



AROUND THE BLOCK

QUILTERS UNLIMITED OF TALLAHASSEE

Volume 41, Issue 11

November 2024

Next Meeting: November 14, 2024, Temple Israel, 2215 Mahan Drive. 6:00 Social, 6:30 Meeting

President's Message – Sail Away

If you've been on a cruise, you know how delightful "sail away" is. After months of preparation, final packing, traveling to port, lining up with the ship's hordes to pass through entry, first meal, stateroom location, ship exploration, it's a departure frenzy. Gangways and ropes separate from the giant vessel. The ship smoothly extends out from the dock and the sea seems to take over. People dance or hang from the decks or personal balconies to wave away the homeland. Head scarves and sea legs are required for the wind sweep and liquid floor. The ship rocks along the current of the captain's compass. I look out in wonder how the ocean waters stay in place under invisible air, or how a bird shows up out of a landless horizon. It's sail away pleasure.

Every quilt has a moment of "sail away." Every bit of construction has been completed. It's time to cut rope and anchor and send your creation on to its destination. Some sail-aways are celebratory and congratulatory. Others say gratefully or memorially. Many are philanthropic send-outs for comfort and care. When a quilt has a sail away, it's often missed for a while until a new project takes shape and takes over. Quilts are like the ocean. They swell, ripple, sparkle and surge, hold varied unseen organisms in the form of memories, shadows, colors and impressions. One can float in a quilt just as a ship sails over an ocean mattress. If one's bed is a boat, it's not hard to imagine a quilt as a sailing companion. And if that quilt is gifted, its sail away is definitely a solemn moment, a bon voyage occasion.

This November I'm thankful for so much. I'm grateful to have been a part of Quilters Unlimited in a special way, from a humble member to a persevering president. I'm grateful to have learned from the best, you! You've been patient, kind, engaging, advising, forgiving. Our meetings have been enjoyable and informative. We have sailed away hundreds of quilts. We've given quilts to deserving humanity in dire circumstances and made lives not just survivable but victorious. If "sail away" is a joyful wave, its destination is a land of peace and tranquility. You have literally hung the moon, and grateful simply does not describe the view!

Janet Taylor, President



Upcoming Free Class

Be sure to sign up for the Saturday, November 9, holiday napkin class at Transformation Church, located at 2300 Old Bainbridge. (Parking details forthcoming to those who sign up.) Cheryl Gratt will share her pattern for "tree napkins", which make darling gifts for just about anyone on your holiday list. She has made hundreds of these napkins and her friends keep asking for more. It is a great way to use up that stash!

You can make 4 napkins in 1-2 hours depending on your speed. Each napkin requires ½ yard each of two contrasting fabrics, and one jelly roll strip for the trunk. You will need a sewing machine with various threads to match and/or contrast to your fabrics. That's it! Hours are 9 - 4 or however long you wish to stay. Kitchen facilities are available to heat up lunch on site.

Once napkins are made, participants can stay to make mug rugs for area Assisted Living, Rehab and Hospice facilities. These require three 5" charm squares each.

To sign up, call Janet Taylor at 850-597-0205

2025 Quilt Exhibit at LeMoyne Arts

As Of: October 27, 2024

Pam Doffek & Karen Kunz, co-chairs

1. Important Dates Reminder (save the dates !!)
 - a. DATES: August 21- September 20, 2025
 - b. Opening Reception: Thursday August 21, 5-7:30 pm. QU members attend for free. QU provides snacks. LeMoyne provides beverages.
 - c. Quilt turn in at LeMoyne: Friday August 8 from 11-6; Saturday August 9 from 11-1.
 - d. Silent Auction (Marty O'Neill): August 21- September 5
 - e. Muffins, Mimosas and QUILTO: Saturday August 23, 11-12:30
 - f. Artist/Gallery Talk: Thursday September 4, 6-7:30 pm. Sue Isaac- "Modern Quilts."
 - g. Quilt pickup (tentative) September 22
 2. Karen and I need an Opportunity Quilt Coordinator: Order donation tickets, possibly arrange for self or others to schlep the quilt around the area, monitor ticket distribution. Promote volunteer sign ups. Sue Isaac will set up the Volunteer signup app. GOOD NEWS: The quilt is completely finished and photographed and QU has a display stand if needed.
 3. Sizes and details at January meeting.
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November Program

Marianne Clower of The Quilt Peddler will speak on "Trends in Quilting and Fabric for 2025." This presentation will be helpful to new and veteran quilters as this craft has exploded in popularity. Bring your questions. Maryanne is a wealth of information.

