

CAMARILLO QUILTERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 44 ISSUE 7

December / January 2025-2026



OUR CO-PRESIDENTS



Wendy VanLoo and Shayne Liess

Dear Camarillo Quilters Association Family,

Christmas approaches and our year draws to a close. As we begin to turn the page toward 2026, Wendy and I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude, pride, and genuine joy on this past year with the guild. This year has been extraordinary for our guild: not because of any single event or achievement, but because of you, our members, who have continued to bring creativity, kindness, and community into every corner of our shared spaces.

From vibrant expressions of support for our show and tells, the enthusiasm and collective creativity brought to our workshops, from our philanthropy quilts that have touched lives to the joy and smiles we exchange at our retreats, 2025 has been a year shaped by your hands

and hearts. Every block stitched, every bit of advice shared, every warm welcome given to a new member have all added another thread to the beautiful tapestry of tradition and collective knowledge that is our guild.

We are endlessly grateful for your enthusiasm, your willingness to volunteer, and the spirit of camaraderie that defines CQA. It is truly an honor to serve as your Co-Presidents and witness the way this community continues to uplift and inspire one another.

As we look ahead to 2026, we feel a deep sense of excitement. We have a wonderful slate of programs, speakers, and events planned. These are all opportunities to learn new techniques, explore fresh styles, and keep growing together. But more than anything, we look forward to the simple magic that happens whenever our guild comes together: the sparks of creativity, the shared joy of making, and the friendships that continue to flourish.

Thank you for making this past year one filled with connection, imagination, and warmth. We hope the holiday season brings peace and inspiration to you and your loved ones, and we can't wait to see what we will create together in the new year.

With heartfelt appreciation and optimism,

Shayne and Wendy, Co-Presidents, CQA



The Night before Christmas • Sharon Norbutas



We are halfway through the BOM/MOMs. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far. I hope you have enjoyed my ideas and hopefully learned some new techniques. If you haven't made one yet, there is still time! You don't have to do them in order, and you don't have to do them all.

The links for each block can be found here:

<https://camarilloquilters.com/blocks/>

You can also see the BOM Gallery of what everyone has made [here](#):

<https://camarilloquilters.com/bom-2025-2026/>

DIRECTIONS for BOM PARTICIPATION:

For every block you complete and show me, you will receive a ticket to win one of three \$60.00 gift certificates from a local quilt shop. These will be drawn at the June 2026 meeting.

You could win by creating just ONE block!

Wooden "Mini Quilt" stands are available for purchase from Jan Hunter at the membership table. They are \$10 each. These were custom crafted by Jan's husband just for CQA.

Next month, we will be using one of your 12" orphan blocks for a fun MOM project, A Block in a Clock. Instructions will be available in early December.

Contact me with any questions. (805) 212-0648 or Tedi.Vta@gmail.com



October Harvest - MOM



November/December - Snowflake Crumb MOM



Upcoming - Block in a Clock MOM



New Members

By Jan Hunter

We are delighted to announce we have NEW MEMBERS for October and November. Thank you for joining the wonderful world of CQA!!

Julie Hobbins - Ojai

Jill Gregory - Oxnard

Shan Anderson - Pt. Hueneme

Suzanne Pipitone - Ventura

Rosemary Lippert - Oxnard



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COMFORT GIVERS

BY Pamuela "Uela" Hodson

Comfort Givers has been busy collecting completed quilts for our giveaway AT THE DECEMBER MEETING. Thank you everyone for all of the wonderful work you do for us.

Small Groups

By Jodie Solorio, Chairperson

Our small groups are an added benefit of our CQA membership. It's a wonderful way to get to know other quilters and to stitch outside of your home. Please go to our website to find the full list of small groups:

<https://camarilloquilters.com/small-groups/>

There's something for everyone. You can always form your own group by contacting me, Jodie Solorio. I'm in the membership roster. Text or email is best. Happy stitching my friends!

WAYS & MEANS

By Holly Winston, Chairperson

Attention Guild Members!

Ways and Means is going to be having the Holiday Boutique at the December meeting again instead of the monthly raffle. We will have all kinds of crafty and sewing items.

We are alerting all CQA members that if you have any donations after the November meeting, please, reach out to me directly (see my contact information in the Directory) and we can make arrangements to get the items from you. Thank you, Holly

The CQA Pizza Box Challenge

By Patrice Lambourne

NO PIZZA BOX EXCHANGE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING!

