

December 2024

Savannah Quilt Guild News

President's Column

Kim Hayes

president@savannahquiltguild.com

Happy Holidays Everyone!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This is always such a busy time of year. Sometimes it's hard to fit any quilting in.

This month is our Holiday Breakfast at the December meeting. We will eat at 10:00 this year, so come hungry! If you did not sign up to bring a dish at the November meeting, and are planning on attending, please bring a breakfast casserole of your choice (already baked).

December will also be the Big Reveal of The President's Challenge... finally! So don't forget to bring your Birth Month project.

Also, don't forget that your Retreat balance must be paid in full by the end of the December 14th meeting. You must also be a member-in-good standing to attend the Retreat, i.e. your yearly dues paid in full by the end of January.

By the way, yearly dues of \$30 are due by the end of January. Cash, check, Zelle or Venmo are accepted methods of payment.

After being on the board for the last four years, this December Breakfast will be my last official meeting as a President. It has been an honor to serve and represent the Savannah Quilt Guild. I hope that you feel I served it well. It truly has been a lot of fun and I'm really excited for Michael to move into the position! I'm now very proficient at writing emails and using Microsoft Word.

Thank you,

Kim



Join us for our next meeting:

December 14th, 2024

Southside Baptist Church

5502 Skidaway Road

9:30 – 10:00 am - Sewcial Time

10:00 am – Meeting

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Remember to bring to our meeting:

- * Wear your name tag
- * Your Show and Share

Needling News



Jean Aleshire	Dec 7th
Charlotte Gerkin	Dec 8th
Patricia Anglin	Dec 9th
Jennifer Hodge	Dec 18th
Heather Leavitt	Dec 19th
Jennifer Brown	Dec 22nd

Programs and Upcoming Events
Peggy Caldwell, Vice President
programs@savannahquiltguild.com

Just a friendly reminder...there will not be a program at the December meeting. As the end of 2024 draws closer and my program baton is passed to Jennifer Fargo, I encourage everyone to celebrate the fine craft of quilt making! Thanks for giving me the opportunity to help provide our guild members with quilting experiences all year round. May the joyful spirit of the quilters who came before us guide each of you through the holiday season!

Peggy

After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons
Cheryl Dingleline, workshops@savannahquiltguild.com

The Fat Quarter Exchange will take place at our meeting this month. Get ready for some twists to the Fat Quarter Exchange game! Remember you must have participated in the year-long exchange to play. The elves have been hard at work organizing fabrics.

Teri Duncan and Mitzi Crow will be coordinating workshops in 2025. Cindy Ochoa will lead the January workshop.

See you at the meeting, Cheryl



Savannah Quilt Guild News



Sewcial

The December Sewcial will take place on Friday, Dec. 6th at 10:45. We will meet at Mrs. Wilkes restaurant .

Cindy Ochoa

912-222-8728/obleo31313@yahoo.com

Upcoming Classes- Nationally Known Teachers

classes@savannahquiltguild.com **Theresa Sapp, Mary Bell Fuller, Cindy Ochoa**

National Class for 2025

The all day class for 2025 has been chosen and booked! Details will be revealed in January.

Theresa Sapp
theresapp@aol.com
912 656-3605

Mary Bell Fuller
mgbfrog@gmail.com
912 441-6636

Cindy Ochoa
obleo31313@yahoo.com
912-222-8728

BOM

Holiday Sawtooth

Click here for link: [BOM](#)



Savannah Quilt Guild News

Things to do this month...



◆ Friday Bee

Friday bee is four hours of sewing fun with ladies that love to quilt. The Sew Bee meets from 10 :00 am to 2:00 pm at Talahi Island Community Center. Contact Renee Christensen at rip-pinrenee@gmail.com to be put on a list to join as a member.

◆ Zoom

Several quilt guild members meet each Monday at 11am for the Monday Quilting Zoom group. If you would like to join us please let me know and I will add you to the email list. We would love to see you on Monday mornings at 11 am.

