

February 2026

Savannah Quilt Guild News

President's Column

Michael Sengstack

president@savannahquiltguild.com

Dear Savannah Quilt Members,

February always brings a little extra warmth with it—Valentine's Day, shared creativity, and the joy of spending time with people who love what we love. And really, what better way to celebrate than with fabric, friendship, and a few good stitches?

As we move into the month, I'd love to remind everyone to continue bringing in your **Brown Paper Bag Challenge** projects for **Show & Tell**, we want to see what those mystery bags turned into! It's been such fun watching these projects take on new life, and I know there are some great stories still waiting to be shared.

This is also a great time to explore the many ways to connect with fellow members throughout the month. Be sure to check the **Guild calendar** on our website for opportunities to join the **Modern Bee**, **Handwork Bee**, **Friday Sew Bee**, and **Weekend Warriors**. These gatherings are a wonderful way to meet new friends, share ideas, and enjoy time at the sewing table together.

I'd also like to send a big thank-you to **Lisa Sims-Stevens** for her wonderful January program on organizing your sewing space. If her presentation inspired you to tackle a project of your own, we'd love to see it! Consider sharing your **before-and-after photos** on the Guild's Facebook page—it's always fun to see how each of us creates a space that works for our own creative process.

After our February meeting, we'll also have a **workshop with Lanette** focused on working with a **Layer Cake**—a fun, approachable way to play with color and design. These workshops are a great way to learn from one another in a supportive, creative environment.

As we head into February, I hope you find a little extra time for creativity, connection, and maybe even a project you fall in love with all over again.

Binding Us Together,
Michael Sengstack
President, Savannah Quilt Guild



Join us for our next meeting:

February 14th, 2026

Southside Baptist Church

5502 Skidaway Road

9:30 – 10:00 am - Sewcial Time

10:00 am – Meeting

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Remember to bring to our meeting:

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

Needling News



Jane Odgers	Feb 4th	Desiree Taylor	Feb 22nd
Retha McClain	Feb 6th	Cindy Cybul	Feb 23rd
Joni Shortt	Feb 12th	Carol Sutor	Feb 26th
Pat Sullivan	Feb 15th	Julie Dobson	Feb 28th
Jeanie Eckmann	Feb 16th	Kim Hayes	Feb 29th
Cindy Ochoa	Feb 20th		

Programs and Upcoming Events **Velinda Burnsed, Vice President**

Our March meeting will have a round robin on paper piecing techniques.

The April meeting is favorite tools, tips and tricks. Everyone can get their ideas ready.

Velinda Burnsed



After Meeting Workshops and Sew-Ons

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



February Workshop

Layer Cake Fun! – Learn an easy technique for making multiple blocks with different shapes. This is a creative technique that is great for beginners but still offers a beautiful result for the more advanced quilter. Bring your sewing machine, small cutting mat & rotary cutter, and ruler. (If you happen to have a 10” or 10.5” square ruler that would be handy too!) You will need a layer cake and a matching number of 10” squares of a single contrasting color (example: solid black, white or a blender). Lanette will show you all the ways you can use the beautiful unique fabrics in the layer. Workshop fee:\$20 Sign up at the January meeting.

Contact Terry Duncan for questions: 210-863-1126 or terryduncan53@gmail.com.

Reminder!!

It is time renew your membership.

Dues are \$35 for 2026.



Snacks for Meetings-

Refreshments for our February Guild Meeting

Thank you to the following people who have signed up to provide snacks for our next meeting. We appreciate your willingness to share with the group!

Linda Nnamdi, Jacqueline Smart, Selina Brown, Cathy Dale, Era Hall, Roberta Castor, Peggy Mossholder, Cornelia Brown, Julie Dobson and Angela Prescott.



BOM

Scrappy Square

Click here for the 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

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.

February 24th
10-3
Center Parc Credit Union community room
5698-A Ogeechee Rd Savannah

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 Epiphony Church on the corner of Waters and Washington across from Daffin Park. 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.

NEW MEMBERS

By Deb Brown

We are getting off to a great start in 2026 with six new members who have joined the guild: Sylvia Singleton, Selina Brown, Heidi Kulik, Janel Vavrenyuk, Katie Richardson, and Camille Payne. Get to know Janel, Katie and Camille by reading below.

