

April 2025

Savannah Quilt Guild News

President's Column

Michael Sengstack

president@savannahquiltguild.com

A Fresh Season for Quilting & Community

Dear Savannah Quilt Guild Members,
Spring has arrived, bringing a season of fresh starts, new projects, and maybe even a little **spring cleaning**, especially in the sewing room! I'm tackling mine this month and would love to hear your best **organization tips** at our next meeting.

I'm also excited to **share the results of our Members Survey** at the April meeting! Your feedback has given us great insights, and I look forward to discussing how we can use them to shape the guild's future.

Additionally, we'll be holding a **vote on a proposed amendment to our bylaws** regarding membership age requirements. Currently, membership is open to all ages, but a proposed change would limit membership to those **16 and older**. This topic was brought to the board's attention, and we felt it was important to bring it to a vote so that **you, our members, have the opportunity to make your voices heard**.

There are thoughtful perspectives on both sides. Some feel that quilting is ageless and should be open to everyone, while others believe the guild should be limited to those who can attend independently. **I encourage each of you to consider what you feel is best for the guild and to participate in the vote.**

On a creative note, I'm looking forward to **Jennifer Farago's upcoming workshop on curves** in April! Her talent and innovative approach always inspire, so I encourage you to sign up and explore new techniques.

Looking forward to a great discussion, fresh inspiration, and maybe even a few sewing room organization hacks at the next meeting!

Binding Us Together,

Michael Sengstack

President, Savannah Quilt Guild



Join us for our next meeting:

April 12th, 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



Annette Clark-Mobley	April 4th
Gloria Bailey	April 6th
Kathleen Misk	April 10th
Mary Bell Fuller	April 13th
Justin Lane	April 13th
Cindy Strubbe	April 14th
Poppe Nezbeda	April 15th
Clara Kinsey	April 17th
Katie Lane	April 19th
Piper Bazemore	April 26th
Georgie Carroll	April 27th
Christina Negrea	April 28th

Programs and Upcoming Events *Jennifer Farago, Vice President*

Hello Quilty Friends!

Thank you all for allowing me to share with you last month how my creative quilting journey evolved over the past decade. I hope you were able to take something away from the things I learned, and have courage to just go play with new ideas!

Cindy Hartness Crane will be discussing color and composition during April's program. If you're going to spend all the time and money on a quilt you can use these tips to make it the most eye-appealing you can! For May, we get to look forward to four of our Quilty friends presenting some tricks and tips during another fun round robin. Those of us who attended the last one would agree we all learned something new.

I hope spring is treating you well, Happy Sewing!

After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons

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



DESIGN YOUR OWN QUILT WITH CURVES MADE SIMPLE!

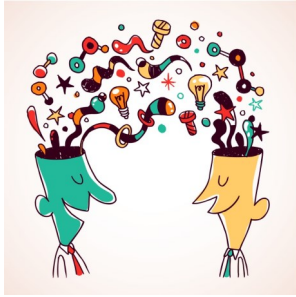
Many of you saw Jennifer's March presentation. This month you have an opportunity to learn one of her techniques! This workshop takes place directly after the meeting. We will take a short break to eat our lunch. We all need sustenance to gain new skills. So bring your lunch! The cost is \$20.

If you have questions about this workshop or want to

snag one of the few spots left, contact Terry Duncan

210-863-1126.

Savannah Quilt Guild News



Sewcial

Cindy Ochoa

The May Sewcial will be in collaboration with Friday Bee. We will be doing a shop hop to Jacksonville on May 23. Information about car-pooling and quilt shops to be announced in the May Guild Newsletter and at the May Guild Meeting.

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

Class Update: SIGN UP ALERT!!!

Vicki McCarty of Calico Patch Designs will be our instructor on August 8, 2025. She will be teaching a wool embroidery class featuring the gingerbread house pictured here. The cost of the class is \$70 plus a very reasonable kit fee. Vicki's classes are in great demand and sell out quickly at AQS shows. You can claim your spot at our April meeting. See Cindy Ochoa to sign up.



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

Framed

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 join in the fun!

