

AROUND THE BLOCK

QUILTERS UNLIMITED OF TALLAHASSEE

Volume 43, Issue 1

January 2026

***Next Meeting: January 8, 2026, Temple Israel, 2215 Mahan Drive
Times: 6:00 pm Social, 6:30pm Meeting***

Presidential Message

Happy New Year to the best quilters and quilt enthusiasts in the world! Welcome to a new set of coordinators and the newly formed presidential coalition. We all have beautiful strips, pieces, squares, and yardage that we call our stash. We wonder, "Will I ever use this fabric again? Shall I give it away, recycle it, discard it, store it in a bin until the attached receipt looks like an antique, faded piece of parchment?" Then, a project comes along and that very piece of nearly forgotten material says, "Here am I, use me!"

Well, this is what has happened to our guild. There are at least seven former presidents who continued attending meetings and sewing for family, charity, and special events. We took on other positions. We've been hanging in the closet without a particular project in mind, until the year arrived where Quilters Unlimited did not have a formal president. The idea arrived to use "the stash of former presidents" to maintain the guild, divide the duties, plan a schedule, and pitch in to complete each month's quilt lesson plan. Remember elementary school? You had one teacher all day. Then you had a language arts/social studies teacher, and a science and math teacher, until by high school and college you had seven different teachers all using their gifts to get you through the day. This is what's happening this year and until we have a president. Seven "formers" will be sharing months of leading meetings. We'll be the stash that makes 2026 a beautiful quilt. We are in uncharted waters, but isn't every quilt an uncharted sea until it's bound and gifted?

We ask for your patience and support through this year. All our corners may not match. Some colors may clash. Some threads may unravel. Batting may clump and the quilt might shrink. But the end result will be a year of combined talents and exceptional skill. We'll be learning something new each month. Workshops and classes are in the works! Smaller shows will be offered. This is like a round-robin of quilt making with everyone applauding and giving full attention and encouragement. The presidential coalition will be quilting its best!

On the home front I've got some travel and a new grandbaby due this year. The United States Semiquincentennial culminates on July 4, 2026 but year long events will take place. We'll be seeing patriotic fabric all over, and many quilts dedicated to this event. Take advantage of the stunning fabrics out there and have a 250th celebration of your choice. I can't wait for Show and Tell. With seven former prezzies, let's have a blast!

You'll see me running January's meeting. Top of the year to us all!

Janet Taylor

January Program

The January 8th program will be Kerry Cohen presenting on the **Kona Color of the Year** (Wander- a soft green). Kerry will hand out 5" square samples of the fabric and make suggestions on how it can be used in your quilts.

Tracy Wade
Programs Chair



February Program

It is my pleasure to announce the **'Trash to Treasure Sale'** at the February 13th guild meeting. Like an indoor garage sale for quilty items (notions, fabric, scraps, patterns, etc.). Members can reserve a table in advance for \$5, delivered in either cash or check (made out to Quilters Unlimited) to Tracy Wade at the January guild meeting or mailed to the guild (address below) before the night of the meeting. Please reserve your table with Tracy prior to mailing check to ensure availability.

The tables will be arranged to allow for the business meeting to still occur. Set up of sales tables will occur prior to the meeting and shopping will begin at the meeting's end. Members that reserve a table are responsible for pricing their items before the sale, setting up and taking down their items and collecting their own monies. We will have volunteers to break down the tables.



Start gathering items now to clean out our sewing rooms!

Checks can be mailed to:

Quilters Unlimited
PO Box 12181
Tallahassee, FL 32317
Memo line = 'T2T table rental'

Tracy Wade
Programs Chair

January 2026 Block of the Month – Improv Log Cabin

Log Cabin blocks are a great introduction to improv quilting because you know the basic logic of the block and it is easier than a traditional log cabin! You will need at least 2 different fabrics and a ruler and rotary cutter for trimming edges as you build the block.



1. Begin with a center block, square or rectangular. It doesn't have to be perfectly square, but it should have 4 sides and approximately 90-degree corners.
2. Cut several strips from your chosen fabrics. They can vary in width and do not need parallel edges. The longest needs to be a little longer than the final dimension of the block, i.e., if you plan on a 10" square make a few of your strips longer than 10".
3. Now begin to build your cabin. Sew a strip to one side of your center block and trim across the top of the center and the attached strip. Press seam away from the center. Sew a strip at least as long as the center plus the side strip to the top, press seam away from the center, and trim along of the side of the center block and the top strip.
4. Continue adding strips in a spiral around the center, pressing away from the center and trimming as you go.
5. When the log cabin reaches your intended size square it up!

You can add variety to the block by sewing two skinny strips together lengthwise and using that as a single strip, or by piecing together short pieces to make a strip. Improv log cabin blocks are a good way to use scraps, especially for monochrome scrap blocks.

February 2026 Block of the Month—Fun with Curves

Improv curves use the same curved sewing technique as Drunkard's Path blocks but don't require a special template!