Janel Vavrenyuk is originally from Twin City, Minnesota but has moved around quite a bit since her husband joined the military. They just moved to the Richmond Hill area in September of last year. Janel is a stay-at-home Mom of one son. Janel started quilting about 3 years ago while living in Germany and joined the local quilt guild. Although fairly new to quilting, she is NOT new to fabric. Janel has been collecting fabric for over 15 years. It all started when her mom bought her a huge stash of cotton fabric from a store that was closing and she has been buying fabric ever since. Janel stopped buying fabric a couple of years ago since she has so much. Janel has a huge craft room that contains 4 sewing machines including the Bernina Q20 longarm quilting machine with the frame. She has an amazingly well organized fabric system where the fabrics are organized by color, and type. Everything is meticulously labeled. In Janel's short stint of quilting she has made over 50 quilts. Most of them were baby quilts that went to the "Baby Love" organization in Germany. She made a Stack N Whack quilt for her sister and enjoyed the process so much until she made even more of the same. Although Janel didn't want anyone to know, she is a quilting celebrity now that her amazing quilt won a 1st place prize in the 2025 Festival of Quilts held in Birmingham, England. (Now everyone knows). It's a quilt made totally from hospital lab jacket scraps that were given to her. Janel's current project is a Mariner's Compass quilt. She is being mentored by a quilter from her German guild. Her favorite aspect of quilting is mastering the perfection of points and seams while her least favorite is having too many options. Janel's goal for 2026 is to finish all of her UFO's. Good luck with that. She is returning to Germany at the end of February to attend the German Quilt Guild's retreat.



Savannah Quilt Guild News

New members con't....

Katie Richardson is a new quilter from Douglasville, GA. Her love of the beach and all things nature related inspired her to move to Savannah after graduating from college 5 years ago. Katie has a BS Degree in Geology from the Coastal College of Brunswick and is employed by the Barn Group Land Trust as a Geologist. Please be gentle with Katie, she has not even made her 1st quilt yet. However she has made several quilt blocks. She is learning from Youtube and trying to master the seams. Katie was inspired to start quilting when she got a new Singer Heavy Duty sewing machine for Christmas last year. She has a dedicated craft room that contains her sewing machine and her growing fabric stash. Her grandmother was a fantastic quilter and made many quilts that were enjoyed by the family. Katie's other hobbies include needle point, crocheting and knitting.

She found out about the Savannah Quilt Guild through a Google search. Katie loves that "quilting is a hobby that brings women together." Her least favorite aspect of quilting is "cutting a million squares to make a quilt". Katie's goal is to keep making blocks that will eventually become a quilt that she can be proud of.



Savannah Quilt Guild News

New Members con't...

Camille Payne is from Marietta, GA. She lived in Savannah previously for 20 years while working at Armstrong State University and moved back here 5 years ago when she retired to be close to family. Camille had a career in Nursing that led her to be a College Professor and the Head of the Nursing Department. Members Peggy Mossholder and Laurel McKeith inspired Camille to join the Savannah Quilt Guild. She has been sewing since the age of 13 but never made a quilt until she joined the "Common Threads" organization in Richmond Hill that makes charity quilts, blankets and pillows. She has made 8-10 quilts since her quilting journey began. Her first quilt was made with rows of half square triangles that were arranged in a color wash fashion. Camille sews on her dining room table using a Brother sewing machine and has a growing fabric stash. Camille loves batik fabric. She has now inspired her daughter to be a quilt maker and has had great fun making a quilt with her. Camille's grandmother was a prolific quilter and now Camille admires and appreciates the all handmade/hand quilted log cabin quilts that she made. Camille enjoys taking fabric that "doesn't look like much and turning it into something amazing." Her goal is to continue to make quilts, enjoy the process and get to know more quilters. She is currently working on a Christmas quilt.



Tool Talk

By Cat Allard

Ugly fabric, Leftovers, Scraps

How many of you did one of the “declutter my quilt room” challenges? I never did get entirely through Karen Brown’s **Just Get It Done Quilts Declutter Challenge**. But I do read it and will work with the ideas, always promising myself I’ll get back to them.

Did you declutter? Did you sort through your fabric? Did you make resolutions to use up what you have before buying more? Who are we kidding?

So now we have a pile of fabric that falls under the heading of “what was I thinking?” It’s not me anymore. It’s a color that won’t be popular again in this century. I loved the fabric so I bought one yard and nothing I have has matched for at least two years. It’s kids’ material and all kids have grown up. It’s ugly. It’s out of date and I don’t know what to do with it.

