

February 2025

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## President's Column

Michael Sengstack

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

Dear Members,

Thank you all for your support and patience at our January meeting as the new board found its groove. Your enthusiasm and encouragement mean so much as we embark on this journey together.

I hope you've already carved out some time this year to create, explore new ideas, and get inspired. If not, don't worry—there's still plenty of time, and February is full of opportunities! For those attending the upcoming retreat at St. Christopher Camp later this month, I'm excited to join you for my first retreat with the guild. I just have to figure out what to pack! How do you decide which projects to bring along? I'd love to hear your tips. If you're not retreating with us, be sure to check the newsletter for all the other fantastic events happening this month.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, I hope you'll do something you love for someone you love. Maybe a handmade token or a little extra time spent together—it's the perfect excuse to celebrate the things that matter most.

I also want to give a big shoutout to Joanne Simpson for putting together our newsletter every month. It's such a wonderful resource for ideas, inspiration, and member contributions. In January, I especially enjoyed Cindy Wallace's article on Victorian Crazy Quilts—it was a fascinating read about the history and the community of artists who tell stories through fabric.

Speaking of community, we've created a **Members Survey** to better understand what you're looking for from the Guild and how we can support your quilting journey. A link to the survey is included below, and we encourage you to complete it online if possible. For those who prefer a printed copy, we'll have them available at the February meeting. Please complete the survey by March—we truly value your input and appreciate your help as we work to build a year of engagement and creativity for everyone.

Here's to a fabulous February, filled with inspiration, community, and a little extra love.

### Binding Us Together,

Michael Sengstack  
President, Savannah Quilt Guild

### Survey Link

<https://forms.gle/nu6iXmfoT6ePngkD6>



Join us for our next meeting:

February 8th, 2025

**Southside Baptist Church**

5502 Skidaway Road

**9:30 – 10:00 am - Sewcial Time**

**10:00 am – Meeting**

Find it here:

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Remember to bring to our meeting:

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

## Needling News



Jane Odgers	Feb 4th
Joni Shortt	Feb 12th
Shauna Radunzel	Feb 13th
Pat Sullivan	Feb 15th
Jeanie Eckmann	Feb 16th
Cindy Ochoa	Feb 20th
Cindy Cybul	Feb 23rd
Linda Busby	Feb 26th
Carol Sutor	Feb 26th
Julie Dobson	Feb 28th
Kim Hayes	Feb 29th

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

2025 is going to be the year of opening boxes and challenging your quilting brain!

If you are inquisitive about Modern Quilting after Rita Richey's wonderful presentation, consider dropping in to the Modern Bee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 1 to 4 at the community center on Talahi Community Center, 532 Quarterman Dr, Savannah, Ga 31410. There is a small \$3 fee for room use.

This upcoming meeting, we will have the pleasure of Sheryl St Germain doing a live demonstration of how she creates her beautiful fabrics with surface design. Sheryl combines her fabrics with original poetry to create quilts that have been shown internationally. Come see how to transform a plain white fabric into your own design!

In March, yours truly will be presenting Making It Up as I Go: A trunk show with no rules by Jennifer Farago. This will be a story of how I began playing around with ideas and learning from experiences. Sometimes those lessons were small, sometimes heartfelt. Come listen to what can happen when you march to the beat of your own drum.

### **After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons**

**Terry Duncan, Mitzi Crow, work-  
shops@savannahquiltguild.com**



**The workshop following the February meeting will be creating a Landscape Quilt. It will be taught by Teri Duncan.**

**Any questions?**

**Contact Terry:**

**210-863-1126**

# Savannah Quilt Guild News



## Sewcial

The next Sewcial will take place in March. We will be painting ceramics. Details coming soon!

**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 date of our class with Vicki McCarthy has been changed from September 12th to August 8, 2025.

**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

### Celtic Twist Block

Click here for link: [BOM](#)



## 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 February meeting we will be working on our crazy quilt projects. 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, February 25th 10-3

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.

For further information contact:

## Quilting History

Cindy Wallace, contributor

If I asked you to name the top five quilt blocks of all time, what would be on your list? How about the top ten? As it turns out, the top five blocks are usually: Log Cabin, Four Patch, Nine Patch, Half-Square Triangle and Quarter-Square Triangle blocks. The next five would likely be along the lines of Flying Geese, Eight-Pointed Star, Sun-Bonnett Sue, Hexagon Flower, and Crazy Quilt blocks. Just for kicks let's not leave out forms of applique and signature quilts here as well. All of these basic blocks might be found in some combination as well, such as in Chimneys and Cornerstones, Churn Dash, Disappearing Nine Patch, Lone Star, Pine Tree or Pinwheel and we all know they have various names depending on the part of the country this question is asked. This month I'd like to focus on the interesting history of the Log Cabin quilt and a few of its variations.

