

August 2025

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## President's Column

Michael Sengstack

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

Dear Savannah Quilt Members,

I'll be traveling this month, so I'll have to cheer you on from afar—please save some fun for me!

**Savannah Squares — Full Details Inside!** Be sure to read this newsletter for the complete guidelines on the 2025 President's Challenge, Savannah Squares. I can't wait to see how each of you captures your slice of the city in a single 16-inch quilt. The creativity in this guild never disappoints, and I'm already looking forward to our November Show & Tell.

### National Instructor Class — August 8

There are still a few spots left for our special class with Vicki McCarty of Calico Patch Designs on Friday, August 8. Vicki will teach a delightful wool-embroidery project featuring a gingerbread house (perfect for holiday stitching). If you missed Cindy Ochoa at the July meeting, check the website or contact her directly to snag a seat before they're gone.

### Georgia National Fair — Let's Hit 100!

Finally, the Georgia National Fair entry deadline will be here before we know it. Whether you're brand-new to exhibiting or a seasoned ribbon-chaser, this is a fantastic way to receive constructive feedback and share your work with a wider audience. Our goal is 100 entries from Savannah Quilt Guild members—let's set a record together! Dust off those nearly-finished tops, stitch down that last binding, and enter with pride.

I'll miss seeing your faces in August, but I know the team has everything well in hand. Keep sewing, keep sharing, and keep inspiring one another.

### Binding Us Together,

Michael Sengstack

President, Savannah Quilt Guild



Join us for our next meeting:

August 9th, 2025

**Southside Baptist Church**

5502 Skidaway Road

9:30 – 10:00 am - Sewcial Time

10:00 am – Meeting

Find it here:

<a href="#">Programs and Workshops</a>	3
<a href="#">Classes and BOM</a>	4
<a href="#">Things to do.....</a>	5
<a href="#">Quilting History</a>	6
<a href="#">New Members</a>	9
<a href="#">Community Outreach</a>	11
<a href="#">Minutes and Treasurer</a>	12
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	13

Remember to bring to our meeting:

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

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

Savannah Quilt Guild

President's Challenge 2025

## Savannah Squares

### A Piece of Savannah Through Your Eyes

Inspired by the cherished tradition of the Baltimore Album quilts from my home state of Maryland—which brought together deeply personal symbols and imagery into expressive, story-filled blocks—this year's President's Challenge invites you to create your own Savannah Square.

Your challenge: design and complete a 16 in. x 16 in. quilt that reflects what Savannah means to you. It could be inspired by your favorite square, a blooming tree in your neighborhood, marsh birds on a morning walk, a bit of historic ironwork, or simply the way the sunlight hits your porch. This is your opportunity to share a personal connection to Savannah—through color, texture, shape, and stitch.

Whether you work in appliqué, piecing, embroidery, or mixed media techniques, all approaches are welcome. This is a space for creativity, not convention—so let your materials and methods speak as freely as your inspiration.

Guidelines:

- \* Create one finished 16" x 16" square quilt sandwich
- \* It should be an original design, inspired by something personal and Savannah-based
- \* Any technique—or combination of techniques—is welcome
- \* Be ready to share a brief reflection at the November meeting: what inspired your square, what you challenged yourself to try, or what you learned.

All completed "Savannah Squares" will be shared at the November meeting where you can tell your story and a give glimpse of Savannah through a quilter's eye.

We can't wait to see your piece of the story.



## Needling News



Lanette Edens	August 3rd
Kathy Rudd	August 3rd
Paula LaCoe	August 7th
Vicki Watts	August 11th
Megan Townsend	August 13th
Ronnie Stimson	August 18th
Jennifer Mullins	August 19th

### Programs and Upcoming Events

Greetings!

This month we will hear from our guest speaker Vicki McCarty of Calico Patch Designs. Vicki will teach a wool applique class on Friday before the meeting, so I look forward to hearing her expert views.

**HOT TIP!!** Don't want to miss a meeting or event? You can visit the Guild's calendar and add individual events directly to your own calendar by scanning the QR code below. Never miss a Bee, Meeting, or workshop again. Yay!

Enjoy the summer,

Jennifer Farago

Vice President



### After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons

Teri Duncan, Mitzi Crow, workshops@savannahquiltguild.com



Contact Terry Duncan

210-863-1126

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

## Sewcial

Our Sewcial gatherings are on hiatus for the summer...but be on alert for possible pop-up events!



Cindy Ochoa

### Upcoming Classes- Nationally Known Teachers

[classes@savannahquiltguild.com](mailto:classes@savannahquiltguild.com) Theresa Sapp, Mary Bell Fuller, Cindy Ochoa



### National Class for 2025

Our class with Vicki McCarty is fast approaching. Here is some information for those who have signed up. The class will be held on 8 August from 9 am to 4 pm at Southside Baptist Church. We will meet in our regular meeting room. Please arrive by 8:45 am so that you will be settled in and ready to get started by 9.

#### Supply list

Chenille needle number 22 or 24, Pressing sheet, Scissors (you will be cutting smallish item so plan your scissors accordingly), Common hand sewing supplies such as a thimble.

