

Here are some facts about three of our class instructors! We will be adding additional instructor bios periodically.



Candace Hassen took up quilting 25 years ago. Color has always been one of her favorite things, and years of hand dying yarn has given her an extensive foundation in working with color. Currently, she designs quilts, and publishes patterns from them. Candace enjoys working with traditional fabrics and blocks, as well as contemporary fabrics and approaches. She likes to explore design ideas from a variety of places such as, nature, other textiles, and art forms. Candace has a bachelor's degree in Art. She was named the Quilter Laureate of Porterdale, Georgia, where she currently lives.

Judy Ballance, a retired NASA engineer, has been quilting for 20 years. She makes all kinds of quilts including bed quilts, art quilts, wool hand embroidered quilts, and paper pieced quilts. Judy is a prolific quilter who has made over 500 quilts, has designed many blocks of the months and art quilts, and she often tweaks quilt patterns to make them her own. She has taught over seventy-five classes at local quilt shops and quilt guilds. Judy is an active member of Heritage Quilters of Huntsville quilt guild, and was the chairperson of the 2022 Huntsville Fanfare Quilt Show.



Kay Roberts and Kathy Kuryla are a “quilting team”, business partners and longtime friends. The Franklin Quilt Company became a reality when, after many years of owning a quilt shop, they felt a lack of quality patterns. They’ve developed a series of patterns for beginner quilters that utilize modern methods to make complex looking patterns but are very do-able. They produce patterns that have multiple sizes, use panels,

specialty fabrics, precuts, fat quarters, or scraps. As teachers, they create a fun environment for learning with their tips, tricks, stories, and lots of laughter. Students come away with skills they can use to make their sewing more enjoyable and effective.