Mary C. Bass : mbcromartie@gmail.com or 912-604-7781

◆ Hand Appliqué Bee

Appliqué Bee
Tuesday December 10th from 1-4 pm
Center Parc Credit Union Community Room
5698-A Ogeechee Rd Savannah
This month will be a Sit and Sew.



Judy Lindsey
judithalindsey@gmail.com
352-263-6865

◆ Sew it Seams, Weekend Warriors

Members employed full or part-time meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from noon to 4 p.m. at the Talahi Community Center located at 532 Quarterman Drive. Please contact Regina Harris for further information and with any questions: harrisrgm@yahoo.com or 203-837-0322.

◆ Modern Bee

The Guild's Modern bee is a monthly gathering of everyone interested in modern quilting. It meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Talahi Island Community Center (532 Quarterman Dr.) 1-4 in the afternoon. Bring your sewing machine and participate in a workshop on a technique used in modern quilting. Specific topics are regularly posted on the website and sent to members.

For further information contact:

Rita Richey (rrichey@wayne.edu) Carol Richards (carolrichards@ymail.com)

Member Spotlight

By Deb Brown

We are so excited to have Tresica (Terri) Watts join the guild in November. She was a member many years ago but life got in the way. Terri was born in Cleveland, Tennessee but lived in many northern states because of her husband's jobs. When Terri and her husband brought their daughter to Savannah to attend SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design), they fell in love with the city, eventually moving here to retire. Terri has been sewing for over 70 years, starting out sewing by hand even before she attended elementary school. By the time she was in high school, Terri had made 3 bridesmaid dresses for a wedding. Terri's aunt taught her to sew on a treadle sewing machine. In 1965, Terri and her mother made her first full size quilt and quilted it on a straight stitch sewing machine. While in Maryland, Terri worked from home as a seamstress, making enough money by sewing to make the down payment on a home that they purchased. She also had a successful business making custom teddy bears, (Terri's Teddies). While living in Virginia, Terri was the coordinator for the "Ugly Quilts" program for the Eastern Pan Handle of West Virginia from 1988 - 2004. They made quilted sleeping bags that were given to the homeless to keep them warm during the harsh winter months. Some you may remember Terri from JoAnn's Fabrics where she worked as the manager and retired after 5 years. Since then she has made more quilts than she can count, mostly for charity and hurricane victims. Terri's daughter was so enamored by Lanette Edens' longarm quilting machine and said, "Mom you got to get one of those!" And so she did. With much practice, she has mastered the technique. Terri's fabric stash is a room full of meticulously sorted fabrics by color, subcategorized by print and size with many squares and strips of various sizes. Terri's current project is a scrap quilt using 2.5 inch squares for Hurricane Helene victims in North Carolina.



Savannah Quilt Guild News

Era Hall, who joined the guild in October, is from Florence, Alabama. Era moved to Savannah in 1988 when her husband was employed to work on the Talmadge Bridge. She was still teaching in Texas at the time and commuted to Savannah on weekends until the school year was complete. When she moved here, she was employed by the Chatham County School System and retired here. Era started quilting in 2009 when she and a friend took a quilting class at Sew Much More Quilt Shop making a sampler quilt. Since then, she has made about 10 quilts that were given to family and friends along with lots of baby quilts. Era loves quilts and has a collection of treasured family quilts that date back to 1880. Her favorite quilts are those made from original feed sacks. Era was happily surprised to find a quilt in an old dresser that she purchased. The quilt was made from the “Dove in the Window” pattern and she cherishes it to this day. Era considers herself to be a beginner traditional quilter. She also makes dolls. Era loves needle turned applique as well as trapunto. She is eager to learn the paper piecing technique with a goal of making the Savannah Historic Houses quilt. Era’s fabric stash is filled with lots of quilting cottons, corduroy, old fabrics from her mother-in-law and lots of flannel. Era is so fortunate to have a custom built sewing studio in her attic that spans the area of her house. It is equipped with several sewing machines as well as a mid-arm quilting machine. Era is also a member of the Savannah Garden Club and is organizing a quilt show that will be held in museums throughout historic Savannah in 2025 during the tour of gardens. Reach out to Era if you would like to have your quilt displayed.



