



Village Squares Quilters Newsletter

February 2024

MESSAGE FROM VSQ PRESIDENT JANET BOZZONE

Greetings:

Where did January go? Back in June, I decided to come out of retirement and head to the Community Health Center of the North Country for a week every other month starting in February 2024. The organization had been unable to recruit a full-time dentist to care for their community and so I expanded my role as a virtual dentist to an “in real life” one. My only stipulation was that I would not be available on the second week of the chosen months, so that I would not miss our VSQ meetings. It seemed so far away at the time, but now here I am trying to get my act together to head north on Feb. 4. I found a sweet little Airbnb where I hope I can catch up on unfinished quilting projects in my off hours. My sewing machine is already in the car, and I am trying to organize those projects to work on while I’m away. I have my African Challenge and the one-block wonder panel project packed neatly away in Zip Lock bags. Maybe I will throw some of my other UFOs in as well. I have big plans...let’s see if I can accomplish any of them.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Location: Zoom

Schedule:

10:30 a.m. Board Meeting via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Zoom doors open for membership, chatting, etc.
11:30 a.m. VSQ meeting
Noon Speaker – Brita Nelson
Followed by Q&A with speaker.

I will be returning in time for our next meeting via Zoom on Feb. 13. We will again begin our Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. with the doors opening for our informal virtual gathering of the general membership at 11 a.m. We will call our business meeting to order promptly at 11:30 a.m. and our featured speaker, Brita Nelson, will begin her presentation, "*Now You See It, Now You Don't. The Magic of Disappearing Blocks*," following a short break. I am looking forward to learning more ways to cut blocks up and sew them back together in new and interesting patterns.

So, get back to those sewing machines and continue working on some of those unfinished and new projects you have planned so we can see your handiwork at the Show’n’Tell we will have when we next meet in person in March.

Until then, I’ll be working to keep the VSQ in stitches,
J Bo

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Provided by: Brita Nelson

Brita Nelson will be our featured speaker at the February meeting.

ABOUT BRITA NELSON:

Brita Nelson is an award-winning quilt artist and teacher with over 35 years' experience. She was a chemical engineer in her previous life and brought that passion for knowledge and improvement into her quilting endeavors. Since retiring from the corporate world, she has devoted herself to sharing her love for quilting by writing, speaking, demonstrating, and teaching. With her website: [Home - The Questioning Quilter](#) she explores two of the most powerful words in the English language. "What If?" In this lecture, she does a deep dive into "What If?" with a variety of disappearing blocks.

You can find more detailed information on Brita's website: [About Me - The Questioning Quilter](#)

ABOUT HER LECTURE:

From Brita's Lecture Brochure

Designed Specifically for The Zoom Platform

"Now You See It, Now You Don't. The Magic of Disappearing Blocks" - Lecture



Learn about the magic and beauty of disappearing blocks with this interactive online lecture, demo and trunk show.



Discover how to use color to reveal secondary patterns and how different block arrangements can create totally different patterns.



Using 3 cameras, one on me and the quilts, and one pointing straight down at the cutting mat, and a close up on the quilts, I will be able to show you how easy and fun it is to create something beautifully complex looking from a simple 4 or 9 patch.



We will be talking, laughing and joking. I will be asking you questions and you will be able to ask me questions during the presentation.

CALENDAR – UPCOMING VSQ MEETINGS

An update from the VSQ Website:

2024:

- Feb. 13: Via Zoom: Brita Nelson: “*Now You See It, Now You Don’t. The Magic of Disappearing Blocks.*” Zoom link will be emailed about a week before.
- Mar. 12: In-person: Charity Sew-a-thon and bolt fabric sale.
- Apr. 9: In-person: Members Teaching Members.
- May 14: In-person: Jennifer Strauser: “*Kawandi Style Quilting.*”
- June 11: In-person: Annual Luncheon and possible sewing items tag sale.
- July: No formal meeting
- August: No formal meeting
- Sep. 10: In-person: Jo Ann Lepore Topic TBD
- Oct. 8: In-person: Barbara Vedder: “*Appliqué Passionate Pursuit.*”
- Nov. 12: In-person: Speaker TBD
- Dec. 10: In-person: Speaker TBD

AFRICAN FABRIC CHALLENGE

From the Editor

Only one more month until the “*Big Reveal*” of the projects completed (or in progress?) by those participating in this challenge. If you are a speedy sewer, there’s still time to participate / join this challenge!

As a reminder: The project can be anything you want (e.g., a wall-hanging, crib quilt, jacket, etc.); there are only two “rules” - just use some African print fabric and have the project completed by Mar. 12.

Questions? Please contact the Challenge Coordinator, Lisa Moore.

JUST SEW STORIES

An update from the Editor

This “occasional” section is used to display bio’s submitted by new members, plus any other pertinent stories from our members.

