

# Pines & Needles

NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA QUILTERS GUILD



## MPQG Calendar

- **October 7 - General Meeting**  
In-person and Zoom  
Social time starts @ 6:30 PM  
Meeting starts @ 7:00 PM  
Speaker: **Jody Alexander**  
Lecture: **The Art of Repair and Reuse in Textile Art**
- **November 4 - Zoom Only**  
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM  
Speaker: **Libby Williamson**  
Lecture: **From Here, There, and Everywhere**
- **November 9 & 10, Saturday & Sunday - In-person Workshop**  
9:30 AM- 3:30 PM  
Oldemeyer Center, Seaside  
**Libby Williamson - Wonky Sisters**  
ONLY 3 spots left!
- **December 9 @ 6:30 PM**  
**Winter Social & Fundraiser** at the  
*Meals on Wheels Community Center*  
700 Jewell Avenue, Pacific Grove
- **January 6, 2025 - Zoom Only**  
Meeting starts at 6:30 PM  
Speaker: **Kelly Ashton**  
Lecture: **Sixty Degrees of Inspiration**

## Jody Alexander The Art of Repair and Reuse in Textile Art

**Jody Alexander** is a mixed media artist who lives and works in Santa Cruz and Penn Valley, California. She combines textiles, paper, found items and imagery to create books, objects, wall pieces, garments, and installations. Her current work is inspired by the art of repair, reuse, and imagery and stories encountered in her travels and everyday.

Her work appears in a number of publications including *Masters: Book Arts: Major Works by Leading Artist, 500 Handmade Books, and 1000 Artists' Books: Exploring the Book as Art*. Jody was an artist in residence at the Sonoma Academy in 2022, at the *Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility* in 2019, and was the 2015 recipient of the *Rydell Visual Arts Fellowship*.



**Jody** holds a Bachelor's degree in Art History from U.C.L.A., and a Master's degree in Library Science from Simmons College, Boston, MA. She teaches and exhibits nationally and internationally. Her website is: [www.jodyalexander.com](http://www.jodyalexander.com)

Chris Beach and Susan Stoney, Programs Co-Chairs  
[rabbitbeach2000@gmail.com](mailto:rabbitbeach2000@gmail.com) / [sgstoney@gmail.com](mailto:sgstoney@gmail.com)

**General Meeting is Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**In-Person & Zoom meeting!**

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# President's Letter – October 2024



Recently I attended the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party of a teacher friend who I've known and loved for about forty years. Notably, over a hundred people attended her celebration. Of course she is well loved, but what stood out to me

was her extensive involvement in community groups.

I reveled in the richness of her life because of her dedication to the different groups and that led me to serious gratitude for my quilting groups and friends.

Our quilt guild brings such connection and richness to our lives. We sew, laugh, share ideas, share our lives, and our love of creating.

If you haven't been to one of our *Sewcials* yet, please try to come! It's very nourishing to sew together and many community projects get finished. And, if you have the chance to join or create a *Friendship Group*, I highly recommend it.

Our in-person meeting on **October 7<sup>th</sup>** features **Jody Alexander** and her lecture, "*The Art of Repair and Reuse in Textile Art*." I hope to see you there or on Zoom. In November we will be on Zoom only.



**Joan Costello, President**

831-247-1907

[beachbreak1250@gmail.com](mailto:beachbreak1250@gmail.com)

## Hot Off the Press!

**J**oan Costello is featured in the September 19, 2024 issue of the *Monterey County Weekly* on page 36! Check out the wonderful *Face to Face* article by **Dave Faries**. The link is: <https://flipbook.montereycountyweekly.com/archive/2024/09-19-24/36/#zoom=true>





# Upcoming Quilt Events

Editor's Note: **Claudia Sammis** has kindly volunteered to provide listings for the **Upcoming Quilt Events** calendar. Thank you so much, **Claudia**! The calendar is now well populated and much more interesting. **Kathrin Brown** also provides items and anyone who knows of a quilt event is welcome to provide the information to the Editor and it will appear in this calendar. Thank you.

Join *The Textile Arts Council* to receive the online newsletter about their many fiber art-related events. *The Textile Arts Council* is affiliated with both the *deYoung* and *The Palace of the Legion of Honor* in San Francisco. Example of events: **Saturday, October 27, 10 AM - 2 PM** *A Morning of Textile Immersion*, studio and exhibition tour in the San Jose area; **December 14, 2024 - December 7, 2025** *Embroidered Histories* at the de Young. [TextileArtsCouncil.org](https://TextileArtsCouncil.org)

- **September 20 to December 30, 2024** — *25 Million Stitches* ~ San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, 520 S. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 Ph: 408-971-0323 <https://sj-mqt.org>
- **September 28 and 29, 2024** — *Piece by Piece Quilters of Morgan Hill Quilt Show* United Methodist Church, 17175 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, CA. [piecebypiecequilters.com](https://piecebypiecequilters.com)
- **October 5 and 6, 2024** – *Coastal Quilters Harvest of Colors Quilt Show* – [CoastalQuilters.org](https://CoastalQuilters.org) Earl Warren Showgrounds, Hwy 101 at Las Positas, Santa Barbara, CA
- **October 5 and 6, 2024** – *Tokay Stitch 'n Quilt Guild Quilt Show*, Fairfield Inn & Suites, 262 Rocky Lane, Lodi, CA 95240 [www.tokaystitchnquiltguild.com](https://www.tokaystitchnquiltguild.com)
- **October 12, 2024** — *Fabric Sale and Craft Boutique*, Moonlight Quilters of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa, CA [mqsc.org](https://mqsc.org)
- **October 31 to November 3, 2024** — *International Quilt Festival Houston*. George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas Ph: 713-781-6864 <https://quilts.com>
- **November 2 & 3, 2024** — *Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Southern Alameda County Quilt Show*, Ohlone College Newark Center, 39399 Cherry St, Newark, CA 94560 [www.piecemakersguild.org](https://www.piecemakersguild.org)
- **January 22 to 25, 2025** – *Road to California Quilters Conference and Showcase* Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA [roadtocalifornia.com](https://roadtocalifornia.com)
- **February 20 - 23, 2025** — *QuiltCon Phoenix*, Presented by the Modern Quilt Guild. Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. 3rd Street, Phoenix AZ 85004 <https://quiltcon.com>

