



March 2026

Pines & Needles

Newsletter of the Monterey Peninsula Quilters Guild

MPQG.ORG



March Speaker

General Meeting and
Lecture:
In-person and Zoom
March 2, 2026
7:00 PM
"My Colorful Life With Quilts"
Wendy Williams



Our March speaker, Wendy Williams, will be visiting the Monterey Peninsula from Australia, where she lives and works. Her quilting designs are colorful, bright, and playful. A visit to her website (flyingfishkits.com) will make you smile!

Wendy is passionate about quilting and strives to keep her designs fresh and new, and to keep her patterns achievable for all levels of quilters and stitchers. She often uses brightly colored wool applique and simple embroidery stitches.

A background in fashion prepared Wendy for her work, now spanning more than 15 years, as a designer and teacher in the quilting industry. Her book [Wild Blooms and Colorful Creatures](#) was published in 2014. She will be teaching two sessions at Empty Spool Seminars this March.

Calendar for March:

March 2, 6:30pm: General meeting, in-person & Zoom (social time begins at 6:30pm, meeting starts promptly at 7pm). Speaker: Wendy Williams

March 2: Last day to submit Quilt Show 2026 entry forms

March 16: April newsletter submissions due

March 19, 10am-2pm: Sewcial at the Oldemeyer Center in Seaside

March 21: National Quilting Day!

March 28, 9:30am-4:30pm: Workshop at the Oldemeyer Center. Teacher: Lisa Ellis, "Cathedral Windows"

March 30, 4:30pm: Board Meeting

President's Message



Our March meeting is always an important and vibrant one. After a few stay-at-home Zoom meetings, it will be so good to see you at the Pacific Grove Community Center!

This will be your last chance to turn in quilt show entries, an opportunity to pick your times for volunteering at the quilt show, a chance to turn in donations to the small quilt auction, and a chance to show off what you've been working on this winter. Be sure to show off those UFOs and Stash Busters!

I hope you have decided to enter some of your quilts in the show. "Quilts by the Bay" in Chautauqua Hall is a great opportunity to share what you've been creating and to get to know each other.

Wendy Williams, our March speaker, is coming to us from Empty Spools Seminars on her night off. Many of you have taken her workshop at Asilomar, and I've heard nothing but rave reviews about it. We're very fortunate to have her.

Now read this marvelous newsletter and enjoy!

Joan Costello

beachbreak1250@gmail.com

Quilt Show 2026

Monterey Peninsula Quilters Guild

Quilts by the Bay

May 1st - 3rd 2026

- 💰 **\$10, under 18 free with adult**
- 🕒 **Fri/Sat 10:00am - 5:00pm,
Sun 10:00am - 4:00pm**
- 📍 **Chautauqua Hall, 16th St & Central Ave
Pacific Grove, CA**

200+ Quilts | Fabric Sale | Mini Quilts | Raffle

Details 

Or www.mpqg.org

Our show advertisement is based on Linda Garofalo's prize-winning quilt *Hatching Loggerhead Sea Turtles*.

Quilts by the Bay 2026: May 1st - 3rd

It's time to gear up for our annual quilt show! Entry forms are on the website and in this newsletter.

- **March 2 is the last day to submit entry forms.**
- **Enter up to FIVE quilts plus up to TWO Stamp Challenge quilts.**
- **Enter up to THREE quilts to be judged (must have been finished in the last three years; this includes challenge quilts).**
- **Pay a \$10 fee for each quilt to be judged (no fee for un-judged quilts).**
- **Attach a 4"x6" quilt photo to each entry.**

[Click here for ENTRY FORM](#)

[Click here if you also want your quilt judged](#)

Calling All Scribes!

Our Quilt Show is almost here! Ever wonder what happens in the judging room? This is your chance to find out! Judging will take place Thursday, April 30, and it will be a full day! This is a great opportunity especially for new members or any member who has never witnessed the judging process. Scribes will observe the judging of the quilts and write the judge's comments. No previous experience or knowledge is necessary, but it is important that you have legible handwriting and an interest in the judging process!

If you have questions or are ready to sign up, please either email (smichelsonbrophy@gmail.com) or text (831-594-6761) me. See ya at the show!

Thanks!

Susan Michelson



Fabric Sale at the Quilt Show

We can help you get a start on spring cleaning! The fabric sale team will happily take more donations for our annual fabric sale, so keep the guild in mind if you are ready to edit your stash. You don't need to measure or wrap your fabric -- we will take care of the prep work. At this time, we are not taking quilting books.

