



# Garden of Quilts

ASHTON GARDENS  
by THANKSGIVING POINT & RILEY BLAKE DESIGNS

## 2024 Presenters

*September 11 - 14 at Ashton Gardens*



# Meet your Presenters



## **Allison Jensen**

Allison Jensen lives in Sacramento, CA with her husband, four sons, and their menagerie of pets. She loves to create just about anything, and finds great joy in colors. She has designed, taught, and adored quilts for 8 years, and loves thinking of new quilt ideas!



## **Amanda Castor**

Amanda is a quilter, designer and lover of fabric. After starting her blog in 2012, her passion for quilting continued to grow into a pattern business that was started in 2015. In addition to running Material Girl Quilts, she is also a fabric designer for Riley Blake Designs. Her style is inspired by traditional quilts with a modern flair. Amanda is passionate about helping to educate and empower others to explore and grow in their quilting journey.



## **Amanda Neiderhauser**

Amanda, aka Jedi Craft Girl, has been quilting for 25 years. She loves loves loves fabric and that's what keeps her quilting. Amanda is a fabric designer for Riley Blake Designs. She writes and publishes quilt patterns and writes for the All People Quilt publications. She has authored the book Playful Precut Quilts and More Playful Precut Quilts by C&T publishing. Amanda has a wide range of interests which are reflected in her fabric designs - most of which include cats.





## **Amber Johnson**

Amber Johnson is a quilt pattern designer, two-time author and fabric designer for Riley Blake Designs!



## **Amy Chappell**

Amy Chappell is a pattern designer, teacher and mom to 6 kids. It was the 6 kids that pushed her into sewing when she needed to figure out something to do that would just. stay. done! During nap times and on the weekends she would sneak away to her sewing room and in those little bits of time she sewed herself back together. Now that the kids are more independent, Amy has turned her attention so sharing her passion for making creativity a priority in the busy lives of women through quick and easy patterns, technique tutorials and live classes.



## **Bev McCullough**

Beverly grew up in a creative family of artists and seamstresses so it is no surprise that she loves to create. She began sewing and doing needlework as a teenager and made her own clothes and room décor even then. That love for sewing and crafting has grown to include quilting, pattern, and fabric designing! Her blog, Flamingo Toes, was born out of a love of sharing those projects. Beverly designs fabric for Riley Blake Designs as well as designing quilt, embroidery, and cross stitch patterns. She is also the author of Retro Stitchery and Make it Mini.



## **Carmen Geddes**

Carmen Geddes brings her love of quilting and people together for a fun day of learning. Enjoy her friendly, low-key approach and her great quilting techniques. She has taught at many quilt shows around the country including Houston Quilt Festival and Road to California. Her quilts have been featured in Fons and Porter Scrappy Quilts and Love of Quilting, Quilter's Newsletter, and McCall's Quilting and Embroidery magazines. She has developed the Tensisters Piping Tool and Tensisters Easy Piecing Grid. She is author and publisher of five companion books, "Ten Quilts for Ten Sisters", "Quilts for Kids", "Seven Brothers Block Party", "Around the Block Quilts", and Heirloom Quilts. She has five children, 13 grandchildren and resides in Spanish Fork, Utah with her husband Patrick.



## Charisma Horton

Charisma Horton is a highly acclaimed and award-winning professional in the world of longarm quilting. With her exceptional skills as a longarm quilter, she has earned a well-deserved reputation as a master of her craft. Not only is Charisma a renowned quilter, but she is also a prolific pattern designer and valued contributor to various magazines within the quilting community.

In the realm of design, Charisma's artistic repertoire knows no bounds. From charming and folksy hand embroidery designs to bold and vibrant modern creations, her portfolio encompasses a diverse range of styles. One of Charisma's unique talents lies in her ability to infuse traditional quilt blocks with a fresh and contemporary appeal, using the power of color to breath new life into traditional designs.

To experience the magic of her designs and immerse yourself in her world of quilting, visit her website at [www.charismascorner.com](http://www.charismascorner.com) and follow her on social media!



