

January 2025

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## President's Column

Michael Sengstack

[president@savannahquiltguild.com](mailto:president@savannahquiltguild.com)

Happy New Year, Quilters!

As we kick off 2025, I am honored to serve as your new President and excited to embark on a creative and inspiring year together. Since moving to Savannah three years ago, I've found the Savannah Quilt Guild to be the perfect creative community—rich in artistry, connection, and tradition. As a self-proclaimed "Skill Seeker," I love exploring new techniques, building skills, and uncovering tricks to make even intricate patterns approachable. I look forward to celebrating our shared passion and learning from each of you in the year ahead.

We're kicking off the year with a special treat! From 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM on meeting day, the Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck will be outside, offering refreshing iced and hot beverages to start your day. This is made possible by fellow member and owner Jennifer Hodges, who has kindly agreed to help us ring in the new year. (Please note that beverages are available at members' expense.)

A quick reminder: 2025 Guild dues of \$30 are due by the end of January. You can pay via Venmo, Zelle, cash, or check at the meeting or mail your payment to our treasurer, Jan Howard, at PO Box 31051, Savannah GA 31410. The QR code is below.

As we gather this year, my hope is to foster a creative community where every member feels inspired and connected. Let's share our ideas, celebrate each other's accomplishments, and honor the incredible tradition of quilting that brings us together.

Cheers to a year of stitching new memories and strengthening our bonds.

Binding us together,  
Michael Sengstack  
President, Savannah Quilt Guild



**Happy  
New Year!**

Join us for our next meeting:

January 11th, 2025

**Southside Baptist Church**

5502 Skidaway Road

9:30 – 10:00 am - Sewcial Time

10:00 am – Meeting

Find it here:

<a href="#">Programs and Workshops</a>	2
<a href="#">Classes and BOM</a>	3
<a href="#">Things to do.....</a>	4
<a href="#">Quilting History</a>	5
<a href="#">Tool Talk</a>	8
<a href="#">Community Outreach</a>	10
<a href="#">Minutes and Treasurer</a>	11
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	12

Remember to bring to our meeting:

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

## Needling News



Jennifer Farago	Jan 5th
Cindy Wallace	Jan 5th
Marjorie Moran	Jan 9th
Carrie-Ann Wester	Jan 10th
Era Hall	Jan 11th
Peggy Mossholder	Jan 16th
Denise Coakley	Jan 19th
Joanne Simpson	Jan 19th
Margaret Procter	Jan 25th
Maria Quarterman	Jan 25th
Diane Warren	Jan 30th

### Programs and Upcoming Events Jennifer Farago, Vice President

Welcome 2025!

A New Year! Lots of new friends and exciting new skills and inspirations are in your future! You've probably heard the term "Modern Quilting", but what does that really mean? At January's meeting, Rita Richey will discuss what modern versus traditional quilting really is. There will be visual aids, so have your cameras ready to document the inspiring photos! In February, we have Sheryl St. Germain's presentation on Surface Design and expanding your creative reach. Looking forward, some ideas for programs we've discussed are: What goes into long arming a quilt, How to select engaging colors for quilts, and a video presentation from a nationally known instructor. Have something you want to learn? Let us know! Looking forward to a great year with you all.

Jennifer Farago

**After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons**  
Teri Duncan, Mitzi Crow, work-  
shops@savannahquiltguild.com

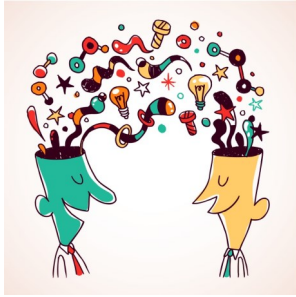


## Attention!! Last Minute News!!

Cindy Ochoa will be teaching the After-Meeting Workshop in January. Participants will be making a Heart Pin. The cost will be \$20 and you will receive a kit to complete the pin in class. If you are interested please plan to stay after the meeting.

Click on the link to find out more: [Heart Pin](#)

# Savannah Quilt Guild News



## Sewcial

The January Sewcial will take place on Thursday, Jan. 16th at 6 pm. We will meet at Love's Seafood restaurant .