These items will be available for purchase at the class if needed.

Vicki will pre-print your steam-a-seam so there will be no tracing your pattern.

There is a thread package for \$24, you may go together with other class members to purchase and share a package for the class if you like. I'm so sorry I neglected to mention this sooner.

Please remember to bring a drink and your lunch.

The lighting in our classroom is pretty good, but if you feel you might need additional lighting feel free to bring a small lamp (an extension cord would also be very helpful).

If you have not signed up yet and want to join us, please contact Cindy Ochoa ASAP to get on the list for this class opportunity.

#### 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

### Eastern Sunrise

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 August meeting we will have a Granny Square crochet workshop, or you can work on your own project. 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, August 26th 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.

## Quilting History

Cindy Wallace, contributor

How big is the world's largest quilt? Who made it? When? Where and Why? Well, it turns out that the answer is, "it depends." The AIDS Memorial Quilt weighs 54 TONS and covers 1.2 million square feet. In 1987 it contained 1,920 panels commemorating people who died of AIDS. Today there are 48,000 panels. Most "blocks" are rectangles measuring 6 feet by 3 feet or roughly the size of a grave. The world's largest patchwork quilt measures 270,174 square feet. It is called Manta da Cultura (Patchwork for Culture) and was made in 2000 by an organization named Realizar Eventors Especialis in Porto, Portugal. The largest hexagon quilt in the world comes from Gatton, Queensland, Australia. It is 119.02 yards long and 82 inches wide so it is a very, very long rectangle. The quilt consists of 152,636 hexagons. Hexies have been received from all over the world. The quilt weighs 323.4 pounds. You can imagine the enormous effort required just to move this quilt from one end of a room to another for displays!

There is also a huge granny square crochet "quilt" which is considered the largest crocheted patchwork "quilt" of the world. The world's largest historical quilt is located in Antler, North Dakota. Fun fact, Antler has a population of only 21 people. Antler is 5 miles from the Canadian border in the northwest corner of the state. The North Dakota quilt was the world's largest quilt until the AIDS quilt came along; now it's known as the world's largest historical quilt. This quilt was created by the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota to help celebrate the state centennial in 1989. Leona Tennyson and her group of quilters thought this quilt would be on permanent display in Bismarck but they were told it was too large to display. This quilt project features an outline of the state of North Dakota showing its counties like a colorful map that measures 11,390 feet. Every county is a different color and it features intricate details of each of the 53 counties of North Dakota. The North Dakota quilt was first certified by the Guinness Book of World Records July 14, 1988 measuring 85 feet by 134 feet and weighing 800 pounds. Finished in July 1988, the North Dakota quilt was surpassed by the size of the Manta da Cultura in 2000. The North Dakota quilt even caused a ruckus in the Dakotas. Leona was invited to display the large quilt in South Dakota at the Corn Palace (which I have been to.... And it rates right up there with the Spam Museum) but North Dakota refused permission saying "She should've asked us before she made it that big." I just has to share this little paragraph that I found while researching the Dakota quilt - "North Dakota's albatross is a perplexing one. It praises the state of its creation, and yet in North Dakota -- with its population of dour Scandinavian farmers -- that may be a political liability. It undoubtedly is the largest unwanted attraction in America, befitting a state that has a lot of empty room to hide things. It covers over a third of an acre." Leona Tennyson passed away in 1995 and her daughters-in-law Sharon and Janet have kept the quilt in Antler in a travel trailer since Leona died. Leona's dying wish was that the quilt be preserved intact.

## Savannah Quilt Guild News

Quilting History continued....

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt (official title for the AIDS quilt), is a memorial to celebrate the lives of people who have died of AIDS-related causes. It is the largest piece of community folk art in the world, as of 2020. It was conceived in 1985, during the early years of the AIDS pandemic, when social stigma prevented many AIDS victims from receiving funerals. It has been displayed on the Mall in Washington, D.C., several times. In 2020, it was returned to San Francisco, where it is cared for by the National AIDS Memorial. Today it can be viewed virtually. Currently this quilt has 50,000 panels with nearly 110,000 names sewn into them. The collection is searchable by block number or name, allowing users to read the stories stitched into each panel. A guide is provided for navigating the collection when you go to the website. Items and materials included in the panels: Fabrics such as lace, suede, leather, mink, taffeta, also Bubble Wrap and other kinds of plastic and even metal.

Decorative items like pearls, quartz crystals, rhinestones, sequins, feathers, buttons.

Clothing, such as jeans, T-shirts, gloves, boots, hats, uniforms, jackets, flip-flops.

Items of a personal nature, such as human hair, cremation ashes, wedding rings, merit badges and other awards, car keys.

Unusual items, such as stuffed animals, records, jockstraps, condoms, and bowling balls.

The AIDS Quilt is the subject of an Academy Award-winning documentary film, Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt, produced by Rob Epstein[41] and Bill Couturié, and narrated by Dustin Hoffman. Common Threads won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1990. Also Never to Be Forgotten is a Philo T. Farnsworth Award-winning 54-minute video created by Karen Peper which documents the Quilt's June 1988 visit to Detroit, Michigan. I looked but did not find these materials available through our PINES Library system. People can still contribute to the AIDS quilt, following the outlined requirements. Each panel is numbered, photographed and grommets are inserted.