Brighten Someone's Day with a Lap Quilt or a Coaster

Please remember to bring the lap quilts you have been working on for veterans and/or children to the November meeting. Finished size is 40x40", but if it's a bit smaller it will surely be acceptable. Can we beat 50 this year?

We also have a project this year to give coasters/mug rugs as gifts to individuals at Assisted Living/Rehab Hospitals, as well as Big Bend Hospice. We are choosing care facilities that take Medicaid and Medicare patients. We want to bring a little joy and to let these patients and assisted living residents know that someone is thinking of them in the holiday season.

I know we have had so many needs to donate to and most of you have stepped up and I thank each and every one of you for your generous gift of time and talent for others.

Peggy Clark

It's Time to Vote

The Nomination Committee presents for consideration the proposed slate of 2025 Elected Officers for vote at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at this time.

The slate of officers for consideration for 2025 include:

- President - Kerry Cohen
- President-Elect - Vacant
- Membership Vice President – Ellen Fournier
- Treasurer - Vacant
- Secretary – Janet Taylor

QU is still in need of volunteers for President-Elect and Treasurer. If you have been a member for at least one year and would like to volunteer, please contact Kerry Cohen.

The Clipboard of Opportunity still has many open committee chair positions if you would like to volunteer. No voting on Committee Chairpersons is required. Detailed information about the positions can be found in "Notebooks" (a guide for what that position entails) available on the Guild website.

The following are the **open** chair positions for 2025 (at time of writing):

- Newsletter/Email
- Annual Quilt Show 2026
- Opportunity Quilt 2025 (Quilt is made, just need to handle tickets and displaying quilt)
- Opportunity Quilt 2026
- Philanthropy
- Programs
- Show and Tell
- Sit-n-Stitch
- Welcoming
- Gift Shop Coordinator

Remember, QU is all volunteer run, so please consider offering some of your time to the guild.

Thank you!

Kerry Cohen, Nominating Chair

Quilts of Valor News

A Quilt of Valor was presented to Officer Sylvester Freeman at the Gadsden Re-Entry Center in Havana, Florida on August 29, 2024. Present were Warden Keisha Jones and Warden Adam Kent, along with Officer Freeman's Shift Team. This was a joyous and solemn occasion to honor Officer Freeman, who was a Drill Sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1976 to 1993. The presenters were Chaplain Alex Taylor and Janet Taylor.

This Quilt of Valor was made by Peggy Clark; quilted by Gary Gratt; and bound by Janet Taylor.

Officer Freeman continues his servant leadership at the Gadsden Re-Entry Center, and was very grateful for the Quilt of Valor.



On October 18, Janet Taylor, President, and Peggy Clark awarded Charles B. Ford,

SSGT of USAF, Vietnam Era, a quilt of BOM blocks made by members of QU. Blocks sewn together by Peggy C. and quilted by Lucky G. He wanted to say “thank you to everyone who had a hand in creating such a beautiful thank you for remembering service that all veterans that serve”.



“Philanthropy Place”

by

Evelyn J. Gonzalez

& Marion Millet



Reflections on Teaching College Students the Art of Quilting

by

Evelyn Gonzalez

Last June, TSC students Alex and Jephta reached out to QU Philanthropy for help with a new service project for Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges that recognizes academic excellence, leadership, and commitment. It could be any quilting project; the students needed help both figuring out what project to embrace and deciding on a worthy recipient.

The worthy recipient part was easy: Who doesn't like babies, especially babies in need like TMH's NICU babies (Newborn Intensive Care Unit)?

Philanthropy Chair Ann Gaber jumped to the task and immediately reached out to Shelley Woodyard whose daughter works as an RN in the NICU, to get the necessary details regarding making quilt bottoms for the NICU incubators. 24" x 26" is the goal, using 100% cotton. Sounds pretty easy, right? Until you factor in the 7 college students – only one had any sewing experience. The rest were total newbies. A couple of the young men were amazed at the

machines' foot pedals – “Just like a car's accelerator...”