**Cindy Ochoa**

912-222-8728/obleo31313@yahoo.com

## Upcoming Classes- Nationally Known Teachers

[classes@savannahquiltguild.com](mailto: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

### Bird Block

Click here for link: [BOM](#) and [Part II](#)



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:mbcromartie@gmail.com) or 912-604-7781

### ◆ Handwork Bee

The Appliqué Bee is now the Handwork Bee. At our January meeting we will be learning and practicing embroidery skills for a crazy quilt project. In 2025 we will be meeting 10 - 3. Bring your lunch and stay all day or stop in for a few hours.

Center Parc Credit Union Community Room  
5698-A Ogeechee Rd Savannah  
Tuesday, January 28th

Judy Lindsey  
[judithalindsey@gmail.com](mailto:judithalindsey@gmail.com)  
352-263-6865



### ◆ Sew it Seams, Weekend Warriors (no meeting this month)

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](mailto:harrisrgm@yahoo.com) or 203-837-0322.

### ◆ Modern Bee (no meeting this month)

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.

## Quilting History

Cindy Wallace, contributor

### Victorian Crazy Quilts

Since 2024 was crazy with hurricanes Debby and Helena making a hodgepodge of our area, somehow it made me think of crazy quilts – so that will be our topic for this month. The history of the crazy quilt is visual storytelling at its fabric-y best. The rage for crazy quilting was at its most popular from the late 1800's through the early 1900's as the technique was inspired by the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial. The crazy quilt style was the first commercial needlework craze in America and while it may seem like randomly placed fabric pieces, in truth, it's rather skilled planning because the pieces must fit together before they can be heavily embellished. In the Victorian era crazy quilt that I own, I can easily see where crazy quilt pieces were made into blocks then patched into the overall quilt by several quilt-makers. There are full on crazy patched blocks, fan-shaped pieces, even one that is a tumbling block when you study it carefully. It blends beautifully into the overall crazy quilt. I never tire of studying the stitches, the fabrics and the stories that crazy quilts tell.

A crazy quilt is a random, irregular-shaped patchwork that includes scraps from the family wardrobe as well as special pieces of fabric. A Victorian crazy quilt most often was made of bits of beautiful velvets, tulle, moire, silks and satins with heavily hand-embroidered seams and motifs like flowers and animals and the occasional political campaign ribbon. One of my antique crazy quilts also has chenille, corduroys and the quilter(s) embroidered their names or initials on the front of the quilt. The modern crazy quilt may have a broader range of textiles and some even have a few pockets in the design, but the seams are still a varied selection of stitches. These stitches may be made by hand or by machine and are chosen at the whimsey of the creator. Both modern and antique crazy quilts employ the use of buttons, bits of lace and ribbons, found objects, beads and a wealth of embroidery skills. An Harper's Bazaar article from 1884 estimated that a full-size crazy quilt could take 1,500 hours (about 2 months) to complete. In 1884, American silk manufacturers began selling "kits" of scrap silk. Cigar manufacturers wrapped silk ribbon around bundles of cigars and cigarette paper manufacturers tucked silk premiums into their cigarette paper packages for men to give to their wives. Women's magazines published crazy patchwork patterns that could be ironed on or traced on to fabric. Even when the "fad" began to taper off, it continued in rural areas and small towns. The rural quilters adopted the techniques of the urban quilters but chose to use sturdier, more practical fabrics available in their own households and dropped the earlier quilts' ornate embroidery techniques and fancy embellishments. Crazy-quilt shows were held and judged for the oddest designs, materials used, variety of stitches and the greatest number of pieces used in the quilt.

An important influence for crazy quilts came from the Orient. When the 1876 Centennial took place, there was a Japanese pavilion of silk-screened work, Japanese crackle-glaze pottery and Asian style clothing which was richly embroidered. Kimonos, fans, exotic birds and animals brought a new sewing trend with a fantastical aesthetic for the American public.

## Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued....