Contact Patrice at Patrice4CQA@yahoo.com

Membership Hospitality



Stacey Benghiat, Chairperson



(L to R))Holly Winston (Ways and Means) & Stacey Benghiat (Hospitality) and appreciative member

Thank you Stacey Benghiat! Stacey stepped up to chair the "Membership Hospitality" Corner and has brought her talent and skills to organize the coffee and sweets (baked by members who sign up to bring goodies). As a reminder, if you are participating in the Potluck after the Comfort Givers event: A-L brings Savory and M-Z brings sweets. Stacey requested volunteers at December meeting to help decorate tables. She will be at the room between 8:00 and 8:30. If you signed up we will see you there and if you are there and can lend a hand, the more the merrier!

Quilting Facts

Did You Know?



If you find yourself with a broken/cracked acrylic ruler try what my RC airplane building husband recommended ...Clear boxing tape. I spent a lot of time searching the web. Suggestions included acrylic nail glue, among other glues and my research concurred with, "Clear Boxing tape". Not being a super fan of glue in general, I carefully laid out the ruler on a flat surface and placed the clear boxing tape over the break on both sides and trimmed the edges.. What the heck...the worst scenario would be to pull off the tape. The result: a firm and surprisingly stable patch. *Barbara MacDonald, Editor*

LECTURE AND PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR 2026



Copies of the annual calendar card are available at all monthly meetings. (thank you to Joey Strait for doing that for us). You can also go to to view programs/workshops on our website at:

<https://camarilloquilters.com/program>
<https://camarilloquilters.com/workshops/>



Projects completed at the Fabric Scrap Ornaments Workshop on the 12th of November.

PROGRAMS

JOEY STRAIT- SPEAKER CONTRACTS



UPCOMING LECTURES Calendar

Dec 10th

Comfort Givers Presentation; Holiday Boutique; Savory & Sweet Pot Luck; A-L, Savory and M-Z, Sweet.

No Workshop

January 13th: Kitty Oliver, You be the Judge

No Workshop

February 10th: Rob Appel, Rob Appel Designs

February 11th: Workshop: Scrapmasters Quilt

WORKSHOPS

VANESSA BUESCHER-WORKSHOPS



Registering for a workshop can be accomplished in person at a general meeting or on line at:

[Camarillo Quilt Association](#)

Workshops are \$45.00 for members and \$55 for non-members*.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS Calendar

February 11th: Rob Appel; Scrapmasters Quilt

*Registration for the workshop will be open at the December general meeting. Registration "on line" will open the afternoon of Dec. 9th. *The fee for this workshop will be \$55.00/members and \$65.00/non-members.*

April 15th: Anne Sonner; Sweatshirt Jacket

Registration To Be Announced

May 13th: Linda Sullivan: Strippin' & Stichin'

Registration To Be Announced



So Cute!



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TRAVEL RETREATS



THE BEST!

CAMARILLO QUILT GUILD

YOUR TRAVEL PALS

Kathy Antrobus

kathy_anthrobus@yahoo.com

805/827-3499

Rosemary Tobin

Rosemary.tobin@yahoo.com

818/631-5544

WE HAVE 3
UPCOMING 2026 RETREATS



HOFFMAN FABRICS AND M & L FABRICS BUS TRIP (Bus trip sponsored Oxnard Adult Education) MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Cost: \$60.00 payable by check or Zelle

SIGN UP at the December CQA meeting.

Arrive at Oxnard Adult Education School before 7:00 am.

Bus leaves at 7:00 am and returns to the school by 5:00 pm

More information will be provided when you sign up in December.

SAVE THE DATE



STAY HOME RETREAT AT POINSETTA PAVILION, VENTURA

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY,

JUNE 15TH – 17TH, 2026

More information and sign-up at the January CQA meeting

SAVE THE DATES



OLD TOWN QUILT SHOP, ORCUTT

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY,

AUGUST 28TH – 30TH, 2026

More information and sign-up at the January CQA meeting

Call Kathy or Rosemary with questions



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2025 - 2026 Board Members



OUR STALWART VOLUNTEERS

Presidents:	Wendy VanLoo
VP:	Shayne Liess
Secretary:	Rose Gamboa
Treasurer:	Barbara Witman
Directors:	Adriana van der Graff
Membership:	Jan Hunter & Pat Hibner
Speaker Contracts:	Joey Strait
Speaker Hospitality:	Diana Fussell
Workshops:	Vanessa Buescher
Ways and Means:	Holly Winston

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Block of the Month:	Tedi Patterson
Comfort Givers:	Pamuel Hodson
Facilities:	Jonal Beck
Member Hospitality:	Stacy Benghiat
Communications:	Jane Osbourne
Ways and Means:	Holly Winston & Team
Storage Unit:	Pamuela Hodson
Library:	Lisa Gorski
Small Groups:	Jodie Solorio
Travel:	Rosemary Tobin & Kathy Antrobus
Newsletter:	Barbara MacDonald
Quilt Shows/Events	Vacant
Website:	Joey Strait/Jennifer Rapacki
UFO Challenge	Vacant
Zoom Guru:	Debbie Carr
Social Media:	Pam Dransfeldt (FB) Paula Hoffman (IG)

A Big thank you to all our volunteers!

