



Stitches in the Sand

March 2026

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

Programs

Our Guest Speaker: Gyleen Fitzgerald

We're thrilled to welcome the incredibly talented Gyleen Fitzgerald to Beach Cities in March 2026! Known for her stunning quilts that artfully blend color, pattern, and texture, Gyleen brings a fresh, contemporary touch to traditional quilting. Her unique approach combines creativity and innovative techniques that make visually complex quilts simple and fun to create.



Gyleen's passion for quilting shines through in every lecture and workshop she leads. She's an award-winning quilter with Best of Show honors and a Gold Medal for her book *Quilts: Unfinished Stories with New Endings*. Many know her from *The Quilt Show* and *Lifetime TV*, where she's shared her love for blending tradition with a modern flair.

She's also the creative mind behind the fabulous *Trash to Treasure Pineapple Quilts*, the *Pineapple Tool* by Gyleen, and a versatile series of polygon rulers—some of which we'll use in class! Explore her tools here: colourfulstitches.com/tools-by-gyleen.html

Originally from Philadelphia, with formative years spent in Taiwan and Japan, Gyleen brings a truly global perspective to her artistry.

Be part of this exciting quilting journey with Gyleen Fitzgerald— where tradition meets innovation, and creativity knows no bounds!

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:

- April: Michelle Trimble
- May: Jenny Lyon
- June: Tiffany Hayes

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
Past President Message	3
February Photos	4
Philanthropy News	6
Ways and Means	6
Quilt Show 2026	7
Quilt Show Boutique	7
Quilt Show Opportunity Tickets	7
Acquisitions Drop Off	8
Making a Sleeve	9
Workshops	10
Sunshine & Shadows	11
Monthly Mini	12
Block Party	13
Featured Advertiser	14
Show & Tell	15
Things to Do	16
Classified Ads	16
Membership Form	17



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/groups/672436387018111>

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

Someone very wise once said “if you try to please everyone, you’ll please no one.” My first instinct as president was to eliminate saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of our meeting. But when I heard some people were unhappy about it, I wavered.

I’m sorry for vacillating on this issue, but you’ll only have me as president for seven more months. During that time, we will NOT be saying the Pledge. It has nothing to do with the creation of quilting. It doesn’t mean I don’t love my country, but we are primarily a social organization that focuses on the art of quilting and there’s no place for it at our meetings.

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, right? That certainly describes the pace the quilt show committee is working to make our Quilt show on April 17 and 18 the best ever. Volunteers are always needed, so please take a moment at our next guild meeting to sign up to help.

This month also brings St. Patrick’s Day and I as a proud half-Irish American made a quilt to celebrate. One side is shamrocks, and the other side is the Irish flag.



Laura Chambers
2025-26 President

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From the Past President

Laura's President Quilt "Beaches"



Each year we present a Quilt to the outgoing President as a Thank You for all she has done.

This year Laura has chosen Beaches as her theme.

If you haven't already stopped by my table to pick up a background block, please stop by next guild meeting and get one. If you cannot attend or if you are on zoom, you may email me your address and I will be happy to mail one to you. My email address is dlwester79@gmail.com.

I love looking at my quilt and seeing all the wonderful block everyone has made for me. Laura will love hers too. Help me make this memorable for Laura.

How to Make a President's Quilt Block

1. Pick up a free 7" background square of fabric (**this is the unfinished block size**) at the President's Quilt table at the Guild Meeting. Fabrics have been preselected from specific colors for the background.
2. Your design **must** fit within the middle of a 5" square. I suggest drawing a 5" square in the middle of the 7" square. Any design outside of that 5" line will not be in the final block. **Important: Do Not trim or square up your block!** This will be done by the committee after all the blocks have been collected.
3. All methods of applique, paper piecing, embroidery etc...are welcome. If you use raw edge applique, please zig-zag the edges down.
4. Embellishments are welcome, just do not attach them to the block. Please put them in a small baggie with your name on it and staple it to the edge of your block.
5. **Sign your block close to the edge of your design**, so that Laura will know who created the block. I will have Pens at the table for anyone needing them. Your signature means so much to the President.
6. **Turn in your block to the President's Quilt Table at the April or May Guild meetings.**

Donna Wester
Past President

February Meeting Photos



More February Meeting Photos



Philanthropy News

139 Quilts were donated by Philanthropy this month. They went to: CHOC, persons in need, Showers of Appreciation, Royal Therapeutic Treatment Center, Priority Center, UCI Oncology - Orange and Laguna Hills/ Irvine, VA Long Beach, Vets in Hospice and others. 35 pillowcases to: CHOC, Project Foster, Royal Therapeutic and and Vitas Hospice. 47 other items including: fleece wraps, dog blankets and pillows, NICU blankets, placemats and table toppers.

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

We have an on going need for baby quilts and are still collecting quilts and pillowcases for camp for children ages 7- 12.

Thanks to our members for the donation of time and talent for Philanthropy.

Ways and Means

Be sure to take a look at the Fabric Sale !

We have a box full of batiks, some panels and we will have 1/4 yard cuts (not fat quarters) on sale for 25 cents.

Plus, the usual large selection of beautiful fabric.

