



Cacia Orser

9-9-99 was an auspicious date. Cacia found 18 hand pieced Dresden plates in an antique store. They spoke to her. She bought them, and a book on quilting, and made her first quilt. In 2000 she bought a summer home in Franklin, NC, joined a quilt guild and her quilting education took off.

In 2006, she began working with Deb Heatherly at her quilt shop, Deb's Cats N Quilts, in Franklin. When Deb invented 3 quilting rulers, Cacia hit the road demonstrating them at various shops and quilt shows. In 2015 Creative Grids bought the rights to these rulers. Cacia began accompanying Deb as they traveled the country, including several International Quilt Markets in Houston, to demo the tools and teach Deb's techniques.

Cacia has served as a pattern tester for Deb and has personally pieced quilts that have been published in all 5 of Deb's books. She travels with an extensive trunk show of quilts, all from Deb's books and patterns. She conducts classes and workshops teaching the use of Deb's Cat's Cradle, Strippy Star, Turbo 4 Patch and Flying Geese rulers.

In recognition of her knowledge, she has been asked to judge several quilt shows.

Cacia was born in Huntington, West Virginia. She graduated from high school in Chillicothe Ohio before moving on to attend Wesleyan College and ultimately receive a degree in government and public administration from American University. For most of her working years, she was a Human Resources Officer for the State of Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services. Cacia and her husband, Rick, have been married for 35 years. No children, pets or even houseplants, but plenty of beautiful quilts.

Cacia winters in Fort Myers, FL where she teaches at Quilt Lovers Hangout, and returns for summers in Franklin, NC.

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Gail Berry-Graham

For a long while, Gail searched for her creative outlet. Dabbling in lots of crafts but never finding that right fit until in her 40s, she discovered quilting. She purchased a small wall hanging kit and never looked back.

When her husband took an interest in her hobby and introduced machine embroidery into their lives, it wasn't long before an embroidery machine and an HQ Avante longarm were added to the studio. Gail is now an embroidery software specialist and proficient with the HQ Pro-Stitcher. She has fallen in Love with both Art & Stitch and the newest release of Quilt Pro Systems. All of this software provides an opportunity for creativity even when she's not in her studio. In addition to machine embroidery and computerized quilting, Gail also loves rulers, die cuts and other time-saving tools used in the quilt piecing process. Recently Gail sold her faithful Avante and upgraded to the Amara giving her lots of new great features.

As a professional HandiQuilter Educator, Gail is always busy designing classes to offer education and support, sharing the knowledge she continually gains from her own artistic pursuits. A very creative and expressive quilter, Gail is active with her local guild and her quilting has taken off! She considers it an honor to quilt the work of another quilter.

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Melissa Kruschwitz

Owner, MK Quilts

I have sewing since the days of High School Home Economics class. However, it was in January of 1995 when my sewing turned to quilting. My mom, a quilter too, came to FL for a visit, said let's make a quilt this weekend, and the rest as they say is history.

By 2008, I had been sending my quilts out to be longarmed. And then I got the idea. "I think I could do this".

Then this string of events: A local quilt show happening at the time, a Handi Quilter retailer vending at said show, and a call to my husband which changed everything. His end of the call: "just buy the thing". (Okay, there may have been another word between "the" and "thing"). And since that date, history is still unfolding on my quilting journey.

In 2015, Handi Quilter introduced an update to their Pro-Stitcher, the software that is an add on to any of their longarm quilting machines, and a lightning bolt struck. The use of simulation has absolutely transformed the way I quilt in my studio and has made it possible for me to teach my love of Pro-Stitcher, with my special focus on simulation, both online and around the country. Showing other PS owners how to do what I do has become a passion of mine.

In 2016, my husband and I decided to make MK Quilts a family business when we became Handi Quilter Authorized Retailers. Paul now handles Sales, Service and the Tech side of the house, making it possible for me to continue to do what I love. Quilt and teach and make people happy with my love of quilting. Best job I've ever had.

MK Quilts is located in Palm Harbor, FL

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