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Officers	Coordinators
<b>President</b> – Joan Costello	<b>Activities</b> – Laura Lawrence
<b>Vice President</b> – Kathrin Brown	<b>Communications</b> – Christi Sutphen
<b>Secretary</b> – Elaine Seely	<b>Community Outreach</b> – Carole Brower
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<a href="https://www.mpgg.org/_files/ugd/3c7d86_a457501c162b47e494921ca97fa65e14.pdf">https://www.mpgg.org/_files/ugd/3c7d86_a457501c162b47e494921ca97fa65e14.pdf</a>	<b>Programs</b> – Christine Beach & Susan Stoney

Your Board is here to serve you, we cherish your input. If you have any suggestions, comments or interest in volunteering, please contact the appropriate board member. Board meetings are open to all members, please contact **Christi Sutphen** ([christi@sutphenstudio.com](mailto:christi@sutphenstudio.com)) if you want the Zoom link.

# MPQG Activities

by Laura Lawrence

## UFO Challenge

**W**e kicked off the *UFO Challenge* at our September meeting. The Challenge is open to all Guild members (near and far) and entering is easy:

1. Download and complete the fillable PDF form for as many projects as you'd like to finish (12 projects per form).
2. Pay the \$15 donation.
3. Submit the form by email or print out and turn in at the next Guild meeting.
4. Submit photos of your finished projects by email. Share your finished projects at Guild meetings in person or on Zoom.

In this year's Challenge, we are awarding more tickets and providing more opportunities to win prizes! You will earn tickets for entering the Challenge, finishing projects, and donating projects. The more projects you finish, the more chances you have to win! **The deadline to enter is November 4, 2024.**

Complete Challenge details, the entry form, and the payment link are available on the Guild website <http://mpqg.org/blockofthemoth>. If you have any questions about the Challenge, please email or call me.

At the September meeting kick off, *Nancy Holinski*'s name was drawn to pick a prize from the prize basket. Congratulations, *Nancy*!

## October Mini Challenge

For the October Mini Challenge, we rolled the number 9 on the dice. To participate in the Mini Challenge, finish project number 9 on your list(s) by the October 7 meeting and email a photograph of your finished project and bring it for *Show and Tell* at the meeting or show it on Zoom. You will be able to choose a prize from the prize basket. Prizes include patterns, mystery notions, specialty rulers, and Aurifil thread.

Please bring your finished UFOs to *Show and Tell* at the October meeting. The October meeting giveaway is a "Starry" charm pack by *Alexia Marcelle Abegg* for Ruby Star Society. Turn in your entry form before the meeting starts to be eligible to win!

Happy Sewing!

Laura Lawrence, Activities Coordinator  
[lauramlawrence@gmail.com](mailto:lauramlawrence@gmail.com)

## Membership News

Hello and Welcome to our newest members:



*Theresa Kelly*  
*Susan Holtam*  
*Barbara Post*  
*Wendi Wells ! Empty Spools*

*Loreen Kinney,*  
*Membership Chair*

Please make note of our upcoming **Sewcial** dates on the third Thursdays of:  
**October 17<sup>th</sup> & November 21<sup>st</sup>**  
at the Oldemeyer Center from  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

# Monarch Butterfly Wall Quilt Exhibit

by Claudia Sammis

The *Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History* is once again including an exhibit of wall art quilts that fits its natural

history mission statement.

Our own **Sherrill Ash** won a spot in the juried *Cherrywood Hand-Dyed Fabrics 2023 Monarch Challenge* which is just finishing its 11 city tour of the U.S.A. This incredible, juried exhibit of Monarch Butterfly wall quilts is open from **October 5 thru October 26, 2024**, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The opening reception coincides with the Museum's **Night Owl** event on **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM and **Sherrill** will be in attendance.

Have you missed seeing **Sherrill** at MPQG meetings this past year or so? She and her husband are now living in St. George, UT. If you ZOOM the guild meetings, she is always there during the 30 minute Social Time beginning at 6:30 PM. Also, you can follow

her on Instagram ([quiltersherrill](https://www.instagram.com/quiltersherrill)) where you'll soon realize what a prolific quilter she is.

The *Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History* is at

165 Forest Avenue in Pacific Grove (although their front door is on Central Avenue). For museum hours, go to [www.pgmuseum.org](http://www.pgmuseum.org) or call 831-648-5716. For information about the 2025 *Cherrywood Challenge*, which will be announced in October, go to

[cherrywoodfabrics.com](http://cherrywoodfabrics.com).

If you want an in-person experience with Monarchs, the real thing begins arriving in October here in "Butterfly Town, U.S.A."

They cluster together on pine, cypress and eucalyptus trees in the *Monarch Grove Sanctuary*, 250 Ridge Road, Pacific Grove, CA. The [pgmuseum.org](http://pgmuseum.org) is a good source of information about all things Monarch.



