

## Coming Events *at a glance*

### Statewide Florida Regional Meeting (Zoom)

Sunday, December 14 2 pm with Lisa Thorpe

### Opening Reception TRIO Ormond Memorial Museum

Thursday, December 18 5:30 - 8pm

### ART MEET N GREET - VIRTUAL GATHERING

Friday - Saturday March 13-14, 2026

### In-Person Workshop

Wednesday, April 22 9am - 4pm with Lisa Thorpe

### 2026 Florida Retreat

Friday - Sunday June 12, 13, 14

## Welcome New Members

Muffy Gill	6	<a href="mailto:muffyclarkgill@gmail.com">muffyclarkgill@gmail.com</a>	Naples	FL	34103
Helen Greer Peters	3C	<a href="mailto:greerpeters43@gmail.com">greerpeters43@gmail.com</a>	Valrico	FL	33596
Julie Milne	3C	<a href="mailto:juliemilne@me.com">juliemilne@me.com</a>	St. Pete	FL	33711
Jane Oltmann	3C	<a href="mailto:joltmann15@gmail.com">joltmann15@gmail.com</a>	Clearwater	FL	33763
Janet Range	3C	<a href="mailto:janetqu2992@gmail.com">janetqu2992@gmail.com</a>	Safety Harbor	FL	34695
Julie Smith	2	<a href="mailto:julie.smith0718@yahoo.com">julie.smith0718@yahoo.com</a>	Lake City	FL	32025
Lindsay Webster	2	<a href="mailto:lindzee143@aol.com">lindzee143@aol.com</a>	Jacksonville	FL	32205

## Great News! Way to Go!

Association of Women Artists' Induction Ceremony as a new Signature Member on November 6th, 2025. The NAWA New Signature Members Exhibit was held concurrently at the National Arts Club in Grammercy Park, New York City. Her artwork, **The Great Divide** was included in the show. **The Great Divide** is a mixed media fabric collage which incorporates painted cheesecloth, fabric, cork fabric and gel prints with hand stitching. "It was a great honor to become a Member of NAWA."

**Sheryl Levine** is proud to announce that she attended the National



**Linda Hoffmeister** is proud to be exhibiting as part of Beaux Arts of Central Florida. The current show is at the Art League of Daytona Beach



## NEWS... from OUR FLA REGION REPS

*from Ellen Simon and Angie Knowles*

Dear SAQA FL Members,

As 2025 winds down, Ellen and Angie want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible year we've shared. This year brought new connections, creative energy, and meaningful momentum across our region. Thank you for being part of it.

Here are a few highlights from the year:

**February** We gathered at the Elliott Museum in Stuart for a regional Meet and Greet. It was a joy to see so many members in person and kick off the year with connection and conversation.

**April** The SAQA Conference in St. Petersburg brought together members from around the world, and it was exciting to have it hosted right here in Florida.

**November** Our Textile Connections Retreat in Orange Park. With trunk shows, hands-on making, and plenty of community time, it was a memorable weekend.

**All Year Long** Our regional Zoom meetings, held every other month, helped us stay connected, share our work, and support one another no matter where we were.

### Exhibition Milestones

We celebrated the closing of our regional exhibition, *Awakening*, which brought strong engagement and visibility throughout its run.

We also launched our new regional show, *TRIO*, which is now underway and showcases the range and talent of our Florida artists.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers who made this possible. Whether you helped plan events, supported our exhibitions, led sessions, or contributed behind the scenes, your time and dedication keep our community moving forward.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful end to your year. We look forward to everything we'll create together in 2026.

Warmly,

Angie Knowles, Ellen Simon

SAQA FL Regional Representatives

## December 14, 2025 - Regional Zoom Meeting

We're thrilled to welcome Lisa Thorpe as our special guest for our final regional Zoom meeting of the year. Lisa will be giving us a presentation on using an art journal

## Looking Ahead: Planning for In-Person Retreat 2027

As we begin planning for an in-person retreat in 2027, we're looking for volunteers to help scout potential locations in Central Florida, ideally in the Orlando area. If you have venue ideas or would like to assist with planning, we'd love your input.

## In Memoriam – Rhoda Taylor

We're saddened to share that one of our longtime members, Rhoda Taylor, has passed away. The Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota will hold a Celebration of Life in her honor on Monday, December 8. Rhoda was a treasured part of our community, and she will be deeply missed.