Quilting History

Cindy Wallace, contributor

This month's topic was inspired by one of our own guild members, Donna Vandable. She recently mentioned Kawandi quilts, and I thought that would be an interesting and colorful topic for this month. Have you ever made a Kawandi-style quilt or perhaps wanted to? I think you just might want to give it a try after learning the backstory. We can credit the rather isolated Siddi women of Karnataka, India and Pakistan many of whom are descendants of the Bantu people of Zanj (southeast Africa) for this method of quilt making which stems from the early 1500's. Many of the Siddi people were brought to India by Sultans in the fourteen and fifteen hundreds as military mercenaries, but on to the quilting aspect of my story...

These scrappy creations have been used traditionally as floor mattresses and lightweight covers/quilts that displayed a riot of color in somewhat haphazard block designs. The fabric scraps are collected from family and friends then Kawandi quilts are created for these same people - which is entirely familiar to a lot of us that grew up with Depression-era mothers who did exactly the same thing. Kawandi quilts often have the western equivalent in video gaming techno-speak of an easter egg via small brightlycolored patches called tikeli. To you and me it is the bright little happy focal point fabric that an artist surprises you with. As you study Kawandi quilts, watch for the pieces with buttons still attached (maybe add a special button if you are making a Kawandi-inspired quilt); they also include hems and necklines that are just left as part of their creation. The top-pieces, the batting (batting was not used at all in traditional Kawandi) and the sari used for the backing are all worked at the same time, meaning it is a quilt-as-you-go technique. Traditionally, a Siddi uses a thick white cotton thread to hand-stitch her quilt. If you are hand-stitching a Kawandi quilt of your own, maybe start with a placemat sized one and try using Perle threads and/or Spagetti thread (a Wonderfil specialty thread which is a 3 ply, 12 wt long staple Egyptian cotton thread that can be used for hand sewing or in your sewing machine.) Spagetti isn't as chunky as Perle. Spaghetti comes in about 60 colors though I don't think they offer variegated thread like the Perles. You can of course find Perles in different weights and variegated colors that are so much fun to use.

Then you can choose the perfect larger needle for these thicker threads - not so big that a nasty hole is left in the fabric but just big enough to let the thread glide through. (I highly recommend Sarah Humphrey's embroidery/slow stitching tutorials on YouTube or her website.)

I called Kawandi a patchwork-looking quilt but it is really more of a hand-applique technique. Traditionally done by hand, I see Kawandis also being worked on the home sewing machine, but I think it's necessary to first learn how the Siddi's put their quilt together with very minimal equipment. They start at one corner of the sari and spiral-work around the outside perimeter folding edges in hand-turned applique fashion. They stitch the folded-edge patches in place with continuous lines of back stitching or running stitches, usually going in a counterclockwise direction. These are done row after row and are about a finger-width apart.

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued....

Margaret Fabrizio said in one of her interviews that you shouldn't be able to actually get a finger in between two rows of stitching as that left too much of a gap. (Margaret was a huge fan of Kwandi quilting. She taught at Stanford University for 25 years and was once a harpsichordist for the Grateful Dead!) Working from the outside towards the center, the stitches are considered very important as they showcase the makers' distinctive rhythmic stitching or visual signature. The same is true of the designs, shapes, sizes and colors of cloth that the artist chooses. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Kawandi quilts are usually made during a Siddi woman's spare time when they are not cleaning, cooking or taking care of the children. These women quilt alone or in groups, often accompanied by singing songs that have been passed down from one generation to the next. If the history of Kawandi quilts hasn't already brought the Gees Bend quilters to mind, I am sure they will have you drawing comparisons at this point. While a traditional Kwandi quilt has no middle layer of batting, many quilters today are indeed using a thin batting. I like Thermore.

Then there is my favorite distinguishing Kawandi signature – the phula (means flower.) This is a small square of fabric folded twice and sewn in at each corner of the quilt; its similar to a prairie point. The phula is considered the sign of a properly finished Siddi quilt - a Kawandi quilt would be considered naked without its phula. See images below.

