



FEBRUARY 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Stitching Friends,

The Brandon Library meeting room was once again filled with fellow quilters of all skill levels. We saw examples of your work, discussed how the guild shared our quilts with the community, and opportunities to expand our knowledge alongside other guild members.

Paulette Walley, owner of Twin Oaks Crafts, shared the long-anticipated news that there is to be a Mississippi Shop Hop. This first ever event will take place the month of March. Each of the shop locations will feature a Shop Hop block kit you can purchase, a featured Shop Hop fabric collection, door prizes, and much more. Be sure to visit as many of the shops as you can especially the shops of our guild members Paulette Walley of Twin Oaks Crafts and Danielle Butler at Ritzy Quilts.

The newest guild tee shirt is ready to be ordered. The shirts will be delivered at the April meeting. The cost of the shirt is \$14 for sizes small-x large and \$16 for 2X and 3X. There was an inquiry about a long sleeve shirt. We would have to have at least 10 members wanting a long sleeve shirt in order to fill that request. If you are interested in a long sleeved shirt please send me your name and size in a text (770-598-3606) and we will see if that can be fulfilled.

Brandon and Rankin County guilds will host and learn from quilt designer Annette Ornelas of Southwind Designs on September 11 & 12, 2026. We now need input from the members on 2 designs you are interested in for the classes. Annette's designs feature elements that appear curved but are accomplished with straight line sewing. There are many designs to choose from. On Friday evening Annette will present a trunk show which is open to the membership of both guilds. The classes and trunk show will take place in the meeting room at Brandon Library.

Please enjoy looking at Annette's designs at SouthwindDesigns.com. Choose 2 designs you would be interested in making and text or email the pattern names to me at 770-598-3606 or susieguyton@hotmail.com. Please include your name.

Diana Carey-Smith will present our program in March featuring Trapunto. We hope to see you there.

Merrily stitching,
Susie





February 2, 2026, minutes -

President Susie Guyton called the meeting to order. There were 47 members present, including three new members - Roxann Lantrip, Linda McSwain and Hilda White. We had two visitors, Melinda Barker and Allison Craft, Pam Avara's sister.

Susie asked for approval of the January minutes, via the January newsletter. With the correction of the January speaker's name, a motion was made to accept the minutes by Wanda and second by Kathleen Greer, all agreed.

Ann Callendar presented the treasurer's report - we currently have available funds of \$7,007.56. Total funds of \$9,415.16 include UFO and retreat funds.

Pamela Kirby reported that the maximum occupancy for our September retreat has been met. She also noted that she has delivered 51 dog beds for 2026.

Our February Sit-n-Sew was held on Saturday, February 7th. The March Sit-n-Sew is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th.

Quilt registration for the 2026 Gulf States Quilting Association Quilt Show is still open. Please visit their website for quilt registration details.

Pamela Avara is currently working on the contract for a National Teacher - Annette Ornelas of Southwind Designs. There will be two classes one on Friday and another on Saturday. There will be a limit of 30 students per class. At the moment the cost appears to be \$40 for the class plus pattern costs. Plans are to have a trunk show from Annette on Friday night, all guild members are invited to attend. Please see the Southwind Designs website and make known the class or classes you would be interested in.

Per Ann Callender, Wynndale Quilters will have the February sit and sew on Thursday, February 12th. Bring your projects to work on and your lunch.

The Spring Gathering for MQA is this weekend, February 6 and 7 in Ocean Springs.

A sample of the "pink" t-shirt and pink/green guild logo were available for view at the meeting. Payments for t-shirts were accepted tonight. Taylor Made Designs is the vendor that will be providing the new t-shirt. Several had mentioned an interest in long shelved t-shirts, a minimal of 10 would be needed to place this order. If you are interested, please contact Susie Guyton.

Reminder, the UFO forms are due at the March meeting.



February 2, 2026, minutes *continued* -

Tips and Tricks were presented by Marilyn Rose - uses for the “awl” in the sewing room and recommendations of her favorite neutral threads.

Paulette Walley shared information on a Mississippi Shop Hop to be held in March 2026 - **Shop Hoppin’ in the Sip**. The first step is to pick up your “passport” at one of the 17 participating fabric stores in the state. Quilts blocks have been designed by each store and can be purchased during the event. A very beautiful fabric line - “Hydrangea in the Garden” by Riley Blake has been selected for the Shop Hop. Each store will stamp your “passport” when you purchase their block. Paulette had a listing, a map and contact information of the fabric stores participating. This information can be found at the website for this event - <https://mississippishophop.com/>. A drawing will be held for passports that visited all stores and obtained all blocks for a Pfaff Passport sewing machine. Second and third prizes will be available for those that did not make all shops but turned in their passport for the drawings. Some shops will have extended hours for this event, so please see the website or call the stores.

