



Garden of Quilts

ASHTON GARDENS

by THANKSGIVING POINT & RILEY BLAKE DESIGN

2025 Presenters

September 10 - 13 at Ashton Gardens



Meet your Presenters



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 married and has two young-adult children. She has been quilting for about 25 years now. Her grandmother, Delma (whose great-grandchildren called Gigi), taught her how to quilt and is the namesake of her company, Gigi's Thimble. Amber is a blogger, two-time author, teacher, quilt pattern designer, and fabric designer with Riley Blake Designs. She gathers much of her inspiration while walking and hiking in her beautiful hometown of Alpine, Utah - a quaint town nestled in the mountains. You can follow her on Instagram @gigis_thimble.



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.



Amy Smart

Amy Smart is a quilter, author, and the voice behind the blog “Diary of a Quilter” since 2008 where she shares her favorite projects, easy tutorials, and fresh patterns to inspire quilters of all skill levels. Amy’s style blends traditional quilting with a modern twist. She’s written a book, published over 25 patterns, and is a fabric designer for Riley Blake Designs. She loves spreading her passion for quilting and making it accessible to everyone.

She’s married and a mom to 4 (now grown-up) kids. She lives in Utah and her favorite non-quilting hobbies include hiking, traveling and eating great food.



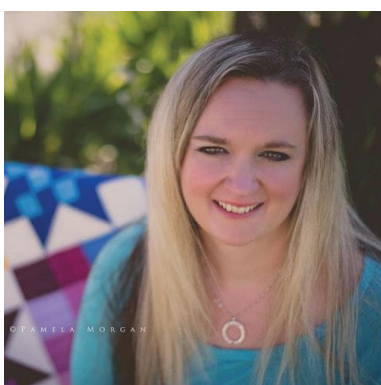
Bev McCullough

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 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 @cindycloward



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 @quiltschapades and www.QuiltscapesQS.com.



Jennifer Long

Hello, I'm Jennifer Long, fabric designer for Riley Blake Designs and founder of Sew A Story. My passion is helping families create meaningful, handmade projects that bring creativity and connection into their homes. As a designer, educator, and mother of four, I understand how special it feels to make something with your hands—and how those creations can become a part of your family's story. Whether it's a quilt that doubles as a source of comfort or a handcrafted doll that inspires play and imagination, I believe in the power of sewing to create lasting memories. With a background in early childhood education, I design projects that are approachable for all skill levels and thoughtfully created to spark joy, nurture creativity, and strengthen family bonds.

Through Sew A Story, I'm here to encourage and guide you every step of the way as you craft meaningful items for the people you love most. When I'm not designing or sewing, you'll find me spending time with my husband and our four children, finding inspiration in the everyday moments we share together. Let's create something beautiful together.



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 quilt making 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 OrangeBlossomQuilt.com/blog or her website OrangeBlossomQuilt.com. She'd love for you to follow her on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/OrangeBlossomQuilt or on Instagram at 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)



Melissa Mortenson

Hi, I'm Melissa Mortenson, a blogger, designer, and content creator. I am the Founder and Editor of the Polka Dot Chair website, where I'd love to invite you to "pull up a chair" and create something you will love! The Polka Dot Chair has been sharing fresh and creative sewing, quilting, and craft ideas with readers since 2008. My first fabric collection, "Derby Style," debuted in January 2015 through Riley Blake Designs; additional fabric collections have followed it in subsequent years. I love to add a touch of "whimsy" to all of my sewing patterns and fabric collections. Stop by sometime and say "hello"!

You can find me on Instagram and YouTube at [@polkadotchair](https://www.instagram.com/polkadotchair) and at www.polkadotchair.com, shop.polkadotchair.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.



Veruschka Zarate

Veruschka Zarate, of Pride & Joy Quilting, is an Accomplished, Award-Winning Quilt Maker and Pattern Designer, specializing in the technique of Foundation Paper Piecing. She is a BERNINA and Handi Quilter Ambassador and recently released a New Thread Collection with WonderFil Specialty Threads. She has been Faculty for many Quilt Conventions such as: The Modern Quilt Guild's QuiltCon, Road to California Quilt Show, Empty Spools Seminar, The French International Thread Arts Convention, BERNINA Academy in Australia and New Zealand's Quilt Symposium, to name a few.

Her Quilts have received several awards, including: Best of Show QuiltCon 2025, The National Association of Certified Quilt Judge's Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Quilting, QuiltCon's First Place in Piecing, and QuiltCon's People's Choice. Veruschka has been featured in numerous Magazines and Podcasts such as Art Quilting Studio Magazine, American Patchwork and Quilting, Curated Quilts, Quilting Love Magazine, Fons & Porters & McCalls Quilt & Tell. She currently presents to Quilting Guilds around the world and offers Live and Virtual workshops to Quilt Guilds on Foundation Paper Piecing.

A California girl through and through, Veruschka began learning traditional piecing and quilting techniques in 2016. After falling in love with the technique of Foundation Paper Piecing, Veruschka set out to create her own designs focused on subjects that inspire joy, vibrancy, empowerment, and encouragement. Her greatest achievement, however, has been mothering and raising her two young boys alongside her husband of over 20 years.

For a real update on Veruschka's Projects, please follow her on Instagram and Facebook at Pride & Joy Quilting.



Vicki McCarty

Vicki McCarty learned to quilt from her grandmother over 40 years ago in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. In 1998, she began teaching quilting classes for Community Education and grew a small quilting community in Eastern Kentucky. In 2000, she opened Calico Patch Quilt Shop and continued to teach sewing, quilting, and embroidery as well as designing quilts for classes, shop hops, and retreats. In 2015, she introduced Calico Patch Designs nationwide. She has since lectured and taught at quilt shows and guilds across the country.

Vicki's designs have been published in American Patchwork & Quilting, American Quilter, Primitive Quilts & Projects, Quilt Sampler, and Simply Vintage magazines. In 2018, she began designing fabric, and in 2022, she collaborated with WonderFil to design a primitive pallet thread line. In 2024, Vicki joined Riley Blake with her new Stitcher's Flannel.

Vicki's style can be defined as Refined Traditional, taking the complications out of traditional and brightening up the primitive. Vicki samples elements from each to create a fresh feel. She loves to mix wool appliqué with traditional cotton and flannel backgrounds to make blocks with quick and practical methods.