## Cindy Cloward

Cindy Cloward is Creative Director/Owner of Riley Blake Designs. Along with her husband, Bret, a talented group of artists and a dedicated staff of employees, she has grown a small family-owned business into one of the leading fabric manufacturers in the quilting and sewing industries. She is passionate about well-designed fabrics and loves to quilt and sew anytime she has a spare moment. Cindy had a previous career as a flight nurse/labor & delivery nurse for nearly a decade. She grew up sewing and has a love for all handmade things. Cindy and Bret's joy is their four children, and beautiful grandchildren. They reside in Alpine, Utah.  
[rileyblakedesigns.com](http://rileyblakedesigns.com) @cindycloward



## Corinne Wells

My name is Corinne Wells, and I'm a fabric designer for Riley Blake. I am the owner and founder of Frannie B Quilt Company. I currently live in Northern Utah with my husband and four teenage(ish) daughters. I began quilting when I had 2 babies at home and needed to keep my mind occupied during the long winters living in the Northeast. I have my local quilt shops to thank for showing me the ropes, providing me with beautiful fabric choices, and saving my sanity when I just needed a minute to myself. Over about a decade, my hobby grew and eventually, I began designing fabric. I'm now a fabric designer for Riley Blake and I absolutely LOVE what I do. I started Frannie B Quilt Company to celebrate and honor my favorite hobby. I named it after my Grandma Frances, a quilter who also studied textile design, and who instilled in me a love of creating beauty and relationships with love.



## Deonn Stott

Deonn's love for quilting began at age eight as she helped tie her very first quilt. She spent many hours in the sewing room with the women in her family, and eventually her own triplet daughters, who have become accomplished quilt makers themselves. As a pattern designer, author, quilt maker and instructor, it is Deonn's personal quest to discover and share time- and budget-saving tips, tricks, and tools that simplify the process of quilt-making. Look for her new book, *Ultimate Binding & Edge-Finishing Guide for Quilting & Sewing*, online or at your local quilt shop.

Find Deonn @quiltsapades and [www.QuiltsapesQS.com](http://www.QuiltsapesQS.com).



## The Doan Girls

Jenny, Natalie and Misty, aka the Doan Girls, are the smart and smiling faces of Missouri Star Quilt Co. These ladies are a powerhouse of creativity and fun, teaching millions of people how to make awesome quilts and projects with more ease and less effort. All life-long sewists, the girls came to quilting as adults and love to encourage other creatives to embrace their interests and try new things. When not sewing or quilting, you will find the girls spending time with their large extended family, trying their hand at endless creative endeavors, enjoying the outdoors, and reading. They each believe that every person has something special to offer and "finished is better than perfect"!



## Dodi Lee Poulsen

I love teaching the art of quilting and for nearly 35 years I have shared this with students throughout the country. I have authored 5 books and have over 85 published patterns. My work has appeared in numerous magazines over the years and was a teacher with Quilt Camp at Sea for seven years. I have designed fabric for Riley Blake Designs and have loved every minute of it. I feel immensely blessed to be a part of this industry and love every minute I get to spend creating. My hope is to inspire others to find their voice through creating.



## Fran Gulick

Fran Gulick was born and raised in Chile, but calls Washington state home. Always a creative at heart, Fran first learned to quilt while pregnant with her oldest son in 2014, but it wasn't until 2017 when she encountered the modern quilting world that she was hooked. Before starting Cotton and Joy, Fran worked 8 years as a web designer and loves happy, bright colors and has a tendency to stay up way too late reading.





## Jen Belnap

I live outside of Houston with my husband and six kids. With a large family and a husband who works a lot of hours, I found quilting to be my creative outlet. Sewing is my sanity! I love the design process and enjoy creating new patterns. I also love the wonderful creative people I have met along this journey. I have had the opportunity to work with amazing people in the quilting industry including collaborating with Jenny Doan on my Baby Alma Quilt Pattern. I LOVE to teach! Teaching is my background and teaching people to quilt is my favorite subject. When I'm not sewing, you will find me planning our next family trip or adventure. We take a quilt with us and take unique and fun quilt pics of the places we travel. Our family motto is "make beautiful memories." And we try to do just that! You can follow my creative journey by following me on my social media channels.

