

June 2025

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## President's Column

Michael Sengstack

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

Dear Savannah Quilt Members,

June has arrived, bringing longer days, warmer weather, and lots of opportunities to create, connect, and give back. It's been a joy watching our guild bloom this year, and I'm excited about what's still ahead.

I'm especially excited to share that I'll be announcing the **President's Challenge** at our **July meeting**- a fun and creative project that all members are invited to take part in. You'll have until the December meeting to complete your entry, so start clearing a little space in your imagination (and maybe on your sewing table too)!

I also hope you will consider staying after our **June 14th meeting** for a special **Project Linus Sewing Bee**, led by member **Ellie Grix**, who also serves as the **Savannah Chapter Coordinator**. Project Linus is a national nonprofit that delivers hand-made blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or in need. With chapters in all 50 states, their mission is simple but powerful: to provide love, warmth, and comfort through the gift of a blanket.

Ellie will provide **kits and inspiration**, and we invite you to bring your **sewing machine and an extension cord** to join in. Whether you're sewing, pressing, or simply helping prep materials, your time will help make a difference in a child's life. As always, don't forget to check the **calendar on our website** to see upcoming workshops, bees, and events. It's easy to add them to your own calendar so you never miss a stitch! See you soon!

Binding Us Together,  
Michael Sengstack  
President, Savannah Quilt Guild



Join us for our next meeting:

June 14th, 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



Emily Robertson-Hood	June 6th
Cheryl Dingleline	June 9th
Donna Nicol	June 11th
Teri Watts	June 12th
Theresa Sapp	June 15th
Cheryl Slusser	June 15th
Barbara Ann Blaylock	June 16th
June Alston	June 20th
Jan Brown	June 23rd
Rita Richey	June 27th

## Programs and Upcoming Events

I hope you all found new ideas from last month's round robin! I was so sad to have missed it, we'll just have to make sure to have another one soon. Do you have a skill you'd want to share? Let me know!

June's presenter will be Emily Robertson Hood talking about the possibilities of quilting in apparel. Quilted clothing goes back to Egyptian times where it provided both warmth and protection from stab wounds. Today it's less for stabs and more an artistic expression. We'll briefly explore how to give your wardrobe a quilty look. And, we'll look at a simple garment nearly any sewer can make: a quilted vest. Emily will be doing the after program workshop for September where you can design your own vest.

All the best-  
Jennifer Farago

### After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons

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



Contact Terry Duncan

210-863-1126

with any questions or information about up-coming quilted vest class.

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## Sewcial

Our team is planning a fun filled, beach themed July Luncheon. There will be games (Bring 6 beachy 2 1/2" fabric strips) and gifts, as well as our usual awesome Show and Tell. The cost is \$5 and a side dish. Sign up (and pay) at our June meeting so that we can plan appropriately. If you have questions contact our director of frivolity - Cheryl Dingedine!



## Upcoming Classes- Nationally Known Teachers

[classes@savannahquiltguild.com](mailto: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. Sign up has begun!! Many of you have signed up and there is room for more. See Cindy Ochoa or Theresa Sapp at our June meeting to add your name to the list for this fun class.



**Theresa Sapp**  
[theresapp@aol.com](mailto:theresapp@aol.com)  
912 656-3605

**Mary Bell Fuller**  
[mgbfrog@gmail.com](mailto:mgbfrog@gmail.com)  
912 441-6636

**Cindy Ochoa**  
[obleo31313@yahoo.com](mailto:obleo31313@yahoo.com)  
912-222-8728

## BOM

### Something's Fishy

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

### ◆ Handwork Bee

The Appliqué Bee is now the Handwork Bee. At our June 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, June 24th 10-3

Judy Lindsey  
[judithalindsey@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