During the Victorian era, spider webs were a popular motif used in jewelry, textiles and home decor. The spider web symbolized the interconnectedness of all living beings and the importance of finding balance and harmony in one's life. In Asian cultures, spiders were associated with luck and prosperity. The circular design of webs represented cycles and harmony in nature and symbolized how everything is connected throughout the universe. In Hopi, Native American lore, they believe that "Spider Woman" wove the universe into existence. In Greek mythology, the story of Arachne tells of a weaver turned into a spider by the goddess Athena. Spider web patterns and spiders were frequently sewn into a crazy quilt's corner area. Their reason for using spider web patterns includes hiding seams, filling "blank" patches and couching down long threads. I've also read where they represented good fortune or "caught" bad luck, kind of like a dreamcatcher. Fun fact – spider webs were historically used to put over cuts and wounds to help the healing process and reduce bleeding.

Did you know that many Victorian crazy quilts had no batting at all and were used only for displaying the seamstress's handwork skills. They just had the heavily decorated top and a backing. Sometimes wide borders were attached and those too were heavily embroidered. The one I have from the late 1800's does have some kind of "filling" - I would love to see what was used inside it - it feels heavy like maybe a thick wool batting. Mine also has a variety of initials, a full name or two and a couple of highly interesting pieces. One is what I think was the silk inside of a man's hat. It has a barely discernable Edward W. Jarrett's logo. When I researched Mr. Jarrett, I learned that he was born Aug 1833 in Utica, Oneida County, NY. He died January 1900 and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Utica. In the 1870 Census he is listed as a merchant – he printed "money" that could be used in his store which sold men's hats, gloves, furs etc. I found a "note" dated Nov 10th, 1862, and signed in his handwriting. This adds to the history of my Victorian era crazy quilt. An even more notable figure whose campaign ribbon is in my quilt was John Thomas Spriggs. He was born April 1825, died December 1888 and was a U.S. Congressman in the House of Representatives from 1883 to 1887. He was also an attorney and served several years as the Mayor of Utica, NY. The backing and binding edges show evidence of an early sewing machine in the household of the makers. The quilt itself is hand-tied with pink silk thread that matches the back color. My quilt is roughly 135 years old. I got it for \$10 at an auction in Amarillo, Texas in 2015. How it came to be in Texas is a mystery, but I picture it coming packed in a trunk on a westward heading wagon train. I may never know my quilts whole story, but what I have researched is fascinating. This last bit probably goes without saying, but if you have an antique crazy quilt, don't expose it to daylight. Never wash an old crazy quilt. With outdated dyes and manufacturing methods, antique fabrics are especially vulnerable to bleeding and wear and tear. If you are fortunate enough to own a beautiful old crazy quilt, treat it as a delicate piece of art.

What legacy, what stories will be built into your quilts for some future relative or collector?

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued...



Florence Elizabeth Martin 1886

Collection of Art Institute of Chicago



From the collection of Cindy Wallace



## Tool Talk

By Cat Allard

### The Spirit of Giving

It's a few days before Christmas and my stockings are hung up with care, in the hope that Missouri Star fat quarters soon will be here. I've cleaned up my sewing room, more like straightened the piles. I made peace with the Christmas projects. What can I say? With a tuck and a pat I packed away and promised they'll make it to Christmas someday. And all those quilts the family would get, if quilted and bound and boxed up and sent. I meant to be ready. I'm sure you did, too. Two days before Christmas and it looks like a zoo.

I signed up for a challenge to clean up my room. I've signed up before. But first I need fabric, just a little bit more. So I made a quick run to the Sew Much More store. The sales are a wonder, such potential galore. And things are so pretty, I have to have more. To Brandi's (Blue Heron) and Sally's (Savannah Fabric Company) and other good stores I bought a few bags and walked out their doors.

I'll make my blocks of the month; this year I promise! I'll make twenty-five so I have a good chance. But what am I thinking, my chance won't be enhanced. I'll give them to Deb, her eyes will be twinkling – she makes them into quilt or maybe two, while the rest of us sigh a quiet boo-hoo. But she does get them done in a flash, they won't hang around like my Christmas projects, packed away in my stash.

