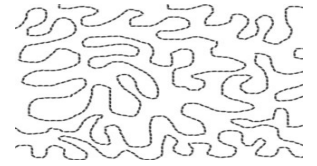


EVENING STAR QUILTERS' GUILD - THE STITCH LINE



DECEMBER, 2020 - VOLUME 7

A Note From the ESQG Vice-President

Season's Greetings and Merry Christmas to everyone! This year, more than ever, I find myself looking at things around me a little bit closer than usual. I find joy in my family's stories, the reminiscing of celebrations and family gatherings; but also creating new stories and new traditions. I find joy watching the birds at the feeders and their battles with the squirrels. In quilting, I am finding joy in pulling fabrics from my stash and finally using them, discovering old projects, or just old blocks, and creating new quilts with them... really seeing what is right in front of me.

Just recently I discovered another little item that has probably been right in front of me for a long time. My husband and I walk our two dogs everyday about a half mile up the road to the S-curves and back. I remember when I first moved here, I drove up and down this road and never realized there were waterfalls at the S-curves. I discovered that little gem when we got our first dog and started taking walks with her about 11 years ago. Now those waterfalls are our destination every day, and every day I stand and appreciate how beautiful they are.

During our walk about a week ago, instead of looking at the road or at the dogs, I happened to look up into the trees. In the hole of one of the trees stood a little screech owl, just snoozing in the morning light. How absolutely beautiful he was! I pulled my husband back and showed him my great find, and he was enchanted by the sight as well. We have since named the owl "Oliver," and greet him every morning as we pass under his tree. He sits and guards his home; same tree, same hole, every day. He has become a part of our morning ritual and a member of our family. Okay, so how many years has that little guy been there that we have passed him by and never noticed? I really need to pay more attention to things around me, and along those lines, maybe I need to pay more attention also to those people who are right in front of me.

During this crazy COVID year, I am thankful for those of you who are right in front of me, and that includes all of you. I am grateful for the guild and the support it creates for each of its members. So in this year where we are all forced to stay at home, especially during the holidays, enjoy that stay, but take a look around. What do you see that's right in front of you?

Be safe! See you Tuesday, December 8th! Zoom, zoom...

Cynthia A Smith, VP, ESQG

908.310.2466 numbers3.cs@gmail.com

REMEMBER

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR DECEMBER ZOOM MEETING:

Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater
Mail a pair of socks
Bring your favorite beverage
Be prepared to play along
Wear a smile

SHOW AND TELL: WHAT'S UNDER YOUR NEEDLE?

Since we can't visit one another, please show us what you are working on now. Are you hand piecing, hand quilting, or making blocks for a new project? Show us what you have under your needle these days!

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!

SOCKS SUPPORTING SEASONAL SPIRIT



There was an old Gilbert & Sullivan play called "Sox and Box" which was a play on words, puns, and silly sayings indicative of Gilbert & Sullivan musicals, that was rarely performed on stage; but once seen, never forgotten. Well, let's have some fun and support each other's spirits this holiday season by sending a pair of socks to a designated soul sister (or brother). Invitations were sent out to each member, which included the name and address of the member you are to send a pair of fun socks to prior to the next meeting. Do your best to play along so no one is left barefoot this season!! Have fun with this!

STAMP IT UP WORKSHOP

Cyndy Ponczek will host a Stamp It Up Workshop some time in January. We are working with members of the Belvidere Masonic Temple to hold workshops in the basement of their building located at 1 Front Street in Belvidere. Sharon Kubich and Cyndy are coordinating dates and times at this point. We will notify the guild when we have more information. Cyndy will be teaching us how to make greeting cards. The workshop will help us create cards to give to our Sunshine Chairperson to use for the guild members as well as create our own cards that each participant may keep or give as gifts. Stay tuned!

Celebrating their birthdays in December:

- 12/11 Mary Ann Sandford
- 12/12 Nellie Rinehart
- 12/31 Nancy Geiger



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.

VIRTUAL QUILT FESTIVAL DECEMBER 3-5

Kathleen Mitchell, of Gracies Petunias Quilts, gathered volunteer quilters from the area to create a unique display of Barn Quilts for the Houston show this year. Several members of the Evening Star Quilters' Guild are among those quilters! Due to the pandemic, Kathleen's years of hard work, planning, and coordinating this display hung on the edge of uncertainty. Last spring she was notified by the committee that her exhibit was accepted for the show, then August brought news of a cancelled but redirected show.

The Houston Quilt Festival will be virtual this year, running **December 3rd - December 5th**. It will feature many of the same aspects of the 45+ years of the International Quilt Festival we have all grown to know and love, including shopping with vendors, booths, classes, and lectures!

Please plan to visit the show and check out the beautiful barn quilts made by your fellow members of the Evening Star Quilters Guild in "I Spy: A Barn Quilt!"



DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

The meeting in December will be via Zoom again, so we are asking everyone to wear their favorite Ugly Christmas Sweater! We will try to focus on each member who participates so that everyone can see your sweater.

In addition, we will host some online games, so please come ready to play. Maybe we can get Carol Smith to ramp up her Evening Star Carolers for a few favorite tunes! Please join us for some fun and laughter on **Tuesday, December 8th!**

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Karen Alonge, the winner of the November Block of the Month! How appropriate for all of us to send our flowers to Karen as she recovered from her recent surgery.

The December block is the Snowflake Star: an Ohio Star with a little sprinkle of Christmas spirit!

Be sure to notify Cindy Smith if you made a block *and* would like to be in the drawing.

The winner will be chosen some time after the December 8 meeting.