Amish communities spread across Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and the Great Plains in the 1800s and 1900s. Around 1870 they began developing their quilting techniques which at first were considered a temptation that they resisted. Amish quilts are collected these days for being hand-made and of very high quality. Amish communities avoid changing to suit the outside world and even when “new” techniques are adopted they are usually a couple of decades behind the rest of the country. The Nebraska Amish are perhaps the most conservative group of the Old Order Amish. The Old Order groups do not use motorized equipment or indoor plumbing and they wear very conservative clothing. Other differences are that the men do not wear suspenders and women do not wear bonnets but rather they wear black kerchiefs and flat straw hats. The early period was a “golden age” when quilts were made using plant dyes and European colorways in their clothing and quilts. Old Order groups do not use screens on doors or windows, men wear only white shirts, no curtains are used in homes, buggy tops must be white, men’s hair must be shoulder length and houses must not have projecting roofs. The communities were isolated, rural and quiet --- there were quilts on almost all beds with special ones tucked away for especially cold nights or special occasions. There are many subsets of Amish, where over time, changing views on their doctrine has resulted in separate communities that range from Old Order fundamentalists to traditionalists to modern (each of the subsets is named after the man credited for starting the breakout group.)

Today there are Amish/Mennonite communities as close as Metter, GA and Sarasota, FL. Because Amish and Mennonites share similar cultural habits and belief systems and have lived alongside each other since immigrating to the U.S., their quilting history and styles are similar and the term Amish Quilt is accepted for both groups. Only 6 percent of the roughly 400,000 Amish people in the U.S. use motorized tractors in their fields, 25 percent have power lawn mowers, 40 percent have electric refrigerators, 70 percent have inside flush toilets and bathtubs with running water, and 97 percent have motorized washing machines. I thought you would find this interesting as it plays into the amount of time they might have for quilting. Also these communities remind me of what we might call living off-grid today. This “community” is core to the Amish way of life whether helping with a crop, building a barn or piecing together a quilt. Today most quilt tops are pieced by one woman, but quilting bees are still a part of the fabric of the Amish community (pun intended). Children start quilting around age 4. Using scraps from their handmade clothing was and is still central to their frugal and utilitarian teachings. I even found one hexie pattern showing signs of the Pennsylvania-German influence crossing over in a traditional Amish quilt from 1910 done in lightweight wool. The quilter called it a “honeycomb” pattern.



## Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued....

Modifications in quilt patterns and colors are made within the community only after discussion and approval over any changes. Decisions are not made without community consensus, so know that when you see bright vivid colors, complex patterns and printed fabrics in Amish quilts that this had to be approved by the community prior to being incorporated into their quilts. In the more modern-thinking communities it appears that individual discretion is more common. What defines an Amish quilt? What has changed over the years? Quilts that use a combo of traditional Amish quilt block patterns and fabrics and are made by an Amish or Mennonite quilter. Today the more modern Amish groups maintain websites, have stores with cash registers (I really miss the one that used to be in Metter! Now I drive all the way out in the countryside near Metter just to buy chicken feed from a Mennonite farmer.) Some of the most popular quilt patterns will be quite familiar: Double Wedding Ring (representing weddings/anniversaries), Log Cabin (represents home and security, Lone Star or Star of Bethlehem (represents faith, prosperity and fertility, Star of Jacob (which I thought had 8 points?) Dresden Plate (represents new beginnings) and Sunshine and Shadow (unique to Lancaster County, PA (represents a balanced life and is called Trip Around the World outside of the Amish communities), Center Diamond (Amish adaptation of center-medallion pattern) and Dahlia (represents grace and a bond between two people.)

Did you know that the “basket” block originally represented hands with six fingers? In the book “Sunshine and Shadows” the author, Phyllis Hayder, says that Swiss ancestors had been born with 6 fingers and that the “basket” were called the “hands” pattern by the Amish. The Drunkard's Path was called Solomon's Puzzle inside the Amish communities. In my opinion, color is used to great effect and fine stitchery is still an important component of the “modern” Amish quilt. Where wool was once the main fabric, (and a brief period of rayon and polyester!) today we find cotton being predominantly used. You will find Amish women wearing vivid shades of blue, green, wine red or purple and of course black and white, and these tones show up frequently in their quilts too. It is the juxtaposition of colors that you will notice they have beautifully mastered. The quilting itself is pounced through templates or hand drawn. The Amish typically do not use long arm machines. Collecting antique or modern-day high-end Amish quilts is highly popular amid museums and individuals alike. Even Ken Burns has an outstanding quilt collection. Here is one of my favorite Amish quilt history tidbits:

“My usual rant about quilts goes like this: I've got an Amish quilt, probably from the 1830s, that has bold, loud red and blues in it. You know, almost psychedelic. And if you jumped ahead a century and thought about what painter was the epitome of Modernism in 1930 with those kinds of abstractions and bold colors and shapes, it would be Piet Mondrian.