My blog <https://thesmittenchickenblog.wordpress.com>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/thesmittenchicken/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thesmittenchicken>

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.com/thesmittenchicken/>

YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGFehgK\\_9KrBCldxQQ3oZHg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGFehgK_9KrBCldxQQ3oZHg)



## Jill Finley

Jill Finley has been designing quilt patterns for over 25 years. She is the founder and owner of her quilt business, Jillily Studio. She designs and sells quilt fabric, patterns, kits and notions. Her quilt designs depict her own fresh style using great color and texture with many fabrics. She usually adds a little appliqué to soften and finish each design. Her designs have been featured in several magazines including American Patchwork and Quilting, Quilt, Quilter's Home and McCall's Quilting. Jill is also the author of several books on quilting. Jill creates quilt patterns along with kits for many of her designs. She is known for her applique techniques, which give beautiful results even for the beginner.

Jillily Studio produces a popular line of notions, including Appli-Glue and Poke-A-Dots, along with Jill's new template series, Perfect Pieces and Maker Paper. She is a Master Designer for Aurifil Threads, having several signature thread collections. Jill is an Ambassador for BERNINA sewing machines. Teaching and lecturing about her quilt designs and applique method keeps Jill very busy traveling all over the country, and hosting retreats. Creating fabric collections for quilting has been one of Jill's favorite projects. She designs for Riley Blake Fabrics. Jill loves to spend time with her family--working, playing, eating, reading, gardening, sewing, cooking, and learning. She and her husband Randy live in Woodland Hills, Utah. They are the parents of seven children and are blessed with fifteen grandchildren.



## Jennifer Long

I'm Jennifer Long and I am a Riley Blake Designs fabric designer, a quilt & doll pattern writer, a machine embroidery digitizer, and an online educator. I am passionate about all things fabric, imagination, and design. What I love the most about creativity is finding inspiration everywhere and in turn, inspiring others to do the same!



## Josephine Keasler

When Josephine and her husband Charlie moved to Utah in 2007 she was excited to join the quilting community. She has served as an officer of the Utah Quilt Guild in many positions, and in 2021 was honored to receive the Silver Thimble award "for outstanding efforts to encourage, promote, and preserve the art of quilting in Utah." Having made more than 200 quilts in the past seventeen years, she has developed exceptional skills in all areas of quilting, including design, color theory including value, paper piecing, and border options. Josephine has earned and maintains instructor certification in both Judy Niemeyer designs and Laura Heine collage designs. She is one of four authorized teachers in the United States for Jacqueline de Jonge designs. As a result of her talent, expertise, and joy of teaching, she has won numerous quilt awards. She teaches at various venues and is a regular instructor for Empty Spools Seminars at Asilomar. Josephine is consistently praised for her expertise as an instructor. She loves to help quilters at all levels to experience the joy of quilt making.



## **Laura Lindsay Strickland**

Laura Strickland is an art quilter and pattern designer, living on the banks of the Mississippi River in East Moline, Illinois. Her quilt patterns have a Mid-century Modern / Pop Culture aesthetic. She has come to quilting from a formal art background. Her fiber arts instructor at Virginia's Governor's School for the Arts, Lynn Sword, inspired her to pursue a love of where needle and thread meet color and design. Drawing on her education in art history, design principles, and color theory she has chosen cloth as her main medium for expression. She is a teacher by nature. Sewing and fiber arts have been her passion since she was a little girl. She makes portrait art quilts, unique "quilty" objects, and has developed a signature trademarked technique, "Effervescent Applique". She has been featured in multiple national publications/periodicals over the last four years and she's been juried into the Cherrywood Challenge for 4 of the last 5 challenges. Her quilting journey began almost 30 years ago, and she is enjoying the adventure still. She is an active member in two local quilt guilds. She vends at national shows throughout the US. She opened a brick-and-mortar business in the summer of 2023 in LeClaire, Iowa. She is a highly sought after speaker and teacher for guilds throughout the United States. She is currently an Accuquilt Pattern Designer, a Shop Hop Inc. Designer for Regional and State Shop Hop Magazines, partners with Jillian Leitman as the primary brand ambassador for Applipop's, is a certified Annie McHug's dealer and teacher, has partnered with the Mullins at Hotfix to promote their product and create unique specialized laser-cut fusible applique, and is exploring a partnership with Riley Blake to blend her patterns with Riley Blake fabric for lines premiering in 2024. She has formerly served as Bernartex Brand Ambassador, an AdornIt! It Girl, a Fabric Designer for Honest Fabrics, one of Mister Domestic's Master Makers, and an Accuquilt GO! Getter. In May 2023 she was featured on Monday's with Misty at Missouri Star. Her motto is preserve the past and push the boundaries. If you would like to keep in touch you can subscribe to her blog <https://orangeblossomquilt.com/blog> or her website <https://orangeblossomquilt.com/> . She'd love for you to follow her on Facebook at [https:// www.facebook.com/orangeblossomquilt](https://www.facebook.com/orangeblossomquilt) or on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/orangeblossomquilt/>



