



Stitches in the Sand

February 2026

MEETING DATE: February 12th at the Norman P. Murray Center and Zoom at 7:00pm.

Programs

Our Guest Speaker: Rob Appell

Rob Appell is one of California's most recognizable quilting personalities—a dynamic textile artist, designer, and educator whose bold creative energy has inspired makers around the world. Known for his distinctive machine-quilted art, Rob infuses every piece with a sense of motion and artistic freedom. His work frequently celebrates nature and wildlife, reflecting his deep advocacy for conservation.



Growing up in California, Rob was surrounded by needle arts from an early age. While he is celebrated for his exceptional machine-quilted creations, Rob's talents extend far beyond quilting. He expresses his creativity through embroidery, knitting, woodworking, and pen-and-ink.

Rob is a natural teacher, with a gift for making every student feel capable, confident, and excited to create. His highly successful YouTube channel, Man Sewing, has earned a loyal following thanks to Rob's energetic teaching style, clear instruction, and infectious enthusiasm for all things quilting and sewing.

As a designer, Rob has collaborated with major fabric companies such as Free Spirit and Benartex. He is also the inventor of the innovative Shark Applicutter, a specialty quilting tool.

Whether he's designing fabric, crafting unique artwork, or sharing his talents with audiences around the world, Rob Appell continues to elevate the quilting community with creativity, heart, and an unmistakable passion for the craft.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn4Dv2omn_Z9MlIjragzvTg

If you would like to join us for dinner with Robb before the guild meeting, RSVP with Norah at (949) 636-2790 no later than Wednesday. Dinner will be at the California Pizza Kitchen on Marguerite Parkway at 4:45 pm.

Upcoming speakers:

March: Gyleen Fitzgerald

April: TBD

May: Jenny Lyon



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Connect with us on social media to join in the fun :

<https://www.facebook.com/Beach-Cities-Quilters-Guild-105189137693733>

Or Members Only Group
<https://www.facebook.com/>

BCQG's Board Meeting is held the Third Thursday of the Month via Zoom.

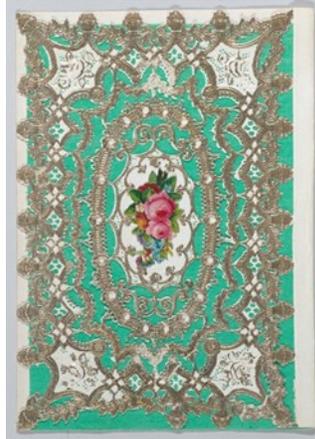
Don't forget to wear your name tag at the meeting!

Need to speak to a board member—Email beachcitiesqg@gmail.com

From the President

February is our shortest, but some might say it's the sweetest month because of St. Valentine's Day and the vast array of candy we give each other. Last year alone we consumed 75 million pounds of Chocolate. In the United States. I'm sure considering what a wonderful display Laurel Hathaway puts out for our hospitality table that we'll have some yummy treats.

The first Valentine's Day cards were made by Esther Howland in 1840. She's affectionately known as the "Mother of the American Valentine" because she created cards with ribbons and lace. Yet another crafty woman!



In case you weren't able to attend our January meeting, our guild received a \$50,000 anonymous donation from the Orange County Community Fund at the end of the year. At first, I was skeptical that this was a legitimate donation but after speaking with someone at the foundation, I discovered it was!

The board will be discussing ways we can use this money and let you all know later.

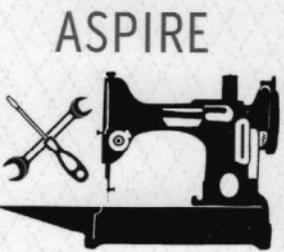
Laura Chambers
2025-26 President

From the Past President

It is time to start thinking about making a quilt for our President, Laura Chambers. Yes, I know it seems like she just got started, but as we all know it takes time to create a work of art! Laura has chosen "Beach" as her theme for her quilt. I will be bringing in fabric squares for the quilt starting next month. Please be thinking about what you want to do to add to this wonderful quilt and stop by to pick up a fabric square. Let's all join in to make this a memorable quilt for Laura.

