

March 2025

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## President's Column

Michael Sengstack

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

### Feeling Lucky to Be Inspired!

Dear Savannah Quilt Guild Members,

March is here, and with it comes plenty of reasons to feel lucky—especially with all the inspiration and creative opportunities we have this month!

First, a big thank you to everyone who has already completed our Members Survey. Your feedback is incredibly helpful, and we want to hear from as many members as possible. If you haven't yet filled it out, you can complete it through the link below or pick up a paper copy at the March meeting. If you took one home last month, please bring it back—your thoughts truly help us shape a year full of engagement and creativity.

For those who attended the retreat at St. Christopher's, we'd love for you to bring something you worked on to share. There's nothing like seeing the beautiful pieces that come out of these creative weekends. Plus, I personally need the motivation—I'm hoping to have one less UFO in my pile, but no promises!

I'm also excited for this month's trunk show by our Vice President, Jennifer Farago. Jennifer is incredibly multi-talented, and her creative mind takes ideas to beautiful and unexpected places. I can't wait to learn more about her work and know you'll be just as inspired. Her presentation might even spark your interest in attending her April workshop on curves—a fantastic chance to explore new techniques and add a little twist to your quilting!

Just a reminder: our March meeting will be held at Wilmington Island Presbyterian Church (450 N Cromwell Rd). Social time begins at 9:30 AM, and the meeting kicks off at 10:00 AM.

Here's to a March filled with creativity, inspiration, and maybe even a bit of quilting luck!

### Binding Us Together,

Michael Sengstack  
President, Savannah Quilt Guild

### Survey Link

<https://forms.gle/nu6iXmfoT6ePngkD6>



Join us for our next meeting:

March 8th, 2025

Wilmington Island

Presbyterian

450 N. Cromwell 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



Sherry Cope	March 4th
Martha Weston	March 8th
Elaine Rhyne	March 10th
Velinda Burnsed	March 13th
Kathryn Finney	March 13th
Linda Roller	March 13th
Tracy Hobbs	March 16th
Terry Duncan	March 26th

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

Did Sheryl St Germain's presentation on Surface Design get ideas buzzing in your head? Who wants to play with some dye and white fabric now? So many possibilities!

For the March meeting program, I will be talking a bit about my history, what inspires me, and why it's ok to not know what you're doing but DO IT ANYWAYS! Sometimes the process is the reward.

In April, we will welcome SCAD professor Cindy Hartness-Crane to join us and speak about color and composition in quilts. If you're going to spend all that time and money to make a quilt, learn how to make it the most visually appealing that you can!

Warmest regards, Jennifer Farago

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

*Terry Duncan, Mitzi Crow, workshops@savannahquiltguild.com*



**There will not be a workshop following the March meeting. The workshop in April will focus on Curves. The cost will be \$20.**

**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

We are excited to announce our instructor and presenter for August. Vicki McCarty of [calicopatchdesigns.com](http://calicopatchdesigns.com) will be teaching a wool applique class on August 8, 2025. Cindy and I will be sharing samples of her patterns, as well as a sample of the gingerbread house ornament that we will be working on. Vicki is a wonderful instructor and presenter. She will have many of her patterns and supplies for purchase at the class and the program on that Saturday, August 9th. Sign up for this class will begin in April. More details to come!!

**Theresa Sapp**  
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## BOM

### Scrappy Pinwheel Block

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](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 March 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, March 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

Pinecone quilts, have you heard of these beautiful and unusual quilts? Perhaps even made one?

Not a foundation paper pieced pineapple block pattern, but rather a Pinecone quilt. You might know it by names like Cuckleburr quilt, Pine Burr quilt, Target or Bullseye quilt, Prairie Point quilt or Arkansas Burr. This pinecone pattern is usually made from square fabric pieces folded corner to corner twice over then stitched down to form concentric circles. Traditionally done completely by hand, it is possible to construct with your sewing machine as well (fun tutorial in my sources list.) These days, that might be quickly followed by the thought of employing an AccuQuilt system because it would be valuable for churning out hundreds of squares (enough to really put some wear on the cutting blade!) Traditionally, however, the squares are cut or torn. This quilt technique/style has a rich history with the North Carolina Native American Tribe, the Lumbee, where it is known as the Lumbee Pinecone pattern. In the UK it goes by Somerset Star. Even with all those names, relatively few of us have produced a true large-scale pinecone quilt (which will weigh from 28 to 50+ pounds!) Many of us are familiar with a similar component, the prairie point. One of my personal favorite wall quilts is a turkey in profile with many prairie point tail feathers and trim. You'll also see a similar technique employed in the "folded star" quilt block, hotpad or bauble. We can attribute much of this fascinating story to Maggie Lowrie Locklear (1869 – February 15, 1931), Arlean S. Dennis, better known as Miss Sue, and her delightful and prolific protege, Betty Ford-Smith.