Here are some things you might do with it.

Cut it up.

I think that it was Bonnie Hunter who said if you don’t like a fabric, you just haven’t cut it small enough. Two and one half inch squares make wonderful blocks like Savannah Quilt Guild’s block of the month for February. You can strip it into various widths for making multi color string blocks. Sew Much More did string quilt blocks for all the holidays and we made multiple Linus quilts out of the extra blocks. Cut larger pieces into 10 inch squares and make your own layer cake. Maybe separate them by colors, and add white or black to make a two-color quilt. People won’t know some of the squares are from 1990!

Savannah Quilt Guild News

Tool Talk continued...

There are lots fabrics that can be cut into wonky nine patch blocks from any size square (15" x15" is a good place to start} and make a quilt that is less than "precious" and could be used for the beach, picnics, car rides, pet blankets and more. If it gets stained or damaged it will matter less than the thousand-piece pattern that took you six months to complete.

Larger pieces can be used for backings, practice pieces for free motion quilting, and lining for bags that no one will see.

Books that will help:

- * Sunday Morning Quilts by Amanda Jean Nyberg and Cheryl Atkinson
- * Scraptherapy's Cut the Scraps and Scraps Plus One by Joan Ford
- * Half Yard Heaven by Debbie Shore
- * String Frenzy, String Fling and Addicted to Scraps by Bonnie K. Hunter

If none of these solutions are appealing, there is always the "take it table" at our meeting. Just maybe someone will see its finer qualities and take it home to love.



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



Lovely Quilters, this set of parents' comments was shared with us almost a year ago by our member Julie Dobson. These are families in her church who had had children hospitalized. We have so many new members, I feel it is appropriate to offer it again. It lets us know how truly helpful our project is. Debbie and Francis

Thank You for Brightening the World of a Sick Child

My daughter has a ladybug one, she still sleeps with it every night

My daughter is in the PICU right now and she loves the llama pillowcase. Thank you to everyone involved in this! It makes the hospital a little less scary and a little more like home.

Our daughter received some of your pillowcases when she was in the hospital in November and again in December. Very well made and comfortable. They are the nicest pillowcases in our house. Thank you.

My son Christopher has been battling chronic illnesses since he was six. Recently during his third surgery, he received a pillowcase and all he could say was "Wow!". Just like when he was little. He was so happy when the nurses said it was his to keep! Your kind gesture brought a smile on his face and comfort to him.

Thank you all very much for providing these. My Alivea loved the pillowcase she received in the hospital.

Our oldest daughter had pneumonia in August 2024 and got a lovely pink patchwork pillowcase during her stay at Memorial Peds ICU. Thank you!

My son received one of these while in the Pediatric ICU 6 years ago. He passed away while there but I still have his pillowcase. It's very special to me!



**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.

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 January: [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	5,115.38
Transfer to meetings	(1860.92)
President's Gift	(75.00)
Dues for 2026	1330.00
Service Charge	(0.35)

Balance on hand 11/20/2025 **4,509.11**

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

Both of our retreats are full with one person on each waiting list. How exciting that we are adding this second opportunity for our members!! Those dates again are March 19-22, 2026 and October 22-25, 2026.

For those attending the Spring Retreat you are asked to please bring 2 pillowcases for the Children's Hospital. You will be receiving an email very soon with details about what to expect, packing suggestions and directions to St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center.

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 Committee Chairs - January through December 2026

President - Micheal Sengstack

Sewcial - Cindy Ochoa

Vice President - Velinda Burnsed

Retreat - Lanette Edens

Secretary - Stephanie Murphy

Newsletter - Joanne Simpson

Treasurer - Jenny Mullins

Website - Theresa Sapp &

Renee Christensen

Membership - Lisa Sims-Stevens

Friday Bee - Renee Christensen

Classes - Cindy Ochoa, Theresa Sapp

Community Outreach

- Caps/Blankets - Jan Howard

Workshops- Terry Duncan, Mitzi Crow

Community Outreach

- Pillowcases - Debbie Whiteway

Sunshine Chairman - Bonnie Manley

Frances Stockton

To contact Officers and Committee Chairs

Click here



[Contact Us](#)

**The deadline for the Newsletter is the 20th of the month.
Please email your info to: simpsonj536@gmail.com (Joanne Simpson)**