Joan Costello will happily take fabric donations at her house: please coordinate with her via text or email prior to going to her home. You are also welcome to call me to coordinate a time to meet. Lastly, Claudia Sammis has graciously offered her Back Porch Fabrics store as a drop-off spot for donations. Mark my name on your donated bags or boxes; I will swing by Back Porch frequently to pick up fabric and take it to the guild's storage unit for organization. That's it - simple and easy! You'll be really helping the guild because the income generated from the fabric sale is a big part of our budget, and your generosity makes it possible!

If the weather permits, we will have an outdoor boutique in front of Chautauqua Hall, in addition to sales rooms at the back of the hall, to show off the bounty of sewing items for sale.

Please let me know if you have questions: 612-209-0056.

Christi Sutphen

Volunteer signups for the MPQG 2026 Quilt Show are now open!!

Please remember: Those with a quilt in the show must volunteer for a minimum of FOUR hours or TWO work shifts.

For first pick on shifts, look for the sign-up button under "Quilt Show" on our guild website, <https://www.mpqg.org/quiltshow>, or go directly to the signup app at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094AA9A92BAAFD0-62375949-quilt>. Paper and pencil signups will also be available at the monthly meeting on March 2.

If you have questions or want assistance signing up, please contact Alisa Boehme at 650-862-7892.

Thank you for helping to make the 2026 show a success!

Show and Tell



This quilt was made by Sarah Vassey.



This quilt was made by Marcia Olsen.



This quilt was made by Sherrill Ashe.



This quilt was made by Elizabeth McInnis.

Membership

Welcome New Members:

Beth Landry - Santa Cruz

Krista Sabaska - Salinas

Kayleen Lewis - Monterey

Community Outreach



Veterans Transition Center

Today I went to the VTC to donate seven of our beautiful bed-size quilts. Craig wanted to show me a quilt that had been donated to them years ago. It was so lovely that they have it hanging on the wall in their main auditorium. He says that they use it as a backdrop for most of their photographs. It was such a joy to hear the pride in his voice at having such a beautiful piece of artwork donated to them. We never know how or where our quilts will bring joy to people.

I loved that it still has a ribbon on it. I checked the back and found that it was beautifully made by our guild member Colleen Johnson. And—just saying—there is some open wall space still in that room (photo below)!



Christ Child Society Update

Thank you all (June Wolfe, Jeanne Mills, Anonymous 1, and Anonymous 2) who dropped off quilts for the Christ Child Society, which does such a great job helping young moms. Their beautiful layettes find grateful homes through Natividad Hospital. My neighbor Betsy Messman, shown here, is my contact at St. Angela's.

If you have quilts to donate to any of the Guild Community Outreach programs, Back Porch Fabrics will gladly pass them along to whichever program you designate. Just label the bag with the recipient's name.

Claudia Sammis
Christ Child Liaison





Grants Were Granted!

Our Guild gave money in support of a number of people and organizations that align with our Mission Statement. Thank you to all of you who contributed to our fundraising so that we could be generous!

We supported: San Carlos School programs for teaching sewing and making blankets to donate; a Pacific Grove Middle School sewing teacher; Salinas' ARIEL Theatrical's costume department; PG Christian Church's fabric art program; the San Jose Museum of Quilts; and the Chautauqua Hall Restoration Fund.

We are planning to hold a Fall Online Auction again this year, so as you attend workshops and make challenge quilts, keep the auction in mind. We have found that holiday-themed quilts and quilts that photograph well are very popular!

MPQG Activities

UFO Challenge

Our UFO Challenge participants have finished 59 projects so far. A few of you haven't finished any UFOs yet. I hope that you have saved them all for the March 2 meeting! Please bring your finished projects (or photos of them) to the meeting so you can earn tickets for the March giveaway: a CutterPillar LED Sewing Machine light. It is rechargeable and flexible to get light right where you need it.

Kelly Monroe won last month's prize: a \$25 gift certificate to Family Threads Quilt Shop. Congratulations, Kelly!

March Mini Challenge for UFO Participants

For the March Mini Challenge, the random number is 4. To participate in the Mini Challenge, finish project #4 on your list(s) by the March 2 meeting. Bring the finished project in person (or email a photograph to Laura Lawrence before the meeting) for Show and Tell. You will earn three bonus tickets for finishing.

500 Yard Destash

By now, you have heard about our challenge to create projects from what you have in your stash. So far, we have destashed nearly 300 yards of fabric and batting!

For every yard of fabric and batting used from your stash for a project, donate a 2 ½ inch square of fabric—preferably fabric used in the project. These 2 ½ inch squares will be used to make Community Outreach Quilts. Come to the March meeting to see the first “Twirling at the Disco” quilt made with the destashed squares. See if you can spot your squares!