Maggie Lowrie Locklear, born 1869, was a Native American from the Lumbee Tribe in North Carolina. She and her husband Haynes owned their own home in Lumberton, Robeson, North Carolina according to the 1920 Federal Census, where she was listed as a farm laborer. Around 1900 she pieced her "Pinecone Patchwork" quilt composed of 30 pinecone patches with sashing. There are over 30,000 folds in her patches. She repurposed dresses, shirts, pants and aprons, as well as North Carolina home-spun fabric according to the Museum of the Southeast American Indian in Pembroke, North Carolina.

Arlean Dennis (Miss Sue) was born in 1912 in Bainbridge, Decatur County, GA to Vinny Jackson Butler and Ed Jackson. Relatively little else can be found on ancestry.com, newspapers.com, or in the U.S. Social Security Death Index on the life of Miss Sue. Findagrave shows her to once have been employed at a peach and chicken factory and says she was a vital member of her community; however, a much richer life-story comes to light from conversations and time spent with her dear friend, Betty Ford-Smith. Miss Sue was five when her daddy taught her to make moonshine in the fireplace. In addition to working at a peach factory and poultry processing plant, she also worked in a pecan factory and a tobacco plant. She had 12 children and outlived all but one. By all accounts she was very industrious and lived a hard, sometimes tragic and often dramatic life. By the time Betty Ford-Smith met Miss Sue, Miss Sue was 92 years old. Miss Sue was living independently – she had a garden, she cooked, she made rugs, dresses and nightgowns and according to a handwritten sign in her front yard she offered for sale, "spreads, quilts and curtains." Miss Sue called her pinecone quilts, "Cuckleburr quilts." She

## Quilting History continued....

ripped or cut little fabric squares and preferred hand sewing to machine sewing and she made absolutely amazing quilts. Betty Ford-Smith was Miss Sue's friend and eager student.

Betty Ford-Smith makes stunning Pinecone quilts. Starting with a king-size backing sheet, she learned Miss Sue's techniques and their story is told beautifully in Betty's book, "Learn to Make Your Own Heirloom Pinecone Quilts, Keeping Tradition Alive." Betty uses several sizes of cut/torn squares, although 5.5 inches seems to be a favorite. Her reasoning behind prints versus solids in fabrics, methods for achieving contrast as well as types of needles (think 3.5 inch doll needles), and strong threads are covered in her book and interviews. While mastering the technique, Betty did many hours of research including some time with Gee's Bend quilters producing pinecone quilts. In Betty's book there's a great photo of Gee's Bend quilter, Lucy Mingo with one of her Pine Burr quilts (the Pinecone/Pine Burr quilt is the official state quilt of Alabama!) Betty has a strong background in education and has done lectures, classes, trunk shows and more. She has had Pinecone Quilts displayed at The National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky and her red and purple Pinecone Quilt will be on display at the Renwick Gallery (a most beautiful modern gallery that everyone should see) with the Smithsonian Institution starting at the end of February 2025! Her book includes fascinating history, basic construction techniques and helpful hints as well as lovely smaller projects to let you practice the techniques. Fun fact – she also makes some really beautiful art dolls. I highly recommend her book and her website, [pineconequilts.com](http://pineconequilts.com) where she graciously writes you back when you contact her. She is an inspiration, and a gracious person who loves to share the history and techniques as she really does "keep the tradition alive." I am sure you would enjoy seeing Karen Brown's interview, "Let's Talk About Pinecone Quilts with Betty Ford-Smith" on YouTube where she shares a few lovely stories not covered in her book.

Ya'll Keep Stitchin - Cindy

### Selected Sources:

Museum of the Southeast American Indian, [nativemuseum@uncp.edu](mailto:nativemuseum@uncp.edu)

Florida Quilts by Charlotte Allen Williams (available through interlibrary loan in the Georgia Pines Library System for free)

Findagrave: Arlean Dennis of Sebring, Florida

Flash of the Spirit: African and Afro-American Art and Philosophy by Robert Farris Thompson, 1984, Pines Library System of Georgia

History and Culture, The Lumbee Tribe ([/www.lumbeetribe.com/history-and-culture](http://www.lumbeetribe.com/history-and-culture))

The Museum of the Southeast American Indian ([www.uncp.edu/resources/museum-southeast-american-indian/museum-exhibits/story-behind-pinecone-patchwork-quilt](http://www.uncp.edu/resources/museum-southeast-american-indian/museum-exhibits/story-behind-pinecone-patchwork-quilt))

PineconeQuilts.com which is Betty Ford-Smith's website and contact info

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued...