And, here you have in the Amish — they're quaint, antiquated Amish — an epitome of modernism that Modernism itself wouldn't get to for 100 years. And I find that just terrifically thrilling.” --Ken Burns

Hope ya'll have a great month! Cindy Wallace

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## Quilting History continued...



Sunshine and Shadow, Lancaster County, PA. Wool, machine pieced, hand quilted.  
Maker unknown.



Broken Star  
Patchwork from  
Lancaster, PA  
Maker unknown.  
\$1325



Amish scooter  
\$400



Modern Amish Dahlia pattern. \$750

I wanted you to see the colors in clothing and quilts –  
modern Amish.



### Selected Sources:

[www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibition/classic-amish-quilts](http://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/exhibition/classic-amish-quilts) (highly recommend)

[www.amishquilter.com](http://www.amishquilter.com)

Old Order Amish Tours (2025) - All You Need to Know BEFORE You Go (with Trusted Reviews)

[www.dutchcrafters.com](http://www.dutchcrafters.com)

Sunshine and Shadow The Amish and Their  
Quilts by Phyllis Haders, 1976

[thequiltshow.com/blog/newsletters/quilt-show-newsletter-march-23-2025](http://thequiltshow.com/blog/newsletters/quilt-show-newsletter-march-23-2025)

### New Members

By Deb Brown

We are so excited to have 3 new members join the guild in May: Bonnie Reddick, Gerry Lipthrott, and T. Kurt Knoerl. Learn more about Bonnie and Kurt below.

Bonnie Reddick is originally from Brunswick, Georgia but moved to Pooler in 2012 because of her husband's job at Gulfstream. She is currently employed as an Office Manager for 3 Oral Surgery Centers and is hoping to retire within the next 5 years. Bonnie learned about the guild from a person she met in Hobby Lobby. Being inspired by her sister, she began quilting in 1982. Since then, Bonnie has made 15-20 quilts. She keeps most of the quilts and has given a few away to beloved family members. Within the last year, she has found more time to quilt and has watched many YouTube quilting videos to learn her craft. Like many other quilters, Bonnie enjoys making the quilt tops that go unquilted but she has set the goal of completing the quilts before moving on to other projects. Bonnie has an entire bedroom with floor to ceiling shelving dedicated to her fabric collections. "It's ridiculous, but I love bright cheerful fabric!" Her favorite fabric designers are Tula Pink and Lori Holt. Bonnie has 3 sewing machines: a 1981 Kenmore, a basic Brother sewing machine and a Brother PQ 1500 which she has named "The Hog" since it will sew anything she shoves under the needle. Bonnie has a small collection of antique quilts that include a very fragile quilt made by her husband's great-grandmother and a treasured quilt made by her mother as a novice quilter. Bonnie considers herself to be a mixed modern/traditional quilter who loves to make star quilts and ones with geometric angles. She recently entered 3 quilts in the Grace Company Quilt Competition. Her current project is a Chandelier quilt that will be king size. Bonnie wants to learn the applique technique and has come to the right place.





## Savannah Quilt Guild News

### New Members cont.

T. Kurt Knoerl was born in Buffalo, New York. He had lived around the country before moving to Savannah 8 years ago to teach History at Georgia Southern University. He considers Savannah to be the most beautiful city he has ever lived in. Kurt requested a sewing machine for Christmas to do household repairs. He completed the tasks in about 15 minutes and then said, "What am I going to do with it now?" While teaching a class on Material Culture, he gave a lesson on the history of quilts. To give some hands-on experience to the students, he had them sew 3 x 3 inch squares together. It was eye-opening because many of the students didn't even know what to do with a needle and thread or to hand stitch a straight line. Being inspired by antique quilts, Kurt was led down a path to use the sewing machine to make his own quilt. He has made several small quilt blocks like the log cabin, pinwheel and drunkard path. He watched many YouTube videos to figure it out. Now he is very proud of the jellyroll quilt that he made for his queen size bed. Mastering the tension on his new Singer MX 60 sewing machine was challenging. Kurt has a new appreciation for the quilt his mother made from hand embroidered squares depicting birds from all 50 states. Kurt has a cousin who is a famous art quilter, Jack Edson. Check out his work on Facebook. Kurt has purchased several tattered antique quilts and is restoring them to ultimately be given to a museum. Kurt's fabric stash is small but is growing as he shops at thrift stores. His favorite find is a piece of Shibori dyed fabric. Kurt is multi-talented: he enjoys woodworking and carving as well as water color painting. He is also an archeologist. Kurt currently sews at his kitchen table but is in the process of adding a studio to his home that will contain all of his hobbies. Kurt's favorite aspect of quilting is laying out the quilt and seeing the end product come from an idea in his head. He has a goal of making landscape art quilts.



