

October 2025

# Savannah Quilt Guild News

## President's Column

Michael Sengstack

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

Dear Savannah Quilt Members,

Fall has finally arrived, and just like the cooler weather, it feels like fresh energy is settling in with our quilting! October is shaping up to be a busy and exciting month for the Guild.

First, a reminder that sign-ups for our **Fall 2026 Retreat** (October 22–25, 2026) are still open. We're aiming for 30 participants, and we're about halfway there. If we don't reach the headcount, we may have to rethink the location and format for a fall event. If you've been on the fence, now's the time to join in—help us make this first fall retreat a success. And yes, you can still participate in both the spring and fall retreats if you'd like double the fun!

I'm also looking forward to our **"Knot Just a Pouch"** workshop after the October meeting. If you've already signed up but didn't get your kit yet, please email me so we can get you set up ([mgsengstack@msn.com](mailto:mgsengstack@msn.com)). I'll also bring some extra fabric and zippers to the workshop in case anyone wants to swap out something from their kit. There are still a few spots left, so don't miss out—this is a fun and practical project that's perfect for gifts, travel, or just showing off your creativity.

And since it's fall, I can't help but think of it as the season of finishing and gathering—whether it's harvesting projects from our UFO piles or gathering together to share inspiration. Let's carry that spirit into our quilting this month!

See you at the meeting, and happy stitching,

**Michael Sengstack**

**President, Savannah Quilt Guild**



Join us for our next meeting:

October 11th, 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

# 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



Machiell Futch	Oct 2nd	Janet Howard	Oct 18th
Laurel McKeith	Oct 5th	Patricia Ashton	Oct 20th
Carol Larsson	Oct 8th	Barbara Gary	Oct 21st
Judy King	Oct 9th	Sandra Morgan	Oct 21st
Elaine Byrnes	Oct 10th	Kristy Armstrong	Oct 23rd
Beverly Williams	Oct 10th	Molly Sauls	Oct 24th
Cindy Lou Curtis	Oct 13th	Michael Sengstack	Oct 27th
Sherry Eiginger	Oct 14th	Natalie Wilhoit	Oct 29th
Karen Hayes	Oct 15th	Debbie Whiteway	Oct 30th
Judy Walker	Oct 16th		

### Programs and Upcoming Events

Greetings Quilty Friends!

I hope your hot summer was filled with cool activities! I spent the summer with family back home in Maine where the temps were much cooler.

This month, Terry Duncan will show us how we can put AI to use for us and help design quilts. I'm sure we'll all learn a lot of this amazing new tool sweeping the world.

November, our program will be the President's Challenge reveal, so make sure you have your Savannah Square ready to share.

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

## Classes

Thank you all for your input regarding future classes. Cindy and Theresa are busy gathering intel on the many possibilities for our guild. As always, we encourage you to share names of instructors that you have enjoyed. On a related note, classes for the AQS Daytona QuiltWeek (February 18-21, 2026) have been announced. Registration opens November 11 for AQS members. Check it out at [americanquilter.com](http://americanquilter.com).

## Snacks for Meetings-

Thank you to those who have been providing yummy snacks for our guild meetings. When the blue sign up sheet is passed around you have generously volunteered. We do have need of someone who would be willing to set up the refreshment table by 9:15 (set out napkins, cups, coffee maker, water pitcher, etc...). If you would be willing to assist please contact Theresa Sapp ([theresasapp@aol.com](mailto:theresasapp@aol.com)).



## BOM

### Pinwheels and Stars

Click here for link: [BOM](#)



## Things to do this month...



### ◆ Friday Bee

Friday bee is four hours of sewing fun with ladies that love to quilt. The Sew Bee meets from 10 :00 am to 2:00 pm at Talahi Island Community Center. Contact Renee Christensen at [rip-pinrenee@gmail.com](mailto:rip-pinrenee@gmail.com) to 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

This month will be a sit and sew of your handwork project. Bring your lunch and stay all day or stop in for a few hours.