Learn to Make Your Own Heirloom Pinecone Quilts Keeping Tradition Alive by Betty Ford-Smith  
(available on Amazon)

Last but not least, for those who might want a fun and colorful sewing machine version/tutorial:  
[createwhimsy.com/projects/pine-cone-quilts/](http://createwhimsy.com/projects/pine-cone-quilts/) by Lynn Woll



Maggie Lowrie Locklear



Maggie's Pinecone Patchwork Quilt



Betty Ford-Smith and Miss Sue



Betty Ford-Smith as featured  
[Thequiltshow.com](http://Thequiltshow.com)



From Florida to France 24" x 24"

## Tool Talk

By Cat Allard

I never thought I would want an Accu-Quilt until I saw Deb Brown's award-winning quilt, "Emerald City" pattern by Bonnie K. Hunter. The instructions for the pattern start with "Green Fabric: Cut 504 squares 2 3/8" X 2 2/8"; subcut each square on the diagonal once to yield 1,008 half-square triangles." Then Neutral Fabrics: cut 558 squares subcut into 1,116 half-square triangles. That's a whopping two thousand, one hundred and twenty-four (2,124) half-square triangles!

I can't imagine cutting a hundred squares perfectly, much less cutting them in half, sewing them to their other halves and having them come out perfect! If they are just a few threads bigger or smaller, they will make an enormous difference in the accuracy of the whole quilt.

Then Deb and a few others decided to do Bonnie K. Hunter's "The Straits of Mackinac," another million piece quilt. And I said, "sure I'll try it." I was obviously not thinking things through. But I was shown the way: AccuQuilt.

Sew Much More and Bonnie Brooks, the owner, have an amazing monster AccuQuilt cutter in the store. It would take up most of my cutting table. Too big I thought. But Deb marched in with her AccuQuilt Go Cutter and put it on a table in the sewing room. Zoom! She pulled out the appropriate dies and before you could say "this is faster than rulers" there were enough pieces for several blocks. Now, Bonnie will tell you that you still must sew accurately but if you're faced with two thousand half square triangles AccuQuilt is going to make cutting your pieces a whole lot easier.

Judy Lindsey is happy with hers for not only easily cutting multiple pieces for traditional blocks, but for the applique dies. There are so many kinds of dies, and you can even have them specially made for you. I happily used die cut 'kitties', gifted to me by Kathy Finney, for not only applique but to trace an outline on a baby quilt for my granddaughter. Kathy also loves her AccuQuilt.

In case you're not familiar with AccuQuilt lingo, AccuQuilt is the company and refers to the whole system. They make the dies and the Go Cutter machine that uses the dies to cut your fabric. The "Cubes" boxed sets have a number of dies that will make many different patterns in the selected size quilt blocks (6", 8", 9", 10", 12" etc.) Once you buy your Go Cutter Machine the endless world of dies is open to you. SO MANY to choose from and with monthly specials, well, you're going to need some extra shelves in your sewing room.

Whether you're making traditional quilts or devoted to applique, there is a die for you! They even have a die for a crazy quilt block. Now you're talking!

(Picture of Deb Browns "Straits of Mackinac" quilt. Pattern by Bonnie K. Hunter. Cut by AccuQuilt.)



## Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued...



Picture of Deb Browns "Straits of Mackinac" quilt. Pattern by Bonnie K. Hunter. Cut by AccuQuilt.

## New Members

By Deb Brown

We are so excited to have four new members join the guild in February: Cherry Ross, Bernice Carwise, Natalia Wilhoit and Lisa Keal.

Cherry Ross is a native of Savannah who lived in Atlanta for 9 years before moving back to Savannah in 1993. She is a retired truck driver who transported chemicals over 48 states and Canada for over 20 years. She loved truck driving because of the freedom. Cherry enjoyed the ability to have breakfast in one state, lunch in another and dinner in a 3rd state. “Truck drivers always know where to get the best food. I love to shop and whenever I had time to spare, I would shop, shop, shop for “everything!” Being inspired by her daughter’s mother-in-law, Cherry began quilting after retirement. This led her to Pinterest and YouTube for instruction. She was hooked right away. Her first quilt was made for her brother. Since then, she has made over 100 quilts. Cherry gives most of her quilts away and keeps very few for herself. When her co-worker stopped sewing and quilting, Cherry was gifted a truck load of fabric that now fills her second bedroom with all kinds of lovely quilting cotton. Cherry made a quilt for her son from his uniforms who was in the Navy before she really knew what she was doing. “I made all the mistakes but he loves that quilt the best”. Cherry has many other talents and hobbies: she is an avid gardener – growing herbs and seasonal vegetables; raises chickens, knits, crochets, and also loves to cook. She even does all the home improvements and makes all the repairs in the home.

