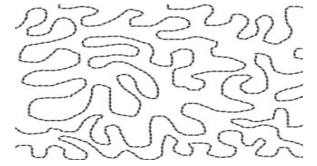


EVENING STAR QUILTERS' GUILD - THE STITCH LINE



JANUARY 2021

A Note From the ESQG Vice-President

Greetings and Happy New Year to all of you! I was raised with the idea that whatever we did on New Year's Eve would influence what we experienced during the New Year. One year my sister came to visit for New Year's, and we ended up getting together more times that year than ever before or since. One year, I had a bad cold on New Year's Eve and suffered several bad colds that year. Last year, I made sure I was sewing all day and hand quilting in my big comfy chair at midnight and don't you know it... I finished five hand-quilted quilts and numerous other projects during 2020. My husband told me not to do that again, because I caused Covid in order to do my hand quilting... perspectives, dear. Regardless, I made sure I was hand quilting at midnight again this year!

My project of choice to start the new year is a lap size hexagon quilt top, which I inherited from a friend about 20 years ago along with two other quilt tops. She purchased them for \$1 each at a garage sale years before and decided she no longer wanted them. I was happy to take them off her hands, but had so many other projects to do and kids to raise that they sat in the box in the closet for years. Those quilts never left my thoughts completely, and finally last month I decided to drag them out again to see if they were up for the challenge of 2021. Jayne Bodolsky (my favorite local quilt historian!) helped me date the quilt top to about 1910 to 1920 with a few pieces from earlier years stitched in. How wonderful to be working on a quilt top that is truly over 100 years old! The fabric is so soft and easy to stitch, and again I think of that unknown quilter so many years ago and wonder what her intentions were with her new quilt. I hope to do her quilt justice, and give her the satisfaction of having it finished.

Like our Postage Stamp Block this month, my hexagon quilt is considered "one patch" quilt. Historically recognized as a "charm quilt" or "Beggars Quilt," both of these designs were theoretically intended to contain no duplication of fabrics within the quilt top. Realistically, however, few quilts have *no* duplications. Many have two or more and are still considered Charm Quilts. My hexagon quilt top has several duplicated fabrics of indigo blues, shirtings, and mustard yellows, so I believe it was made more out of necessity than not. Regardless, I intend to continue quilting it in the evenings in my big, comfy chair and pray for good health and full bobbins for everyone!

May the New Year bring good things to all of us!
See you on Tuesday, January 12th!

Cynthia A Smith, VP, ESQG
908.310.2466 numbers3.cs@gmail.com

REMEMBER

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY ZOOM MEETING:

Bring your favorite warm beverage
Charity Presentation for the Quilt Show
Block of the Month
Log on before 7 pm
Wear a smile!

SHOW AND TELL ~ *Spotlight on Members*

Besides fabric, what item do you own in abundance? Socks? Dish towels? Sewing Machines? Share with the group on Tuesday night. Be prepared to be in the spotlight to reveal your secret collections!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Brita Nelson will join us in February for her “Now You See It - Now You Don't!” lecture and workshop, which is a fun activity which will take an ordinary 4-patch, 9-patch, or pinwheel, and create new fascinating blocks! We look forward to her visit via Zoom!
 In March we will welcome Terri Sontra, of Purple Moose Designs, for a creative look at the history of sewing machines. This is a light-hearted rendition of history and should prove to be fun for all of us!

STAMPIN' UP! WORKSHOP

Cyndy Ponczek will host a Stampin' Up workshop on **Saturday, January 30th from 10 am till 1 pm** at the Belvidere Masonic Temple building located at 1 Front Street, Belvidere, NJ. This building allows us to socially distance while still gathering as a group in the basement area. Cyndy is a relatively new member to our guild and is also a Stampin' Up! demonstrator. She will be teaching us how to make beautiful greeting cards with specialty papers, etc. Cyndy will provide the materials for each participant. The workshop will help us create cards to give to the guild for the use of our Sunshine Chairperson, as well as create our own cards that each participant may keep or give as a gifts. Please contact Cindy Smith at numbers3.cs@gmail.com or call/text 908-310-2466 to sign up for this event. There will be a \$10 charge per person for this workshop to cover supplies. Please mail your check to Sue DeCamp, 866 St Route 94, Blairstown NJ 07825 or bring it with you to the workshop.

NEW YEAR ~ NEW MEMBER!

Welcome Kate Hauck to the Evening Star Quilters! Kate joins us from Bath, PA. She has done several crafts (including quilting) over the years. Kate recently retired from her health and social services work and would like to get back into quilting. Please welcome Kate at kchauck17@gmail.com.