Monarch quilt by **Sherrill Ash**

## MPQG Member Wins Top Honors at the Santa Cruz County Fair



"*Blue Whale in Monterey Bay*" by **Carmay Knowles** won both *First Place* and *Best of Show* ribbons at the 2024 *Santa Cruz County Fair*.

Carmay was surprised to read in the *NCQC Quilting* newsletter (see page 18) that she had also won a third place award at the *NQNC* show at *PIQF*. She says the "*Blue Whale*" will now be retired from competition and will hang above their headboard in the bedroom.



# Gail Abeloe & Back Porch Fabrics

by Carmay Knowles



**Gail Abeloe**

Photos by Carmay Knowles

**A**s most of you are probably aware, **Gail Abeloe** announced at the August 2024 MPQG meeting that she is retiring at the end of October and that she would be closing *Back Porch Fabrics*. Perhaps some of us had considered the likely

eventuality of that, but it still came as a bit of a shock and the room fell very quiet for a bit.

Being a relative newcomer to the Peninsula, I didn't find *Back Porch Fabrics* until late in 2011, but without Gail and her wonderful quilt shop, I wouldn't be a quilter today. To honor her, I wanted to write this article and I had the joy of interviewing Gail in her office at *Back Porch Fabrics*. Gail has been instrumental in the quilting community here on the Peninsula and the Bay area for decades. She brought out a folder full of articles about her and *Back Porch Fabrics* dating back to March 1994! Many of you might already know Gail's history, but here is her story.

Gail's parents, **Dorothy** and **Jim Abeloe**, were third generation farmers in the Salinas Valley and she grew up on their ranch near Spreckles, doing a lot of work by hand, as farm kids do. Gail's mother sewed, a common skill for women of that generation, and she taught Gail and her sister Jill to sew. When she was 10, Gail did a sewing project in her 4H Club. She really liked sewing, especially after Gail's father told the girls that they could have as many clothes as they wanted, as long as they made them! This incentive led Gail and Jill to start creating their own clothing patterns. Later in life they both went on to become pattern designers.

After graduating from Salinas High School, Gail went to the *University of the Pacific*, majoring in elementary education. There, she also took a class in "Art for Elementary School Teachers," which was taught by **Helen Dooley**, who was a well-known Carmel artist and gallery owner. Gail had always

enjoyed art and design, but didn't know then how much her interest in and understanding of this field would inform her future. While Gail taught fourth grade for five years, she took additional courses and became a certified reading specialist, teaching for another seven years in that field.

Gail's mother opened a little country gift store in San Juan Batista called *The Granary* in 1971; it sold grain by the scoop and gifts. Later, Dorothy added fabric which was stocked on shelves that only the clerks accessed by ladder, bringing the bolts down for customers, like all old-fashioned dry goods shops used to do. Around 1978, Gail bought *The Granary* from her mom and, in 1979, after she had met and married her husband, **Gary Sprader**, who was an engineer at Hewlett Packard, they moved the shop up to Sunnyvale — yup, that *Granary*!

The 1976 Bicentennial had spurred a resurgence of interest in quilting and while Gail was managing *The Granary* she caught the quilting bug and taught herself to quilt. Then, Gary's work was transferred to Spokane, Washington; so they sold the shop and moved to Washington, where they lived for ten years. Gail kept herself very busy teaching quilting classes for three different stores in and around Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She also decided to go back to graduate school and was accepted by *Gonzaga University* in Spokane where she learned to work with computers and earned her MBA.

After Gail finished graduate school she worked for **Debbie Mumm** [[www.debbiemumm.com/](http://www.debbiemumm.com/)] managing and computerizing Debbie's pattern business. Debbie took Gail to a quilt market where she learned about the wholesale pattern business. Gail looked at the patterns that were trying to make clothes out of quilts and decided she could make a better pattern. Gail's sister, **Jill Mead**, was working as a magazine editor and after Gail went to quilt market the two of them decided to go into the wholesale pattern business. Gail created the "Heart Warming Jacket," and in 1990, *Back Porch Press* was born!

Continued on page 18

## Gail Abeloe & Back Porch Fabrics (continued)

Gail and Gary self-published out of their house in Spokane for several years. He took the photo of a model wearing the jacket and designed a cover for that first pattern and had it printed at a copy shop. For the next pattern Gail lined up professional photographers and designers and soon they had lots of orders to fill.



Earlier, anticipating retirement and hoping to eventually return to Gail's home state, they had bought a house on Toyon Drive in Monterey, but had rented it out. In 1992 the renters moved on and with the pattern business really booming, Gary took early retirement and they moved back to Monterey. A few years later they outgrew that house and found a place on Wood Street in Pacific Grove, where **Elizabeth Carrington** was a neighbor.



In August 1996 Gail opened *Back Porch Fabrics* in an old building that had been a warehouse for *Holman's Department Store*. Gail was already going to quilt market as a pattern vender, so it was easy to go around to the reps and make appointments with them to view and buy fabric.

Gail remembers a time when there were several fabrics shops in Pacific Grove: the *Hand Maden*, *Wild Goose Chase*, *Beverly's Fabrics* (where *Mum's Place* is now, on Forest at the corner of Laurel), *Stone Mountain and Daughter*, and *Holman's Department store* which also sold fabrics. Now, *Back Porch Fabrics* is the only fabric shop left on the Peninsula.

