

AROUND THE BLOCK

QUILTERS UNLIMITED OF TALLAHASSEE

Volume 42, Issue 12

December 2025

***Next Meeting: December 11, 2025, Temple Israel, 2215 Mahan Drive
Times: Bring Potluck between 6:00-6:20pm; 6:30pm Dinner & Meeting***

President's Message

Happy Holidays! Now that we have stuffed the turkey and ourselves at Thanksgiving, the holiday season is in full swing. As we celebrated the major holidays and some lesser-known ones this year, December is a month jam packed with reasons to celebrate and show our appreciation.

December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, so please pause and reflect on all those the country lost in 1941.

A quicky holiday to bring a smile to your face and some sophistication to your outfit is National Wear Your Pearls Day on December 15.

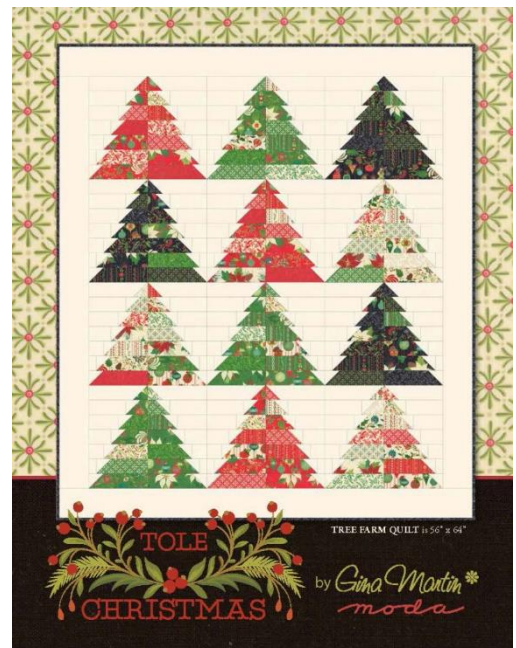
Along with Christmas and Hanukkah, the winter season officially kicks off on December 21st.

And the whole month of December is National Pear Month. Pears are a fabulous fruit for eating, making jams and baking delicious tarts. Somehow, every time I think of pears, my brain likes to sing "and a partridge in a pear tree." The wonder trees we see decorating stores, yards and even quilts are not pear trees, holiday tree patterns abound in the quilting world. If you want to whip up a quick holiday tree quilt, Tole Christmas pattern from Moda using jelly roll strips to bring a woodland holiday forest to life.

Wishing everyone "happy holidays" with friends and family and ringing in a wonderful new year!

Happy Quilting,
Kerry

Link to the free Moda quilt pattern Tole Christmas:
<https://my.modafabrics.com/2015/05/tole-christmas.html>



End of Year Party Information

December 11th we will have our annual end of year party.

For the holiday party, we will not have our normal activity tables set up, as these will be used for our potluck spread.

Please bring your potluck dishes to the Temple between 6:00 and 6:20pm. Dinner and the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

For our food items, please remember to observe Temple dietary guidelines:

- No Meat and Cheese on same buffet table plate/tray (ok on dinner plates)
- No pork (including bacon)
- No shellfish (shrimp, lobster, oysters -- tuna and other fish ok)

If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Clark, Ann Gaber or Janet Taylor for information.



Words from Philanthropy

Many Thanks to All who Contributed to the Comfort Quilts this year!

Joy,

Ann



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.

Please make it easy for incoming membership chair Sue Isaac by renewing before January!



2026 Block of the Month

Mission Improv: A Twelve-Month Exercise in Improv Quilting

Improv (or Improv) Quilting, contrary to popular misconceptions, is not quilting without rules — it is quilting by your own rules! Sometimes you find descriptions of improv quilting that seem to say it is grabbing a bunch of fabric and sewing it together, but if you look at successful improv (as judged by quilt show juries, for example) you will see that these quilts have their own internal logic.

This year each block of the month will have general instructions for making an improvised block, but you will have a lot of freedom to make choices within those instructions. At the end of the year you will have 12 blocks. Depending on what size(s) you chose, you can turn them into a cat mat, baby quilt, or nice-size sofa quilt!

Before you start cutting and sewing, here are some guidelines for creating your own rules:

- Decide on a palette. It can be a limited selection of fabrics, prints with a color you love (for a monochrome quilt), a particular type of fabric, e.g., all solids, all batiks, all Kaffe Fassett, or any rule you will apply to your quilt to give it some consistency.
- Decide on a block size. If you make a 6.5" block every month you will have enough for a nice cat mat, 10.5" blocks will make a (small) baby quilt, and 12.5" blocks will make a small throw or large baby quilt. Of course, you can always make multiple blocks for a bigger quilt. You can vary the block size for a quilt without a conventional grid and incorporate solid areas into your final design.
- Look at improv quilts in quilting books or on Pinterest or other online sites and get some ideas about what appeals to you.

Figure 1 Well-worn Cat Mat made from Improv blocks



QU exhibit at LeMoyne August 21-September 20, 2025

Final Report

Pam Doffek, Karen Kunz

35 members submitted quilts with 54 quilts displayed including Challenge Quilts. Two quilts sold with proceeds to quilter and LeMoyne.

\$972 was dispersed to QU for their 60% of the Silent Auction. 3 items had no bids and were returned to the donor. 2 items were not picked up 30 days after the Silent Auction ended and were returned to the donor.