## Retreat Recap – Jacksonville, FL

Our recent retreat in Jacksonville was a wonderful success filled with creativity, learning, and connection. Highlights included:

Valerie Goodwin's inspiring trunk show

Ellen Lindner, who shared her artwork and her unique methods for hanging textile pieces

Christina Flores, who led a hands-on demo using Fosshape to make fabric bowls

Virginia Walton, who taught a beginner-friendly approach to abstract improv quilt blocks

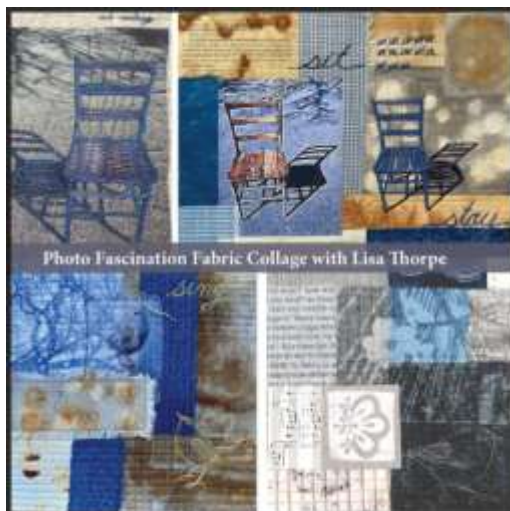
Angie Knowles, who guided us through a hands-on workshop: print blocks with EVA foam

The energy, friendship, and camaraderie were felt throughout the weekend. Thank you to all who made it so memorable.



## Call for Volunteers

Our current regional reps will be wrapping up their term in summer 2026, and we're looking to bring on a new rep or co-reps in spring 2026. This will allow time for a smooth transition with plenty of mentorship and support. If you're passionate about building community and supporting fiber artists, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Angie Knowles or Ellen Simon!



## LISA THORPE WORKSHOP APRIL 2026

We are excited to invite you to sign up for a great hands-on workshop on Wednesday, April 22 when SAQA will host Lisa Thorpe, a mixed media artist and educator currently living in Little Rock, AK.

Lisa will be presenting Photo Fascination: fabric and stitch collage, 6-hour workshop. It will take place in Sarasota, at the Sarasota Community Church, from 9 am to 4 pm. The class will cover digital printing apps,

printing on home printer tips and tricks, composition and layout, plus machine stitch option: words and drawing in free motion and straight machine stitch, as well as interesting embroidery ideas. You will have the ability to print your photos in class.

Lisa will also be teaching Friendship Knot Quilters and Art Quilters Unlimited - so you could make the week a mini-retreat! Class cost is \$75 and is limited to 20 students.

Registration will open on Monday December 15 in the SAQA store. You can check out Lisa and her work on her website, [lisathorpe.com](http://lisathorpe.com) or come to the regional Zoom meeting on Sunday Dec. 14, at 2 pm where Lisa will be featured in an interview with Lilo Bowman.



Remember our excellent Art Meet & Greet event in February? Now, we're doing it again, only virtually this time! Mark you calendars for Friday evening, March 13, and all-day Saturday, March 14.

This event will be filled with fun, art, learning, and camaraderie. We'll have several "Lightning Talks," some "Tech Tips," and we'll learn more about jurying through some focused activities. One of the highlights will be the unveiling of a brand-new showcase exhibit! (See info next page.) Florida SAQA is planning a Showcase of Quilts, to premier at the Virtual Art Meet & Greet. A showcase is a non-juried exhibit in which all submitted work is accepted. This showcase will be online only.

Of course, there will be door prizes, Show and Tell, and more! Cost is \$20 and online registration will open in January.



*from Ellen Lindner*

Here's the theme: submit a quilt that was inspired by either Quilting Arts magazine or Quilting Arts TV. Your inspiration can be a technique that was featured, a readers' challenge, an exhibit shown, or even an idea from an artist interview.

## Inspired by Quilting Arts

A regional showcase exhibit

Since the showcase will be virtual only there's no need for a sleeve or hanging device. Also, there are no size requirements. Work should be completed in 2024 or later and submitted by the deadline of March 1, 2026. Other virtual venues will be chosen to showcase the work after our March event. Entry specifics will be available soon.