Donna Wester
Past President





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- Bring your quilts to life! Beginners welcome

Laguna Hills Business Park
23011 Moulton Parkway J-12
Near I-5 at Lake Forest exit
hello@hathawayquiltworks.com
Text or call Laurel 949-534-2934

December Meeting Photos



Block Party



Philanthropy News

This month 61 quilts were donated to the following: CHOC Mission Viejo and Orange, Hope Central Watts, Persons in need, Royal Therapeutic Treatment Center, UCI Orange and Irvine, United Cerebral Palsy and Vets in Hospice. There were 48 other items donated to CAST, Hope Central Watts, Project Foster, Silverado Memory Care and Vitas Hospice.

Please join us at our next sew day February 2. We meet at Presbyterian Church of the Masters, 26051 Marguerite Pkwy, Mission Viejo 92692. (corner of Marguerite and Oso - park in lot closest to Oso) Set up starts at 9:00. Meeting at 10:00 or when ever you get there. Show and tell is at 11:00. We usually start clean up around 2:30. Helpers are always appreciated for set up and take down. We will have kits for quilts, NICU blankets, pillow cases to work on and batting for quilts donated to Philanthropy. Irons, ironing boards, mats for cutting and cutters for your use.

We will be collecting camp quilts and pillow cases for the next couple months. Youth size quilts for children ages 7-12.

Also if you are interested in sewing non-quilt items for Project Foster, send an email to the Philanthropy email address. "Project Foster donates wheeled duffle bags filled with clothing, essentials and HOPE for at-risk and foster kids."

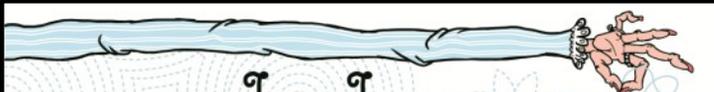
Ways and Means

THANK YOU for your donations! What an amazing group of ladies we have in our guild!

We received a donation of men's tie fabric - not actual ties, just the fabric (mostly silk). Not sure if that is of interest to anyone, but we will have it for sale.

If there are any colors you need, please let us know and we will be sure to bring an extra box of that color.

Julie Kemmerer and Marti Ryncarz



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26855 Jefferson Ave, Suite D, Murrieta, CA 92563

Quilt Show 2026

Quilt Show Boutique Items Needed

We are getting closer to our exciting quilt show and boutique. Keep the donations coming. Remember - it can also be a non quilting item - there are lots of hobbies out there and its time for yours to shine. I have access to a variety of patterns as well if anyone is looking to make something specific

Christi Valley, Boutique Chair
Christi Valley, Boutique Chair

Quilt Show Opportunity Tickets

TWO GORGEOUS BAGS!! ONE BEAUTIFUL PILLOW! All made with Opportunity Quilt blocks and you can win one of them! The member who sells the most tickets (both individually and traveling with the quilt) gets first pick. There will be a drawing for the other two: 1) one group is those who bought \$70 worth of tickets and 2) the other group is individual and/or traveling sales of more than \$70. Come by to pick up your tickets at Opportunity Quilt ticket sales. Call Elaine Pappas-Puckett with questions.



Quilt Show Member Photos

It is time to take member photos for the hanging tags for the quilt show. Each quilt that is submitted has a tag identifying who made it and details about the quilt. This includes a photo of the member who made the quilt. At the February Meeting from 6:30-7:00 and during break Val Hutchins will be taking photos. This is your last chance to have your photo taken.

If you are unable to attend the February meeting please email a photo of yourself, with a quilt in the background if possible, to Val Hutchins at valerie.hutchins@gmail.com on or before February 13th. If you want details or examples feel free to reach out as well.