At this point you might be asking, "What is the difference in Kantha and Kawandi and Sashiko and Slow Stitching?" Or you might be thinking, "I can do that same thing on my machine." Well of course you can do this on your machine, keeping in mind the aesthetic and backstory that goes into a traditional Kawandi. The primary difference between Kantha and Kawandi quilts is that Kantha stitches are quilted in parallel lines with raw edges showing and an emphasis on using embroidery designs like a lotus flower whereas you've learned just above that Kawandi patches are sewn from the outside towards the middle using turned under edges and rows of running stitches. Kawandi is a form of slow stitching measured by the "hand" --- in this case, a "hand" is the unit of length from the elbow to the tips of the fingers. A Kantha quilt uses a traditional form of embroidery practiced by Bengali women in East Asia and often has designs on both the front and back. Sashiko is a Japanese stitching and embroidery technique where a simple running stitch using white thread is worked on indigo-dyed fabrics like cotton and hemp. Slow stitching is like the others in that it uses mindful handsewn relaxed embroidery and layers of small scraps of fabric with a bit of batting and sometimes a backing. I am seeing Slow Stitching used on mostly smaller projects and there is often no intended outcome other than stitching for the sake of stitching.

Obviously, all these techniques share similarities where the making is the purpose but with Kawandi, Kantha and Sashiko there is also an intended end-product. You might find yourself creating a very traditional homage version of Kawandi or some combination of the techniques above!

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued...

Try looking up Sujata Shah from Mumbai, India for more background on Kwandi. She is a sought-after teacher whose book *Cultural Fusion Quilts – A Melting Pot of Piecing Solutions* is available on Amazon. I hope this article might inspire you to google more images of Kawandi as there are some fascinating pieces to study. Wishing you all a phula-filled day - Cindy

Sources:

☞ Therootconnection.blogspot.com (Sujata Shah)

☞ margaretfabrizio.com

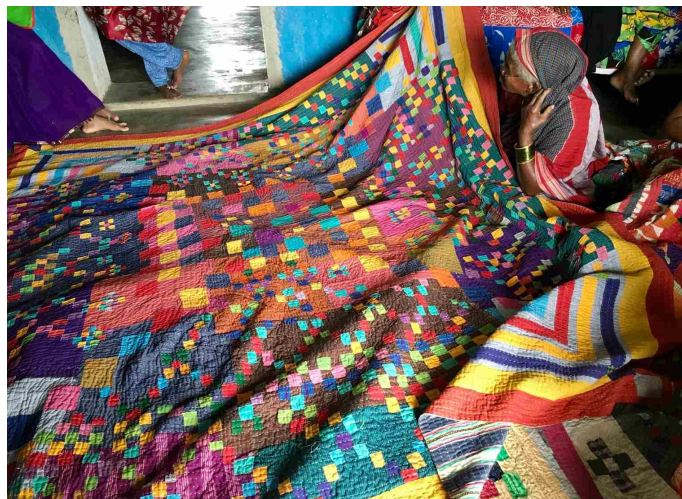
☞ www.sarahhomfray.com

☞ carolelylesshaw.com

☞ Youtube video : Reviving the art of Siddi Quilts

☞ OBENG, Pashington (2014). *Rural Women's Power in South Asia: Understanding Shakti*, Basingstoke (UK): Palgrave MacMillan, section 5.7.

☞ http://www.henrydrewal.com/exhibit_stitching_history.html



Traditional Kawandi Quilts

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued...



Sujata Shah



Margaret Fabrizio (deceased 2020)



Modern example including the phula.



Working outside edges towards the middle.

Tool Talk

By Cat Allard

Hi. My name is Cat. And I am addicted to thread.

My Godmother put a needle in my hand when I was 6 years old and showed me how to thread it and put a knot on the end (mine could anchor the Queen Mary). My sewing lessons had begun. There was thread on wooden spools, cat toys without the thread, hand sewing thread for doll clothes. Then a treadle sewing machine. A Singer sewing machine with “cams” as a wedding present and soon I was collecting thread in different colors of Coats and Clark on plastic spools to match the baby clothes I was making. Then came quilting and a whole new world of thread opened up. Cotton or poly, silk or metallic. For a bed quilt or wall hanging. Short or long staple cotton. Thread weight. What to use when? So many opinions!

