



Spirited Quilters Guild

Sharing the Spirit of Quilting since 2006.

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2026

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Happy New Year, Spirited Quilters!

I hope your holiday season was filled with warmth, laughter, and maybe even a few stolen hours at the sewing machine. As we step into a brand-new year together, I'm already feeling energized by the creativity and community that make our guild so special.

November Recap **5**

Our November meeting was delightful as we learned a lot about the Art of Kawandi Quilting by *Sallie Topfl*. This was a new experience for most of us and offered a fresh perspective on a beautiful hand-stitching tradition. During the November meeting, **Jan Gezon also revealed our Quilt Challenge for 2026** — details are in the body of this newsletter if you missed it!

Upcoming Events & Announcements **9**

We are excited about this month's program with **Tara Miller of The Quilt District** and her workshop on the **31st**. There are still **four spots available** for anyone who would like to join in! Cost of workshop is \$40 and includes a pdf pattern.

At the January meeting we will also:

- Form a **Nominating Committee** for April elections
- Launch our **20th Anniversary T-Shirt Design Contest**

Looking Ahead **15**

January is always a natural season for beginnings — new projects, new goals, and new chances to stretch our creativity. Whether you're finishing up PhDs, dreaming up something bold for the new year, or simply savoring fabric for what it *might* become, I hope you find joy in the journey.

Here's to a fresh year of stitching, learning, laughing, and making art together!

Warm Stitches,

Jacki

President Spirited Quilters Quilt Guild

2026 Guild Calendar

| Meeting | Guest/Teacher | Topic |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| January 27 | Tara Miller, The Quilt District | The Magic of Mixing Prints |
| January 31 | Tara Miller | The Evie Workshop |
| February 24 | Member Lead | Back to Basics |
| February 28 | Charity Sew | Quilts for Kids, Blocks for Quilts of Valor, Pillowcases Workshop |
| March 31 | Linda Hahn | New York Beauty State of Mind |
| April 28 | Cyndi McChesney | Panel Palooza/Trunk Show |
| April 29 (Wed. Morning) | Cyndi McChesney | Panel Palooza |

Projects Half Done Program



You can sign up to participate for the next year using forms available at the PHD table at the guild meeting. Please see Melanie Long for more details.

Welcome to The Quilt District—where bold design meets deep roots, and where today's quilters come to feel confident, connected, and inspired.

I'm Tara Miller—quilt historian, pattern designer, teacher, and speaker. I help quilters find their voice through fearless fabric play, masterful print mixing, and meaningful connections to the makers who came before us. My work bridges tradition and innovation—modern quilts grounded in history and purpose.

I bring a historian's curiosity, a teacher's heart, and a designer's eye for bold, unexpected combinations. Whether I'm giving a lecture, leading a workshop, or hosting a retreat, I aim to spark creativity, build confidence, and foster connection—between quilters and across generations.

My programs range from dynamic trunk shows on quilt history to hands-on workshops that sharpen design skills, and immersive retreats where craft meets community. I've taught across the U.S., as well as in England and France. You'll find current offerings on the *Talks & Workshops* and *Retreats* pages.

My work has been featured in *Quiltmania*, *Quiltfolk* (Issue 30 – Georgia), *Simply Moderne*, and *Simply Vintage*. My patterns and articles explore the powerful intersections of history and design.

I'm a former board member of the American Quilt Study Group (AQSG), where I worked to make quilt scholarship more accessible and engaging. During my tenure, I co-hosted *Quiltside Chats*, a monthly livestream produced with AQSG and the International Quilt Museum—now archived on YouTube.

From 2021 to 2023, I worked with *The Six Know-It-Alls*, a panel of powerhouse quilt historians serving up sharp insights on a variety of quilt history topics. All episodes will be available on YouTube by the end of 2025.

Wherever quilting takes me, it always comes back to creativity, community, and connection.

Tara Miller January's Speaker and Workshop



EVIE

with Tara Miller

Class Supplies

When selecting your fabrics, think about variety in color and print scale. This is a scrappy quilt, so it's a great time to bust out those buckets of scraps!