At *Back Porch Fabrics*, Gail filled the shop with "inspiration by the yard," high quality quilting fabric by well-known designers, her wonderful patterns, interesting books, and friendly, helpful, knowledgeable staff. There was also space in the original store location for a classroom. Gail recognized that young folks aren't taught to sew in schools anymore and so she offered a wide range of classes to



help beginners learn and more experienced quilters to explore new techniques and projects. The big white walls of the classroom doubled as gallery space where Gail showcased many talented quilt artists from locals to nationally known quilters, with new shows every two months. *Back Porch Fabrics* became a destination to be visited by quilters from around the country, including the annual visitors to the *Empty Spools* workshops at Asilomar.

In about 2006, Gail added her wonderful, Saturday demos, where she not only demonstrated a new quilt pattern she'd created, but we got to see each other's work during Show & Tell. It was very



inspiring, so much fun, and very well attended. Gail's motto at the start of each session was, "We're still having lots of fun playing with fabric."

Over the years, there have been several articles written about Gail and *Back Porch Fabrics*; a list of the articles she saved and loaned to me is at the end of this column and they have been very informative. In 2011 *Back Porch Fabrics* was voted *Best Retail* by the Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce and in 2014, Gail was the *Artist in Residence* at *Empty Spools Seminars*.

Continued on page 19



## Gail Abeloe & Back Porch Fabrics (continued)

Gail was a member of the *MPQG* before she opened the store and she even edited the newsletter for a year!

Unfortunately, when Covid hit in early 2020, we lost the wonderful classes and the Saturday demos, but Gail continued to fill the gallery space with beautiful quilts from talented artists and help us find fabric for all our projects, including making masks.

Then in February 2022, because the old building was being torn down, Gail moved the shop up the street to its current location at 218 Grand Avenue. The space that is lovely and bright, but it's smaller and there is no room for classes, demos, or a gallery.

And now, after 28 years of running *Back Porch Fabrics*, Gail has decided to retire because... it's time. She says that she and Gary are both in good health, but they are at a point where they just want to enjoy life. *"I have no idea what I'm going to do next, but I've been that way my whole life, never figuring out in advance what comes next, so why start now?"* They traveled a lot when Gary worked for Hewlett-Packard. They've been to England, France, Europe, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and Hawaii, but Gail said they are quite happy in their home on the Peninsula and looking forward to just enjoying living here.

Gail says she's not going to stop sewing; she still enjoys creative sewing and we will probably see her at a quilt meeting now and then. But, for the moment, she wants to take a breath and enjoy life. *"I have no plans to create new patterns, teach classes, or do Saturday Demos."* She said that having a store has been *"like sending out invitations and not knowing who will show up. It's been a party. Fabulous people have walked in the door with wonderful*

*projects, needing help, or just collecting fabric. I want to thank everyone for patronizing and supporting Back Porch Fabrics for the past twenty-eight years!"*

Thank you, Gail, for all you've done to foster and nurture sewing and quilting and the wonderful community of quilters we have on the Peninsula and the Central Coast. We will miss your presence, but we wish you joy, happiness, and health!

And, luckily for us the store will not be closing! We can all take a collective sigh of relief because **Claudia Sammis** and friends are taking over and *Back Porch Fabrics* will remain open! Gail says, *"I am thrilled that Claudia has stepped in and Back Porch Fabrics will remain open. I'm so happy not to have to go through the whole process of closing and selling off stuff. It's wonderful that the shop will just continue on."*

### Sources:

- Paul Brocchini, (Sunday, March 6, 1994), "A Hobby Pays Off," *Alta Vista Magazine*
- Susan Fuguay, (April/May 2002), "Back Porch Fabrics," *American Quilt Retailer Newsletter*, Vol. 8, Issue 45, (pages 18-23)
- Kathryn McKenzie Nichols, (Saturday, July 26, 2003), "Rags to riches" *Monterey County Herald*, Home & Garden Section, (page 1)
- (2003) "Back Porch Fabrics," *Better Homes and Gardens, Quilt Sampler Magazine*, (pages 26-28 & 30)
- Laurel Shackelford, (Spring 2007), Business Bites "Making it Pay," *Surface Design Association, SDA Newsletter*, (page 20)
- "Chamber Honors Excellence in Business," (March 3, 2010), *PG Bulletin*, (page 11)
- Allison Engel, (Spring/Summer 2011), "encore!," *Better Homes and Gardens, Quilt Sampler Magazine*, (pages 132-134)
- *CT Publishing* bulletin from 2013
- Joan Costello, (November 2021), "Sponsor Spotlight - Back Porch Fabrics", *Pines & Needles*, (page 8)

## Back Porch Fabrics ~ It's Official!

**C**laudia Sammis is taking over *Back Porch Fabrics* when **Gail Abeloe** retires the end of October. According to **Claudia**, her motivation is that she wants *"to live where there is a vibrant and creative sewing and quilting store."* "Chapter Two" in the life of *Back Porch Fabrics* will bring back classes, Saturday demos, and changing gallery shows — all of our favorites. The knowledgeable staff will remain in place and there are openings for additional part-timers who want flexible schedules. More info will be coming in the November newsletter.