Did you know that some aspects of Log Cabin blocks weren't purely a product of the American Civil War quilters? In fact, as a pattern design, the concept is over three thousand years old. This design can be found all over the world from Roman floor mosaics to Japanese temari balls to Egyptian mummies. Early Log Cabin blocks were made of silks (silk tie remnants) and velvets which were folded over and sewn in very much like the Kawandi style I recently covered. Certainly, we can agree that the Log Cabin quilt reflected the pioneer spirit and values of the early United States, but these quilts were very popular in England and Ireland as well. The Belfast and Londonderry areas had many shirt factories, tablecloth factories and pajama factories in the late 1800's thanks to the Industrial Revolution. These items were shipped all over the world, but the scraps were sold by the pound to the workers and locals who made quilts from those scraps in their spare time and sold them for extra income. They were sometimes called Derry quilts, Shirt quilts or Belfast Patchworks. I've read where older Irish generations thought it odd to show interest in old patchwork quilts since it was a reminder of hard times and that they often burned old patchworks to forget about the hard times once circumstances improved. I tried to picture people burning their old quilts to forget the past, maybe we can empathize, but still, can you picture a quilt bon-fire? Shudder!

There are two basic ways of making a Log Cabin quilt. One, as presented in the "Good Housekeeping Needlecraft" book by Jody Britain has blocks of half-light/half dark, folded and sewn around an entirely different and contrasting central block. A variation, and the one you likely know, is the strips method. The arrangement of the blocks has a huge variety such as: light and dark, barn raising and zigzag. This block has many names as well, such as Saw Log, Canadian, Roof Pattern, Block House, Stock House and even Star Log Cabin. What all of these have in common is the use of light fabrics counter-balanced with dark or medium-colored fabrics and a different but unifying colored central square. A black velvet center was said by Gladys-Marie Fry to represent a "safe house" on the underground railroad. A yellow center meant to watch for a candle in the window and a red center represented the hearth fire at the center of pioneer's log cabin homes.



# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued....

I've even seen an Ohio Star block used as the central block with "log strips" placed around the focus Ohio Star block. Eleanor Burns does a wonderful job explaining the block color repetitions, the placement orders, the simplicity, the altering light/dark hues, and the explanation of various names thought up by pioneers as they practiced agriculture such as Fields and Furrows, Streak of Lightening, Sunshine and Shadow and Farmers Workday.

No matter which of the many options and choices you might wish to try on your own Log Cabin style quilt, you would be in excellent historic company. Today you will find so many Log Cabin patterns, books, specialty rulers and templates that might make your head spin. Then there will be exciting variations like the Pineapple, Courthouse Steps or even some twist and curve versions. You aren't limited to a central "square" either – perhaps you fancy a central rectangle, a triangle, a hexie center or, for the truly adventurous, a carefully pieced and placed star. Then you can decide on the color of that central starting point and what it will mean in your quilt. Will yours be more traditional or more avant-garde with a mixture of different colored centers? The sources I've listed below can pretty much still be found on Amazon and a few of them are available through the local library system as well.

As Quilter Hall of Famer, Eleanor Burns says, "Let's cut some logs!"

Happy Stitchin - Cindy

Sources:

[Antiquequilt dating.com](http://Antiquequilt dating.com)

Good Housekeeping Needlecraft by Jody Britain

Stitched from the Soul: Slave Quilts from the Antebellum South by Gladys-Marie Fry Artful Log Cabin Quilts by Katie Pasquini Masopust

Log Cabin Landscapes by Dorothy Stapleton

Watercolor Log Cabin Quilts from Palouse Patchers

Making Connections Around the World with Log Cabin by Janet Rae and Dinah Travis Log Cabin ABC's by Marti Mitchell

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued...



Log Cabin Cradle Quilt circa 1870  
Found on Pinterest



Modern Log Cabin Twist found on  
[Pic-Corn.blogspot.com](http://Pic-Corn.blogspot.com)



Log Cabin Lone Star  
From [familyfarmhandcrafts.com](http://familyfarmhandcrafts.com)



Barn Raising, made of silk circa 1875  
45 x 45 in. [Rockymountainquilts.com](http://Rockymountainquilts.com)

## Tool Talk

By Cat Allard

My husband suggested that for tool talk this month I might start with snow shovels and ice scrapers. Having lived in Northwestern Connecticut, I am very familiar with these tools. We had several different varieties of each kept in our garages and the trunk of our cars. If you were an intrepid traveler, you also carried jumper cables, spray carburetor starter, Ice Melt for your windshield, windshield wiper fluid good to 30 below, a NASA approved thermal reflective blanket, and kitty litter to throw under your back wheels for better traction if you should get stuck. And you never, ever, traveled without a hot cup of coffee in a thermal cup! So, it's winter in Georgia and here we are ready to start a new year of exciting quilt projects, learning new techniques and completing quilts that have lingered in their "need to be finished" boxes, commonly called UFOs. Several online pundits have suggested that we clean out our sewing spaces for an organized fresh start.