You and I have all been sewing and quilting for years and are even quite experienced at teaching both children and adults but stepping into the collegiate environment with all those “Gen Z” kids -- oh my! And if that isn't intimidation enough, they're known as “digital natives”—the first generation to grow up with the internet as a huge, HUGE part of daily life. How could we connect with them?

Here's how it went:

Prepping

Ann and Janice cut all the blocks. Janice even made 15 pin cushions as a gift for each student. Students Alex and Jephtha met at Ann's house to help Ann and Evelyn assemble kits. We had a fun afternoon and made enough kits for 15 students to sew 3 quilts. (Overambitious, we know...)

Our Students

Our class was a small group of seven students, mostly friends, three young men and four young women. We quickly learned collegiate fluidity – students arrived intermittently, according to their class schedules. We'd just finish an intro/demo to the next skill set and then 3 more students would arrive, only this time we had to bring them up to speed in 5 minutes or less – whew! Even more challenging, the student population changed over the course of our 3-week class – some were there for all classes, others attended one or two classes. These GenZ'ers are busy!

Getting down to Business

Our first class was ¼” seams and sewing blocks and then rows together. The volunteers were impressed with how well the students matched seams and created perfect, or nearly perfect, points.

Second class was creating the quilt sandwich and using a “serpentine” stitch for quilting. Third and final class will be sewing the binding.

Once we started sewing, the TSC conference room buzzed with enthusiasm. Conversation and laughter rose above the hum of the sewing machines and everyone had fun. We only needed a couple of seams ripped out, but these small setbacks reminded us that like anything else, sewing and quilting can (and perhaps should) be full of imperfections.

As volunteers, we learned more about teaching, patience and the importance of embracing flexibility – and most importantly, meeting each student where they were. We learned that being able to pivot on a dime is an underappreciated quilting skill.

Conclusion

Gen Z?! Even though they're in college, driving and many of them well into their 20s, it's a bit uncanny to realize they essentially have the same needs as our 12-yr old students: Inclusiveness, suitable but not insurmountable challenges, encouraging, fun teachers and most importantly, OUR TIME, freely given. Many of them experienced little “aha” moments, realizing that quilting isn't just about sewing; it's a blend of art, geometry, attention to detail

and that all important fun times with friends.

We couldn't have pulled this off without our delightful volunteers, who continue to "show up" for these opportunities: Peggy Clark (QU), Regina Crosby (ASG), Donna Dye (ASG), Ann Gaber (QU), Evelyn Gonzalez (QU and ASG), Vicki Mildenerger (ASG), Tina Vernon (QA), Janice Watson (QU), Michele Hackmeyer (QU) and Shelley Woodyard (QU).

A BIG thanks to all of our quilt volunteers, from both Quilters Unlimited and the American Sewing Guild, who joined together to "freely give their time" to teaching others.

(Editor's note – see pictures of these sewing classes at the end of this newsletter in the "photo gallery".)

Donations for North Carolina – A Thank You

(Editor's note – the following was received from former member Julie Martin. Her request for donations resulted in an overwhelming response from QU members. Those donations have been shared with many of those suffering in the wake of Hurricane Helene.)

Rarely do you see the level of compassion and generosity that has been demonstrated by this guild. When I reached out for some "cast off" quilts I had no idea of the bounty of kindness that would come our way. I've been able to distribute the donations to several churches and individuals with families in the hardest hit areas. I've also shared items with a local charity that assists the homeless and destitute, all of whom are in great need. Many running these donation sites were amazed when told of the origins of the items and extend heartfelt thanks and blessings to you all.

Sincerely,

Julie Martin

(Editor's note – see pictures of this project at the end of this newsletter in the "photo gallery".)

Donations for North Carolina – A Monumental Undertaking!

Notes on the adventure from Jeanne Brenner:

Julie Martin, a QU member who recently moved to Asheville, sent a request to us after seeing the devastation near her home. Mudslides, flooding, and fallen trees caused a dire situation of no power or water in many areas. Some residents lost their homes, others have extensive damage. Eighty percent of the Asheville residents will not have potable water through their water lines for weeks. Power has been restored to some, but others are facing long waits with cold weather on the way. Julie was hoping we might send her maybe a dozen quilts or so.