## NEWS... from THE EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

From Bobbi Baugh [exhib.saqfla@gmail.com](mailto:exhib.saqfla@gmail.com)

TRIO Premiere... Ormond Memorial Museum and Gardens  
78 E. Granada Ave – Ormond Beach, FL  
Thursday, December 18 5:30pm – 8pm

TRIO catalogs..... are now available on Amazon.  
Type: *catalog trio exhibit* in the search bar

TRIO online..... Take a look at the art in the exhibit:  
<https://www.gallerytextileartsaqfla.com/>



## News from our Pods

### **Pod 3N** Show of Hands Quilters *from Doris Hulse*

Attending November 11 Meeting: Gail Casaday (host), Diane Powers-Harris, Darriel Dodge Diestelkamp, Kay Smith, Sharon Weltner, Ann Moroz, Sue Redhead and Doris Hulse

Old business:

We discussed the theme for our 2027 Sewing Expo exhibit. Gail reviewed our themes to date: 2024 – *Rainforest*; 2025 – *The Other Florida*; 2026 – *Life and Times* (submitted not yet accepted); 2027 – *Back in Time* (suggested at October meeting not finalized). The group voted to confirm the theme and specifications. Results: *TRANSFORMATIONS* won. (to be 40"H x 20-40"W)

**Big SAQA business:** The next SAQA Virtual Conference is planned for April 23 through April 25, 2026. Look for more information in the coming months.

**Regional business:** Dariel gave a brief report on the Florida regional retreat this past weekend November 7 -9. She shared that Pod 3 N had the most attendees with four members attending the retreat. Three techniques were shared with instructions and supplies for us all to make our own creation: fabric bowls with Christina Flores, improv piecing with Virginia Walton and foam stamps with Angie Knowles. Ellen Lindner and Valerie Goodwin shared trunk show quilts and Ellen shared a process for hanging quilts. A big thank-you to all who shared their art, knowledge and supplies at the retreat.

**One Blood update:** Doris returned quilts from the *Still Life* exhibit and reminded everyone that she will collect quilts for the December exhibit on the theme Artist's Choice at the December meeting on December 9.

**Activity:** Gail presented a project for us to make collage pumpkins out of fabric or paper. She supplied gel printed paper and pre-fused fabric for us to use. She also shared that she had an assortment of rubber ducks and frogs and asked each of us to take home one or more. Thank you Gail!

**Announcements:** Gail shared that her daughter Christy Eckardt has submitted two Calls for Entry but not yet notified if she has been selected. Dariel said she has submitted three entries for SAQA exhibit *Pollinators*. Diane shared that she is working on a submission for Fiber Art Now related to pollinators.

**Next meetings:** December 9, 2025 Host Kay Smith

(Below) The Show of Hands gang (Right) work by Kay Smith





work by Sue Redhead



work by Doris Hulse

### **Pod 3 Sarasota** *from Ellen Simon*

Pod 3 Sarasota met on Wednesday Nov. 12. Present: Jill, Michelle, Trish, Jann, Peg, Diane, Lynn, Roberta, Leslie, Ellen

Peg put together a PowerPoint slide show from *Sacred Threads*. She was one of the exhibitors and attended the special weekend workshops.

We viewed a SAQA virtual trunk show, *Sew Many Techniques So Little Time*. We talked about the various quilting and surface techniques the artists used.

We continued last month's discussion of a Pod quilt exhibit and everyone was in favor. We will work on a theme and find out more about the gallery size.

Show and tell: Ellen and Trish - TRIO quilts

Lynn - framed art quilt showing us how to mount on stretched canvas

Diane - two modern quilts

Peg - art quilt, part of her series on gender

Leslie - beautiful machine embroidered holiday cards.

Our next meeting is Wednesday December 10 at 11 am.

### **Pod 3 St Pete** *from Kathy Peel*

November 18 meeting, attendees: Pat, Kate, Katherine, Kay, Stephanie, Carol, Jan, Mary Ann, Janice and Kathy.

Vote was unanimous to keep the meetings on the third Tuesdays at 10:30.

Plans were made for our Holiday Party, 10:30, Dec. 16, at Unity of St Petersburg. It will be potluck and Kathy will have a make it/take it. It was decided not to have a gift exchange.