Lucy Large announced that the Rankin County Quilters are having a Sewing Garage Sale at their March 9th meeting, starting at 1:30-3:30 at the MSU Extension building in Brandon at 601 Marquette Road, Brandon. This fund raiser will assist in their portion of the National teacher in September.

Polly Duggan spoke on Community Quilts and the organizations our guild supports.

Our program from the evening was presented by our President, Susie Guyton on Simple Gifts from our sewing rooms.

After the program, sew-n-tell was shared. Susie stated our March meeting will be on Trapunto presented by Dianna Carey-Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Welsch
Brandon Quilters Secretary





TIPS & TRICKS

Marilyn Rose presented this month's tips & tricks. An "awl" can be an useful tool in sewing. Marilyn uses one as a stiletto - to guide fabric precisely under the presser foot, turn corners, manage narrow seams, and pierce leather or thick fabric.



Marilyn also recommended two neutral threads, both from Aurifil 5020, a light military green and 2340, Cafe Au Lait, a tan light brown coffee color. She shared sample sewings to show how well the threads blend in various fabric.

SHOP HOPPIN' IN THE SIP

- Passport can be picked up in March at any participating shop
- 17 MS fabric shops are participating
- Each shop has created their unique sample quilt block for purchase
- Fabric - Hydrangeas in the Garden by Riley Blake
- Each store stamps your passport when their block is purchased
- Blocks may be priced differently, depending on complexity of block
- Passports stamped by all participating stores will be entered in a drawing for a Pfaff Passport sewing machine
- 2nd and 3rd place prizes are available to those that did not make it to all 17 stores.



- This event is designed to promote and support our local fabric shops, it is not a competition between stores.
- Stores may have special hours during this event, call or visit their website.
- Perks and sales will vary per shop.
- Follow on Facebook & website mississippihophop.com
- GOOD LUCK!!!!



COMMUNITY QUILTS

Polly Duggan has been our community quilt coordinator since 2020. She delivers the quilts we make and handover to her at meetings. The three main organizations that she delivers to are (1) the Star Fire Department. Ann Williams made us aware of their need for quilts to wrap auto accident and house fire victims in during tragedies.

(2) The Children’s Safe Center a branch of UMMC. They serve children that can be removed from homes without anything. A bright quilt can be very comforting.

In 2022 Danielle Butler mentioned the need of quilts at our local (3) Veteran’s Home. When the project was started there were 117 residents and the manager requested 50 quilts as quickly as possible. We met and exceeded the request, Polly delivered 61 twin size quilts between April and November, 2022. Our donations now number 150. Smaller lap quilts are now accepted as well.

After the tornado of April 2024, a nursing home in the Rolling Fork was in need of quilts for their returning residents. We donated 57 quilts within 3 months.

Polly suggests donating at least one community quilt during your birthday month. Also the VA quilts are not required to be Red, White and Blue.



MARCH DEADLINES

**2026 Annual guild dues are due at our March meeting.
2026 UFO lists are also be due if you are participating
in our UFO Challenge.**

**Please see treasurer Ann Callender at the welcome table for
both of these. Thank you.**





BIRTHDAY PROJECT



Susie challenges all members to make pillow cases for our birthday month - April. These will be for children and teenagers served by the UMMC Safe Center.

Search for the easy “burrito pillow case” on the internet for directions. (see Susie’s examples on the left)

SIMPLE GIFTS/SEWING ROOM

Susie presented the night’s program - Simple gifts from your sewing room

- Greeting cards - blank cards stitched with variegated thread and/or fancy machine stitches. NOTE - once your machine needle is used on paper, make it your dedicated needle for this process.
- Jar openers, used in the kitchen and sewing room. Inexpensive shelf liner sewn in a square or circle with fabric on one side.
- Key chains, with hand loops - keys more easily found when misplaced or in your hand bag
- Quilt labels - use ink stamps to make the quilt labels and include a permanent pen with the labels
- Bookmark - small pieced blocks with elastic attached
- Design boards - use old binding and attach with Gorilla glue or designer duck tape
- Mixer pad - quilted pad that makes removing mixer from cabinet easier
- Potholders - various shapes and sizes
- Aprons - her favorite is the reversible Crisscross Apron - pattern from Mary Mulari designs - www.marymulari.com
- Fabric trays, bins and baskets
- Binding kit - see YouTube tutorial Goody Goody Binding Kit on line



