

# AROUND THE BLOCK

QUILTERS UNLIMITED OF TALLAHASSEE

Volume 43, Issue 4

April 2026

**Next Meeting: April 9, 2026, Temple Israel, 2215 Mahan Drive  
Times: 6:00 pm Social, 6:30 pm Meeting**

## April President's Note

Barn Raisings, Quilting Parties, Moving, Philanthropy Quilts and Quilt Guilds – What do they all have in common? Many hands make light work!

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, local communities understood big tasks required everyone joining together, could a small family build a barn by themselves? Most likely, but the amount of time it would take them would mean they had no barn for several months. Barn raisings pulled together friends and neighbors to build a barn in short time, usually one or two days. Not only did this help the family complete the barn and get their farm up and running, it was a great opportunity to socialize and build not just a barn but a community. At night, once the barn was built, the whole “crew” enjoyed dinner together and sometimes music and “barn dancing.”



Quilting parties worked on the same principle, all the neighboring women would gather around the hostess's quilt frame, and they would complete a quilt in a short amount of time. But those get togethers weren't just about stitching a quilt. While around that frame, they shared stories and tidbits about their life and taught the young girls how to stitch that perfect quilting stitch.

While most of us no longer gather around the wooden quilting frame lowered from our home's rafters, we still enjoy the camaraderie of fellow quilters at our guild and sit-in-stitch meetings. And our passion for helping others continues to grow with the many philanthropy projects QU member's support. Whether you love to cut up fabric, piece together blocks, quilt tops on your longarm machine or sew the binding to a quilt, your efforts will always be greatly appreciated and complement someone else's skillset.

This month's meeting program will highlight several of the projects our QU members support with their talent and materials. Hopefully, you will learn more about groups our efforts support or find a new philanthropic cause to devote your time and talents.

And of course, our guild itself is always run by member volunteers, so please consider if you can lend some time to keep the “quilting party” going!

Happy Quilting,  
Kerry

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## April Program

**April 9, 2026 - Philanthropy Quilting — Kara Walker from VITAS Healthcare** will present a short talk on the hospice program and their memory bears. There will also be presentations from our QU philanthropy groups on the work they are doing, if they are looking for new members, and sharing any needs they have. QU members are encouraged to share any needs they are aware of in the community to hopefully find someone in the group that can help.

## May Program

**May 14, 2026 - Jonny Workman from Cookie's Fabrics** in Marianna will present about her shop, local trends and give a trunk show.

## June Program

**June 11, 2026 - Upcycling and Restyling — Carole Gentry and Tracy Wade** will present on how to upcycling vintage quilts and linens into new works of art. They will include how to source the materials, clean and care for them, and ideas for what to make from them.

Tracy Wade  
Programs Chair

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## April 2026 Block-of-the-Month – String Pieced Improv Block (FPP)

This block doesn't have to use foundation paper piecing (FPP), but for me it works better this way. I learned from last year's Stripper Blocks that without a paper foundation my blocks did not lie flat. If you have better luck than me, feel free to skip the paper.



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## April 2026 Block-of-the-Month – Step-by-Step

1. Start by drawing a square the size of your block on a sheet of lightweight paper.
2. Cut several strips of your fabric of different lengths and widths, but at least a few longer than the diagonal of your square. The sides don't need to be exactly parallel, but they should be straight. Using a glue stick or pins, attach one long strip diagonally from corner to corner of the paper square on the wrong side of the paper. The right side of the fabric is facing up. (You can use a light table to check this or hold the paper up to a bright light.)
3. Place a strip of contrasting fabric right side down on this first strip, matching long edges on one side. Make sure it covers the sides of the square on each end.
4. Using short stitches, machine stitch this strip to the first strip along the matching edge and then fold it back (exposing the right side of the fabric) and gently press it down. Repeat these steps with another strip of contrasting fabric on the other long edge of the first strip.
5. Continue to add contrasting fabric strips, working out from the center of the block until the square that you drew is totally covered.
6. Working from the wrong (paper) side, trim the block to desired size. I like to use a ruler instead of the square drawn on the paper because sometimes the stitching causes the square to shrink slightly, especially if there are a lot of pieces.
7. I like to wait to remove the paper until I'm ready to use the block. When you are ready to do this, gently tear the paper along the stitching lines, taking care not to stretch the seams.

