

# PVQA celebrates 30 years with festival in fabric

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## Quilt show ties together tradition and innovation

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The Pajaro Valley Quilt Association turns 30 this year, and plans to celebrate with a quilt show that highlights both tradition and artistic innovation.

"Quilted Memories: Celebrating 30 Years" is the theme of this year's show, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. Bring a quilt, buy a quilt, learn to quilt, or just come to admire the works of textile artistry on display at this one-of-a-kind annual extravaganza.

There's something for everyone, whether you're a quilter, a collector, or an inquisitive spectator. The weekend is full of prizes, demonstrations, children's activities, an appraiser, an auction, and even a chance to win a hand-tied quilt for the cost of a \$1 raffle ticket.



More than 400 fabric creations will be shown — all created by PVQA mem-

bers. Entries are judged by a panel of experts. Five local dignitaries, including Watsonville Mayor Kimberly Petersen, will also be selecting their favorites for Viewer's Choice awards.

Membership in the Pajaro Valley Quilt Association ranges far beyond Watsonville. Members of this artisans' guild hail from all across the county, and number well over 200. Their enthusiasm and artistry make the guild's annual quilt show one of the biggest in all of California.

The PVQA show fills three fairgrounds halls for two days. Besides mounds of masterful quilt creations, it also features wearable art and needlework.

If you think of quilting as an antiquated craft practiced only by a handful of

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**ABOVE:** Pajaro Valley Quilt Association member Barbara Lockwood of Brookdale combined elements of quilting and fabric collage to create this underwater-scene wall hanging — one of more than 50 textile creations that will be displayed and auctioned at the association's annual quilt show. **LEFT:** One lucky quilt show attendee will take home this king-size "Opportunity Quilt" — the quilt show's raffle prize.

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## QUILTS

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grannies, head for the fairgrounds for an eye-opening introduction to fiber crafts in the 21st century.

Sure, it all started with frugal housewives cobbling together bits of old clothes to make colorful coverlets for their colonial beds. That heritage — and the amazingly intricate handiwork it produced — is lovingly preserved by quilters and collectors who recognize the artistry, skill and time commitment that every finished piece represents.

But quilting has come a long way from those humble beginnings. Changes in fabrics, availability, technology, and the way we view sewing (now a pleasurable leisure activity rather than a necessity for survival) have transformed it from the realm of the folksy to that of fine art and three-dimensional creative expression.

"The possibilities are virtually limitless," said PVQA member Jo Bridges of Watsonville.

Case in point: featured speaker Rosemary Eichorn. A Soquel resident, Eichorn is known nationally for her exquisite fabric collage clothing and wall art.

She has authored a book on the subject (now in its third printing), and through the classes she teaches has introduced scores of seamstresses to quilting and its various techniques. She was named Professional Quilter Journal's teacher of the year in 2007, and has served frequently as a judge for the PVQA quilt show.

Eichorn will speak at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Also on the agenda for Saturday: a 12:30 p.m. fashion show of wearable art created by guild members.

Another expert who will be on hand is appraiser Violet Vaughnes. Vaughnes is an expert in quilt construction, restoration, conservation and care, and certified by the American Quilter's Society. She will



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**Pajaro Valley Quilt Association member Linda Sheth of Santa Cruz points out details of a quilt in shades of purple. The quilt is one of dozens that will be offered for auction at the association's annual quilt show at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday.**

be available both Saturday and Sunday to evaluate and provide a statement of value for any quilt, old or new.

This is the first time appraisals have been offered at the PVQA quilt show. Rates are \$20 for a verbal appraisal, \$40 for a written one.

Come on Sunday, and you may get to take home your own heirloom from the quilt auction. An annual highlight of the show, the auction starts at 12:30 p.m. and is conducted by local favorite Pete Devries.

Be prepared for some lively bidding or just an enjoyable time of people-watching, as audience members make offers for their favorites from the 50-plus auction items. Savvy shoppers may snag a one-of-a-kind treasure at a great price. The selection ranges from antique pieces to just-finished works,

a bed layer by layer while a narrator explains each piece's distinctive features and heritage.

In addition, quilters and collectors are invited to stroll the 40 vendor booths in the Merchant Mall. Here dealers of fabric-arts equipment will give demonstrations, and antiques and other quilt-complementing items will be offered for sale.

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"Quilted Memories" will take place Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 23-24, at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 2601 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville. Hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets at the gate are \$7 (\$6/seniors. Children under 12 free.)

Advance tickets cost \$5. They may be purchased online at [www.pvqa.org](http://www.pvqa.org), or these fabric shops: Beverly Fabrics and Crafts (Soquel Ave. at 41<sup>st</sup>), Round Robin Fabrics (Portola



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**Roz diNatale of Watsonville displays one of more than 50 quilts that will be auctioned off this weekend at "Quilted Memories," the 30th annual Pajaro Valley Quilt Association show.**

St. at 38<sup>th</sup>, Hart's Fabrics Judy's Sewing Center (222 Mt. (1620 Seabright Ave.), or Hermon Rd., Scotts Valley).

and includes everything from bed quilts to wall hangings, baby quilts and hand-appliquéd works. There's something for every taste, whether your style is traditional, patriotic, modern art or Asian-inspired.

"It's really fun," said Bridges. "And people can go home with bargains."

For the ultimate bargain, enter the raffle for this year's "Opportunity Quilt" — a king-size quilt with a flower basket design in shades of red, gray and charcoal and red. Entirely hand-pieced, then delicately hand-quilted by Amish artisans, it won Best of Show in the 2007 Santa Cruz County Fair. Tickets cost just \$1.

Throughout the weekend, novices and experts alike will enjoy a stop at the bed turning — a presentation in which a stack of quilts is removed from