No sign up is required. Simply submit photos of your finished projects to Alisa Boehme (alisaboehme@hotmail.com) or Karen Shaffer (karendshaffer@aol.com) and report on the total number of

yards used from fabric and batting you already have on hand (rounded up to the nearest yard). Turn in a 2 ½ inch square of fabric for each yard of fabric and batting used from your stash. You can give them to Karen Shaffer at the monthly Sewcials or mail your squares to: MPQG, Attn: Destash, PO Box 1025, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

If you have any questions or need help calculating yardage, please contact Alisa Boehme at 650-862-7892 (text/voice) or alisaboehme@hotmail.com.

Happy Sewing!

Laura Lawrence

Activities Coordinator

lauramlawrence@gmail.com

Upcoming MPQG Programs and Workshops



In-Person Workshop
March 28, 2026
9:30am - 4pm

Cathedral Window
Quilt with Lisa Ellis

These Cathedral Window quilts are made completely by machine and are true quilts with batting and backing fabric.

In this workshop we will learn how to make charming cathedral window quilts. We will master the basic technique for this fun block and consider how to design your project with scale, value, finished size, and desired scrappiness.

\$80 for members

Held at Oldemeyer Center - 986
Hilby - Seaside

[Register for Workshop](#)

Looking for a YEA!

Do you know a **Young Emerging Artist** or YEA? **Back Porch Fabrics** is joining **Katie Pasquini, Lisa Ellis**, and others as sponsors for a special juried exhibition to debut at the **International Quilt Festival in Houston 2026**. We are seeking quilt and textile artists (2D, 3D, and wearable artwork) born after November 15, 1991 (35 or younger as of November 15, 2026).

Back Porch Fabrics is offering a \$500 cash prize for *Excellence in Surface Design*. For more information and to enter, go to: <https://yeaexhibit.com>.
Deadline for entries is June 30, 2026.

If you have a younger friend, please direct them to the website above and encourage them to enter a special piece. Perhaps a bit of hand-holding from you would further encourage them. We want to get the word out — please help us. Back Porch Fabrics has a zillion postcards, and you can leave one with a contact at schools, colleges, museums, or wherever young people/textile artists gather.

Call for Entry: Seeking Textile Artists 35 and Younger

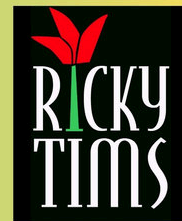
Curators: Katie Pasquini and Lisa Ellis



Multiple Cash Awards and Prizes

Juried Art Exhibit Debuts:
International Quilt Festival
Houston
November 2026

Sponsors:



SURFACE DESIGN ASSOCIATION



Apply Now: yeaexhibit.com



The 2026 Quilt Challenge

MPQG 2026 Quilt Challenge

Harbinger of Peace:

Angels, doves, olive branches or anything that brings you joy



Size:15" by 20" (portrait or landscape)

- Quilts must have: 3 layers and a 4" sleeve
- Due date: August 3, 2026 Guild Meeting

Label to include:

- Your name
- Name of your Quilt
- 2026 MPQG Quilt Challenge

Your Challenge Team:

Carole Olsen caroleolesen@gmail.com

Karen Shaffer karendshaffer@aol.com

Quilts will be displayed at the August 2026 meeting. They will also be on display at the 2026 Monterey County Fair and at the 2027 MPQG Quilt Show, where they may be judged if you so choose.

Quilts may be inspired by:

Folk art, Americana design, spiritual spark, whimsy, celestial, musical, traditional or modern design.

Upcoming Quilt Events

Now - May 11, 2026 — *The Woven Pixel*, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, 520 S First Street, San Jose CA 95113, 408-384-8382. <https://sj-mqt.org/on-view>.

Now - May 24, 2026 — *Embroidered Histories*, de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr, San Francisco CA 94118. www.Famsf.org.

March 1, 2026 - Vivacious Vessels: Fiber Wrapped Coil Baskets with Vicki Assegued workshop. San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, 520 S First Street, San Jose CA 95113, 408-384-8382. To register: <https://sj-mqt.org/upcoming-exhibitions>.

March 5, 2026, 4 PM — **Empty Spools Seminars Session I, Open House**, at Asilomar. Pick up a classroom map at Merrill Hall, 800 Asilomar Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950-3704

March 7 & 8, 2026 — **Valley Quilt Guild Quilt Show, Three Part Harmony**, featured quilter is Pat May. Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, 442 Franklin Avenue in Yuba City, CA. www.valleyquiltguild.com.