October 28th  
10-3  
Center Parc Credit Union community room  
5698-A Ogeechee Rd Savannah

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.



It's BACK!!

## Tool Talk By Cat Allard

I bet every one of you has a favorite pair of scissors... or two or three or four. And we all know the joke about the man who used his wife's quilting scissors to cut paper and lived to regret it. My obsession with scissors started at an early age with a Christmas stocking filled the crayons, scotch tape and a pair of "blunt nosed" scissors. I could use them to cut anything! Surprisingly sharp, I used them to trim the fur on my cat's back and am still grounded for that stunt!

The first fabric only scissors I met was my aunt's "dressmaking shears." She was a tailor for an expensive dress shop and the woman who taught me how to sew. I soon had my own shears. Shears are different from scissors. Scissors are usually under six inches long and have two small matching handle holes. Shears are larger than scissors and have a smaller round hold for the thumb and a larger oblong hole for two or more fingers.

The earliest known scissors were what we call "snips." They were bronze and used in Mesopotamia around 4,000 BC. The first scissors with pivoting blades were used in the sixth century AD. Robert Hinchliffe, of Sheffield, England was the first acknowledged manufacturer of modern scissors. He mass-produced scissors made of steel in 1760's.

Today, Gingher, Fiskars, Singer, Karen K Buckley, and many more live by our sewing machines, on our cutting boards, in our embroidery boxes and in our travel kits. They have straight, curved, serrated, and pinked blades. They have silver, orange, black, patterned and colorful plastic handles. I love them all.

Gingher: Gingher scissors have been top of the line scissors for fifty-five years and many of the manufacturing steps are still done by hand. If you own a pair of Gingers you'll know the smaller ones come with a leather case that covers the blade. The larger scissors "shears" come with a plastic cover. Handy when carrying them to go. My all-time favorite scissor is the 4" scissor with larger finger holes that will accommodate my arthritic fingers. Gingher also has wonderfully sharp lightweight plastic 8" shears. And if your scissors become damaged you can return them to Gingher which a check for \$15.00 and they will repair and return them to you.

## Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued....

**Fiskars:** With the recognizable orange handle Fiskars scissors were introduced in 1967 and became an affordable alternative to the more expensive dressmaker shears on the market. Made in Finland, they run the gamut of four and five inch detail scissors, classic 8" shears, pinking shears, snips and now come in a variety of fashion colors, patterns and styles, with Softgrip handles, titanium and non-stick blades and in left-handed versions.

**Karen K Buckley:** Karen took the scissor world by storm with her soft handled serrated scissors with larger elongated finger holds easily used by right or left handers. The serrated blade (only one side, the other blade is smooth) pulls fabric toward you instead of pushing it away in regular scissors.

**Snips:** Years ago, I gave my girlfriend, Noriko, a featherweight sewing machine, and she gave me a pair of Japanese sewing snips. I got the better deal. They have Japanese character on the black blades and still are the sharpest snips I own. Varieties are many, including Fiskars, Gingher but the Japanese snips remain my favorite.

Pinking shears, stork scissors, embroidery scissors, if you are like me, my favorites go on and on. Till next time. If you have any suggestions for topics for Tool Talk, please email at: [ZenCatArt@gmail.com](mailto:ZenCatArt@gmail.com)



## New Members

By Deb Brown

We are excited to have two new members join the guild in September 2025. Let's extend a warm welcome to Taura Horn and Christopher Funte. Take a peek into the lives of Christopher and Taura below.