Let's look at some of our options.

Cotton thread for cotton quilts is what I learned when I started quilting. Cotton thread is made with natural fibers, so the cost of spools will be slightly higher than a similar quality polyester. Due to its non-reflective matte finish, cotton thread blends into the fabric better than other materials of thread. Another benefit to using cotton is the zero stretch nature of the thread. This means that you don't have to worry about the quilt puckering after it's been washed! If you are going to use cotton thread chose the best cotton you can get with the longest staple as it will keep the thread from knotting if sewing by hand and also the lint build up in your sewing machine.

Polyester Thread is a much newer type of thread made up of synthetic fibers, so the cost of spools will be slightly lower than similar quality cotton. Besides the cost advantage of poly, its level of strength may be an advantage. I use it in my bag making projects. This allows you to use a thinner weight thread than if using cotton, so you can hide the stitch inside the fabric more easily. The polyester vs cotton thread debate will never be finished, but ultimately the decision is up to you. Yes, it will melt with an extremely hot iron on the highest setting, but most of our irons today will not melt it.

Silk thread is going to be the most expensive choice when choosing which thread to use, but the results will be extraordinary. Having smooth and lint-free fibers, silk is a wonderful thread option for quilting. Be sure to start small with a 60/8 Microtex needle, and move up to a slightly larger needle if the thread shreds or the needle breaks. If you want to save money, use Aurifil's 50 weight cotton in your bobbin.



Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued...

All brands of thread come in different weights. Twelve being the thickest and suitable for redwork and embroidery. Regular sewing thread is usually 40 or 50 weight. The thinnest thread (highest numbers) is 80 and 100 weight and it is wonderful for applique.

Brands (not a comprehensive list by any means)

Aurifil, is now the most popular industry brand. They specialize in producing some of the highest quality Egyptian Cotton thread that you can find. Aurifil Mako Cotton is the perfect thread for piecing and quilting. And it produces virtually no lint. Spool sizes range from small 54-yard spools all the way up to huge 6400-yard cones. With hundreds of colors and plenty of different weights (size 12 to 80) to choose from, it's my clear all-round favorite for everything from hand piecing to free-motion quilting.

Coats & Clark Thread Coats & Clark 100% Cotton Quilting Thread is a wonderful option if you are looking for a quality quilting thread, while on a budget. The natural fibers provide little stretch and have a silky, yet durable finish. Polyester thread became available about 1952 and cotton-wrapped polyester in the late 1960s. J & P Coats named it Dual Duty Plus. The newest iteration is Dual Duty XP, which is polyester wrapped polyester, and is quite fine and strong.

King Tut Thread. Some quilters consider King Tut to be the gold standard of quilting thread. Each spool is made from extra-long-staple Egyptian cotton, making it practically lint-free. Due to its lack of memory, King Tut doesn't tangle or knot like other lesser quality threads. Available in both 500 and 2,000-yard spools, King Tut is a near-perfect 40 weight 3 ply quilting thread. It is excellent for both hand and machine sewing!

Gutterman, Mettler, Signature all provide both cotton and polyester threads in a variety of sizes for a reasonable price.

Wonderfil Thread is a leader when it comes to specialty threads! For decorative quilting, check out their lines of Efina, Spotlite, Glamore, and Splendor. Konfetti, Tutti, Mirage, and Master Quilter are the perfect threads for free-motion quilting. Finally, if you're looking for what they offer for longarm quilting, you can't go wrong with Ultima, Spagetti, Fruitti, and FabuLux. Wonderfil offers an endless selection of quilting threads that perfectly show off your quilts and projects.

Glide Thread is a 40wt trilobal polyester, that comes in so many lovely colors and is an economical buy on either 1000m or 5000m cones. It is perfect to use on the Handi Quilter longarm machines as the top thread and in the bobbin if you wind your own. I use it in my Bernina Q16 sit-down long arm and I'm loving it.