◆ 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

◆ Handwork Bee

The Appliqué Bee is now the Handwork Bee. At our April meeting we will be working on our favorite 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, April 22nd 10-3

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:

Quilting History

Cindy Wallace, contributor

Group quilt projects such as Album and Friendship quilts hold a special place in the hearts of both the givers and the recipients. They are extra interesting because they pinpoint a particular group of quilters and their lives, as well as, the person being gifted the one-of-a-kind creation. They were/are created to commemorate special occasions – anything from a marriage quilt to a baby quilt to a migration quilt when someone was moving across the country. When someone in the community was to be honored (say a pastor, teacher, respected social figure etc.) they were sometimes given a Presentation quilt. Signature Album quilts generally fall into two styles: one is a sampler showcasing a variety of block patterns, the other is a single-block-pattern “album.” Both styles were highly popular along the eastern U.S. seaboard starting in the early 1800s so it’s fairly easy to find vintage quilts from this time period. I found block pattern ads or quilt pattern columns showing up in the early 1830s when doing a search in old newspapers from newspapers.com. The blocks themselves were not always signed by those who made them. Sometimes one or two women made all the blocks and then collected the signatures. When a young man turned 21 he was sometimes gifted with a Freedom Quilt, symbolizing his adult status. A sub-category of the Signature quilt was the Fundraising quilt. Fundraising quilts were made to raise money for an organization or charity endeavor, most often a church. For a monetary contribution, your name would be applied to the quilt, along with the names of other contributors. These quilts are recognizable by the dozens or even hundreds of signatures on the quilt. Often the signatures are the only design elements on the quilts and at other times the signatures are almost hidden in the complexity of design in the quilt. I love the surprise of finding a name unexpectedly in a quilt!

What’s wonderful about friendship quilts is that they not only contain names, but they often have dates, places and sometimes quotes. I think of these quilts as a style of Genealogy Quilt when the signatures are mostly of family names and dates. Album quilts are close relatives of the autograph albums where people once collected their friends’ names, handwriting and sometimes short verses and displayed them on their parlor tables in the 1820’s. Popular verses, drawings, and signatures were inked, stamped or stenciled on the pages first in those bound albums and soon after in the blocks of album and signature style quilts. Since we are talking about writing on fabric, the next thing I was curious about was the lightfastness of the ink or thread used because I recently saw an antique signature quilt with no names visible where I suspected that the inked (fugitive ink?) names had either come off in the wash or simply faded away over time.

Permanent inks that did not damage fabrics were being used in the 1830s and before that signatures were usually embroidered with a chain-stitch or cross-stitched. Knowing about inks and threads can help determine the date of the quilt: cross stitch signatures on an antique quilt often indicate a pre-Civil War date; inked ones indicate a date between 1840-1900 and chain stitch signatures can be any time from 1840 to present but are probably from after the Civil War according to quilt historian

Quilting History continued....

Barbara Brackman. Additionally, it pays to really study the “look” of any inked signatures because sometimes a single individual with graceful penmanship was paid to write the names onto blocks made by different people. Next, I wanted to know about possible color themes as an indicator of when the quilt was made.

Single pattern album or friendship quilts from the early 1800s were often created in red, green and white and are mostly done in cottons although silk and wool versions can sometimes be found. Sometimes blocks could even be purchased for a group to write their names onto. Red-work seems to have been popular too, though with a smaller portion of the quilters. Sampler friendship quilts often contained a wide variety of techniques in the blocks but the most popular was applique and it was often a fussy-cut chintz with hand-turned applique. A block often featured the contributor's embroidery accomplishments. Folded and gathered flowers, inked and painted details were very popular in samplers...anything that might showcase a particular SKILL that the quiltmaker was admired for. Showcasing elaborate applique blocks (think Baltimore Album) can sometimes put an album quilt into a highly collectible quilt range. A few have been auctioned off for over \$100,000.00 apiece.