Bernice Carwise is from Tampa, Florida. She moved to Savannah in 2020 to live with her daughter and son-in-law. Bernice retired from the US Post Office as a supervisor in New Jersey after 36 years. She also worked as a substitute teacher for 14 years teaching all grades in Florida. Although her sister and aunt quilted, she admired them from afar and never had any interest in being a quilt maker until she came to the Hand Working Bee at the Center Park Credit Union a few months ago. She was so inspired by the work she saw that she decided to join the organization to learn more. Bernice has never made a quilt (so be gentle with her), doesn’t have a fabric stash (yet) and doesn’t even own a sewing machine. She is brand new to everything quilting but is very eager to learn. Her first project was learning Sashiko stitching that she mastered in one class and enjoyed so much. Bernice loves traditional quilts. In addition to her new quilting hobby, she enjoys traveling and reading mysteries.

Natalia Wilhoit is from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania but moved to Savannah 37 years ago to work as a civilian dentist for the Fort Stewart Air/Army Base. She is now retired. Natalia started sewing at age 12, making clothes for herself. At age 30, Natalia began quilting and considers herself to be a traditional quilter who enjoys working with wool and doing hand embroidery. Since that time she

## Savannah Quilt Guild News

New Members cont.

has made over 60 quilts. She only gives quilts to people that she “really likes” making sure they are quilt worthy. She keeps the other quilts for herself. Natalia just completed an English paper-piecing quilt that Lanette Edens custom longarm quilted. Lanette was so impressed with her work, she requested that Natalia enter her quilt in the Georgia National Fair 2025. Natalia has a separate sewing studio that is filled with an estimated 150 yards of quilting cotton fabric. She has several sewing machines that include a Brother Dream Machine, a Bernina computerized sewing machine and a small Brother sewing machine that is used for travel only. She also owns a serger. Natalia has an older sister that quilts as well. The joy of sharing a part of herself through quilting gives her inspiration to keep making more quilts. “I do that by giving the gift of sewing with other people.” Her current project is a lap size log cabin quilt.



Cherry Ross



Bernice Carwise



Natalia Wilhoit

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

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

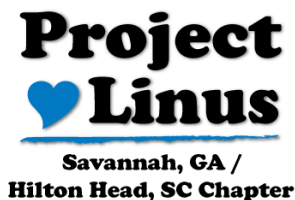
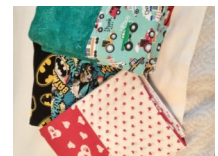
Jan Howard, [sunfish2@att.net](mailto:sunfish2@att.net) Debbie Whiteway, [wahoo@gmail.com](mailto:wahoo@gmail.com)  
Francis Stockton, [francis.stockton@att.net](mailto:francis.stockton@att.net)



It is time to introduce our next round of inspiration for making those beautiful pillowcases for the children who need to stay overnight at The Willet Children's Hospital. Starting at the March guild meeting, if you bring a completed pillowcase (or 10!), you will put your name in the jar one time. Anytime during March, April, May, and June you can bring pillowcases to the guild meetings or to Lake Mayer and you will put your name into the jar. At the June guild meeting, a name will be drawn at random from all those in the jar and a prize will be awarded. We know it is not possible for everyone to make large numbers of pillowcases, and we want to appreciate those who bring any number. We do greatly appreciate you, and the hospital staff members express their appreciation with every delivery.

Please continue to share your white, cream, light blue or navy fabrics in one yard cuts so we can match them to previously donated fabrics to complete kits for sewing. Remember that one yard of fabric can complete two pillowcases.

Nine caps were delivered to Memorial Hospital. Great job everyone!



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 February : [Click here to view](#)

## Treasurer's Report

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



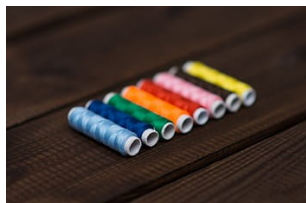
**Full Treasurer's Report:** [Click here to view](#)

## Guild Operating Fund

Beginning balance	5,461.96
Dues for 2025	600.00
Service Charge	(.60)
Debbie Whiteway pillowcase supplies	(78.15)
Insurance Payment	(317.00)
Pillowcase Donation	40.00
<b>Balance on hand 01/20/2025</b>	<b>5,706.21</b>

**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.

Did you know that we have a private Facebook page? This is a great place to post quilt related information (your latest project, questions, upcoming events or just a cute quilting cartoon). Since this is a private group you must request to join. Although Facebook is not our primary form of communication it can be useful and/or entertaining.



## *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 (Joanne Simpson)**