This pattern lets you taste freedom and whimsy while still having enough constraint (if you want it) to give you some comfort. And I'll give you some pro construction tips during class.



TECHNIQUES: IMPROV,
FOUNDATION MUSLIN PIECING

Fabric

| Project Size | Fabric Description | Amount |
|---|---|--|
| 1 to 2 blocks (1 block makes a great pillow front) 17" x 17" each | Dark (the black/navy in pic) | 1 FQs OR (4) 10" squares |
| | Medium (the teal/aqua in pic) | 1 FQs OR (4) 10" squares |
| | 2" or wider Strings and Scraps (wonky is good, too!) | 2 shoeboxes or more worth of scraps and strings -- variety is key! |
| | Muslin for foundations | 1 FQ for each block |
| Throw (pictured) 51" x 68" 12 blocks at 17" x 17" | Dark | 3 FQs OR (24) 10" squares |
| | Medium | 3 FQs OR (24) 10" squares |
| | Strings and Scraps - 2" or wider | 5-10 shoeboxes worth of scraps and strings -- variety is key! |
| | Muslin for foundations | 2-3/4 yards |

Tools

- Fine gauge fabric pins. I recommend Dritz 5mm shaft "Extra Fine" 1 3/8" glass head pins (Size 22).
- 1 stick of washable, disappearing school glue. I recommend the purple ones.
- Fabric marking pen or pencil (A plain ol' Bic roller ball pen works great for marking cut lines.)





July 31 – Aug 2
@ Charlie Elliott

****IMPORTANT****

Due to the growth of our guild, you must be present during the March 31st registration. This includes your form & full payment (this is to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity).

If you cannot be present, you may send your registration & payment with a friend, but you will be on the waitlist until we know how many people want to come.

We are very excited and have added 2 more spots.

For Sale: Handiquilter Sweet Sixteen

- Purchased 2021, very low stitch count
- Includes frame, Pro Stitcher Lite, and disassemble
- Currently set up in a home in the Suwanee area for a test drive
- Asking \$6,000
- Call Ron Bellavich at 404-401-5672 to schedule a visit

20th Year Celebration

The Guild will be celebrating our **20th Anniversary** in May, following the business meeting! Party plans are already underway.

We're excited to announce a **T-shirt design contest!** The winner will earn ultimate bragging rights.

- **Submission:** Send your T-shirt design in PDF format to the Guild email by **February 15th**.
- **Consolidation:** Maxine Moore will collect all submissions and share them with members.
- **Voting:** Members will vote on their favorite design on **February 24th**.

Orders & Payment: We will take T-shirt orders and payment at the **March meeting**, with delivery at the **April meeting**.



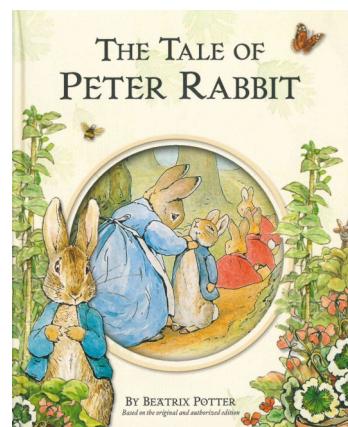
2026 Quilt Challenge

Pick a favorite Children's Book, Song or Poem to use as the Theme for your quilt.

*Quilt should be no greater than 36" x 24" but not less than 24"x 18"

+Quilt construction should use traditional techniques: machine pieced, paper piece or applique.

+Finished quilt should be made of a front/batting/back, quilting can be hand or machine or tied and finished with binding.



Community Service

Quilts for Kids



Quilts for Kids (Q4K) is a national, non-profit organization founded in 2000; the mission of the organization is to transform discontinued, unwanted, and other fabric into patchwork quilts that comfort children in need.

Quilt for Kids desperately needs quilts! We have someone who will quilt them. You just need to bring your finished top and backing to the meeting, and we'll get them done! Thank you!