We still have two vacancies on our board.

- (1) Quilt Show/Events
- (2) UFO Challenge

Contact our President(s) if interested!



Local Quilt

Shops

(LQS)



Fabric Shoppe

642 Las Posas Road, Camarillo
805 383-7183

Website: <https://www.afabricshoppe.com/>

Fabric Town USA

2686 E. Main St. Ventura
(805) 643- 3434

Website: <https://www.fabrictownusa.net/>

Super Buzzy

1794 E Main St. Ventura
(805) 643-4143
Website: <https://www.superbuzzy.com/contact.htm>

Cotton and Chocolate Quilt Co.

380 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks
(805) 371-3042
Website: <https://www.cottonandchocolate.com/>

Quilty Pleasures

1555 Simi Town Center Way, Unit 165
(805) 581-1577 Simi Valley
Website: <https://www.quiltypleasuresimivalley.com/>

Roxanne's A Wish and A Dream

919 Maple Ave. Carpinteria
(805) 566-1250
Website: <https://www.roxannequilts.com/>

Grant House Sewing Center

336 E Cota St. Santa Barbara
(805) 962-0929
Website: <https://havefunsewing.com/?srsltid=AfmBOooGUYx77StgBiKb-76sw58gK-DUElogLmzAAzv8PFO0kQAAz>

Quilt Emporium

4918 Topanga Canyon Blvd Woodland Hills CA
(818)704-8238
Website: <https://www.quiltemporium.com/>

Modern Quilt Company

Moved...I could not find new address. Call them first..
Ventura CA
(818)292-4405
Website: <https://modernquiltco.com/>



Support our LQSs

We are so fortunate to have local and in person access to businesses like these so we can pet fabric. Nothing beats being able to visit these shops and ponder our next purchases in person. Several support our guild by donating the very coveted Fabric Store Gift Certificates for our Ways and Means Raffles every month that we all vie for (at least I do LOL.).

WHO'S WHO



WHO'S WHO



by
SHIRLEY BERTOLINO

I requested that Shirley Bertolino consider being our featured quilter in an upcoming newsletter. She graciously agreed and sent me a synopsis of, as she put it, "Some information about my quilting interest". My thank you to Shirley for accommodating my request.

Shirley comes from a long line of quilters. She grew up on a farm in Illinois with quilts on the beds. Both Shirley's paternal great grandmother and her maternal great grandmother were quilt makers. So being a maker must have been in her genes. Now Nadia Mueting, Shirley's granddaughter is following in Shirley's steps and is a member of CQA. Shirley studied for four semesters under Carrie Arnold in a Quilt Making Program through the Ventura Unified Adult Education Program during the Bi-centennial years.

Sharon Norbutas extended an invitation to Shirley to share her VC Textile class final exam research paper on "Batting" as a lecturer at a CQA meeting. Sharon then encouraged Shirley to join the Camarillo Quilters Association and also, introduced her to the NQA, National Quilting Association.

Shirley writes:

I wanted an inexpensive "at home" hobby to do in the evenings while my VC instructor husband corrected homework and prepared exams. Gradually, I realized I should make some money to support this, "increasing in cost" pastime. With that in mind I asked myself if I might learn to appraise or judge quilts. I set out to take a two-day appraisal course in Lincoln, Nebraska and the NQA three-day judging course in Charleston, West Virginia. One task is solitary with legal considerations. The other is social with a sharing of the responsibility. After several apprenticeship experiences and completing the written test, I passed the NQA oral and demonstration examinations in June of 1995 in Riverside, California.

Judging opportunities came in various forms through the following years. 4-H (twice); Ojai and Santa Paula Shows (5 shows); County Fair (14 events); State Fair (5 events); Guild Shows (20 total); 11 guilds in California plus Omaha and San

Antonio); Pacific International Quilt Festival (3 events); National Quilting Association (1); Road to California (1); Hoffman Challenge (1).

Teaching and lecturing came my way. I taught two classes on judging. I lectured seven times on judging. I wrote a manual on setting up the room and judging day protocol. I was "Show Judging Chairperson" for six different sponsors. I was Chairperson of the NQA Master Quilt Program for two years.