MYSTERY QUILT CONTINUES

The step of the month Mystery Quilt continues! Eleven people completed their half square triangles (HSTs) as of the last meeting.

If you have not already finished them, be sure to do so and notify Leana when you are done in order to be considered for the first drawing! The next set of instructions is due to be released in early December.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Kudos to our guild members for donating 41 fleece blankets for the Childrens' Home of Easton and 62 pillowcases for the Newton and Bethlehem hospitals. This is terrific work! Please continue to make port pillows throughout the year and notify Judy Zeitler if you need to have them picked up. If you need directions for the port pillows, please notify Judy Zeitler or Cindy Smith.

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

Three more Quilts of Valor were presented on Wednesday, November 11th, at the War Memorial in Belvidere. This year's ceremony honored Leo Becker, a World War II veteran and founder of the War Memorial in Belvidere. Mr. Becker unfortunately passed away this year in October at the age of 94. During the ceremony, the guild presented Quilts of Valor to Peter Thomas, Gordon Kobler, and Thomas Channell. Thank you gentlemen for your service! Thank you also to Audrey Planer and Irene Compton for presenting our quilts to these deserving war veterans.

The guild only has one more quilt available to give to a veteran. If you are interested in creating more quilts, Theresa Schoonover has blocks already made that just need to be assembled into quilt tops. Please notify Theresa if you are interested in doing so. (See back page of this issue.)



Below is a letter received by Sharon Kubich:

Madam President,

I am the daughter of Edna Palombo of Belvidere, a former member of your quilt guild (early 2000's). My mom learned quilting with your quilt guild members in her retirement, and put to use her lifelong sewing skills. She often commented to me that she did not know how to put together all the squares she made and 'won" at quilt guild meetings. At her passing last year, I collected as many of her quilting treasures and squares, with the intent that I would eventually put her squares together and gift them to family. I've attached the Flower Basket Blocks that started this project – as there were 12 pastel blocks in all the squares I had from her. And, she has only two Great Grand-daughters who would be the recipients of these "pastel" squares. A fun project that kept me busy during the COVID "lockdown" this spring. A major learning experience for me, as a working full time nurse, I did not have time to tackle anything this big. But in retirement, I am enjoying learning how to put my sewing skills to another use.

Just sharing the results and use of 15 year old Flower Basket Blocks made by my mom and her Eastern (sic) Star Quilt Guild Friends from 2004-2005.

Thank You to Eastern (sic) Star Quilt Guild for showing my mother that she could quilt!

Kathy Myer



To the right is a letter received by Audrey Planer from a Quilt of Valor recipient.

Eastern Star Quilters of Belvidere
 Quilts of Valor Foundation
 c/o Audrey Planer
 PO Box 278
 Hope, NJ 07844

I am honored to be the recipient of a Quilt of Valor fashioned by the Eastern Star Quilting group today on Veterans Day. The craftsmanship is outstanding and I'm sure many hours of planning and coordination went into its completion. When I was made aware of this honor I was unable to contemplate how I could possibly use another Quilt.

Now that I have read the accompanying article that explains its purpose; and placed the quilt in my family room draped over a large sofa I can better appreciate the beauty as well as the function it will provide when I need to ward off the chill... or the Viet Nam memories.

When I read the article about the Blue Star Mom who started the Quilt of Valor Foundation it touched my heart and memories of the worst day for me in Viet Nam. Our LZ had been over run and we lost 18 guys. In the morning It was Mothers Day and I knew that Moms' would be getting someone standing on their doorstep with terrible bad news instead of flowers from their son. And every Mothers Day thereafter would be remembered as a time of heartbreak; in addition to the individual memory of losing a son on that date halfway across the world.

The personalization on the reverse side of the quilt brought a pleasant memory and a smile to my face. Marges' Mom was an Eastern Star member and I could picture her smile and chattering as if she were among a group doing similar activities.

I see that the Quilts of Valor was started by a Blue Star Mom. I have a friend who is a Gold Star Mom and when I learned her Blue Star Moms group were organizing a tricky tray I was able to participate. Blue Star Moms are one of my most satisfying organizations to donate to; as both time and funds get directly to the military families.

Thank you again for all you do for Veterans; I am honored to be a part of your 'quilting family'

George Cassidy
 George Cassidy
 Blirstown NJ
 November 11, 2020



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!

Jody Beck's workshop for her pattern "His Eyes On You" was held Saturday, November 14th, via Zoom. Eleven members participated and most were able to finish their topper before the end of the day. Jody gave several tips throughout the workshop covering 1/4 inch seams, starters/stoppers, and ironing. Thank you to everyone who participated!

(l. to r., top): Judy Zeitler's, Sharon Kubich's and Cindy Smith's, Nancy Geiger's, (l. to r., below) Cyndy Ponczek's and Donna Gierveld's quilt tops from the Nov. 14th workshop by Jody Beck.

BOARD MEETINGS SLATED

Upcoming board meeting dates:
 December 1
 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.

**Guild Officers
 2020/2021 Guild Year**

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| President
Sharon Kubich | Treasurer
Sue DeCamp |
| Vice President
Cynthia Smith | Bylaws/Historian
Vacant |
| Secretary
Carol A. Smith | |

ACQUILT GO BABY FABRIC CUTTER FOR SALE

Jayne Bodolsky has a brand new, still-in-the-box Accuquilt Go Baby Cutter for sale. She also has two additional dies: the 2.5" strip and the hexagon. The dies are brand new and unopened. It can all be yours for just \$100!

Please contact Jayne directly at jbodolsky@icloud.com or 908.459.4904.

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

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