Specialty threads, including reflective, conductive and water soluble are also available for special projects. Karen Brown from Just Get It Done Quilts has a wonderful YouTube video on them titled "Magic Threads." Be sure to google it. Superior Threads also has a great video on cotton vs poly threads that is worthwhile checking out.

Cotton or polyester, hand-sewing or machine, there are plenty of choices to keep us sewing for years to come. And with new types and colors coming out every year... I'm going to need a bigger boat!



Savannah Quilt Guild News

Community Outreach - Brighten the world of a sick child

Jan Howard, sunfish2@att.net Debbie Whiteway, wahoo@gmail.com
Francis Stockton, francis.stockton@att.net



Memorial NICU is always in need of hats/caps for the babies. The very small preemies cannot wear them, but as they grow and the larger children in there do use them. They may be used in the ISN, Intermediate Special Care Nursery, also.

Over 1,200 pillowcases have been delivered over the course of the year! Many thanks to everyone for their generosity and hard work. The pillowcase competition winner(s) will be revealed at the December meeting.

**Project
Linus**

Savannah, GA /
Hilton Head, SC Chapter

Project Linus is a non-profit organization that provides handmade blankets to children ages 0-18 in the U.S. who are seriously ill, traumatized or in need. The Project Linus website offers patterns, links, information about volunteering and donating, and how to join a monthly Zoom meeting.

Questions? Email elliegrix@gmail.com

If you would like to get participate, you may contact Ellie Grix, who is the local chapter coordinator. Ellie is a member of the guild and is at most meetings, or can be reached at

(573) 631-2571.

Everyone Loves the Take-It Table!

Do you have an over abundance of sewing/crafting supplies? Are you down-sizing, clearing the clutter, or making room for new items? Bring your unwanted items (crafting/sewing **only**, please) to put on the Take It Table. Your item might be someone's treasure! **At the end of the meeting please reclaim any of your items that remain on the table.**

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes for November : [Click here to view](#)

Treasurer's Report

Jan Howard, treasurer@savannahquiltguild.com

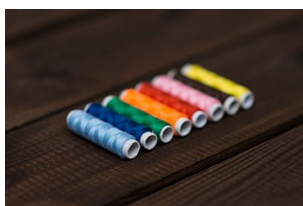


Full Treasurer's Report: [Click here to view](#)

Guild Operating Fund

Beginning balance	5,482.90
New Member	15.00
Dues	30.00
Fabric donations	5.00
Service Charge	(.20)
Bluehost domain & protection	(37.17)
Jan Howard Southside Baptist Church clothing drive	(196.75)
Jan Howard hospitality supplies Nov. and Dec.	(38.57)
Balance on hand 10/20/2024	5,260.21

Note: If you are making payments using Venmo, our name for Venmo payments is sqgpay@savannahquiltguild.com. The treasurer's name (Jan Howard) may show up during the transaction but rest assured that the money goes directly to the guild bank account.



SQG Website News

If anyone has issues logging on to the website, please contact
Theresa Sapp at theresasapp@aol.com
We hope you enjoy exploring your website!



Officers and Committee Chairs - January through December 2024

President - Kim Hayes

Sewcial - Cindy Ochoa

Vice President - Peggy Caldwell

Retreat - Lanette Edens

Secretary - Joanne Simpson

Newsletter - Joanne Simpson

Treasurer - Jan Howard

Website - Theresa Sapp &

Renee Christensen

Membership - Lisa Sims-Stevens

Friday Bee - Renee Christensen

Classes - Judy Walker & Mary Bell Fuller

Community Outreach

- Nursing Covers - Jan Howard

Workshops- Cheryl Dingleline

Community Outreach

- Pillowcases - Debbie Whiteway

Sunshine Chairman - Bonnie Manley

Frances Stockton

To contact Officers and Committee Chairs

Click here



[Contact Us](#)

The deadline for the Newsletter is the 21st of the month.

Please email your info to: Wertser44701124@comcast.net (Joanne Simpson)