# Our Sponsors

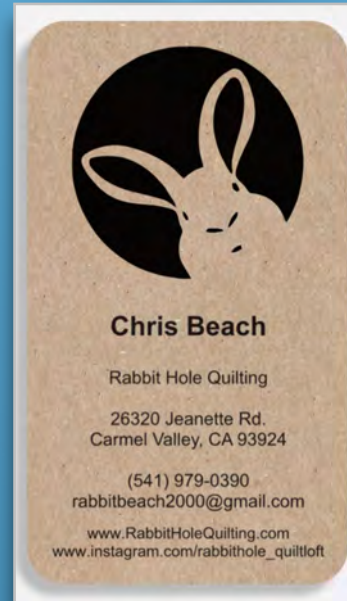


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# MPQG at the 2024 Monterey County Fair

Photos from the  
Monterey County Fair by  
*Susan Michelson*  
and *Joan Costello*



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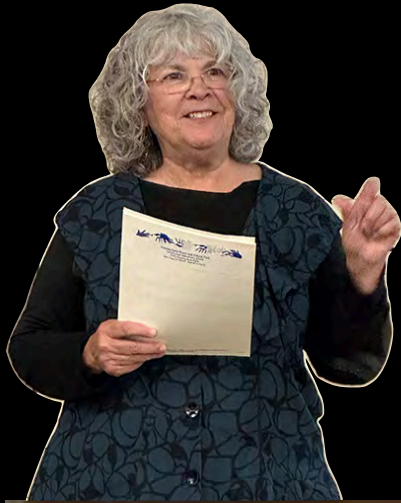
Above:  
Judge's Choice awarded to  
**Darcy Latta**  
and at left,  
Best of Show awarded to  
**Gloria Hatton.**





# Photos from our September 2024 Meeting

## *Sue Bianchi* “The Art of Volunteering”



*Sue Bianchi*  
and her quilts.  
Photos by  
*Susan Michelson*  
and  
*Carmay Knowles*

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# 2024 MPQG Quilt Challenge ~ *Under the Sea*

Dear Quilting Friends,

We are excited to share the results of the 2024 MPQG Quilt Challenge, themed “*Under the Sea*.” This year, we celebrated an incredible showcase of talent with 49 stunning quilts submitted by our talented members. The enthusiasm was palpable as 1702 votes were cast to determine the favorites!

We are proud to announce the top eight quilts, which truly captured the spirit of our theme:

1. **Bonnie Adcox**
2. **Janyce Anderson**
3. **Kathleen Clancy**
4. **Dan Garrett**
5. **Mary Kay Hamilton**
6. **Gloria Hatton**
7. **Nancy Holinski**
8. **Carmay Knowles**

A huge congratulations to **Kathleen Clancy**, whose exceptional quilt earned her the first-place title! We also applaud **Nancy Holinski** for her remarkable second-place quilt and **Gloria Hatton** for securing third place. Your creativity and hard work have inspired us all!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated this year. Your dedication to quilting and your imaginative interpretations of the “*Under the Sea*” theme made this challenge a wonderful success.

We are excited to announce that the quilts will be displayed at the 2025 Annual Quilt Show, with a potential showing at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Pacific Grove Library in 2026. We invite everyone to come and appreciate the incredible artistry and craftsmanship of these quilts, wherever they are displayed.

Thank you again for your participation and enthusiasm. We can't wait to see you at the show!

Happy Quilting,

**Chris Beach** and **Linda Herrera**  
MPQG Quilt Challenge Committee



Top: **Mary Kay Hamilton** with *Meet Me Under the Sea* **Nancy Holinski** with “*Creature of the Deep*,” **Bonnie Adcox** with *Sea the Moment*, **Kathleen Clancy** with *Betty the Beta*, **Carmay Knowles** with *Leafy Seadragons*, and **Darcy Latta** holding **Gloria Hatton's** *Alternative School*.

Above: Congratulations to **Nancy Holinski** 2<sup>nd</sup> place, **Kathleen Clancy** 1<sup>st</sup> place and **Gloria Hatton** 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Photos by **Susan Michelson**



# September Meeting ~ Show and Tell Quilts



Three quilts by *Alice Stoll*

*Joan Costello*

Photos by  
*Susan Michelson*



*Karen Shaffer*



*Christi Sutphen*

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# September Meeting ~ Show and Tell Quilts



*Nancy Holinski*



*Sally Miller*

Photos by *Susan Michelson*

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*Kathrin Brown*



*Jeanne Krener*



# Community Outreach Quilter Spotlight

## ~ Kathrin Brown ~

by Carole Brower

With the purchase of her first expensive sewing machine in November 2013, a Bernina 750, **Kathrin** made the decision to learn the machine and do all her own quilting. She took a class with the Bernina dealer to learn to use the machine and taught herself thru classes to use the walking and free motion foot to quilt all her quilts on this machine. She states, "Community quilts were a wonderful way for me to practice - so I volunteered to quilt many of them to try out new designs and ensure my tension was good."

In 2018, **Kathrin** acquired a long arm machine and, "I got to try the manual machine and just wanted to play and have less screen time and not be on a computer." Similarly, she started with community quilt tops to learn this machine. Since then **Kathrin** has quilted many of her own and others quilts on this machine. For quilting designs, **Kathrin** made a design library binder for visual cues, along with the fabric in each quilt as design inspiration. She continues to take classes and watches video tutorials to expand her skills.

From 2019-2023 she quilted 150 Community Quilts on her long arm! That's five years and comes to 30 quilts per year or 3-4 quilts per month. The average time to quilt a top is three hours with an all over pattern with her self guided machine. Regardless of size, loading the backing, batting, and quilt top takes 30 minutes of that time. Kathrin also trims most of the community quilts, which is another 15 minutes. To count this in hours it comes to 450 hours in 5 year and in 2024, **Kathrin** just finished community

quilt #24! She enjoys spending time in her quilt 'office' in the afternoons and evenings and enjoys listening to audio books while quilting with wonderful views out her window of wide open spaces in beautiful Carmel Valley in the home she shares with her husband **Keith**.