Spirited Quilters is a partner with The Northeast Georgia Chapter, which began in March 2012. The quilts that our members make are donated to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

You can make a quilt using a kit provided by Q4K or from your own fabric collection. While the Q4K kits are a simple single block design, you can make any design you choose from your own fabrics. The Q4K kits make a quilt that is approximately 40" X 48"; a donated quilt of your own design should be similar in size. And please keep in mind when selecting fabrics from your collection that not all children receiving a quilt from Q4K are babies, infants, or toddlers. Many older children are also recipients.

In addition to quilts, we also accept handmade pillowcases for donation. They are sewn from your own fabric, using what is commonly called the "burrito" method. If you would like to make pillowcases and are not familiar with the method, check with Helen; she can provide instructions.

If you would like to make a quilt from a pre-cut Q4K kit, you may pick one up at a guild meeting; Helen Bakay will provide kits at each meeting. Whether you sew a kit or use your fabric or make pillowcases, please turn them in to Helen at a guild meeting.

Our goal for quilts in 2025 is **50**; our goal for pillowcases is **75**. Currently, members have donated **26** quilts and **56** pillowcases. We hope all members will participate in helping us reach our goals.

If you would like to get more involved in Quilts for Kids by cutting, kitting, picking up or delivering, Helen can answer your questions. If you would like to know more about Q4K organization, please ask Helen Bakay or Dianne Fahring. You can also check the National organization's website at <https://www.quiltsforkids.org/> or the Northeast Chapter website at <https://negaquiltsforkids.org/>.

North Gwinnett Co-Op



This month's theme for the coop is **Soup-er Bowl**. All varieties of soup are welcome along with Saltine Crackers. We have reached our goal of 1200 pounds. Currently, we have collected 1,227 pounds of food for the families in need.

Quilts of Valor Block



Happy New Year.... new block design! The 2026 block drive has begun. The guild is participating in the Quilts of Valor national block drive in which quilters from all over the country donate blocks which are then put together to form quilts. This is a very easy block. Please consider making a block from your stash to donate.

The last of the 2025 kits will be available at the next meeting. Please complete these blocks first and turn in soon. Kits for the 2026 Echo block will be available as well. The fabric requirements are more specific this year with more solid and mini prints and no floral requested. If you have a fat quarter of white/cream you could donate, we can use them for our kits. The pattern is available at Quilts of Valor or in printed copy.

Thanks for all your help so far. For the 2025-26 year, 67 out of 75 blocks have been completed.

If you have any questions, please see Debra Catron for more details.

Sunshine Committee

If you know that one of our members needs a little hug from us via a card. Whether it's an illness, death in the family or having a challenging time, reach out to JoAnna Hunsucker.



December and January Birthdays

Diana Armstrong (Dec.)

Sue McMahon (Dec.)

Courtney St. John-Wacker (Dec.)

Vicki Waits (Dec.)

Jan Gezon (Jan.)

Lynn McCarty (Jan.)

Diana Terkeurst (Jan.)



Dinner Social

Before Guild Meeting @ 5:00 pm

@ [El Porton](#)