Christopher Funte is originally from Atlanta, GA. He visited Savannah many times and fell in love with the beautiful city. He finally moved here from Kentucky a year ago. Chris is employed by State Farm Insurance company as an Agent Team Member and works out of the Richmond Hill Office. His quilting journey began by sewing garments and altering clothing. He later moved on to making costumes and household crafts. "My good friend in Atlanta had been bugging me about quilting for years." He finally gave in 3 years ago and made his first quilt with her guidance. It was a block of the month star pattern by Kimberly Einmo from Craftsy that was done with 4 other good friends via Zoom. "I've been hooked ever since." Chris considers himself to be a traditional quilter who loves making star blocks. Once he completed the quilt, he made 6 other quilt tops that are neatly tucked away in his home. His mother and grandmother are also quilters. In fact, his mother came to the August guild meeting as his guest and thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. She is elated that he is now making quilts. Chris then started making bags using the "By Annie" patterns (another addiction). Chris sews in a spare bedroom that has been converted to a craft room/office. He owns a 1912 antique treadle sewing machine as well as a Janome Memory Craft sewing machine. Fabric has consumed most of the space in the room. In fact, he purchased the shelving units from Joann's when they went out of business. Now the walls are lined with shelves that are filled with bolts of fabric. Although Chris loves to buy fabric, make quilts and make bags, that's not his only passion. He is also an impressionistic artist who uses acrylic paints. Since joining the guild, Chris was encouraged to enter his bags and first quilt into the Georgia National Fair. We wish him luck. He is currently working on a "one block wonder" quilt. He has designed the center to be a lone star block. His future goal is "to just have fun quilting".



## Savannah Quilt Guild News

New Members con't.

Taura Horn was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. She has moved around the country and even lived on a sailboat for four years. When her good friend encouraged her to move to Savannah from Beaufort, SC, she did just that about 6 months ago. Taura is a professional photographer with a Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree from the San Francisco Art Institute. She owned a photo studio for 14 years specializing in weddings, family events, babies, ect. Although Taura is new to Savannah, she is not new to quilting. Her quilting journey began about 13 years ago when she used quilting to privately unwind and escape. "Now all I want to do is quilt." Taura is from a quilting family: her sister, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother...all quilters. Taura's first quilt was for a friend's baby. She chose what she thought was simple like a log cabin quilt, but it ended up being overwhelming. It wasn't until she began to let go of the quilting rules and exact measurements that she then began to have fun. She kept pushing forward and finding her own path that landed her with a quilt in the International Quilt Studies Museum located in Lincoln, Nebraska. Since moving to Savannah, she has turned her spare bedroom into her sewing space which contains several sewing machines, a drawing table, shelves of fabric, and a design wall. She loves solid fabrics, vintage fabrics and her own printed fabric through Spoonflower. She also has her own hand-dyed and hand painted fabrics. In addition to quilting, Taura loves to draw, paint, sew garments, crochet, and create art from clay. Taura was a member of the Lincoln Modern Quilt Guild and in 2020, she submitted a quilt to Quiltcon for an exhibit that was held in Austin, Texas. Taura is currently working on 2 quilt projects that will be submitted to Quiltcon 2026 expressing her improv style with matchstick quilting using an upcycled shirt that she thrifted from Goodwill. Taura's motto is to "dream big, live bold and to make every moment count." Learn even more about Taura and see her works at [taurahorn.com](http://taurahorn.com).



# 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 has passed 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. Jan Howard delivered 28 caps and one blanket...thanks to all the faithful makers!

Please pick up kits at the October 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.



## 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 September: [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>5,261.53</b>
Dues for 2025	30.00
Service Charge	(.10)
Brown bag supplies	(70.59)
Theresa Sapp hospitality supplies	(31.17)
<b>Balance on hand 09/20/2025</b>	<b>5,189.67</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.

## Retreat News

Our March 19-22, 2026 retreat is full and Lanette is maintaining a waiting list.

Signups for the October 22-25, 2026 retreat began at our September meeting. There are 30 slots for this retreat. In order for this event to become a reality we still need around **15 more folks** to sign up. Contact Lanette Edens or sign up at our October (2025) meeting. We will keep you posted on the status of the second retreat.

### *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!



# OCTOBER

## 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)**