So as you can see, it kind of depends on your qualifiers as to which quilt is the world's largest. I think we can safely say that the AIDS quilt is probably the best known "world's largest quilt" though. Then I had the thought, ok, so what is the world's smallest quilt. Well, the world record for the smallest quilt is held by a quilt where the strips are 1/42nd of an inch wide, but that my friends is a tale for another day.

Happy Quilting, Cindy Wallace



## New Members

By Deb Brown

We are so excited to have four new members to join the quilt guild in July: Sherry Eiginger, Cindy Lou Curtiss, Molly Sauls and Lisa Warren. Get to know Lisa and Cindy by reading below.

Lisa Warren is originally from Chicago, Illinois. While in college, she met her husband who was from Garden City, GA. They visited Savannah frequently and finally retired here in 2014. Lisa worked as an Urban Planner for the City of Chicago. Being taught by her mother, Lisa learned to sew a child. While Lisa's mother made garments to save money, Lisa sewed doll clothes. Lisa's first exposure to quilting was as an adult when she ventured to make a baby quilt for her daughter. She took a quilting class at a quilt shop in 1990 where she made her first sampler quilt -- 100% by hand (pieced and quilted). Though in shreds from being well loved, Lisa is still in possession of her first quilt. Since that time, Lisa has made 12-15 quilts. She has now progressed to machine piecing. Lisa has all the quilts she has ever made except one that was placed in her husband's casket as a comfort. Lisa considers herself to be a traditional quilter who sews and quilts very slowly, savoring every process of the journey from choosing the fabric and project to placing the final stitch in the binding. "Sometimes it takes me years to complete a quilt." Lisa sews in a separate crafting space in her home that is "filled with a whole bunch of different stuff -- there is no organization to it". "I see fabric that is so pretty that I just have to have it." Lisa sews on a Babylock sewing machine and also has a vintage Singer sewing machine. She collects antique quilts and quilt blocks. She is very proud of the Lemoyne Star quilt that she purchased in pieces then stitched them together and hand quilted it. She exhibited this prized possession at the Frank Murray Show and Tell in June 2025. Lisa enjoys going to quilt shows and museums. Lisa's favorite aspect of quilting is choosing and collecting fabric along with hand quilting. Her quilting goal is to make a "Crazy Quilt".



## Savannah Quilt Guild News

### New Members cont.

Cindy Lou Curtiss was born in Little Washington, Pennsylvania but has lived in many areas of the country because her husband of 50 years was in the military. She claims Denver, Colorado as home since she lived there the longest. Cindy moved to Savannah in 2014 when her husband accepted a job in the city. As a profession, Cindy was a preschool teacher for 20 years, retiring in Denver. Cindy has always been interested in sewing by making and altering her clothes. Cindy enjoyed looking at the old quilts and has 2 quilted treasures made by her grandmother but had never made a quilt at this point. She was introduced to quilting by our guild member, Kathy Rudd. "This was the biggest blessing of my life. I have finally found my passion." Cindy started by taking a beginning quilting class at Sew Much More Quilt Shop and found the staff to be very helpful as they patiently guided her every step of the way. Her first quilt was made for her great-granddaughter. After that, Cindy was all in.....taking over her husband's home office as her sewing space, buying a new Babylock sewing machine and lots of fabric and notions. "It's my happy place now and I love it!" Cindy enjoys going to estate sales and garage sales to look for old quilts and fabric. She has found old patchwork pieces and is currently reconstructing a grandmother's flower garden quilt as a long-term project. She is also working on a Dinosaur quilt for her grandson. Her goal is to make 1 or 2 quilts for every family member.



# 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)



Summer continues to pass quickly, and you are continuing to bring us beautiful pillowcases for the children admitted to Willets Children's Hospital. It is so appreciated. I took another large load of pillowcases to the hospital this morning and they were delighted to receive them. I also delivered 42 of our more adult themed fabric pillowcases to the Savannah Rehabilitation Center on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street near the hospital last week.

Our last meeting this month at Lake Mayer will be July 31 from 12:30-3:30. Hope to see you there.

Please pick up kits at the August guild meeting. You will also find a new instruction sheet for completing a pillowcase from a single yard of fabric. This is another option, very quick and easy! In the meantime, I will hunt for some fun Halloween fabric.

If you have questions call Debbie Whiteway at 804-513-9658 or Frances Stockton at 912-658-6507.

Jan Howard delivered 21 infant caps to Memorial Hospital...thanks 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 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 July: [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

<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>8,159.02</b>
Transfer to Community Service	(1,838.00)
Dues for 2025	120.00
Service Charge	(1.10)
Luncheon	215.00
Retreat refund (moved)	105.00
Publix chicken (luncheon)	(220.39)
Cheryl Dingleline supplies for July and partial December luncheon	(436.50)
<b>Balance on hand 07/20/2025</b>	<b>6,103.03</b>

## Retreat News

Forty members have signed up for the 2026 Retreat. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list please see Lanette Edens at the

August 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)**