*"Making community quilts has also taught me to be patient and accepting. Coming from the business world, I had high expectations of my colleagues and mostly of myself. As a newbie myself and every*

*stitcher using a different machine, meaning a 1/4" seam is not the same 1/4" seam, 10" squares that were submitted to the Block of the Month were 'about' 10". I learned to make do with what's there and be understanding with every community top that I quilt - we are all **volunteers** and everyone is doing the best they can. Luckily, the Quilt Police was defunded just when I started to quilt 10 years ago. I love how inclusive the quilting community is and the connections we are making are non-competitive but instead helpful and growing. We always lend a hand to someone or give a fat quarter or certain color when needed."*



Kathrin next to her Juki longarm with a newly quilted Community Outreach quilt.

Photo by **Carole Brower**

*"Quilting can be one of the most satisfying activities because we are usually making something using our own creativity, you know? Our hands get on it and then someone out in the world will snuggle under that quilt and have a good dream. We bring comfort to other people's lives."*

- Quote from the late **Carole Lyles Shaw** during an interview by *Quilter On Fire*.

makers, but **Kathrin Brown** is so much more.

Those that have had the opportunity to spend time with Kathrin and see samplings of her ever expanding works, know her quilts are both art and craft along with the many hours she dedicates to supporting Community Outreach and our guild.

## Community Outreach: Material Girls Create and Donate

by Donna Appleget

**T**he *Material Girls Friendship Group* is a fun, activity filled group of new and long time friends. The original friendship group dates back to 2008 and was hosted by **Terann Carr**.

*Material Girls* focuses on making community quilts and sharing our quilting skills with each other. We choose quilt projects the group finds interesting and donate the finished quilts to the guild.

This past year, we made a Four Patch Kaleidoscope quilt for the *Quilts by the Bay Show* silent auction. We also completed an additional six quilts for community outreach.

Our most interesting activity is Show and Tell. Each month's Show and Tell exhibits our



Above: *Material Girls 2023 Hawaiian Christmas Party*  
Left: *Material Girls' Quilts by the Bay Silent Auction Quilt*  
Photos by Donna Appleget

quilters' individual works. Those works often inspire our group quilts.

Our most fun activity is our road trip to the *Pajaro Valley Quilt Show*. We enjoy the shopping, quilts and meeting up with other guild members.

## Community Outreach: Christ Child Society Layettes

by Claudia Sammis

**P**ictured is an example of the colorful yet practical gifts that the *Yarn & Stitches* group from St. Angela's creates beginning with our baby and crib quilts as inspiration. They'll then add "extras" plus diapers, wipes, board books, etc.

Many thanks to our generous members who work tirelessly every month to make certain that the layettes are gorgeous: *Material Girls* and **Donna Appleget, Jeanne Mills, Kathleen Heidrick, Noreen Nance, and Kathy Miller ...** did I miss anyone?

Let me know if you want me to pick up your contributions, or you can drop them off at *Back Porch Fabrics*.





# Community Quilt Guidelines and Sizes

**MPQG** donates a great number of quilts to members of our community who are in need of comfort or support. If you would like to join in the production of these quilts, here are guidelines for you. These are just guidelines so please, enjoy being creative. Every quilt finds a home and is appreciated. Quilts can be machine or hand quilted or tied. Completed “*flimsies*” (quilt tops) can be donated and will be finished by another quilter.

Community Outreach Quilts. Contact: **Fatima Dias** [mafadimo@yahoo.com](mailto:mafadimo@yahoo.com)

- Quilts for **dialysis patients** can be 42" x 60". These should not have a light background.
- Quilts for **CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocate) kids can be 42" x 60" for teens or 40" x 50" for younger children.
- Quilts for the **VTC** (Veterans Transition Center) should be twin size, approximately 63" x 90".
- **Bed sized quilts** have been donated to victims of local wildfires. While we hope this is not repeated, larger quilts always find a home!

- **NICU quilts** are given to area hospitals for babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Contact: **Liz Rondelle** [bukavugirl@aol.com](mailto:bukavugirl@aol.com)
- There are two types of **NICU** quilts:
- **Layette quilts:** 20" x 24". No batting is needed if one or both layers are flannel. If both layers are cotton, add a light batting. These quilts can be quilted or tied. Quilting should be minimal so the quilt will be supple.
- **Incubator quilts:** 45" square quilts are used to cover the incubators, shielding the babies from the lights. These should have batting.
- **Port & Heart pillows** can bring tremendous comfort during breast cancer/infusion treatments and surgery. The patterns are on our website. Contact: **Barbara Heublein** [bhandbh@hotmail.com](mailto:bhandbh@hotmail.com)
- **Wheelchair/lap quilts:** 32"-40" wide & 42"-50" long; pocket added to top of the lap quilt. Pattern ideas available on guild website. Contact: **Barbara Heublein**
- **Crib-sized quilts** for the *Christ Child Society* can be about 36" x 45". Contact: **Claudia Sammis**.

## Lavender Creek & MPQG Partnership

*“Lavender Creek, Monterey County’s local family-run lavender wellness brand, is proud to announce a new partnership with the Monterey Peninsula Quilters Guild, providing locally grown lavender for the handcrafted eye pillows donated to CHOMP, Salinas Valley Health, Natividad, and the VNA. The eye pillows are given to patients to provide support and comfort during cancer treatments and hospice care.*

*The Monterey Quilters Guild provides comfort care items like the eye pillows and quilts to those in need,*



*supporting hundreds of men, women, and children through their Community Outreach program coordinated by the Guild’s Carol Brower. The Guild’s members contribute their time, talents, and resources to create these comforting donations given to local nonprofit and health care organizations with the goal of making a difference in our community.”*

<https://lavendercreekcompany.com/lavender-creek-partners-with-monterey-quilters-guild-to-bring-comfort-to-local-patients/>



# Community Outreach: Heart Pillows Made at the September Sewcial

by Carole Brower



At the September *Sewcial*, this active guild group helped make heart pillows for the next delivery to local cancer programs and hospice care with an assembly line.