The local response was quick and tremendous. Fifty bags of warmth were delivered to Ann Gaber's house within a week. Ann checked into shipping costs and they were prohibitive. A quick decision was made to rent an enclosed U-Haul trailer and head north. Julie and I met in Madison, Georgia to transfer the donations.

It was a challenge to get everything into her truck! Bags were stacked up to the ceiling inside the extended cab. There was a large mound of bags in the truck bed higher- than the sides- strapped down for the ride home. Julie started sorting and donating goods immediately. She was overwhelmed by the quantity and quality of the donations.

Contributions continued to arrive at Ann' s house the next week. At the QU meeting more supplies were given. My truck was filled to the brim at the end of the night. With more bags to be delivered to Ann's house the next day.

Many people handed me money for the trip, I am sorry to say I cannot name them all. Members of Sew for Hope and the Monday Quilting Bees were also generous contributors of quilts and money.

On the second trip both the trailer and my truck were full. Harry opened the trailer for a peek and said, "There might be room for a toothpick in there."

A meet and swap was not practical.
So I got to visit Julie and Matt in their new home.

We did not count how many, but soon her living area was again overflowing with bags.

There were many beautiful quilts, afghans, and blankets waiting to be used for warmth in difficult times. Jackets, sweatshirts, socks, pants, fleece throws were in piles on the floor, couch, chair and dining room table. Some items were brand new, others had come from overstuffed closets. All to go to the residents who are in need.

Many, many thanks go out to everyone who cared and made this possible.
Thank you to Julie for taking on what turned into a daunting task.
You are all amazing!!!
What an honor it is to be part of such a caring, generous group of women and men.



Jeanne B.

Donations exceeded the transportation expenses by \$479.
This money will be spent to provide more help in North Carolina very soon.



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

Newsletter Info

The deadline for newsletter submissions for the next issue is **November 23, 2024**.

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.

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on Facebook & stay connected. <https://www.facebook.com/QuiltTallahassee/>



Guild Calendar	
2024	What/Where
Guild Meetings are at Temple Israel unless otherwise noted.	
Nov 5	<i>If you haven't done so already, vote!</i>
Nov 7	Steering Committee, 6-8:00, Transformation Church
Nov 9	Napkins and Mug Rugs, Transformation Church
Nov 14	Guild Meeting
Dec 12	End of Year Celebration, Temple Israel

2024 OFFICERS	
President	Janet Taylor
President-Elect (Vice President)	Kerry Cohen
Treasurer	Peggy Clark, Rachel Smith
Membership Vice-President	Kerry Cohan
Secretary	Cheryl Fontenot
Immediate Past President	Peggy Clark

Upcoming Shows and Events

Havana Main Street – 7th Annual Quilt Show and Sale

Saturday, November 2, 9am-4pm

Havana History Museum

204 2nd Street NW, Havana 32333

Vero Beach Biennial Quilt Show

February 7-8, 2025. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm each day.

25 vendors. \$10 admission.

<https://www.verobeachqg.com/>

Indian River County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, 7955 58th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32967

Emerald Coast Quilt Show (Ft. Walton Beach, FL)

Flying Needles Quilt Guild of Niceville, Florida

[Show Info \(flyingneedlesquiltguild.org\)](http://flyingneedlesquiltguild.org)

March 7 – 8, 2025 Friday 9am-5pm Saturday 9am-4pm

Admission: 1 Day \$10.00 2 Days \$15.00

Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

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 Ellen Fournier 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 - 3 pm Southwood Community Center	Jane Kazmer
Tuesday	Bits and Pieces	1 st Tuesday, 11-3:00 Eastside Branch Library 1583 Pedrick Road	Jeanne Brenner
Wednesday	Pin Pals*	1st and 3rd Wednesdays Killearn area, 1:00-3:30	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, 9:30-12:00	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.			

PHOTO GALLERY

Philanthropy Sewing Class Project



Ann Gaber helps a student tackle the sewing machine.



Alex masters the quarter-inch seam.



Another crack teacher/student team!



Jeff shows off his quilt to some of the pros!

North Carolina Donations



Just a small sample of QU donations!



And another little bit of what was contributed.



Hello, North Carolina – help yourself!



A food pantry near the donation center.