Janice shared with us the catalog and other information on the *TRIO* show, including the juror's comments.

Carol and Elizabeth have pieces in the Morean Art Gallery, downtown St. Pete. There was a discussion on the gallery's controversial display.

Kathy is excited that her "Only at the Fair" Is now travelling with the Original Sewing and Quilt Expo., including the show coming in March in Lakeland.

Katherine suggested we contact other POD leaders to share demonstrations.

The agenda has been set through April 2026:

Dec, Holiday Party.

Jan. Jan will do a hands-on folding books

Feb. Kay will teach her method of fabric collage

Mar. Pat will take us on a virtual internet tour

Apr. Stephanie & Kate will demonstrate felting

Kate and Alice have volunteered to WOW us in Sept!

Members shared work:

(Left) Kate

(Center) Stephanie

(Right) Alice



## **Pod 5** *from Anne Jones*

A dozen SAQA members and several guests convened at Kestrel Michaud's house in West Melbourne on November 15 for Pod 5's Quilt Photography and Potluck. Kestrel and her father, retired professional photographer Bob Michaud, photographed our quilts, and we had plenty of good food and conversation. Kestrel then showed us Quilting Arts TV - Season 32, Episode 2, hosted by Susan Brubaker Knapp in which Kestrel demonstrated quilting using augmented reality (AR).

Pod 5's next meeting is Saturday January 3, 2026 at the West Melbourne Library from 11AM to 2PM. See you there!

## **Pod 6** *from Debi Bright*

Pod 6 met for our second meeting on Saturday, November 22 at Debi Bright's home in Fort Myers. In attendance were Debra G., Gail K., Barbie S. and Debi B. We discussed SAQA's definition of "Art Quilts" (after the meeting I got the new SAQA Journal, see the article on page 9,) meeting ideas, Debi's great time at the FL SAQA Retreat in Jacksonville, ideas for group challenges, and new SAQA news. We also started our exploration of the SAQA website. We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 24 at Pelican Preserve. Debi B. will be present a demo on how to make a Fosshape Bowl. Exact location to follow. Happy Holidays to all!

## **Pod 7** *from Cindy Ambler*

Pod 7 met on November 17. Many topics were discussed. Melani Brewer shared upcoming art related shows in the area as well as her new hummingbird piece. Kathy A. showed two more recent pieces and also talked about the inspiration of her recent trip to Israel. Kathy T. shared her 13th year of making holiday stockings for our soldiers. And Cindy's fantasy bird is almost finished. Our next meeting is via Zoom on December 15.

## **Pod 8** *from Perlie Petrillo*

Sheryl Levine will be leading Pod 8 in April 2026 for sketch books. Sheryl Levine was recently accepted to the National Association of Women Artists (NAWA) as a Signature Member.

We have three members in Pod 8 accepted into the *Pieced in Paradise* Exhibition at the Modern Quilt Exhibition at Palm Beach City Hall in December. The reception is Tuesday, December 9, 5-7pm

(Left to Right) Cathy Parker, Marya Amig, and Perlie Petrillo. I hope you'll make the trip !



Cathy Heeter is exhibiting three pieces in the Lighthouse Art Center's Faculty Exhibition. December 4 - December 13.



Several of us from pod 8 spent the day creating Bonding Hearts for the TEACUP preemie program supporting infants in NICU's throughout our county. They have the scent of the mom on the hearts, and are placed in the incubator with the baby.

Susan Rienzo has done small pieces for sale in Vero Beach Art Club



Three of us from pod 8 participated in the Kandy Lopez workshop at the Art Armory in West Palm Beach. Kandy will be a guest speaker on the SAQA textile talks this summer. Perlle, Nina Nicolosi, and Suz Mariano enjoyed this a great deal (and seeing her work displayed at the Armory). Worth a road trip!!



# Staying Connected

How to send news for the next newsletter issue:

Send to Bobbi Baugh, Editor  
[NewsSaqFla@gmail.com](mailto:NewsSaqFla@gmail.com)



Angie Knowles  
Co-Rep Florida Region  
[saqaflrep@gmail.com](mailto:saqaflrep@gmail.com)



Ellen Simon  
Co-Rep Florida Region  
[cqmaker1950@gmail.com](mailto:cqmaker1950@gmail.com)