## NCQC Fall Newsletter

**M**PQG is a member guild of the **Northern California Quilt Council**. As members, we have access to the council's newsletter, *NCQC Quilting*. The fall issue is out and the link is:

<https://northerncaliforniaquiltcouncil.wildapricot.org/EmailTracker/LinkTracker.aspx?linkAndRecipientCode=tDfhFzxqcm7HXkR4gaPARp9ZFnygW2l0u2jdTbNe/LaLICJIfcMc/n0L6PkDnwJnvfGbV6TNoAYmJSesXP1u/TJ3S6z2j4uCO+r3oMzluE=>

There is a virtual **Zoom** meeting on **October 2** about training new judges. An article on page 6 of the newsletter is about the Quilt Judge Training that will happen in Vacaville, CA on February 25 and 26, 2025. The NCQC organizes the *New Quilts of Northern California* exhibit at PIQF. On pages 10-23 there is a big article about the 2024 show, which includes quilts by **Sara Lyon**, who received a First Place Grouper Award for her "*Gracias a los Trabajadores del Campo*," and **Carmay Knowles**, who got the Third Place Grouper Award for her "*Blue Whale in Monterey Bay*." There are many other interesting articles and great information in the NCQC newsletter, so check it out!



# How to Prepare Your Quilt and Backing for the Long-Armer to Be Successful

**Y**our long-armer is wonderful, but not a magician or miracle worker. What you put in, is what will come out.

1. All fabrics must be ironed and well pressed - even if folded after, those folds will stretch out easily.
2. Backing fabric must be washed - especially flannel - as it shrinks at a different proportion than your pieced top.
3. The back needs to be a minimum of 4" bigger on each side (e.g., Top is 40 x 40, Back needs to be 48 x 48).
4. If the backing is pieced, seams need to be 1/2" and pressed open to lay flat. Selvedge needs to be trimmed off - due to the density of the selvedge, it pulls differently and will skew the back.
5. Top and back need to be trimmed and squared off in the corners. And remember, back needs to be 4" wider and longer on each side! Add muslin strips on opposite sides if needed for extension.
6. Stay stitch around the entire quilt top about 1/8" from the edge - especially if quilt top does not have borders - to avoid stretching and seams to open.
7. If you don't like shadowing of thread (dark thread or seams showing through light fabric), you need to trim threads on the wrong side. It is not the long-armers job to trim these threads unless you pay her for the extra time.
8. If you add borders to your quilt top, measure the top in the center, cut your border to **that** length and then sew to edge of the top. This should guarantee a square top and avoid any wavy borders (where the border is longer than the piecing in the center of the quilt top).

## Call for Grant Requests

*by Kathrin Brown*

**M**PQG annually awards grants to other community groups. The grants are small (between \$150 and \$250). They are awarded to groups which focus on providing educational and creative programs that preserve the heritage of quilt making, promote craftsmanship in sewing and raise public awareness for the art of quilting. Grant requests are accepted between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

We are asking our membership to use its knowledge of the community to help get the word out about this opportunity. Maybe you know of an organization that does good work in this space or one that would start a program with funding and supplies? Take a grant request form to present to that organization or tell Kathrin Brown about that organization so that she can contact them with an invitation to complete the Grant Request Form. (Form available on page 23 or at the guild meeting.)

**Kathrin Brown** - Vice President



# Why To Enter Your Quilt For Judging

by Mel Beach, San Jose Quilt Artist, Teacher and Judge

Thank you for inviting me to judge your upcoming 2025 *Quilts by the Bay* quilt show. Quilt judging days are mentally and physically challenging, but very rewarding as I get to admire and carefully handle so many incredible quilts made by all who are courageous to enter. It is truly an honor to be entrusted with your quilt entries.

Many of you may have attended my *Challenge Yourself!* lecture/trunk show back in 2017, where I addressed common fears and benefits associated with Quilt Challenges. Entering your quilts for judging is another fabulous challenge opportunity which might sound daunting, but I assure you that there are many benefits from having your quilts included in a judged competition.

The ultimate goal for quilt judging is to celebrate visual design as well as quality workmanship, while providing thoughtful feedback for each quilt entered. Quilt judges are experienced at recognizing the strengths of each quilt, while also identifying areas for improvement. This is an excellent opportunity to receive helpful feedback about both the design and workmanship of your quilts. It is up to you on how you use this information.

For some quilters, this feedback can provide a sense of validation and personal pride on the progression of their quilt-making and design skills.



Mel Beach

and various show ribbons.

Take this opportunity to celebrate and keep making amazing quilts! If you want to grow your skills, the constructive feedback will provide you with specific areas where you can hone and refine your skills through practice and/or taking classes. Oftentimes it involves a fairly easy fix that will truly elevate your quilt's design and/or skills.

Entering your work into your guild's judged show is a fabulous stepping stone to submitting your work into juried and judged shows at the national

and international level, such as *Pacific International Quilt Festival*, *Road to California*, *QuiltCon* and/or *Houston Quilt Festival*. All too often quilters pass on entering these national venues because they think that their quilts aren't "quilt show worthy." Entering your quilts into local competitions is a wonderful opportunity to get objective feedback, gauge your readiness, and gather the courage to enter larger judged and/or juried venues.