SIMPLE GIFTS/SEWING ROOM



Potholders

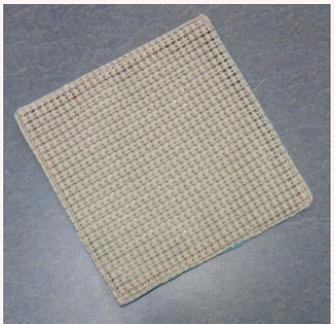


Design boards

Key chains and bookmark



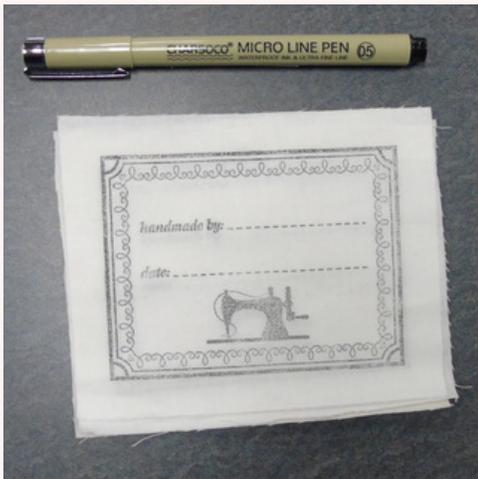
Fabric trays



Jar opener



Binding caddy



Quilt labels & permanet pen

Crisscross reversible apron





SEW-N-TELL



Pam Avara - 2025 Mystery quilts - blue and green versions (UFO's)



Pam Avara - Windmill weave (UFO)

Alison Craft (Pam's sister) - RWB table runner and Leaf table runner





SEW-N-TELL



Alison Craft - Star quilt, RWB log cabin and t-shirt quilts





SEW-N-TELL



Your paragraph text

Alison Craft -

- RW&B table runner
- Quilt for sibling
- Dragon quilt (made by her son)





SEW-N-TELL



Polly Duggan - 2024 Brandon Quilters BOM

Ellen Meeler - Cat pillow cover
Community quilt - UFO
Valentine mini-quilt door hanger



Susie Guyton - wool sewing pillow





SEW-N-TELL

Christy Calhoun -
Cleopatra's fan



Ouida Davis -
Flower quilt-UFO
Iris panel and
colorful quilt with
black and white centers





SEW-N-TELL



Ann McDonald - Cherry Jubilee (UFO)



Patricia Welsch - LSU quilt for sister's birthday (UFO)



Jennifer Stewart - UFO quilts (2 of 3)





SEW-N-TELL



Jennifer Stewart -
3rd UFO quilt



Pam Beard -
3rd Crayon quilt
from our coloring
pages

Upcoming quilting events

- Quilt Show - West Monroe, LA - Feb 27-28
- GSQA Qtrly meeting - April 18 - Mandeville
- AQS Quilt week - Paducah, KY - Apr 22-26
- GSQA 2026 Quilt Show - “Jewels of the South”
Slidell, LA - June 26-27
- National teacher - Annette Ornelas -
September 11 & 12
- Brandon Quilters retreat - September 17-20

Goods and services provided by our members -

Quilting related:

Danielle Butler, owner of Ritzy Quilting Company, quilting fabric, sewing machines, accessories and longarm services - 601-850-7913; Ritzyquilting@yahoo.com

Paulette Walley, owner Twin Oaks Crafts, sewing and quilting machines, fabric, accessories and longarm services - 601-506-7514; twinoakscrafts20@gmail.com

Judy Stanley, computerized E2E longarm quilting, she also makes t-shirt quilts, 601-942-9882. ETSY page: <https://handmadesbyjudith.etsy.com>

Other:

Jo Patterson, artisan jewelry, metalsmithing and lapidary artist, (text) 601-842-3193; Facebook - Jo Patterson Artist

Inside this issue:

- President’s message.....1
- February minutes.....2-3
- Tips & Tricks.....4
- Shopping the Sip.....4
- Community Quilts.....5
- Program - Gifts.....6-7
- Sew-n-Tell.....8-14
- Dates to remember.....15

Dates to remember –

Guild meeting–
Monday, March 2nd at the Brandon Library -
Social Time at 6:00 pm; Meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Sit n’ Sew
Saturday, March 7, at the MSU Extension-Rankin
County Bldg