Celebrating their birthdays in January:

- 1/7 Karen Alonge
Kathryn Hauck
- 1/24 Sheila Handy
- 1/28 Leana McCutcheon
Judy Zeitler
- 1/29 Carol McKevitt
- 1/30 Cindy Smith



IT IS SEW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

As we settle into our new Zoom surroundings, we are learning more and more about our current technology. Some things to consider as we continue to Zoom our meetings and workshops: Sharon Kubich, as President, acts as our Host for the meetings. Once the speaker is in place, the "host" position is transferred to the speaker. Anyone who signs into Zoom after the speaker takes control, may or may not be allowed into the Zoom meeting. There is a "waiting room" that shows up only on the host computer and the host is the only person who can allow entrance to the meeting. This is why it is imperative for members to sign in on time or a few minutes early. Also, please take note of the microphone icon on your screen. If you have children, spouses, pets, etc., that will be creating noise, please mute your microphone during the meeting or workshop. The host has the option to turn off your microphone as well. Just remember to turn it back on when you have a question or need to speak to the guild. We are all learning this a little more each month! By the time we have it down pat, we will, hopefully, no longer need it. Thank you!

NOMINATIONS FOR CHARITY DUE

Despite the current Covid regulations, the guild is moving forward with plans for the 2021 Harvest of Quilts biennial quilt show at Belvidere High School. It may ultimately be cancelled/postponed, but for now we are hopeful. In light of this, we must entertain ideas of charities you would like to see benefit from our tricky tray table. Prior shows have supported Family Promise, Happiness is Camping, Breast Cancer Foundation, etc. Contributions from the fundraiser are matched by the guild, up to \$500. Donations have been upwards of \$1,300 some years, so it is a worthwhile event.

If you would like to nominate a charity for this event, please contact a board member prior to the January, 2021 meeting and be ready to promote your charity in January. Members will vote to determine the recipient of our fundraiser. Any questions, please contact Sharon Kubich or Theresa Schoonover, Quilt Show Co-chairs.

JANUARY BLOCK OF THE MONTH GOES POSTAL

The January Block of the Month is a 10" square Postage Stamp block. The Postage Stamp quilt started in the 1930's when competitive quilting started in the county fairs and festivals. Women tried to think of something new and challenging to out-do their competitors, and a quilt of thousands of 1" squares was born! They are amazing traditional style quilts and can be assembled with or without sashing. Most of us have plenty of fabrics to choose from, and if you have been quilting any length of time, you may have a collection of scraps or even 1-1/2" strips or squares. Lynette Jensen and Bonnie Hunter patterns love the 1" squares, so followers of these two designers should have no problem finding scraps. Technically, each square should be different, but if you are new to quilting and do not have 100 fabrics to choose from, do the best you can mixing up what you have to work with. As a reminder, anyone in the guild can participate in this one. It does not use the background fabric distributed by the guild. Also, be sure to notify Cindy Smith (numbers3.cs@gmail.com or text to 908-310-2466) when you complete your block IF you want to be included in the drawing. If you have any questions about the pattern, please contact Sharon Rehrig at timelystitches1947@gmail.com. The winner of the blocks will be chosen after the January meeting and all participants will be notified by email as to the winner's name and address in order to mail your block to that person. Good Luck!! Happy Scrapping!



A SOCIALLY DISTANCED HOLIDAY SOCIAL

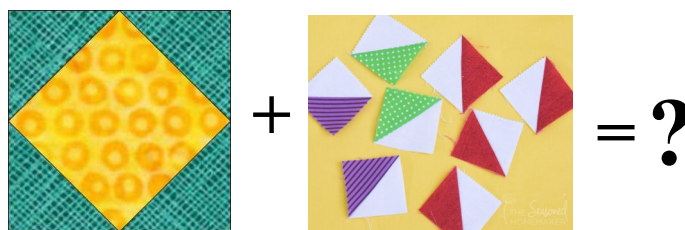
Our December meeting was held via Zoom but was still a lot of fun! The Ugly Sweater Contest winners were Audrey Planer and Bev Anderson. What fun it was spot lighting each member to see their holiday attire. Theresa Schoonover won for Best Christmas "Out-of-the-Box" Sweater, and that is all we are going to say about that! LOL! Lorraine Hare won "Best Dressed" for her nice attire. Thank you to everyone for participating!

The Scavenger Hunt game went well till we hit the "Find a Christmas Movie" theme, but otherwise was a success. Carol Smith, Bonnie Eamigh and Judy Zeitler led the group in a few rounds of Christmas Carols. Thank you to these ladies for stepping up our games and rounding out the evening in holiday cheer.

MYSTERY QUILT TAKES SHAPE

The next step of this year's mystery quilt was released to participants on January 1st. This step begins creating blocks for your quilt top. You will be assembling your half square triangles (HST) and your square in a square (SiaS) blocks into the Diamond Block.

Please contact Leana McCutcheon (mlmoonspinner@yahoo.com) or Marlene Marlowe if you have any questions regarding the directions.



And
the
Winner
is...

DECEMBER BLOCK OF THE MONTH WINNER ANNOUNCED!