\$1,000 was collected for Opportunity Quilt ticket donations. Darlene Pricher, a QU member, was the lucky winner of the quilt.

The Gallery Shop Manager was happy with sales and is reviewing any remaining items for inclusion in the Holiday Show which started November 15. All proceeds went to LeMoyne, but it's estimated between \$450 and \$500 in sales.

Quilto was another success with 50 seats available and 48 filled. Sue Isaac's "Modern Quilts" artist's talk was standing room only.

The Show Opening reception was very well attended and included many non-QU members, YEA. This is anecdotal information; we didn't ask for final attendance numbers asked or were they given by LeMoyne.

Sue Isaac was the highest bid item in the Silent Auction and will have her dues paid for 2026. Bits and Pieces received \$20 for having the highest bid item for a group Silent Auction Donation.

FINANCIAL BOTTOM LINE:

\$1,972.00 taken in

\$ 126.95 spent: (\$20 gift certificate to Bits and Pieces, \$ 30 for 2026 dues to Sue Isaac, \$76.95 for Opportunity quilt tickets)

PROFIT: \$1845.05

Quilt of Valor on Veteran's Day

On a very chilly Veteran's Day at the National Cemetery, Janet Taylor and Peggy Clark awarded a QOV to Corporal William "Bill" Woodyard. Bill was in the US Army during Vietnam and was wounded while training eighty doctors and nurses for duty overseas. The quilt was pieced by Virginia Lewis and quilted by Marianne Clower.

Thanks for all you have done for our country.

Peggy Clark



Quilt of Valor in Tallahassee



United States Navy veteran Darwin Box was awarded a Quilt of Valor on Tuesday, November 18th at his home in Tallahassee. He is shown with his wife Linda.

His quilt was made and quilted by Guild member Teresa B.

Submitted by Roberta Granville

Quilt of Valor at Elks Club

United States Army veteran, Robert Bailey, 101 years old, was awarded a Quilt of Valor at the Elks Club on October 21, 2025. Mr. Bailey is a member of the Conservative Citizens Club. He was nominated for the Quilt of Valor by the Club President Claude Pichard.

Mr. Bailey took part in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 earning two Bronze medals. This battle was the turning point of the war in Europe and should be long remembered.



Mr. Bailey's quilt was made by Linda O. and quilted by Gary G.

Submitted by Roberta Granville

Quilts of Valor at Havana Quilt Show Day

These quilts were awarded at Havana Quilt Show Day by Janet Taylor and Peggy Clark.



Sergeant Michael Wells who served in the US Army 21 years. He earned the Bronze Star along with THREE Purple Heart Awards. Served in Korea, Egypt and Vietnam (twice).

Major Bonnie A, Francis who served in the US Army and the US Air Force for total of 40 years. Major Francis received the Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Expeditionary Service ribbon, NATO Ribbon along with six others. Some of the places that Major Francis served was Germany, Guam, Hawaii, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Qatar, Japan, France, Africa and Egypt.



E-4 Selena Simmons of the US Army served four years in Operation Enduring Freedom and Afghanistan.

Exhibit by QU Member: Betty Ford-Smith

QU Member, Betty Ford-Smith, will be featured in an exhibit at Appleton Museum in Ocala beginning September 5th and running for 6 months. The exhibit covers 3 rooms on the 1st floor of the Appleton Museum.



Newsletter Info

The deadline for newsletter submissions for the next issue is **December 18, 2025**. 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

2025	What/Where
Guild Meetings are at Temple Israel unless otherwise noted.	
Dec 11	Guild Meeting

2025 QU Steering Committee

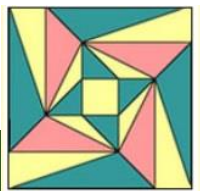
Position	2025
President	Kerry Cohen
President-Elect	<i>Vacant</i>
Membership VP	Ellen Fournier
Secretary	Janet Taylor
Treasurer	Peggy Clark
Awards	Janet Hughes
Block of the Month	Peggy Clark and Janet Taylor
Challenge Quilt	Cathy Sandmann
City Hall Show 2025	Janet Taylor and Peggy Clark
Door Prize	Teresa Bostwick
Equipment	Michele Hackmeyer
Internet/Website	Sue Isaac
Library	Michele Hackmeyer
Newsletter/Email	Darlene Pricher
Opportunity Quilt 2025	Peggy Clark and Janet Taylor
Opportunity Quilt 2026	<i>Vacant</i>
Past President	Janet Taylor
Philanthropy	<i>Vacant</i>
Programs	Kerry Cohen and Darlene Pricher
Publicity/Social Media	Tara Goodman
Quilt Show 2025	Karen Kunz and Pam Doffek
Quilt Show 2026	<i>Vacant</i>
Silent Auction	Marty O'Neill
Sit-n-Stitch	Jeanne Brenner
Sunshine	Shelley Woodyard
Travel	Christine Walsh
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*

Bernina 2000 DE Overlocker/Serger, \$300

Barely used serger, complete with all accessories, including a replacement knife. Will do 4-thread overlock, 3 thread super stretch, 3 thread overlock, 2 thread overlock, 3 thread narrow seam, 2 thread roll hem, 3 thread roll hem, 3 thread flatlock and 2 thread flatlock.

Comes with original instruction book, VHS tape on Serging Basics (very helpful for first-time users) and 20 cones of Talon American SureLock thread in cream, green, navy, brown, and black.

Contact Connie Betterley with questions or to buy.



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.