1. Begin with 2 squares of contrasting fabric, at least 1 inch larger than your desired final size.
2. Lay one square exactly on top of the other, right sides facing up, and cut a curve through both with your rotary cutter, roughly in the center of the squares. The curve can be as gentle or tight as you want, but it is best to begin with a fairly gentle one.
3. Sew together the left-hand piece of the top fabric and right-hand piece of the bottom fabric, overlapping the beginning and end of the seam by ¼ inch (just like a Drunkard's Path block).
4. Gently press the block and trim to desired size.
5. Use the remaining pieces to make a color-reversed block.

This technique of cutting a curve on two pieces of fabric can also be used to insert curvy strips or sections into blocks.

Membership News

It is so convenient to renew your membership online!

<https://www.quilttallahassee.com/membership/forms/dues-payments/>

This is your link to the easiest way to pay your 2026 dues and avoid the confusion at the sign-in table.



Volunteer of the Year 2025

Congratulations to Wendy Adams, winner of the 2025 Volunteer of the Year award.

Wendy has been a major contributor in guild philanthropy efforts, donating huge quantities of fabrics and kits for charitable quilts. She made last year's opportunity quilt, does long-arm quilting for guild members, hosts classes, supports the Tallahassee Museum as well as Sleep in Heavenly Peace, assists with our guild shows and served as door prize chair this past year.



All of this, as well as her encouragement, kindness and enthusiasm, has earned her the gratitude and appreciation of the guild.

A much-deserved award!

~Janet Taylor

Big Bend Hospice Thanks QU

✨ Season of Gratitude ✨

During this season of love and giving, we are deeply grateful to recognize a special community partner, [Quilters Unlimited of Tallahassee](#), for their heartfelt support of our mission to bring hope and comfort to those in our community facing serious illness in 2025.

In May, Quilters Unlimited generously donated more than 75 beautifully quilted purple Comfort Squares and Feelie Hearts to BBH. These meaningful creations offer warmth to caregivers and serve as a gentle, lasting reminder of the comfort, care, and support surrounding them and their loved ones.

We also extend our deepest thanks to Peggy Clark, whose incredible talent and generous spirit are reflected in the creation of 400 one-of-a-kind quilted mug rugs and bookmarks being gifted to Big Bend Hospice patients this holiday season. Countless hours and much love went into each unique piece, each thoughtfully crafted with patients in mind.

Patients across all eight counties we serve will be touched by this meaningful gesture, helping to brighten the holiday season in a truly special way. This generous donation was presented to Big Bend Hospice Director of IPUs Mary Beth Ervin, by Quilters Unlimited members Janet Taylor, Peggy Clark, and Ann Gaber.

From all of us at BBH, thank you to Quilters Unlimited for stitching compassion, comfort, and joy into the lives of those we serve.



Quilt of Valor

Bits n Pieces participants Janet Taylor and Wendy Adams awarded Chief Warrant Officer Four Jan S. Burroughs, United States Coast Guard, a Quilt of Valor on November 18, 2025 at the Eastside Branch, Leon County Library.

CWO4 Burroughs is a recipient of many medals and letters of commendation spanning service from 1970 to 1998. A true Sailor, Jan Burroughs is highly deserving of a beautiful Quilt of Valor pieced by members of Bits n Pieces.

Submitted by Janet Taylor



As an aside, Mr, Burroughs fixes sewing machines. Please contact Janet Taylor for more information.

Newsletter Info

The deadline for newsletter submissions for the next issue is **January 22, 2026**. Please submit materials to our Newsletter Editor via email at newsletter@quilttallahassee.com. To receive a newsletter by mail, contact the editor for details.



Missing Email Blasts?

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

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.	
Jan 8	Guild Meeting
Jan 15	Steering Committee Meeting Leon County Main Library 2 nd Floor, Meeting Room C
Feb 12	Guild Meeting

2026 QU Steering Committee

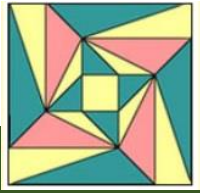
Position	2026
President	<i>Vacant</i>
President-Elect	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	Kerry Cohen
Membership VP	Sue Isaac
Secretary	Janet Taylor
Auditor	Linda Robbins
Awards	Janet Hughes
Block of the Month	Ellen Fournier
Challenge Quilt	Carole Gentry
Door Prize	Wendy Adams Joanne Stock
Equipment	Michele Hackmeyer
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	<i>Vacant</i>
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 Jeanne Brenner 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.

Monday	Quilting Bees @ Senior Center	Weekly 9 am - 1 pm	Janice Watson
	Southwood Stitchers	Weekly 10 am - 1 pm Southwood Community Center	Jane Kazmer
Tuesday	Bits and Pieces	1 st Tuesday, 11 am - 3 pm Eastside Branch Library 1583 Pedrick Road	Teresa Miller
Wednesday	Pin Pals*	1st and 3rd Wednesdays Killearn area, 1:00 - 3:30 pm	Teri Smith
Thursday	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
Friday	Frayed Edges*	Weekly, 9:30 am – 12 pm	Loui Tope
Saturday	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. 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.