## **LaVonne Jackson**

I'm LaVonne Jackson, mother of 5 and grandmother of 16. I am the owner of Sew-N-Quilt, my quilt pattern, quilt stamp and template design company. Through the years I have quilted and sewn clothes for my family. When my children were older, I got a degree in architectural drafting, with an emphasis in interior design. I have designed and built many homes. I always got a thrill when the home I designed on paper started to take shape as the walls were framed and lifted. As I started designing more quilts, I used the same drafting program to design quilt stamps and templates. I get the same thrill watching as the quilts I designed on the computer become a real quilt. I have been teaching sewing and quilting for years. I have taught a variety of techniques and have taken some of the techniques and tried to simplify them or find ways to make it easier by designing templates or stamps to assist in the process. Quilting is my obsession.





## Lori Holt

I'm a small town farm girl who spent her childhood playing in the sunshine on tractors and climbing trees. I grew up happily immersed in all things domestic. I'm the middle child of a large family and live closely surrounded by grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. My mom says that I was practically born with a needle in my hand. My earliest memories are of sitting underneath the quilting frames and threading needles for my grandma and great aunts until I eventually grew old enough to make stitches of my own.

As a girl, I spent many happy hours designing and sewing clothes for my dolls, crocheting and doing embroidery. My deep love of all needle art comes from the early influence of my mother and grandmothers, who were my first teachers. Now I teach others to create and I find joy in using my creativity to make beautiful things. I draw inspiration for my designs from the beauty of the earth and from the love of God and family memories. I am drawn to stacks of colorful fabrics, pretty papers, aprons, buttons, embroidery, old dishes, gingham and polka dots, sprinkles and glitter and all things vintage. I am married to my best friend and childhood sweetheart and together we have 3 creative, intelligent children, and a new baby granddaughter. Life is good! I sew, draw, create, decorate and re-decorate on a daily basis. I think of myself as the luckiest girl in the world, because I get to do what I love everyday. I feel blessed to have my own company called, "Bee in my Bonnet," which I began in 1994.

My wish is that my designs in both patterns and fabric, will inspire others to create and will also instill the desire to pass down the valuable lessons of days gone by taught to us by our mothers and grandmothers.



## Melissa Corry

Melissa started quilting as a hobby in 2005 but since starting her blog, Happy Quilting, in 2010 her hobby has turned into a passion. Her passion for quilting has led to creating her own designs that she shares as tutorials, published works, a pattern line, and even her own books. Melissa loves designing and finds inspiration in just about everything and anything. Melissa, her husband and their five children live in Cedar City, Utah. To see more of her daily quilting adventures check out her blog Happy Quilting. ([www.happyquiltingmelissa.com](http://www.happyquiltingmelissa.com))



## Minki Kim

Minki Kim is a fabric and pattern designer with her own whimsical style. As a formally trained sculptor and self-taught sewist, she found that designing fabrics and creating art with fabric and thread were natural steps in her evolution as an artist. Minki discovered sewing as a creative outlet when her children were small. She wanted to capture the beauty of ordinary moments, first with hand embroidery and later recreating them with her sewing machine and fabric—literally drawing with thread. Capturing ordinary moments in beautiful sewing illustrations to make keepsake snapshots of daily life has become her signature style.