Karen Brown of "Just Get it Done Quilts" does a 2-week challenge to get everything in order and ready for a new year of sewing. I've tried this several times but never to reach the nirvana offered on the last day. The first day is about removing everything that doesn't belong in your sewing room. Big problem! I'm not removing my coffee pot, tiny fridge, or the TV. There are several cat toys on the floor and a box of cookies hidden on the shelf behind the batiks. Obviously, they have to stay. I'm on the second floor and walking all the way downstairs would destroy my workflow.

I think Karen's day three involves going through your books and magazines. After spending several days reading interesting articles I had forgotten about, and putting sticky notes on pages of quilts I forgot I wanted to make, and may possibly have purchased fabric for, which might or not be stashed away on my fabric shelves... this is not going well.

Tools are the focus of another day, and I have made the effort to collect all my scissors and rotary cutters and assorted sharp objects. I've found a few I didn't know I had and still can't find my favorite. It's probably under the magazines that I'm still putting sticky notes on pages with quilts I want to remember to make some day after I finish my UFOs.

Speaking of UFOs when do we start going through them? I should prioritize them in some order so that I can point to some finished tops (at least) at show and tell. Who hasn't said "I'm going to finish some of these projects before I buy any more fabric?" I can't feel so righteous and good. Except, of course, to sew this you will have to finish quilt "A" with a fabric you're not crazy about and make quilt "B" a little smaller and sew together fat quarters to make the back for quilt "C." AND foremost, stay out of your favorite quilt store! Impossible! Christmas fabric is on sale, new classes are starting and of course you haven't seen your sewing friends for weeks with all the holidays, not to mention all the new spring fabric that has come in and is waving "buy me, buy me" the minute you open the door.



# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued...

So I'm suggesting a new plan for the new year. Use the scissor that you can find, leave one magazine out for wishful thinking, and finish whatever is on your cutting table – if you like it, if not pick something else. Then get off your back, give up perfection, feel better about yourself and enjoy sewing. Why start 2025 with a guilt trip?

Here are some “you might want to” suggestions. Only suggestions. No guilt. First, if you are peering into a long unopened box and are wondering what you were thinking starting this quilt or buying this fabric, bring it for the “Take it Table.” Someone will love it, and might make it into a donation quilt. Two: If you discover you have seven lap quilts for two people, give a few to the Linus Project. Keep some kids warm. Three: Help someone. Have a friend with several finished quilts to bind? Suggest they come over for a cup of tea (cookies are a helpful motivator) and have a bonding and binding party, they used to call them sewing bees. Four: I could go on (and usually do) but I think I would be best to get to the tool of the month.

This month's tool is kindness. Use it often. Spread it around. And, mostly remember, to use it on yourself.



## New Members

By Deb Brown

Please join me in welcoming five new guild members who joined January 2025: Lylie Torres, Jennifer Leisgang, Vanessa Brown, Judith Lockhart, and Judi Davis. Peek into the lives of Lylie Torres, Jennifer Leisgang and Judi Davis below.

Lylie Torres was born in Germany but considers herself a “military brat” due to her frequent moves across the country. She came to Savannah six years ago when her father retired from the Army. Lylie is a professional musician who plays the piano and guitar. She is also a singer and a songwriter. Her stage name is “Lylie Mae” and her genre is Americana. You can find her playing in local restaurants like “Shuk” in Savannah. Lylie loves hand embroidery and finds it calming. “Quilting came organically”. Her main inspiration came from a well-known quilt artist, Cathy Fussell, whom she admired for years. Like most quilters, she has multiple sewing machines including her beloved Singer featherweight. Lylie is a new quilter and enjoys traditional quilts. The guild’s block of the month for January is her first attempt at making a quilt block. Although new to quilting, she is very familiar with sewing, having made many garments in the past. She describes her fabric stash as “small but mighty”. It is filled with lovely white linen, green velvets, florals, plaids, ditsy prints and the latest trending fabrics. Lylie’s great-grandmother made a Christmas themed quilt that is currently in her mother’s possession, and she hopes to own it one day. She enjoys planning quilts. Her quilting goals include learning the process and eventually being able to design her own quilts. Lylie is engaged to be married soon.

