

# 2025 Guild Programs

## January Zoom

### Allie McCathren

<https://exhaustedoctopus.com/>  
Instagram @exhaustedoctopus  
[alliemccathren@gmail.com](mailto:alliemccathren@gmail.com)



Allie McCathren is an artist with a background in marine biology. She lives in Houston, TX with her three sons. Her love of science and nature tends to find its way into her work, whether she intends it or not.

Allie works primarily with fabric and thread, but is also a painter, working with acrylics and watercolors. She uses fabric as if it were paint, working with color arrangement and texture to create her art quilts. Allie is a modern quilter who uses a lot of improv techniques in her work. She teaches online classes on various techniques, including her

### Lecture: approx 45 minutes - 1 hour Fabric “Painting” with Scraps

Allie is a quilter who loves working with scraps of fabrics that may not typically be thought to work together. As someone that saves every scrap, she has learned how to look at fabric as color, as a painter looks at paint.

It can be difficult to figure out how to use scraps efficiently, especially if they don't seem to “work” together. In this lecture, Allie guides you through her process of organization and usage of scraps so that you may learn to look at fabric in a new way.



## February Zoom

### Rebecca Silbaugh

<http://rubybluequilts.blogspot.com/>

Ruby Blue quilting Studio began with quilt patterns but now offers custom longarm quilting. She will be talking



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about her journey, prepping quilts for quilting and her process in relation to quilting those beautiful quilt tops! Bring your questions that you have wanted to ask her!!

### March

Business meeting in person along with some fun and games....yeah!!!

### April

#### **Sara Guerrero owner of Our Crafty Life**

Trunk Show with her own patterns with items for sale  
Shop address is at 12721 Wolf Road, Geneseo, Illinois 61254  
<https://ourcraftylife365.com/>

### May

#### **Theresa Benson (@theaiquilter)**

<https://theaiquilter.com/>  
Instagram @theaiquilter

Theresa Benson (@theaiquilter) is not just an award-winning quilter; she's a modern-day Renaissance woman. With a degree in Electrical Engineering and a deep understanding of artificial intelligence, Theresa has a knack for making the complex seem simple and the traditional seem revolutionary.

Imagine a world where quilting isn't just a craft but a canvas for cutting-edge innovation. That's where Theresa thrives. Her workshops are a fusion of art and technology, where quilters of all levels discover that color theory and AI can go hand in hand. Whether she's unraveling the mysteries of tech for the quilting community or sharing her passion for fabrics and patterns, Theresa's enthusiasm is infectious.

Join her vibrant community on Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook, and see how she's transforming the quilting world one stitch at a time. Where tradition meets innovation, Theresa ensures every quilter becomes an artist in the digital age.



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## **Lecture: When Technology Meets Tradition**

Step into the world of Quilting in the Digital Age: When Technology Meets Tradition with me, Theresa Benson. She brings together her love for quilting and her background in electrical engineering (yes, you read that right) to show how tech and tradition don't just coexist – they enhance each other in today's quilting landscape.

In this lecture, she will share the personal journey that took her from her first emotional sewing project to embracing tech that makes quilting more accessible, fun, and dare say, revolutionary. We'll talk about everything from the joy of blending fabrics to the surprising ways AI and digital tools are shaping the future of quilting, all while staying true to the heart of the craft.

You'll get real-world examples of how technology is transforming quilting, but don't worry –it's all delivered in an approachable way that'll have you excited to see what's possible. Whether you're a tech newbie or a quilting pro, she guarantees you'll walk away feeling inspired and ready to dive into the future of your quilting journey.

Don't miss this chance to discover how innovation and inspiration can work hand-in-hand to push your quilting—and creativity—further than you thought possible!

## **June**

### **Judy Bender**

#### **Lecture: Thread Painting (meeting on Friday 6/13/25 with class on Saturday 6/14/25 - more details to come)**

<https://www.judybeezquilting.com/>

Judy is a pattern designer, quilting teacher, and longarm quilter. She is located in a northwest suburb of Chicago, Illinois. Judy teaches classes such as Bender Bits Applique, Quilting with Color, Bargello and Landscape Quilts. Judy will be talking thread painting. Thread painting can create depth, highlights and punch up the detail in our quilting to resemble painted brush strokes. With a lecture on Friday night and then hands on time on Saturday to try out some hopefully new to you thread painting techniques.

## **July**

Summer Picnic!



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### August

Quilts of Valor



*Quilts of Valor®*  
*Quilts = Healing!*

### September

School is in session...the fun kind! We will have 3-5 skill building stations snacks and prizes.

A possible sew day with Stripology demos - you will be amazed at everything you can do with the GE Designs Stripology Ruler you have hanging on your wall!!

### October

#### Connie Martin

<https://ilhumanities.org/speakers/connie-martin>

<https://www.facebook.com/connectconniesquilts>

<https://www.facebook.com/consjoy.martin>

<https://www.instagram.com/conniemartinpcwarquilts/>

Connie Martin, MA, is a retired teacher and popular veteran fitness instructor. As a Road Scholar, she provides historical education through engaging live presentations to create awareness, growth, and inspiration for Illinois communities.

## Pre-Civil War Quilts: Secret Codes to Freedom on the Underground Railroad

Join Connie as she tells the stories passed down to her great-grandmother Lizzie of how her family survived the antebellum period through trials and tribulations, and how they used quilts that contained hidden codes and secret messages to assist abolitionists—white and black—to guide enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad to Canada.

During this presentation, Connie shares eighteen different quilt patterns in replica quilts and refers to a book her mother, Dr. Clarice Boswell, wrote about their family called

[Lizzie's Story: A Slave Family's Journey to Freedom.](#)

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## November

Fun and games and quick holiday makes for family and friends

## December

Holiday Party!