Quilt Show Acquisitions Drop Off

PROCEDURES AND TURN IN DATES FOR QUILT SHOW ENTRANTS

Procedure: At the time of turn in you will receive a special plastic bag to put each quilt, garment, pillow or purse into. You will also receive a claim check form for each item, an identification label, a commemorative label for you to sew on your quilt after the show and a commemorative pin as a thank you for your participation in this year's show.

Sleeve: All quilts, no matter the size, **must** have a **4 inch wide** sleeve, as we are not allowed to pin anything to the drapes. For larger bed-side quilts or those larger than 70" wide, it would be wonderful if you can have a split sleeve so that we can add an extra chain to hold your quilt at the show. Sleeve instructions are also included in the newsletter.

Quilt Show Entry Drop-Off Times for will be at the home of

Nancy McBride
22751 Via Tercero
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Friday, April 10 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 11 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If these times are not convenient for you, I will also be available anytime the prior week, but please call ahead to schedule a time convenient for both of us.

If you have any questions or need to make other arrangements for a drop-off time, please contact Nancy McBride at (949) 540-4950.

Directions to Nancy's

I-5 to Alicia

Toward Mountains

Pass 6 stop lights

The 7th light should be Trabucco – Turn left

Go to the 1st stop light (Los Alisos) and Turn right

Go to the 1st stop light (Via Noveno) and Turn right

Go to the 3rd street and turn right (only way you can turn)

Street will curve around – at the bottom of the hill you will come to a cross street – you are then right in front of my house. I am the last house on the right. Green house.

Making a Sleeve for Hanging Your Quilt

1. Measure the width of the quilt between the bindings but not including them.
2. Cut a strip of fabric 6-9" wide by this length. If the length requires two strips, join the strips with a ¼" seam allowance; press seam allowances to one side.
3. Hem the short ends of the strip by folding under ½", pressing, then folding and pressing once more. Topstitch close to the edge of the hem.
4. Fold the sleeve in half lengthwise, wrong sides together and press.
5. Bring each cut edge to the center fold and press. These two folds are your sewing guides so press them crisply.
6. Unfold and wrong sides together, sew the length of the sleeve with a ¼" seam allowance. Press this seam open very carefully so that the crisply pressed folds are not ironed out.
7. With the seam allowance against the back of the quilt, center the sleeve and pin the top fold just below the binding.
8. Smooth the sleeve against the back of the quilt and pin at the bottom fold.
9. Using thread to match, blind stitch along both folds and ends of sleeve. To reduce the pull on the back of the quilt, catch some of the batting in the stitches but not the front of the quilt.



Workshops

BCQG Workshops are generally held on the Friday after our monthly Thursday Guild meeting at the Norman P Murray Community Center in Mission Viejo. Registration fee is \$35 for members and non-members. (Non members can only sign up 30 days ahead.) (Annual BCQG membership is only \$40 and members sign up first.)



Our January workshop with Joe Cunningham was a great success. This fun class was Joe's Rock the Block Album Style quilt and was a fast and very creative project that participants enjoyed. We're looking forward to seeing these quilts at Show and Tell.



Coming up in February is Rob Appeal who will be teaching his Double Tumbler Quilt. This promises to be a fun high energy class with a well known YouTube quilter. This quilt is created by using stripe sets and clever cutting. This class is filling up fast so sign up online to secure your place.

Monthly Mini



A big congratulations goes out to Catherine Huebscher, the lucky winner of our January Monthly Mini Raffle. Catherine took home a fabulous hand-dyed silk scarf, beautifully crafted and generously donated by Judi Nagel. Thank you, Judi, for sharing your talent with us!!

Looking ahead, our February Monthly Mini Raffle is right around the corner. This time, you'll have the chance to win an adorable heart-themed patchwork pillow, lovingly made by Holly Batterman. It's perfect for Valentine's Day.