The author of *Sew Illustrated*, *Diary in Stitches*, *Zakka from the Heart* and *Zakka Wool Applique* (all by C&T Publishing), Minki has also designed several fabric collections for Riley Blake Designs.



## Paula McKinlay

Paula has been designing, creating, cooking, gardening, knitting, stitching, and sewing for many years...actually... she started with Betsy Wetsy, Barbie, Ken, Midge, and troll dolls. Paula then moved on to designing clothes for herself. Her parents, she is sure, rolled their eyes with some of the outfits Paula created, but they supported her wild ideas...

30 something years ago Paula started piecing quilts...she loves every aspect of quilting except binding...What Paula wants in life is 11 MORE HOURS A DAY...and...WORLD PEACE. Paula is the: wife to 1, mother to 5, mother-in-law to 5, granny to 14. She lives with her best friend in Alpine, Utah...on Apple Tree Drive. Paula says: She Lives a charmed life.

Follow her on Instagram. @pauladmckinlay.....you'll recognize her, she is the one hula-hooping in plastic high heels.



## Raija Salomaa

Raija Salomaa is an award-winning quilter, designer, and instructor. Just like any Finn, Raija was introduced to sewing during her early years in elementary school. But it took until she moved to the States that she saw her first quilt. It was love at first sight! She soon started to share her newfound passion, first with her friends at her dining room table and soon after at various public venues, including quilting cruises. Raija's goal for her students is to have fun, learn a lot, and create memorable keepsakes. Raija has been quilting for over thirty years and designs quilts under her business name Quilters' Treasure Chest. Her designs have appeared in several national quilting magazines. Soon after Raija was introduced to Studio 180 Design's tools she became a Studio 180 Design Certified Instructor. She loves to create unique ways to use these tools and enjoys sharing her tips and tricks with students. Raija's work can be viewed at [www.quilterstreasurechest.com](http://www.quilterstreasurechest.com).



## Shannon Arnstein

Shannon has a book published by Fox Chapel/Landauer Publishing titled "Quilting with Panels and Patchwork," released October 2023. Shannon has also been published in Better Homes and Garden's "Quilts and More" spring edition - January 2020. American Patchwork and Quilting April 2021, Love of Quilting September/October 2021, and McCalls Quilting March/April 2022.

She is highly creative and vibrant and enjoys the colorful world around her! She has a gift for choosing colors, arranging patterns, and designing quilts. She is an engaging public speaker and can lead workshops. She enjoys looking at intricate quilts and then "reconstructing" the quilt in her mind to process how it all came together. Her husband says she has a "puzzle brain." She likes how quilts can be soft and comforting or be used as an art piece to hang on the wall. Shannon feels at peace when she is quilting. All she needs to do is take "needle to fabric," and she is relaxed from all the stresses of life. In 2014, she was hired by RJR Fabrics as a sample maker, which was a springboard for her commercial work.

Shannon loved the fast-paced challenges of commercial work and ensuring patterns and instructions were correct. In addition to RJR Fabrics she worked for Windham Fabrics, FreeSpirit, Michael Miller, and Craftsy/Blueprint. She enjoys seeing her work in print advertising, websites, and social media. Combining all her experience and creative work, she has advanced into a cutting-edge pattern tester and pattern designer.

Shannon is an on-the-go mom who feels privileged and honored to be a part of the quilting world. [www.shannonarnstein.com](http://www.shannonarnstein.com)



## Sherri McConnell

Sherri received her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and did graduate studies in English at UNLV, teaching Freshman Composition courses at the University and Junior College level for ten years. She is married, has four children and six grandchildren and lives in southern Nevada where she spends as much of her time as possible quilting, sewing, and writing about her creative life on her blog: A Quilting Life.

In the early 1990's, encouraged by her grandmother, Sherri began her quilting journey—and she hasn't stopped quilting since. During the summer of 2008, she started her quilting blog which led to her discovery of the amazing on-line community of quilters and makers. She has been publishing her designs in magazines and books since 2011.

She continues to blog at [www.aquiltinglife.com](http://www.aquiltinglife.com) and is also blessed to be able to design fabric for Moda with her daughter Chelsi Stratton; their nineteenth fabric collection together arrives in shops in September 2024.