Jennifer Leisgang is from Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Within the last year, she moved to Bloomingdale, Georgia because of her husband’s job. They are getting adjusted to southern culture as well as the weather. Jennifer currently works at Gulfstream Aerospace in the purchasing department. Jennifer has been quilting for over 20 years. She is from a family of quilters; her mother and grandmother are also quilters. “This hobby has quickly turned into an obsession”. Making an average of 25 quilts per year, Jennifer sells them, gives them away and keeps some quilts for herself. Along with her Bernina and Juki sewing machines, Jennifer also owns a longarm quilting machine and has been quilting for customers for 15 years. She considers herself a traditional/modern quilter who enjoys applique. Her favorite aspect of quilting is the precision cutting. Her fabric stash is filled with kits and random cuts of fabric that she obtained whenever she went on “shop hops” in Wisconsin. Tula Pink is one of her favorite fabric designers. “I won’t have to buy any fabric for the next couple of years.” Jennifer is most proud of 2 quilts that won 1st place in the Jackson County Fair in Wisconsin.

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

New Members cont.

Judi Davis is originally from New Jersey and lived in North Carolina prior to moving to Savannah last summer. Her family who already lived in Savannah encouraged them to move here by sending irresistible pictures of various houses for sale. Judi is a retired accountant who worked for the Ferrari Corporation as a controller for 25 years – and no, she does not drive a Ferrari. Judi has been sewing since high school, mostly making garments and home decor items. Twenty years ago, a quilting magazine subscription led her to the path of making quilts. While living in North Carolina, she organized a group of women and taught them to make quilts. She is most proud of the “Dear Jane” quilt where each of the members constructed a block in the quilt. Judi quilted the quilt, and it was submitted to the quilt show in Raleigh, North Carolina winning 2 ribbons. Judi has several Viking sewing machines, a Singer featherweight as well as a sit-down midarm quilting machine. Her creative studio is in the bonus room above the garage. “It’s so full of fabric that it’s embarrassing but I love fabric so much!” In addition to quilting, Judi also enjoys hand embroidery, knitting, crocheting and weaving. Since moving to Savannah this past summer, she has already organized a quilting group of 20+ women in her community that she will be teaching to quilt.



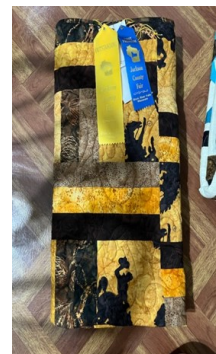
Lylie Torres



Judi Davis



Jennifer Leisgang  
And  
prize-winning  
quilts



# Savannah Quilt Guild News

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

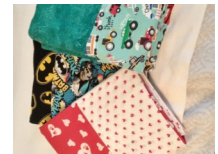
Jan Howard, [sunfish2@att.net](mailto:sunfish2@att.net) Debbie Whiteway, [wahoo@gmail.com](mailto:wahoo@gmail.com)  
Francis Stockton, [francis.stockton@att.net](mailto:francis.stockton@att.net)



The pillowcase project is one of the many outreach activities carried out by the Savannah Quilt Guild. Children who have surgery or spend the night at The Willet Children's Hospital due to illness receive a colorful pillowcase to brighten their stay. Pillowcases are delivered once a month to the hospital. There are many ways to help with this project. You could take a kit from the guild meeting, sew it and return it at the next meeting. Donations of fabric or money to buy fabric are always appreciated.

We currently have many parts of kits cut, but greatly need solid fabrics, especially white, cream or blue to coordinate with fabric that we already have. We now have enough donated fabric to make pillowcases to last five months. Thank you to all who support this project.

Thirty one caps and five blankets were delivered to Memorial Hospital. Great job everyone!



**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](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 downsizing, 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 January : [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	5,748.52
Dues for 2025	1470.00
Service Charge	(.30)
Debbie Whiteway pillowcase supplies	(32.40)
Transfer from Workshops	1432.29
Transfer to Meetings	(2,950.00)
Transfer to Classes	5,641.96
<b>Balance on hand 12/20/2024</b>	<b>5,461.96</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

President - Micheal Sengstack

Sewcial - Cindy Ochoa

Vice President - Jennifer Farago

Retreat - Lanette Edens

Secretary - Stephanie Murphy

Newsletter - Joanne Simpson

Treasurer - Jan Howard

Website - Theresa Sapp &

Renee Christensen

Membership - Lisa Sims-Stevens

Friday Bee - Renee Christensen

Classes - Cindy Ochoa, Theresa Sapp, Mary Bell Fuller

Community Outreach

- Caps/Blankets - Jan Howard

Workshops- Terry Duncan, Mitzi Crow

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