Raffle tickets will be available at the following prices:

- \$1 for a single ticket
- \$5 for six tickets
- \$10 for thirteen tickets

Don't miss your chance to participate and support our guild while possibly taking home a delightful handmade treasure.



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Block Party

Reminder: bring your sampler from last year block party to Jan 8 guild meeting and strut your stuff!

January 2026 takes us to the bow tie block we learned last year (page 7/8) of our pattern Some sew and flip corners. I don't have any suggestions regarding instructions it is pretty straight forward. When assembled it should measure raw edge to raw edge (unfinished) 10.5 inches

I hope as you construct this block/ house you are thinking of who occupies this house in your “ neighborhood”

Orphan Block Challenge 2026

The new year comes with recited commitments of “ this year I will do . . .”

If you have orphan blocks or projects that linger in your space waiting for “SOMEDAY” , the time has come. Bag them up, bring them to guild or sew day, or give me a call for pickup. I delight in finishing up projects. And.... Our Philanthropy recipients thank you.

Sharon Farley
7143765072 text or call
Sharon@surfcitylocals.com



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BORDERS THAT DON'T WAVE BACK

You've pieced together your beautiful quilt top, and now it's time for the final step: adding your borders! To help make sure your quilt lays flat and looks its best, here are some simple tips to attach your borders correctly and avoid those common "wavy" edges.

Let's begin with some friendly tips to ensure that your quilt top lays flat and square before adding your borders. It will make the whole process so much smoother and more fun!

ACCURATE CUTTING - For spot-on cutting that sets you up for quilt success, try a **Quilter's Select Non-Slip Ruler**. You'll feel the difference right from the first slice! This ruler grips your fabric like no other, so no more slipping and sliding that leads to wonky cuts. It makes the whole process way less stressful on your hands, wrists and mind.

QUARTER INCH SEAMS - Take some time to perfect your $\frac{1}{4}$ seaming, it's a game-changer for your quilts. Try nudging your needle position, swapping to a true quarter-inch presser foot, or adding **Cluck Cluck Sew Diagonal Seam Tape** for foolproof guiding. An accurate seam means your blocks fit like puzzle pieces, making assembly a breeze and your quilts super precise every time.

PROPER PRESSING - A nice flat block will make you sew happy! Start by pre-starching your fabric to set those seams flat right from the get-go. Many quilters swear by **Magic Premium Quilting & Crafting Spray** - it boosts cutting and sewing accuracy like a dream. Others love steam, a wool mat and a tailor's clapper for next-level results. Follow your patterns' pressing directions (open or to the side), and for tiny blocks try Maywood **Studio's Seams-Flat Pressing Bar**.

SQUARING UP - After pressing your block, use your square ruler and give it a quick trim to match your pattern's requirement. It's a simple step that makes your blocks go together beautifully and look neat and polished! **Quilter's Select Non-Slip Square Rulers** come in lots of handy sizes, and a 10.5" ruler will cover most of what you need.

CUTTING & JOINING - Cut your borders from the width of fabric - this allows a little extra "give" to ease things in when needed. When joining pieces, sew a straight $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam and press to one side. And skip the diagonal seams for borders; straight joins work best here!

MEASURING - Start with your side borders. Measure both sides and through the center of your quilt. Add up those three measurements, find the average, and cut both side borders to that length. Keep a **Dritz 120" Quilter's Measuring Tape** on hand for accuracy, it really helps!

PINNING & SEWING - Mark the centers on both your quilt sides and the borders. Match up your center marking and the ends, and pin the entire border, easing where needed. (We love **Taylor Seville Magic Pins**) Stitch and press towards the borders. Repeat the same steps for the top and bottom borders; measuring, pinning and pressing as you go. Continue this process for any additional borders, always starting with the sides first. Hint: Resist the urge to go "Higgledy-piggledy" and start stitching without measuring and pinning first—this is the number one cause of wavy borders.