2640 Old Peachtree Rd NW A,

Duluth, GA 30097

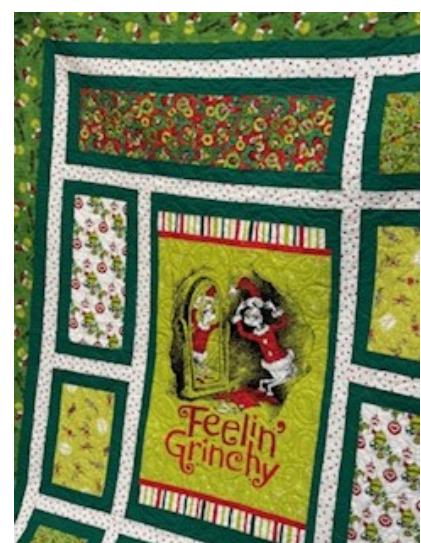


*"Beautiful things
come together
one stitch at a
time"*

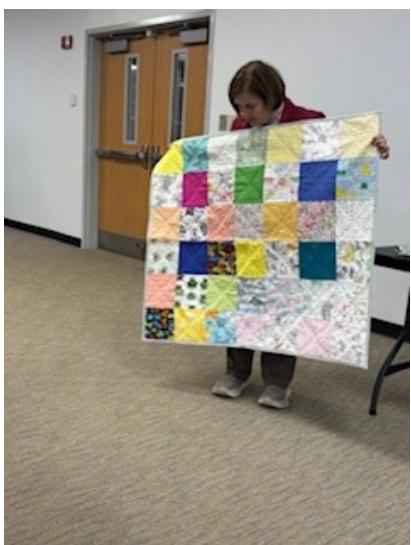
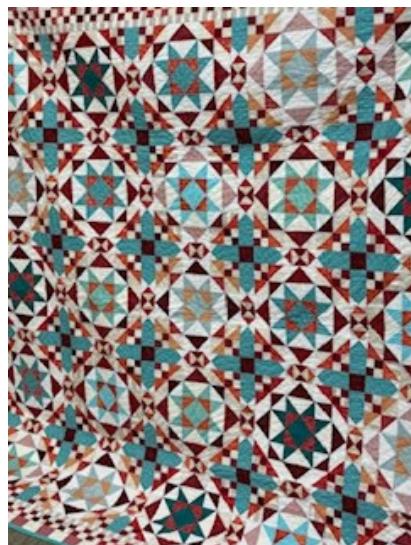
Snack Table

Remember our snack table! Please bring something yummy to share!

Show and Share



Show and Share



Show and Share





Vintage Christmas Party



Find us in person or online!

Email: spiritedquilters@gmail.com



Click icon to go to social media site.

Bunten Road Community Center

Maxine Garner Activity Center
First Floor, Large Meeting Room
3180 Bunten Road
Duluth GA 30096

Monthly Meetings
last Tuesday of the month
**unless otherwise noted*



Social Time

6:15 PM

Meeting

6:30–8:30 PM

**we must be out*

Committee/Program Contacts

President

Jacki Wilbourne

Vice President

Gail Chestnut

Secretary

Maxine Moore

Treasurer

Della Smith

Challenges

Jan Gezon

Charity/Quilts4Kids

Helen Bakay

Membership

Becky Windle,
Elleda Rule,
Sharon Overstreet

Name Tags

Mary Jane Bettis

Newsletter/Website/Social Media

Laura Koller

Stephanie Minch

Programs

Sharon Wilson
Sue Noetzel

Raffle

Sandy Norris
Michele Peacock

Refreshments

Leslie Arnold

Sunshine

JoAnna Hunsucker

SQ Guild Meeting Notes 11/18/2025

Meeting began at 6:31pm

Meeting Minutes

Raffle winners -

Tip for the month - scant 1/4 inch is a thread less than 1/4 inch.

Straight into program - Sally Tobel - Kawandi is a hand sewing technique. Margaret Fabrizio - Kawandi artist - Kawandi means quilt so you just say Kawandi, not a Kawandi quilt - phyla in the corners bring luck into the quilt - they sometimes put a pocket of rice in the middle, maybe because there can be extra fabric - the quilting is done from the outside inwards in concentric rectangles - very close together - the edges of fabric are folded under - would not recommend pieces less than 3x3 in - she uses 8 weight thread, would use 12 weight. Turn the backing to the wrong side about half an inch - sew the pieces of fabric along the edge overlapping about half an inch - to make the phyla - 2.5 inch square - fold 3 times - tack into the corner between front and backing - sew as close to the edge as you can all the way around - once you have sewn fabric all the way around the edge you insert the middle layer of cotton into the piece - the middle layer should be half an inch smaller than the backing. When you add a new piece of fabric - sew as close to the edge as you can to keep the edge from flapping. This can be done by machine - use walking foot and stitch length of about 3. Red rock threads - good selection of Aurifil. She uses perle cotton.

Holiday party - December 9th - sign up sheets available.