March 11, 2026, 4 p.m. — **Empty Spools Seminars Session II, Open House**, at Asilomar. Pick up a classroom map at Merrill Hall, 800 Asilomar Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950-3704

March 14, 2026 — **Textile Cards with Mirka Knaster** workshop. San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, 520 S First Street, San Jose CA 95113, 408-384-8382. To register: <https://sj-mqt.org/upcoming-exhibitions>.

Upcoming exhibits at Visions Museum of Textile Arts, 2825 Dewey Road, Ste 100, San Diego CA 92106, <https://Vmota.org>.

Now - March 28, 2026 — Exhibit by Patti Chamberlain

Now - June 20, 2026 — Exhibits by Vanessa Freitag, **Cyanotype** by artists group, and **San Diego Textile Scene** by artists group

Looking ahead: Call for Entries — **YEA! (Young Emerging Artists)**. Open to artists born after November 15, 1991. Multiple Cash Awards. For details: yeaexhibit.com.

Deadline to Enter: June 30, 2026. Exhibit debuts at **International Quilt Festival**, Houston, November 2026.

MPQG Friendship Groups

Carmel Valley – Cut-Ups

Meets the 1st Thursday
 12-4 pm, St. Dunstan's Church
 Liz Rondelle, 831-620-2512,
bukavugirl@aol.com All levels meet to
 sew, share, mini demos, group
 challenges, and charity quilts. Large
 work tables available. Bring your lunch
 at noon or drop in anytime.

Everywhere – Beyond Borders

Meets the 2nd Tuesday
 1:00 pm, Pacific Time on Zoom
 Dru Hammond, 831-241-1411
druhammond@aol.com
 All levels from near and far meet to sew,
 share, and visit with old and new friends
 on ZOOM.

Pacific Grove – Gather Before Guild

Meets before all in-person Guild
 Meetings. 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Alliotti's
 Victorian Corner Restaurant, 541
 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove. All
 are welcome to chat and dine. Just drop
 in!

Seaside - Sewcial

Meets the 3rd Thursday
 10 AM - 2 PM, Oldemeyer Center
 Pam Willoughby, (831)277-5906
pamelaswilloughby@gmail.com
 All levels, drop in anytime to join the fun.
 Help organize and finish community
 quilts or work on your own project.
 Fabric, cutting boards and irons are set
 up for you. Bring your lunch and sewing
 machine (optional).

Carmel – Out of the Box Quilters

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Marjorie Longo's house, (831) 624-8649
frumml@gmail.com
 All levels meet to sew, discuss, and
 create.

Marina – Otter Be Quilting

Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays 1:00 -
 4:00 pm Layne Rahbar's house, 925-
 478-9221 layne.rahbar@gmail.com
 All levels welcome for discussion and
 hand work.

Seaside – Hanging Out at Joan's

Meets the 3rd Tuesday
 3:30 pm at Joan Costello's house 831-
 247-1907
beachbreak1250@gmail.com
 Gather to chat, share our work,
 collaborate, and eat plant-based dinners.

2025-26 Board of Directors

President: Joan Costello

Vice President: Barbara Boyer

Secretary: Elaine Seeley

Membership: Loreen Kinney

Community Outreach: Pam

Willoughby

Treasurer: CarolAnne Inceoglu

Activities: Laura Lawrence

Communications: Toni David

Programs and Workshops:

Sara Lyon and Christi Sutphen

Your Board is here to serve you, and we cherish your input. If you have any suggestions, comments, or interest in volunteering, please contact the appropriate board member. Board meetings, held on the 4th Monday, are open to all members. Please contact [Toni David](#) if you want the Zoom link.

Newsletter Information

Pines & Needles is available online at www.mpqg.org. **Articles are due on the 16th of the prior month.** Before you email an item to the editor, please review the Submission Guidelines on our website at:

www.mpqg.org/_files/ugd/3c7d86_9272b6b230f64237a02dd59860565ca1.pdf

- Send submissions by email to: Martha Price (pricemmartha49@gmail.com)

The subject line should read as follows: MPQG Month: Title/Info; for example: MPQG December: Winter Social. The Pines & Needles newsletter editor reserves the right to edit all publication submissions for content, length, size, or otherwise.

Member Advertising Rates per Issue: Business Card \$5.00; 1/4 page ad \$10.00; 1/2 page ad \$20.00. Advertisers should be quilting-related businesses.

Ads must be submitted as Camera Ready in the appropriate size. Please review the Guidelines for Submitting Ads to MPQG Newsletter on our website: mpqg.org. Submit ads to: Joan Costello, beachbreak1250@gmail.com. Mail payments to: MPQG, PO Box 1025, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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