Ellen Fournier, Block of the Month Chair

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## May 2026 Block-of-the-Month – Little Boxes

This adaptable and simple improv block might be my favorite, but it has one absolute requirement—contrast. Unless there is good contrast between the frame and the center this block is too simple. Here are examples of this block showing how it can be absolutely precise or relaxed and random.



1. Choose two contrasting fabrics and make some decisions about how you want the block to look—small center or large, precise placement or off-center, square center or some other shape.
2. Cut out the center fabric (don't forget the seam allowances) and sew a strip of the frame fabric to each side. Make sure the resulting strip is a little longer than the width of your total block.
3. Sew strips of the frame fabric to the top and bottom of the center strip, making sure they are wide and long enough to allow you to trim the block to the desired size.

This block is perfect for fussy cutting or using small pieces of beloved fabric.

Ellen Fournier, Block of the Month Chair

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## 2026 Distinguished Quilter Award

It is time to think about nominating an active member of Quilters Unlimited for the Distinguished Quilter Award

Nominations for Distinguished Quilter are due by **June 1st**. Nomination forms for Distinguished Quilter are online at: <https://quilttallahassee.com/activities-and-projects/awards/>. The nomination form can be completed and submitted on your computer or on paper and must have both a nominator and a co-nominator from the guild.

In addition to basic contact information, the entry form has three sections to describe the nominee.

1. Outstanding quilting expertise and talent
2. Quilting demonstrations, teaching and/or writing by quilter
3. Local, regional, and/or national quilt shows entered; awards received

The Award Criteria below is online in the Policies and Procedures:

#### 4. Committee Procedures for Nomination

- a) The Awards Committee shall solicit nominations from active Quilters Unlimited members through forms, published on the guild's web site.
- b) There shall be a nominator and a co-nominator, and both shall complete and sign the Nomination Form.
- c) The Awards Committee Chairperson shall not be a nominator or co-nominator. In the case of any tie votes, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.
- d) An Awards Committee member, nominated for an award, shall not participate in discussions or voting pertaining to that award.
- e) The current President is not eligible for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

#### 5. Distinguished Quilter Award Criteria

- a) The Distinguished Quilter Award will be given to a participating guild member, who: supports the goals and purposes of Quilters Unlimited by promoting knowledge of and interest in quilting and the art of quilting; has outstanding quilting expertise and talent; shares by demonstrations, teaching, or writing; and enters quilts in local, regional, and/or national quilt shows.
- b) The nominee may also: serve as an officer or committee chairperson, demonstrate areas of expertise in guild (programs, writing, other), and show initiative and/or assume responsibility.
- c) The Distinguished Quilter Nomination Form is due to the Awards Committee Chairperson no later than July 1st of each year. The form is available on the QU website.

Contact Janet Hughes with questions about submitting nominations.

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## Previous Award Winners

### Distinguished Quilter Award

1990	Grace Anderson	2006	Linda Ricke
1991	Eva Fesmire	2008	Robin Wolfe
1992	Charlotte Williams	2013	Jeanne Brenner
1995	Betty Jo Shiell	2013	Maureen O'Doogan
1997	Tristan Audrey Mor	2014	Linda Dozier
1999	Clara Black	2015	Marsha Walper
1999	Margaret Klein	2018	Shirley Holder
2001	Linda O'Sullivan	2019	Janet Hughes
2003	Willie Bell Bell	2024	Pam Doffek
		2025	Carole Gentry

### Volunteer of the Year Award

2015	Michele Hackmeyer
2016	Roberta Granville
2017	Karen Kunz and Jeanne Brenner
2018	Marsha Walper
2019	Wendy Stone
2022	Julie Fredrickson
2023	Ann Gaber
2024	Sue Isaac
2025	Wendy Adams

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## Quilt of Valor

***Awarded on March 17, 2026***

Sr. Master Sergeant James Carrol Carter of the United States Air Force served twenty two (22) years, 1969-1991. Sr. Master Sergeant Carter is one of our Vietnam veterans. He earned the Meritorious Service and Production Analyst of the year. A rocket hit close to where he was living was a remark he made of his tour that still at times will wake him.