Julie Kemmerer and Marti Ryncarz



Jean Impey
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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

MAY THE LUCK OF THE IRISH BE UPON YOU...on April 18 at the Opportunity Quilt/Patriotic Fabric drawing or at the May Guild meeting. At the May meeting the person who has sold the most tickets (personally and on the road) will get to choose from two bags or a pillow. Each item has a block from the Opportunity Quilt on it. A drawing from the names of those who sold more than \$70 worth of tickets themselves and/or on the Road followed by a drawing from those who bought \$70 worth themselves. The only way to win is to purchase Opportunity Quilt Tickets. Send a check to Elaine Pappas-Puckett to purchase or come by our table.



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

Beach Cities continuing series of exciting workshops in 2026.

Coming up in March is Gyleen Fitzgerald

Gyleen is teaching her machine pieced Elegance quilt, creating intricately pieced hexagons by machine. There are a few places left in this class so sign up online to secure your place. <https://www.colourfulstitches.com/>

Our February workshop was with Rob Appel, who taught his Double Tumbler Quilt. This was a fun enjoyable and informative workshop where students learned Rob's technique for creating the optical illusion of boxes using a tone on tone print and a solid.



February Double Tumbler workshop

Upcoming workshops

April Michelle Trimble - Stunning Improv Starburst <https://quiltingchemistry.com/>

May Jenny Lyon - Julianne Pillow <https://quiltskipper.com/>

Sunshine and Shadows

Elaine Pappas Puckett has a new grandson named Jackson Fletcher Puckett born on January 16th. He is beautiful!

Catherine Huebscher is a first time Oma welcoming Sophie Eloise Huebscher Quintana who arrived Valentine's Day morning.



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- **QUILTWORKS Notions** – A carefully curated collection of quilter's notions featuring Quilter's Select Rulers & Mats, Aurifil Thread, Olfa Rotary Cutters & Blades, Quilter's Dream Batting and more
- Bring your quilts to life! Beginners welcome

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Monthly Mini



A big congratulations goes out to Judy Dimmick, the lucky winner of our February Monthly Mini Raffle. Judy took home an adorable, heart-themed patchwork pillow—beautifully crafted and generously donated by Holly Patterman. We extend a heartfelt thank-you to Holly for sharing her talent and creativity with the guild.

Our March Monthly Mini Raffle is right around the corner, and this month's prize is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. Members will have the chance to win a fantastic handmade cosmetic bag, created by Karen Brewin. Stylish, practical, and one-of-a-kind, this is definitely a "must-have" addition to anyone's collection.

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, support our guild, and possibly take home a delightful handmade treasure.




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Block Party

Dear block party participants for 2026.

Bring in at least 1 block you've made for this year. I need to know who is participating.

Again this year, we will have a drawing of names of those participating to have their quilt longarmed. As of now I have no idea who is building their community!

If you haven't- download the free pattern and print it. Link: <https://windhamfabrics.com/search?options%5Bprefix%5D=last&q=Welcome+Home>

This month I will have some examples of sashing and borders for you to consider. Stirring your creativity.

Note: there will be a special exhibit of the 2025 Block Party quilts at the April quilt show. Be sure to see the creativity we have in our guild.

Now, let's get busy and make our house quilt for this year. We will parade them January 2027. Put that on your calendar.

And..... finally, bring your orphan blocks to either sew day or guild meeting

Cheers

Sharon Farley

Sharon@surfcitylocals.com

714-376-5072



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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.

Announcing **QUILTWORKS NOTIONS** - A carefully curated collection of quilter's notions featuring Quilter's Select Rulers & Mats, Aurifil Thread, Olfa Rotary Cutters & Blades, Quilter's Dream Batting and more. Located at Hathaway Quiltworks, 23011 Moulton Parkway, J-12 Laguna Hills.

Call or Text Laurel - 949-534-2934 hello@hathawayquiltworks.com

Show and Tell from February



Jan Hirth



Jean Petersen



Haley



Michele Carmel



Patt Kopp



Mary Kay Fitzpatrick



Tami Quan



Grace Barnes

Things to Do



Little Red Hen - Flying Geese Quilters Guild

RUMMAGE SALE

Find your next fabric crush at *bargain bin* prices

Monday, May 11, 2026
6 PM – 8:30 PM

Rancho San Joaquin Middle School
4861 Michelson Drive, Irvine 92612

Ready, set, rummage!
Come early — the best bargains go fast!
Bring a friend and double the fun!

- Free Admission •



Classified Ads

I fell in love with Jennifer Sampou's fabrics after taking her workshop here at BCQG. I wanted to make this quilt so bad, I gobbled up the kit and tool in April 2024 with hopes and expectations it would be done, or at least well on it's way to completion by now. Alas, reality sets in and I'm not going to get to this. It's a beautiful collection and would make an amazing quilt. Would anyone else like to make this? Price: \$350
If interested, reach out to imhuebsch@att.net.

The Hills Quilt Kit - Expanded size, by Jennifer Sampou

The Molehills Quilt Pattern and Original size tool by Latifah Saafir.

Included are:

- + all the quilt fabric
- + Quilt Backing - wide cut, large single cut for King Size
- + Pattern and Color Guide
- + Original Molehills Acrylic Template



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.