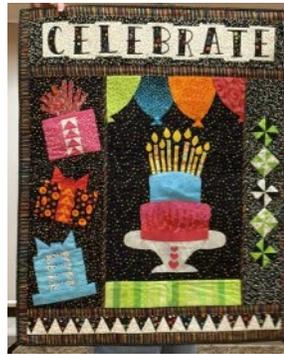
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Show and Tell from January



Val Hutchins



Jean Petersen



Haley



Judi Nagel



Made by Judy Dimmick,
Owned by Mary Kay Fitzpatrick



Anna Ahmed



Judy Karabelnik



Janice Neilson



Jan Hirth



Linda Coll

Things to Do

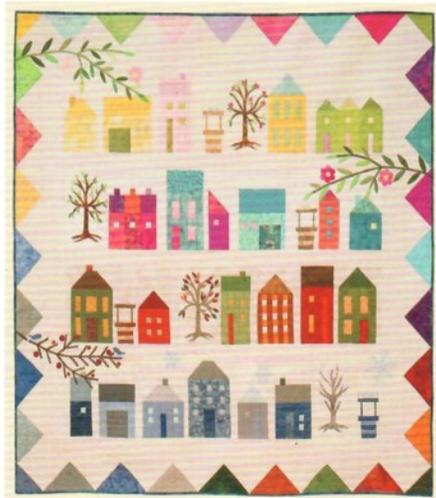
**South Bay
Quilters Guild
2026 Quilt Show**

“Celebrating the Seasons”

**February 14-15, 2026
10 am-4 pm**

**Opportunity Quilt
“Through the Seasons”
Drawing Feb 15th, 4pm**

**Visit Website for Detail
Information**



79" x 78"

Return Address: South Bay Quilters Guild
c/o 15011 Fonthill Ave.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

**Show location:
Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, CA
(Madrona Ave & Torrance Blvd)**

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Visit our website for more information:
www.southbayquiltersguild.org

Admission: \$12
\$2 off admission with this card
Please, no rolling carts or strollers.

Classified Ads

I am cleaning out my quilt room and have a few items I won't be making... I have a few kits from Riley Blake— Quilted Pillow Kits... Please see below. I am asking \$40 each. You can email me at carelynn@me.com to make arrangements.



All Kits are unopened and ready for a new home. :)



Membership Form



BEACH CITIES QUILTERS GUILD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

The information you provide will be used in the Beach Cities Guild directory. A completed membership application must be submitted no later than the December general meeting to be included in the directory for the current membership year. The directory is distributed to guild members and is not made available to other sources.

Name			<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 New Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Renewal Membership # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>If you are renewing your membership, please review your information in the last directory. Include any needed changes below or check the box to indicate that your information is current.</i>			
Address			Date _____
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E-Mail Address			
Home Phone#		Work Phone#	
Cell Phone#		Birthday Month _____ Day _____	
Emergency Contact (if desired)		Emergency Contact Phone Number	

Check Box to indicate that Beach Cities Quilters' Guild has permission to use your photo in hard copy and on-line publications. (for Example use of Show & Tell picture in the newsletter)

- BCQG is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide a creative atmosphere, to share knowledge of methods and techniques, and to encourage each member's growth and talent in the field of quilt making and related subjects.
- Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Norman P. Murray Center, 24932 Veteran's Way, Mission Viejo.
- Social time begins at 6:30 pm with the General Meeting & Program from 7:00 pm to approximately 9:00 pm.
- Dues are payable prior to the start of each membership year, annually from October 1 through September 30.
- Please bring this completed form and your dues (check payable to BCQG) to the Membership Table at the General meeting or mail it to:

Beach Cities Quilters Guild - Membership
P.O. Box 2328
Mission Viejo, CA 92690-2328

Check Box to indicate that you have questions and/or would like to be put in contact with other guild members.