Holiday Quilt Display - cookies and cocoa this Saturday - sign up if you are -attending. The information is also in the newsletter.

Raffle Winners: There were 6 raffle winners - Susan H, Jan Gezon, Jeand Detmer, Maxx Moore, Mary Jane B, Della S.

Singer tool chest - Laura Kohler

Fat quarter bundle - Lynette Walter's

PhDs - Melanie explained what the PhD program is - forms for next year are available. Becky W won November prize.

Programs:

Workshop in January - quiltdistrict.com - she will be the speaker. Evie is the pattern that we are doing. Cost is \$40 and the workshop is 6 hours.

Minutes and Treasurers report motioned and approved.

20th Anniversary T-shirt - design contest - send in a pdf to the guild email - designs are due by Feb 16th - membership will vote at the February meeting.

SpiritGuild25 - PW for member area of website

Ways & Means - Honey Baked Ham gift cards fundraiser again this year. Link will go out in an email this week. Will be in the newsletter next month. We can share the link with anyone. The ham is gluten free. We have made \$110 so far.

Tips for Next Year - Getting back to basics - member led tutorials - how to read a pattern, half square triangles - asked that newer quilters let Jacki know what they want. Left-handed quilters, how to read a pattern, how to prepare quilt for a long armer.

2026 Guild Challenge - inspired by a children's song, book, or nursery rhyme. Making smaller quilts. Quilts will be shown at the June 2026 meeting.

Carolina Chain Block Exchange - will be shown at the February meeting

North Gwinnett Co-Op - bring an unwrapped toy or gift for teenagers to the meeting.

Founding member Melanie Bellavich - passed away. No services at this time.

Show and Tell.

December Financial Statements

| Budget Accounts | Full Budget | Monthly Expenditures | | Budget Available |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| | | October | December | |
| | | | | |
| Bunten Park Donation | \$500 | | | \$0.00 |
| Bunten Pk O/T (Donated) | 385 | | | \$175.00 |
| Membership/Board | 75 | | | \$54.68 |
| Programs | 3,800 | 100.00 | 209.00 | \$1,053.37 |
| Raffle Table | 350 | | 212.13 | \$75.98 |
| Challenge | 50 | | | \$50.00 |
| Guild Projects | 25 | | | \$25.00 |
| PHD's | 200 | 60.00 | | \$140.00 |
| Quilts of Valor | 50 | | 51.73 | -\$1.73 |
| Refreshments | 25 | | | \$14.43 |
| Anniv/Spring Celebration | 350 | | | \$350.00 |
| Winter Party | 550 | | 609.58 | -\$59.58 |
| Marketplace | 350 | | | \$87.68 |
| Sunshine | 100 | | | \$54.61 |
| Website/Communications | 150 | | | \$0.95 |
| Marketing | 125 | | | \$45.50 |
| Memorials | 100 | | | \$100.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 50 | | 170.21 | -\$120.21 |
| | <hr/> \$7,235 | \$160.00 | \$1,252.65 | \$2,045.68 |

| Income | | Monthly Income | | YTD Income |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|---------------|
| | | October | December | |
| | | | | |
| Membership Dues | \$2,400.00 | \$112.00 | \$112.00 | \$2,432.00 |
| Raffle Table | 1,100.00 | 173.00 | 400.00 | 1,116.00 |
| Workshop/Programs | 500.00 | 15.00 | | 610.00 |
| Visitors/Speaker | 25.00 | | | 75.00 |
| Donation for extra time | 0.00 | | | 0.00 |
| Marketplace | 1,800.00 | 25.00 | | 3,566.00 |
| Honey Baked Ham/Candy | 400.00 | | | 0.00 |
| CD Interest | 200.00 | 8.53 | 8.78 | 60.60 |
| YTD Income Balance: | <hr/> \$6,425.00 | \$333.53 | \$520.78 | \$7,859.60 |

12/31/2025

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Checking | \$9,564.64 |
| CD | \$5,255.10 |
| | <hr/> \$14,819.74 |

Above Balance includes

2025 Retreat Balance of: \$1.28