chairlady
Christine Gordon



GOOD HOPE
QUILTERS GUILD



Cape Town and Peninsular,
Malmesbury, Langebaan, Cederberg, Springbok, Ceres,
Montagu, Robertson, Riviersonderend to Swellendam,
Worcester, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Hermanus and Somerset
West.

Chairlady
Jean Downing



South African Quilters' Guild
Promoting Quiltmaking in South Africa

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