- ! Congratulations to Darlene Kerr, our December Block of the Month winner!
- ! Darlene has been with the guild for many years, is a past President, currently organizes and updates our membership list, and recently
- ! moved to Belvidere from Columbia, NJ. She was thrilled to win the blocks! We look forward to seeing her completed quilt top!

ESQG COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Charity Coordinator, Judy Zeitler reported her many Santa deliveries in December of items made by our guild members. The Children's Home of Easton in Easton, PA received 46 fleece blanket/bags in time for their Christmas gift giving celebration with the children. Jamie Bickert of The Children's Home was delighted with our contribution to their organization. In addition to this, 26 pillowcases and 25 port pillows were delivered to Newton Medical Center's Donor Relations Manager, Stephen Flynn. Newton Medical Center is located in Newton, NJ. Judy received a follow-up phone call from Mr. Flynn who was thrilled with our generosity and thoughtfulness, and was eager to distribute the items to the patients. Another 26 pillowcases were delivered to St. Luke's Pediatric Center in Allentown, PA; as well as 25 Port Pillows to Co-Ordinated Health, also in Allentown, PA.

Judy extends her gratitude to all the guild members for their generosity and kindness as we move forward with our projects. It warms her heart that we can bring joy to others with these simple items. Please continue to make pillowcases and port pillows, as we hope to make another delivery this spring to the area hospitals. If anyone is willing to collect for and deliver to Newton Memorial Hospital, please let Judy know. This is quite a hike for her from the Easton area. Thank you again to all who contributed!

Port Pillows are also being collected throughout the guild year. Any and all port pillows should be made with soft fabrics (flannel, etc.). Contact Judy Zeitler for instructions or collections.

A big, heart-felt thank you, also, to all who continue to donate supplies, masks, plus any and all of our current community projects. The love of our quilting community knows no bounds when it comes to giving. Let's keep Judy busy by getting these items in her hands to distribute throughout our community!!

QUILTS OF VALOR UPDATES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Guild received thank you letters from Brian Gierveld and Peter Thomas, two of our Quilt of Valor recipients in November. These two men both felt honored to receive these quilts. One of them stated that it helped him close that part of his life at last. Both letters were heart-felt and definitely conveyed the warm feelings we extended to them in the quilts that we create for our veterans. Great work to those of you who participated in our Quilt of Valor program! In addition to these thank you's, we also thank Audrey Planer and Irene Compton for their work in awarding these quilts, to Irene Compton again for volunteering to assemble another quilt for donation, and to Rosemarie Greg for completing the two quilts made by Solvai Sanchez and Sharon Kubich! Many hands make light work. It is heart-warming to know how many guild members continue to make quilts on their own for our Quilt of Valor program, which was originally placed on hold this year due to Covid restricting our group gatherings. Thank you, ladies!



UPDATE ON OLIVER AND THE DISCOVERY OF PEEK AND BOO!

Last month we reported our findings of Oliver, a Red Morph Eastern Screech Owl. Shortly thereafter, one of our local nature photographers got wind of little Oliver, and suddenly he was on social media! His photo has been posted twice already, and we are happy to have a picture of him to share. Oliver continues to guard his home. Most mornings he is sleeping when we pass, most afternoons he follows us as we walk by with our dogs in tow. Occasionally, Oliver is not at home and we worry like any good parents would, but usually by the next day, he is back in his tree, same hole, same tree, (nearly) every day. He is just adorable!

Funny enough, a month after we discovered Oliver, we also came upon two bears hibernating near the base of a large tree on the opposite side of the stream about a half mile down the road. When we saw them three days in a row in the same spot, we were concerned that maybe they were in distress. We called Fish & Game and learned that although it is unusual to us, it is not unusual for bears to hibernate at the base of a large tree out in the open, out in the elements all winter. We still thought it was strange for them to be so close to a roadway. Each day as we walked the dogs, both morning and afternoon, they would pop up and watch us; never leaving their tree. Once we learned they might be there awhile, we aptly named them Peek and Boo. Each time we passed, Mama bear watched us from one side and her yearling watched us from the other. After a week of greeting them quietly each day, they were gone. Perhaps we were too much for them, perhaps they did not appreciate their new names, perhaps they found a better and quieter place to spend the winter. Have a good rest Peek and Boo! Perhaps we will see you again in the spring!

~C. Smith

**Guild Officers
2020/2021 Guild Year**

President
Sharon Kubich

Treasurer
Sue DeCamp

Vice President
Cynthia Smith

Bylaws/Historian
Vacant

Secretary
Carol A. Smith

BOARD MEETINGS SLATED

Upcoming board meeting dates:
March 2
June 1

All meetings are at 6:30 pm and currently planned as Zoom meetings. All members are welcome to attend. Committee Chairpersons are encouraged to attend. Please mark your calendars.

**WE'RE ON THE
WEB:
HTTP://
ESQG.COM/**

Email:
president@esqg.com
PO Box 253
Belvidere, NJ 07823-0253