Shirley remembers several unique experiences:

The first time quilts were judged for the Road to California was in 1996. I was asked to aide. At that time Anita Shackelford (Head Judge), John Flynn (the first time he had judged), and Paula Nadelstern (was unable to judge due to a blizzard in New York). Quilts were delivered at 9 AM by the "Mail To" receiving volunteer. Quilts were "naked", that is, no protective outer casing, and they were stacked on the soiled carpeting of the hotel luggage carts. There were no tables in the judging room, so quilts were stacked on the floor along one wall. There was no paperwork and only two of us "aides". Anita took charge and started by ordering tables. We held up each opened quilt and she made a decision as to what category it should be placed into. John would carry each quilt to its designated category stack. There were no scribes. Anita and John judged each category and she also documented the award placements. The other aide and I hustled to get each entry open for them to study and then we folded, moving on to the now available tables.

Another experience was being the only judge for a mountain guild's "first show to be judged". It was August and the Christmas tree was still up in the corner of my living room. I had quilts laid out on the living room carpet for judging and relied on my husband as the only aide.

Once, I was on the verification team for an NQA Show in Indiana. The shipping boxes were delivered safely to us. The night before judging the boxes of quilt entries had been sequestered in a truck on a farm driveway. The farm dog was barking so intensely, the Show Judging Chairman's husband got up to check out the ruckus. An offering of meat from the kitchen drew the dog to the porch and a skunk took his time to wander out from under the truck.

One less fortunate memory was tripping off the concrete curb at 8AM as I hurriedly walked to the "Road to California" judging occurring in another building. I sustained a rather painful injury to my hip. By mid-evening I had to judge...sitting down. The other 2 judges were very gracious.

Another experience was at the NQA Show in Reno Nevada. The judging was done in a 2nd floor room in a casino. All four walls were covered floor to ceiling with mirrors. We three judges focused 100% on the judging table as the movement of 16 aides were mirrored by 4 walls. It was very distracting.

Question: "Did I earn enough to support my quilt making hobby"?

Answer: "The contract fee, all travel expenses, hotel costs and one day of meals helped. However, new classes, vendor shopping, and discovery of ALL THOSE BOOKS, made me glad my husband kept correcting homework and preparing exams.



We still have two vacancies on our board.

- (1) Quilt Show/Events
- (2) UFO Challenge.

Please contact our presidents if you are interested
Chairmanships can be Co-chaired. So grab a buddy and
say yes.

LIBRARY

LISA GORSKI, Chairwoman



Lisa is busy with her team and volunteers inventorying the Library crates. We have a very vast and valuable collection of books we can check out and return. Members can also volunteer to babysit a crate by taking it home after a meeting and return it the next meeting. Your Prize? A raffle ticket and a month with books the topic of your choice! Lisa also brings us news from Creation Station and a peek at the in shop contest of making "aprons" for next year's Shop Hop event.



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Crows are such rascals!



Kim Brownell's Truck Show was amazing at the November meeting. This is the Editor's pick of favorites from Kim Brownell's Trunk Show.


MEMBER RECIPE


Submitted by Barbara Witman

My family always loved this recipe before my husband had to go gluten free. Anyway, it's simple and good to eat!

Baked Ravioli

1 package frozen ravioli

1 pound ground turkey

1 jar pasta sauce

1 1/2 cups shredded Mozzarella cheese

Brown turkey and drain. In 11x7x2-inch baking pan, layer 1 cup pasta sauce, half of frozen ravioli, half of turkey, and half of cheese. Repeat layering with 1 cup sauce and remaining pasta and turkey. Top with remaining pasta sauce. Bake uncovered at 425 degrees for 30 minutes. Top with remaining cheese.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:



The holidays are fast upon us. We will have our Comfort Givers Giveaway to local charities and Fingerfood potluck at our next general meeting December 9th. Please enjoy your family and friends as we wind down the year with feasts and fun! Every time I write this Newsletter I am amazed by all the hands that it has taken both past and present to make this such a successful organization. For those who stepped up to say yes to CQA volunteer positions and have busy lives and to those who are busy and possibly would consider saying yes in some way or another don't be afraid. There is always someone who will step up and lend you a hand when you ask. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Take care everyone!

Editor, Barbara MacDonald

Next issue: February/March

Thank you to Sharon Norbutas for giving permission to include blocks from her creation "The Night before Christmas"

 **DUE TO THE SIZE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IT WAS DIVIDED INTO A PART II. TO SEE MORE GREAT PICTURES OF OUR SHOW'N'TELL GO TO PART II.**