



Phyllis Leavitt McCalla

Fiber Artist, Quilt Instructor

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**Retired from UC Davis, former
President of UC Davis Retiree's
Association, President of
International House-Davis**

Bio

Phyllis lives in Dixon, California with her husband Alex McCalla and has been interested in textiles since she was a young girl. Phyllis learned to sew under the direction of her grandmother, Effie Thompson and was always fascinated by the quilts her grandmother made. At the age of 22, Phyllis made two appliquéd quilts for her two daughters, Tamara and Traciie, under the guidance of her grandmother.

Phyllis began making pieced quilts in 2000 for her adult children and grandchildren after being inspired by viewing her sister's trunk show. To improve her quilting skills Phyllis took a beginning quilt class and increased her quilting skills by attending several quilt classes from local quilters. Instructors that peaked Phyllis' interest include: Esterita Austin, Melinda Bula, Cynthia Corbin, Rami Kim, Don Linn, Mac McNamara, and Pearl P. Pereira.

Phyllis began teaching quilting classes in 2006. She currently meets with four quilting friends to construct award winning quilts. Best Group Quilt, 2017 Road to California; Best of Show, 2016 River City Quilters Guild; Best of Show, 2015 California State Fair; as well as first place awards on several other quilts from various other quilt shows including Pacific International Quilt Festival and Best of the Valley Quilt Show.

Prior to Phyllis' quilting life she worked for the University of California, Davis for thirty-four years, retiring in 2004 as a Program Manager for the Cancer Research Program. Today Phyllis is the President of the International House-Davis (www.internationalhousedavis.org) working with the board to complete their 2016-2019, 3-year Strategic Plan.

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

RINGS
2-Day Class
by Phyllis L. McCalla

This class is for the more advanced quilter. However, beginning quilters that have taken a beginning quilters class to learn the basics of quilting are also encouraged to take this class. This ring class provides students the opportunity to play with a variety of fabric patterns and colors; learn to curve piece; learn to square individual blocks; and design your own quilt top.

Select a focus fabric to pull a variety of 20-30 complimentary and contrasting fabrics. Batiks, bright colors, earth tones, and large floral fabrics work nicely in this quilt.

You will spend the first day of class cutting your block pieces from five templates and learning to construct the curved pieces. Homework will be required to complete all your blocks so you can design your quilt top the following day.

The second day of class will be devoted to re-pressing and squaring your blocks and working with the design wall to lay-out your quilt top. There will be a short discussion on borders, binding, and facing your quilts.

Block design is by Sylvia H. Einstein. www.sylviaeinstein.com Sylvia is an incredible quilt designer. View her website to get additional fabric and color ideas.

SUPPLY LIST:

The block pattern in this quilt is comprised of 5 pieces. The size of your quilt will be determined by the number of blocks you make. Finished blocks can be between 11 ¼" to 12"

Note: This block design was developed by Sylvia H. Einstein. However, the templates for this class have been redrawn by Phyllis to increase the size of the block and instruction notes have been written by Phyllis.

Phyllis suggests selecting a focus fabric to work from to select all other fabrics. Remember you are using the focus fabric to select colors for your blocks. If you opt to include the focus fabric in your quilt you will need no more than a 1/2 yard cut unless you also plan to use the focus fabric as a large outside border. To

determine the amount of fabric for the border you must have an approximate quilt size in mind. Phyllis generally does not purchase boarder fabric until the quilt top is completed and can be measured to determine the exact yardage needed for a boarder.

This class has been split into two sessions / 2 days.

Session One / Day 1: There will be a \$35 lab fee payable to the instructor for the plastic templates used to make the block pattern. Class time during the first day will be spent cutting some of your block pieces using the templates, marking each of your pieces, and learning to sew the curved pieces. You will sew several blocks together in class. You will be required to complete homework prior to session two / day two. Having ALL your blocks sewn together will allow you to spend more time designing in session two / day two. You should plan on making 4-5 additional blocks that you may (or may not) need for your design. This will give you the option to replace a block that doesn't fit your design.

Session Two / Day 2 will be spent re-pressing and squaring your blocks (from completing your homework). You will be using a design wall and sewing blocks together to make the quilt top.

Fabrics:

Please select your favorite color palette, making sure your fabrics play nicely together.

Batiks, bright colors, earth tones, large floral fabrics work great for this quilt. You should be prepared to have **20 to 30 Fat Quarters or 1/2 yard cuts of fabric from 20 to 30 different fabrics** so you have a large variety of fabrics for the design. When using Fat Quarters, you may want 2-3 fat quarters that are the same fabric to create a 3/4 or full circle with that fabric. You will cut all five (5) pattern pieces of the block from each of your fabrics. When using 1/2 yard cuts, you may select to cut 2-3 of the same pattern pieces from your fabrics to create a defined 3/4 circle. In some cases, you may have block pieces and additional fabric left over for adding a creative border or to create back-art for your quilt back, making another smaller quilt, or constructing a wall hanging.

NOTE:

It will be necessary to complete HOMEWORK from session one / day one so you can move on to session two / day two.

HOMEWORK NOTE: *Having your homework completed prior to coming to class on day two will allow you more time to design and sew.*

Sewing Supplies:

- Sewing machine in good working order (cleaned, oiled, **new needle**)
- 1/4" sewing machine foot
- Always bring your sewing machine manual with your sewing machine.

- Basic sewing and quilting supplies
 - Straight pins-good quality (glass-head or flower-head)
 - Scissors, both fabric and paper. You might not use the paper scissors, however it is always a good idea to have them on hand.
 - Seam ripper-good quality
- Rotary Cutters (**with new blades**). You need both sizes rotary cutters listed below.
 - small 28mm cutter works best to cut curves
 - med 45mm cutter
- Cutting Mat that is large enough to layout a full fat quarter and can be placed at your work station. The mat can be removed once you have your fabrics cut or your sewing machine can be placed on the mat at your workstation.
- Rulers:
 - 6 " x 24" acrylic ruler
 - 12 1/2" square ruler
- Neutral cotton sewing thread
- **Pre-wind several bobbins (3-5)**
- Ultra-fine Sharpie Permanent Marker to mark your 5-piece template set.
- Marking pencils for both light and dark fabrics
- Design surface (piece of flannel, batting, or a flannel backed vinyl tablecloth). You will use your design surface in session two / day two. Having 'your' design wall allows you to fold or roll your project at the end of class.

NOTE: Sewing machines will not be set up at the beginning of class on the first day. The first few hours will be devoted to cutting fabric using your 5-piece template set.