## Tool Talk By Cat Allard

### Glue? or Down the Rabbit Hole

Did you know that the 505 basting spray has a glue stick option? I didn't. When I looked it up, I found out that the Dritz also has a fabric glue stick and Starlandia in Savannah sells it. Elmers has a stick glue that goes on purple and disappears. So does the 505 brand. I've used the Sewline glue stick pen for holding bindings till they are sewn, mostly on small items. But looking at the little video by one of my favorite online quilters using fabric glue to aid in making wonderful postcards took me right down that internet rabbit hole!

Rabbit Holes are wonderful things! Sure, they eat up your time if you have a project that must be done, but really where would we be (learning-wise) without them?

Sure, I get a lot of inspiration by going to the quilt guild and seeing the amazing quilting at show and tell. Sure, I can take a class at my local quilt shop and learn something new. But I know what it is I want to learn in the class. This particular hole I'm going down now is just for me. I can go in the direction I want and at the pace I'm comfortable with and discover new things...

So, I went to see what Karen Brown from *Just Get it Done Quilts* on YouTube had to say about glue sticks and her segment about quilt repair with fusible tape. I bristled because my business involves doing quilt repairs on vintage quilts and I would never use glue! But Karen reassured me quickly by saying that her methods were only for new quilts!

As many of you know, YouTube has a sidebar that features other videos that you might be interested in and yes you are! *Patchwork and Poodles* has videos on mending "old" quilts. Her methods were useful but not archival enough for "vintage" quilts or "family heirlooms" meant to be passed down to future generations. But she mentioned using ladder stitching. As a reminder, I looked up ladder stitch and found a tutorial by *Smarmy Clothes*. Yep! That's when I realized I had gone far afield.

I backed up to "Rips and Tears" by *Stitch with Racheal*, who used *bone-a-web* to make repairs to her first quilt that she made for her mom, stitching on heart shaped patches. She did a lovely job and I loved her string quilt. Racheal mentioned Kate of *The Last Homely House*. "Pin Cut Sew" was in the side bar and I spent a lovely ten minutes learning how to make little fabric postage stamps with both fusible and glue stitch. AND back in the side bar was Karen Brown of *Just Get it Done Quilts* doing Quilt Repair with fusible and glue.

So maybe there is a bottom to the rabbit hole... no chance!

What's your favorite hole to go down? Feel free to email or text me at [zencatart@gmail.com](mailto:zencatart@gmail.com) or 860-459-9747 with questions or suggestions for the next column.



# 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)



Jan delivered 20 caps to Memorial Hospital this month. Thank you to our two faithful makers!

Happy Spring! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather and finding some time to sew. 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](mailto:frances.stockton@gmail.com), and Debbie is at 804-513-9658 or [wa-hoodeb@gmail.com](mailto:wa-hoodeb@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

**IMPORTANT Project Linus Sewing Bee following the June meeting!!** Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, or just your enthusiasm to help press, assemble, sew and complete some of these important quilts!



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 participate, you may contact Ellie Grix, who is the local chapter coordinator. Ellie is a member of the guild and 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 May: [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	6,180.43
Dues for 2025	90.00
Service Charge	(0.35)
Lanette Edens pillowcase fabric	(177.56)
Debbie Whiteway pillowcase fabric	(38.26)
Community Service Donations	50.00

**Balance on hand 05/20/2025**

**6,104.26**

**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

Forty members have signed up for the 2026 Retreat and there are seven on the waiting list. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list please see Lanette Edens at the June meeting.



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