Last but not least, I encourage you to consider volunteering with the judging process. You will gain valuable insights as to what is involved during the judging process. As you watch the process and listen to my judge's comments, you'll pick up helpful tips that you can incorporate into your own quilt-making process. At the conclusion of the judging, I invite my volunteers to ask me all and any questions they may have about the judging process they just observed.

I look forward to seeing many of you and your fabulous quilts this May!!

~Mel Beach

San Jose Quilt Artist, Teacher, and Judge

In her lecture at our September meeting, **Sue Bianchi** mentioned the binding method she uses. There is a great *You Tube* video by **Sharon Chambers** about this method and she mentions what Judges look for: **a perfect binding!**

The link to the video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2hWQ5-ZccE>



# October 7 - General Meeting

In-person and Zoom

Social time starts @ 6:30 PM

Meeting starts @ 7:00 PM

## Jody Alexander

### The Art of Repair and Reuse in Textile Art



*Bibliocubes by Jody Alexander*



## Upcoming MPQG Programs

October 7	6:30 PM Social Time 7:00 PM Meeting	Speaker	Jody Alexander <a href="http://www.jodyalexander.com">www.jodyalexander.com</a>	The Art of Repair and Reuse in Textile Art	In-person and Zoom
November 4	6:30 PM Meeting	Speaker	Libby Williamson <a href="http://www.libbywilliamson.com">www.libbywilliamson.com</a>	From Here, There, and Everywhere	Zoom Only
November 9 & 10	Workshop 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM	2 Day Workshop	Libby Williamson <a href="http://www.libbywilliamson.com">www.libbywilliamson.com</a>	Wonky Sisters	In-person
December 9	7:00 PM		The Winter Social and Fundraiser		In-person Only
January 6	6:30 PM Meeting	Speaker	Kelly Ashton <a href="https://kellyquilter.com/">https://kellyquilter.com/</a>	Sixty Degrees of Inspiration	Zoom Only

Our Program Schedule is also on our website at: <https://www.mpqg.org/programschedule>

# MPQG Friendship Groups

by Marjorie Longo

**F**riendship Groups are small groups of quilters who meet regularly to enjoy quilting, chatting, and sharing in a small group setting. The Friendship Groups listed are open to all MPQG Guild members.

Are you interested in being part of a small group? Check the roster below for an opportunity that might fit into your schedule.

ZOOM groups have worked out well. No need to make reservations, no obligation, just a nice quilty visit and always open to new quilters. See below for Friendship Groups on ZOOM.

For information about joining a specific group, please contact the member listed below. For general information regarding Friendship Groups or for help starting a Group, please contact:

**Marjorie Longo**, Friendship Group Coordinator  
831-624-8649 or [frumml@gmail.com](mailto:frumml@gmail.com)



## **Carmel Valley – Cut-Ups**

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> **Thursday**  
12-4 PM, St. Dunstan's Church  
*Liz Rondelle*, 831-620-2512, [bukavugirl@aol.com](mailto: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.

## **Marina – Otter be Quilting**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **Thursdays**  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
*Layne Rahbar's* house, 925-478-9221  
[layne.rahbar@gmail.com](mailto:layne.rahbar@gmail.com)  
All levels welcome for discussion and hand work.

## **Everywhere – Beyond Borders**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Tuesday**  
1:00 PM, Pacific Time  
*Dru Hammond*, 831-241-1411  
[druhammond@aol.com](mailto:druhammond@aol.com)  
All levels from near and far meet to sew, share, and visit with old and new friends on **ZOOM**.

## **Seaside - Hanging Out at Joan's**

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tuesday**  
3:30 PM at  
*Joan Costello's* house, 831-247-1907  
[beachbreak1250@gmail.com](mailto:beachbreak1250@gmail.com)  
Gather to chat, share our work, collaborate, and eat plant-based dinners.

## ***Pines & Needles Newsletter***

**Pines & Needles** is available online at [www.mpqg.org](http://www.mpqg.org). Articles are due on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. Please email items to the editor, **Carmay Knowles**, [carmay@comcast.net](mailto:carmay@comcast.net). 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 submissions for content, length, or otherwise for publication.

**Member Advertising Rates** per Issue: Business Card \$5.00; 1/4 page ad \$10.00; 1/2 page ad \$18.50; and

full page ad \$30.00. Annual rates are available. Advertisers should be quilting-related businesses.

### **Privacy Policy**

**Any** contact information provided in this newsletter, whether phone number, email, address or otherwise, is for the convenience and use of MPQG members, our advertisers and sponsors, and sharing newsletter guilds only. **The information may not be used or sold for advertising, spam, commercial or any other purposes** without the written approval of the MPQG Board. Thank you for your cooperation.





Monterey Peninsula Quilters Guild  
Post Office Box 1025  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Web Site: [www.MPQG.org](http://www.MPQG.org)  
MPQG is a 501(C)3 Organization

## **GRANT REQUEST**

**Requests must be received between October 1 and December 31.**

Grants will be awarded contingent upon availability of funds.

**The grants are small, typically about \$150 to \$250.**

Grant requests will be evaluated by the MPQG Board at the January meeting according to the following criteria:

- Meets goals and objectives of MPQG outreach and mission statement
- Consideration is given to educational and creative programs

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Taxpayer ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payee \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Grant Use and Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Affected \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Requestor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
MPQG Board Approval \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Additional pages may be attached if more information is required to detail intended purchases.

Please mail completed form to: MPQG, PO Box 1025, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.