By 1910 American Woman magazine let readers invite fellow quilters to collect blocks through the mail in the “Give and Take Club” column. A few national sampler friendship quilts were produced from these collected signature blocks. Around the same time, we find friendship quilts being done using pre-stamped blocks or iron-on transfers where the maker often used multi-colored pastel designs worked on white cotton squares. Lastly, one of the most interesting friendship quilt ideas I came across was a beautiful and fascinating book titled Divided Hearts A Civil War Friendship Quilt by Barbara Brackman. This book contains historical narratives and includes 12 block patterns with instructions to recreate the quilt. In this book a permanent Pigma Micron pen size 05 is recommended – I have used these pens for years and can highly recommend them for permanence and lightfastness. Also consider using brown ink if a maker wants to mimic the look of old ink when using period fabrics. The Chimney Sweep block shown in this book was a relatively easy, yet eye-catching block that I have seen used in many signature quilts because the center is perfect for signing a name. There are thousands of block patterns that lend themselves well if a Signature Quilt is on your horizon and just think of the history that precedes it!

Ya’ll Keep Stitchin, Cindy

Selected Sources:

Clues in the Calico A Guide To Identifying and Dating Antique Quilts by Barbara Brackman, Call Number 746.97 Pines Library System

Friendship Quilts | World Quilts: The American Story, worldquilts.quiltstudy.org

Divided Hearts Civil War Friendship Quilt by Barbara Brackman, Call Number 746.46041 Pines Library System

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued...

The American Quilt Story The How-To and Heritage of a Craft Tradition by Susan Jenkins

Cindy's Collection Antique friendship and signature quilts - Antique Quilt History,

www.antiquequilthistory.com



1930's Friendship Quilt with 108 names and 330 pieces

(btaylorquilts.com)



Oak Leaf and Reel friendship quilt. Inscribed Ink, 1844. Appliqued and quilted but no batting. 80 inked signatures all in the same hand. Hoops and Eachus family genealogy.



Circa 1930's, names done in embroidery, backing is muslin, binding is scraps from blocks. Two generations of smalltown life - Vega, Oldham County, Texas, collection of my quilting

Tool Talk

By Cat Allard

Batting

Sew Many Choices! As quilters we all use some kind of batting (also called wadding) as the middle layer in our quilt. Our magnificent top layer, our carefully chosen back layer and in the middle the layer which provides warmth, highlights our quilting stitches or hides them, adds structure to our projects and adds weight or lightness to our quilts.

Doing repair work on vintage quilts I've used a variety of materials such as batting from old blankets and sheets, feed sacks stitched together, pieced wool, and cotton of unknown origin. Even old clothes. Today most batting is polyester, cotton and wool with combinations like poly-cotton and a mix of cotton and wool. Bamboo is getting more popular as an eco-friendly choice and silk, although expensive, is a wonderful choice.

There are many brands of batting and many choices within each brand. Different brands with similar descriptions can feel different from each other. Warm and Natural, Quilters Dream, Hobbs, Mountain Mist, Fairfield, etc., have many choices within the brand. Quilters Dream has 11 different categories of batting and sub choices within those categories. How do we decide?

Here are some questions to consider. What are we quilting? A bed quilt for ourselves, a bed quilt for others, a wall hanging, a charity quilt, a wedding quilt for our child, a wall hanging, a bag, or place mats. Will it be washed many times like a baby quilt? Is it going to wrap around us on the couch when we're drinking tea and have a cat or dog in our lap?

How are we quilting it? By hand, sewing machine, long arm, or sit down long arm? Will the stitches be small or large, how far apart will the stitching be? Will it be a loose stipple or as Angelia Walters says, "quilted to death." There is the question of loft, high or low, or how thick will the batting be? There is the question of price, how much do we want or have to spend? Where can I buy it? What does my quilt shop carry? Let's look at some of our choices.

Fiber – Fiber defines what the batting is made of. The three most common types of quilt batting are Polyester, 100% Cotton, and Cotton/Poly Blend and each has its own pros and cons. Wool, Bamboo and Silk Batting options have become more available in recent years. These other natural batting options have wonderful qualities but are usually more expensive.

Polyester Batting – Poly is less expensive, lightweight but very durable. Polyester batting options are often warmer - providing insulation without a lot of extra weight. The Low Loft options don't need to be quilted as closely together, and some use it when hand quilting. The Higher Loft versions are good for those who want their quilting to really stand out. The Highest Loft polyester batting is good for a thicker quilt. Cons: It tends to shift when not adequately quilted and will "beard" (which means the polyester fibers migrate through the fabric to the outside of the quilt).