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## Quilt of Valor

***Awarded on March 17, 2026***

Colonel Noel Norman Mears Jr. of the United States Air Force served thirty five (35) years, 1968-1995. Colonel Mears is one our Vietnam veterans as well as serving in the Gulf War (ODS). He earned so many ribbons and medals that it would take up an entire page to list them all. He will never forget his time spent in Thailand if he lives to be 100.



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## Quilt of Valor

***Awarded on March 17, 2026***

Lieutenant Colonel David Lang, Jr of the United States Army served twenty eight (28) years, 1954-1982. Lt. Colonel Lang served during the World War II. He was stationed in occupied Germany and Korea. He stated he won routine awards along with the Humanitarian Award. After serving Dave spent the next forty two (42) years in the Leon County Clerks Office. Recently, Lt. Col. Lang was presented with a key to the city of Tallahassee and has a section of Jefferson Street renamed as Dave Lang Street. Wow!



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## Quilt of Valor

***Awarded on March 21, 2026***

Lieutenant Colonel Patricia Stadler, (Pattie) served the United States Army twenty seven (27) years, 1985-2011. Lt. Col. Pattie served as a Medical Surgical Nurse in numerous field hospitals. She instructed (taught) others in the Medical Readiness Group and served at Temporary Duty Yonder (TDY). She has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal as well as many other distinguished awards and decorations. Lt.Col Stadler states “My military service has been to sustain the fighting force. Our motto was “SERVE, TREAT, TRAIN.” Her mission was to prepare soldiers for deployment to provide trauma and burn cared for our wounded warriors.



**We are honored to add the above veterans to our Quilts of Valor Roll Call!**

Peggy Clark and Janet Taylor  
Quilt of Valor Members  
Tangled Threads

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## Newsletter Info

The deadline for newsletter submissions for the next issue is **April 24, 2026**. Please submit materials to our Newsletter Editor via email at [newsletter@quilttallahassee.com](mailto:newsletter@quilttallahassee.com). To receive a newsletter by mail, contact the editor for details.



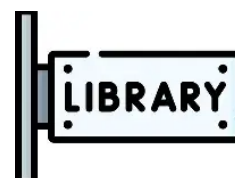
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## QU Library

We have almost 300 books available to members. Follow this link: [Guild Library](#), to the QU website page containing the list of books. You can search by author, title, or category.

When you find something you would like to check out, note the name of the book and the author and send an email to Michele Hackmeyer (see guild directory) with your request and I will bring the book(s) to the next guild meeting.

*Michele Hackmeyer*



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## Missing Email Blasts?

Check your email spam filter, check for blocked addresses, and/or add [webmaster@quilttallahassee.com](mailto:webmaster@quilttallahassee.com) to your contact list. Still have problems? Email our Membership VP at [membership@quilttallahassee.com](mailto:membership@quilttallahassee.com). If your email address changes, let us know at the next meeting.

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## Help Send a Little Sunshine

If a member needs some cheering up, don't forget to let me know. I'll send some sunshine their way on behalf of the guild!

*Shelley Woodyard*



Follow and "Like" Quilters Unlimited of Tallahassee on Facebook & stay connected.

<https://www.facebook.com/QuiltTallahassee/>

## Guild Calendar

2026	What/Where
Guild Meetings are at Temple Israel unless otherwise noted. 6:00pm Social / 6:30pm Meeting	
Apr 9	Guild Meeting – Philanthropy Quilting - Kara Walker from VITAS Healthcare
May 14	Guild Meeting - Jonny Workman from Cookie's Fabrics
Apr 14	Steering Committee Meeting 6:00pm at Main Library
Jun 11	Guild Meeting - Upcycling and Restyling - Carole Gentry and Tracy Wade
Jul 9	Guild Meeting - Quilts of Valor
Aug 13	Guild Meeting - Challenge Quilts
Sep 3	Guild Meeting
Oct 8	Guild Meeting
Nov 12	Guild Meeting
Dec 10	Guild Meeting