That brings me around to the point of all this, I want to propose a good New Year's wish! Don't straighten, sort fabric, or make exceptions that we will be better this year than last. That couldn't happen if we hired a staff. Just keep an eye out for things that linger unused that could be a gift for someone we chose.

A child in a hospital, a woman with cares, a person that's lonely with burdens to bare. Anyone that needs to know that we care. We can gather together or do it apart, let's give out some love that doesn't come from a shop.

Below is a list of some places that will take donations. If you need help finishing a top, quilting or a binding, reach out and I try to connect you with someone that will help.



# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued...

**Linus Quilts** – Project Linus quilts can be brought to a Savannah Quilt Guild meeting. We will also hold them at Sew Much More Quilt shop located in Garden City. Our coordinator is Elie Grix.

**Quilts of Valor** – Laurie Wright will take them to the Brunswick Chapter. She'll be at Sew Much More in the first week of January. Bring any completed quilts there. Text me if you want Laurie's number.

**Some sheriff's offices and fire stations** will take quilts. Fire houses will take one for each truck to give to children they come across that may be in a bad situation. And don't forget the Red Cross and United Way.

**Blessingdales, Manna house, and Acts 3,** are thrift stores (non-profit) that will take donations to sell.

If you know of a woman's shelter, church or charity that needs a quilt please let me know or post it on the SQG website. You can text me at 860-459-9747.

Happy Holidays,

Cat



# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## Community Outreach - Brighten the world of a sick child

Jan Howard, [sunfish2@att.net](mailto:sunfish2@att.net) Debbie Whiteway, [wahoo@gmail.com](mailto:wahoo@gmail.com)  
Francis Stockton, [francis.stockton@att.net](mailto: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.

Thirty caps were delivered to Memorial Hospital this month. Many thanks to our faithful maker!



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](mailto: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 December : [Click here to view](#)

## Treasurer's Report

Jan Howard, [treasurer@savannahquiltguild.com](mailto:treasurer@savannahquiltguild.com)

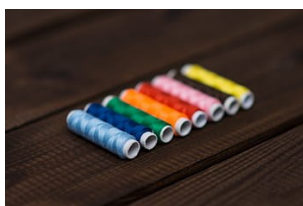


**Full Treasurer's Report:** [Click here to view](#)

### Guild Operating Fund

Beginning balance	5,260.21
Dues for 2025	990.00
Fabric donations	64.00
Service Charge	(4.05)
Debbie Whiteway fabric purchase	(149.32)
Cindy Ochoa bacon for breakfast	(37.40)
Jan Howard President's gift	(75.00)
Cheryl Dingleline coffee pot, supplies for holiday breakfast	(299.92)
<b>Balance on hand 11/20/2024</b>	<b>5,260.21</b>

**Note:** If you are making payments using Venmo, our name for Venmo payments is [sqgpay@savannahquiltguild.com](mailto: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](mailto:theresasapp@aol.com)  
We hope you enjoy exploring your website!



## Officers and Committee Chairs - January through December 2025

<i>President - Micheal Sengstack</i>	<i>Sewcial - Cindy Ochoa</i>
<i>Vice President - Jennifer Farago</i>	<i>Retreat - Lanette Edens</i>
<i>Secretary - Stephanie Murphy</i>	<i>Newsletter - Joanne Simpson</i>
<i>Treasurer - Jan Howard</i>	<i>Website - Theresa Sapp &amp; Renee Christensen</i>
<i>Membership - Lisa Sims-Stevens</i>	<i>Friday Bee - Renee Christensen</i>
<i>Classes - Cindy Ochoa, Theresa Sapp, Mary Bell Fuller</i>	<i>Community Outreach - Caps/Blankets - Jan Howard</i>
<i>Workshops- Teri Duncan, Mitzi Crow</i>	<i>Community Outreach - Pillowcases - Debbie Whiteway</i>
<i>Sunshine Chairman - Bonnie Manley</i>	<i>Frances Stockton</i>

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: [simpsonj536@gmail.com](mailto:simpsonj536@gmail.com) (Joanne Simpson)**