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued...

Cotton Batting - Cotton batting feels like a thick flannel. It's a light and breathable natural fiber. It comes in a variety of lofts. The thinnest is perfect for hand quilting. The middle weights are perfect for machine quilting. Generally, it must be quilted closely. It will wash without pilling. And it will shrink slightly - especially if it's 100% cotton. (This can be good or bad, depending on your personal preference. I personally like it when the batting shrinks after the first wash because it softens the quilt and gives it a softer crinkly look for a more vintage appearance.) It will soften over time and ages well.

Cotton blend batting (usually 80% cotton/20% polyester) - Very similar to the cotton option, but a cotton poly blend is less expensive and doesn't shrink as much. It's good for machine quilting and is often used by professional long armers.

Wool - 100% natural fiber, but it can shrink so if you buy it, make sure the label states if it's been pre-shrunk. It resists folding and creasing and has great stitch-definition for showing off fancy machine quilting. It's also beautiful to hand quilt through. Wool batting is warmer and at the same time lighter weight. The drawbacks are higher prices and potential allergic reactions for some people.

Bamboo Batting - eco-friendly, natural fiber. (Typically blended with cotton which makes it great for breathability.) The texture of the quilting as well as the drape of the quilt are amazing, even for a quilt that is densely-machine-quilted.

What is Scrim - Cotton and Cotton/Poly blend battings sometimes come with a feature called Scrim. This is a thin layer of stabilizer on one or both sides of the batting to prevent the fibers from separating or stretching. Scrim is often felted or needle-punched onto the batting using tiny needles making it stronger and more stable - and an excellent choice for machine quilting. The benefit of this is that you can place your quilting stitches further apart—as much as 8-12 inches apart, versus a maximum of only 3-4 inches for batting without a scrim. Batting with a scrim is great for machine quilting, but difficult to hand quilt.

Angelia Walters, much to my surprise, uses only poly batting (Quilters Dream) when long arming quilts, sometimes using two layers. Why? The loft of poly will make her fabulous quilting will stand-out and because poly resists the physical memory of folding. It makes the quilts perfect for trunk shows when the quilts are unfolded without the fold lines we get in our stored quilts. She also surprised me by using double sided fusible when using her sit-down machine to avoid having to baste or pin it.

So, my take on it all is don't stop quilting. Not all quilts are meant to be archival or will win blue ribbons in a show. Use the best batting you can afford and let the rest go. They say a quilt is a hug. Keep quilting. We all need a hug.



Savannah Quilt Guild News

New Members

By Deb Brown

We are so excited to have two new members join the quilt guild in March 2025: Valerie Brandt and Candy Seitsema. Please join me in welcoming them.

Valerie Brandt is from northern Indiana but moved to the Savannah area 19 years ago because of her husband's job. She is a retired rescue fire fighter and paramedic. As a seventh-generation fire fighter, Valerie made history in 13 states as the first female firefighter on the job. During her middle school years, Valerie lived in the small town of Turkey Creek, Indiana where the nearest fire station was 45 minutes away causing homes and businesses to burn to the ground before the fire truck could get there. Her interest in fire fighting was sparked. Seven months later, the community raised enough money to fund its first fire station equipped with the latest fire engines and equipment.

Valerie's love of quilting goes back generations as well. Her mother and both grandparents were quilters. Valerie's aunt had her own PBS (Public Broadcasting station) where she taught the technique of Hawaiian quilting. She considers herself as a traditional quilter who loves to make baby quilts. Valerie is a part of the Michigan/Indiana Mennonite Church that auctions 20 -50 hand-pieced and hand-quilted quilts each year to support the outreach missions. Quilts are auctioned for up \$50,000.00 per quilt.

While in Indiana, Valerie improved her hand quilting skills by being a part of the church's sewing bee. Valerie makes an average of 35 quilts per year (mostly wall-hangings and baby quilts). Valerie currently sews on a vintage sewing machine that belonged to her great-uncle who was a tailor and will be celebrating his 90th wedding anniversary this summer. Valerie's fabric stash is comprised of all types of quilting cottons that are sent to her by the ladies in the church. She loves realistic animal prints on fabric.