## 2026 QU Steering Committee

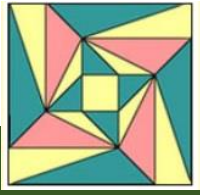
Position	2026
President	<i>Vacant</i>
President-Elect	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	Kerry Cohen
Membership VP	Sue Isaac
Secretary	Janet Taylor
Auditor	Linda Robbins
Awards	Janet Hughes
Block of the Month	Ellen Fournier
Challenge Quilt	Carole Gentry
Door Prize	Wendy Adams Joanne Stock
Equipment	Michele Hackmeyer
Internet/Website	Sue Isaac
Library	Michele Hackmeyer
Newsletter/Email	Darlene Pricher
Opportunity Quilt 2026	<i>Vacant</i>
Opportunity Quilt 2027	<i>Vacant</i>
Past President	Kerry Cohen
Philanthropy	Ann Gaber and Co.
Programs	Tracy Wade
Publicity/Social Media	<i>Vacant</i>
Quilt Show 2026	<i>Vacant</i>
Silent Auction	Dawn Griffin Hanneke Hoxworth
Sit-n-Stitch	Peggy Clark
Sunshine	Shelley Woodyard
Travel	TBD
Welcoming	Ann Gaber
Workshops	Cheryl Gratt

## Sit-n-Stitch Groups

A "Sit-n-Stitch" is a group of quilters who meet regularly to work on service projects, learning and practicing quilting techniques, or working on members' individual projects. Some groups meet in members' homes on a rotating basis and others meet at specified locations. If you are interested in joining a sit-n-stitch group, please call Peggy Clark or call the group's contact person. Phone numbers are available to Guild members in the Quilters Unlimited Membership Directory. Members are encouraged to form new sit-n-stitch groups to match their quilting interests.

<b>Monday</b>	Quilting Bees @ Senior Center	Weekly 9 am - 1 pm	Janice Watson
	Southwood Stitchers	Weekly 10 am - 1 pm Southwood Community Center	Jane Kazmer
<b>Tuesday</b>	Bits and Pieces	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 11 am - 3 pm Eastside Branch Library 1583 Pedrick Road	Teresa Miller
<b>Tuesday or Thursday</b>	Rags2Bags	Tuesday 10 am – 2 pm OR Thursday 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm Faith Community Outreach Center	Peggy Sanford
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pin Pals*	1st and 3rd Wednesdays Killearn area, 1:00 - 3:30 pm	Teri Smith
<b>Thursday</b>	Sew Arty	3rd Thursday 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Bernina Connection Bring your own lunch.	Marion Millet
	Patchwork & Prayer	1st, 3rd, 4th Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm Crawfordville	Judy Stricklin
	Appliqué Addicts	3rd Thursday 11 am - 1:45 pm Northeast Branch Library	Selena Foo
<b>Friday</b>	Frayed Edges*	Weekly, 9:30 am – 12 pm	Loui Tope
<b>Saturday</b>	Sew for HOPE	1st & 3rd Saturday 10 am - 3 pm Bring your own lunch. St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 2198 N. Meridian Road	Sandra Tate, Judy Rainbrook
	Second Saturday	Saturday after guild meeting, 9 am - 4 pm	Connie Beane

**\* Group is currently at maximum capacity.**



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### QUILTERS UNLIMITED OF TALLAHASSEE

*Items for Sale or Free, by Guild Members.  
See Directory for Specific Contact Information*

#### Classified Ads -- Instructions

**Only Guild Members can list items for sale, for services, or "free-to-a-good-home".** How to request an ad? Email your ad/notices to the Newsletter Editor at [newsletter@quilttallahassee.com](mailto:newsletter@quilttallahassee.com). Briefly describe the item and asking price.

Your item will be posted for only one month per email submission.

***ALL NEGOTIATIONS AND PROBLEMS WITH A SALE OR SERVICES ARE BETWEEN THE BUYER AND SELLER.***