Savannah Quilt Guild News

New Members cont.

Candy Seitsema is a native of Warner Robbins, Georgia who moved to Savannah 3 months ago to be with family. Last year, Candy retired from a 25-year teaching career in Physical Education to be the caregiver for her mother. Candy is new to quilting but she has always been crafty, making “market bags” and other household items. In just 6 months, she has produced 3 quilts, the first for her daughter and 2 quilts for Project Linus. She started out as a helper for her daughter-in-law, you may know her, the famous longarm quilter and guild member, Katie Lane. Candy enjoyed the process so much that she decided to continue making quilts as a hobby. Candy considers herself to be an “evolving” quilter willing to learn and try new techniques.

Candy’s first sewing machine was a simple Janome but then treated herself to a “fancy” Brother computerized sewing machine that she purchased on Joann’s going-out-of-business sale. Although Candy has a small personal fabric stash, she enjoys shopping in Katie’s massive fabric stash and has free range to get whatever she likes. Candy watches lots of YouTube videos to perfect her skills and her favorite is Tami, Hometown Quilt Company.

Candy now has a collection of quilts: 2 Christmas quilts and 1 patriotic quilt, all made by Katie Lane. Candy saves her scraps so she can “do something with them one day”. I’m envious of Candy, living in “quilty heaven”: she has access to a huge fabric stash that she doesn’t have to pay for and a lifetime of longarm quilting service. Who can ask for more?



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



Jan delivered 4 blankets, 21 caps and 13 nursing covers to Memorial Hospital this month. Thank you to all our makers! Thanks to a very generous contribution of fabric, she will be making several more nursing covers for next month.

Happy Spring! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather and finding some time to sew. I made a big delivery of about 300 pillowcases to Children's Hospital last Monday, so you are brightening the stay of many more sick children. Please bring your finished pillowcases to the guild meeting or to Lake Mayer and remember to drop your name in the jar for the drawing in June. Remember also, your name is entered every time you bring pillowcases, but only once no matter how many you bring that day. Please look for the members' post for the days that are made available to us at Lake Mayer. If you would like to learn more about making pillowcases, that is a wonderful place to learn. If you need to contact us or ask questions Frances is at 912-658-6507 or frances.stockton@gmail.com, and Debbie is at 804-513-9658 or wahoodeb@gmail.com. Thank you for all your support and beautiful pillowcases and fabric donations. Monetary donations or one-yard cuts of any children's fabric are gratefully accepted. Happy sewing, Debbie and Frances



**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 March: [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	5,461.96
Dues for 2025	600.00
Service Charge	(.60)
Debbie Whiteway pillowcase supplies	(78.15)
Insurance Payment	(317.00)
Pillowcase Donation	40.00

Balance on hand 12/20/2024 **5,706.21**

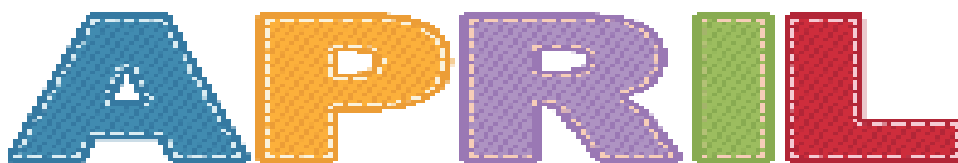
Note: If you are making payments using Venmo, our name for Venmo payments is sqgpay@savannahquiltguild.com. The treasurer's name (Jan Howard) may show up during the transaction but rest assured that the money goes directly to the guild bank account.

Retreat News

Registration for the 2026 Retreat opens April 12th at our guild meeting. The form will be posted to the website. Simply print out your registration form and bring it to the meeting along with your \$100 deposit to get on the list for this fun event! If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may mail your form and you will be added to the list after the meeting. A waiting list will be maintained when the 40 spots are filled. In the past everyone who wished to attend was able to join us for the retreat!

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 Com-

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- Teri 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 20th of the month.
Please email your info to: simpsonj536@gmail.com (Joanne Simpson)**