A request from Susan Wolman:

Hi Fellow Sewists (aren't I modern?!)

We all have our special charities that move and motivate us. As some of you know, one of my special interests is welcoming and helping refugees to the US. Our newest family, like the previous one, walked through the treacherous Darien Gap which is a piece of land that connects Colombia with Central America. The landscape is dangerous as are the robbers and drug smugglers. They walked and walked, and walked, and when they (a mother, father, and 4-year-old boy) made it to the US, they applied for asylum.

Gratefully they are living safely in New Rochelle. The husband, Mostafa was a prosecutor, until the Taliban took over. The wife, Sohaila, is trained as a civil engineer, but most recently taught math to children. She is a highly skilled seamstress, altering clothes as well as making intricate clothing from scratch.

Here's where you come in, if you choose. To start her dress-making business, Sohaila needs an industrial machine. Its cost, even with Mitchell's generous discount, is \$700 plus tax. If you would like to share in helping her set up her business to become a self-supporting member of our community, please send me a check of ANY amount. The rest of the cost will be covered by my group, ICNAW, Interfaith Council of New Americans Westchester. If we sewists can raise some of the cost of the machine, that will give ICNAW more funds to use for other families.

If you are interested in volunteering (e.g. driving to appointments, playing with children, talking to women so they can practice their English, taking refugees shopping or on errands, or going on a family adventure) you may end up like me with truly wonderful new friends.

Looking forward to seeing you in March,

Susan

P.S. I know you can sew!!! but if you need alterations that you don't want to do yourself, Sohaila is your gal.

MARCH MEETING: CHARITY SEW-A-THON and FABRIC BOLT SALE

From Maria Eyckmans and Jean Borsellino

We will be holding our Annual Charity Sew-A-Thon at our March meeting.

We need members to volunteer to bring the following:

- Sewing Machines
- Cutting boards
- Rulers
- Rotary cutters
- Ironing boards
- Irons
- Pins
- Thread
- Extra needles

Please email Maria and let her know what you will be bringing to the March meeting.

In addition to having fabric for sale at this meeting, member(s) may choose one of several available pre-cut fabric kits to sew for a charity quilt. The kits, assembled by a few members, will be displayed on a table.

OUTREACH

From Maria Eyckmans

Hello everyone:

Thank you to the following members for their Quilt donations to charity:

Doris Capello - 1 Quilt to Cluster, Inc.
Donna Greene - 6 Quilts to Cluster, Inc.

Susan Wolman plus friends (Anne Frascатели, Sarah Abercrombie, Jean Borsellino, Janet Bozzone, Diane Coldrick, Maria Eyckmans, Rose Fox, Debbie Johnston, Lee Kimmel, Lisa Moore, and Nancy Pruyne) - 1 quilt for Furniture ShareHouse

(From the Editor: My! Now that's a group quilt! Congratulations!)

Hope to "see" everyone on Zoom!

Maria

Current Outreach Sites, corresponding VSQ Contact and recommended donations are listed below:

OUTREACH SITES	VSQ CONTACT	RECOMMENDED DONATIONS / QUILT SIZES
Cluster, Inc.	Doris Capello	Full size (60" x 80")
Furniture ShareHouse	Susan Wolman	Full size (60" x 80")
Marymount Convent	Georgina Correa	Wheelchair bags*, Lap quilts (50" x 65")
Montrose VA	Rhona Hiney	Wheelchair bags*, Lap quilts (42" x 60"), Bed runners (30" x 60"; Charm packs work well)
Pins and Needles (for their annual donation to Blythedale and Beacon Health)	Lee Kimmel	Children's crib size (36" x 45")
Project Linus	Janice Ewing Susan Wolman	All sizes accepted.
White Plains Hospital (NICU)	Rhona Hiney	Baby quilt sizes (40" x 46")

*Instructions for making wheelchair bags are available of the VSQ website.

NOTE: If you are donating your quilt or wheelchair bag to any of the above sites, please log it in the green log book on the attendance table and give it to the member whose name appears above next to that site for delivery. Similarly, please log all donations to other sites, including site name.

Remember – if you are not at the meeting and you donate a quilt or quilts and / or wheelchair

bags, please e-mail Maria with the details. This way, our count of Outreach donations can be kept current / up-to-date.

Help keep our list of Outreach Sites current: If you have an organization that you coordinate (or would like to coordinate) for quilt donations, please let Maria know.

BATTING AND LABELS:

Full- and Queen-size batting is available to members for charity quilts. It is being stored at my house. You can contact me at meyckmans@aol.com if you would like to pick some up.

Janet Bozzone also keeps a few packages in the trunk of her car. You can speak to her at our meetings if you need batting.

Quilt labels are available at the meetings. Check with Donna Greene or Maria Eyckmans if you need one.

QUILT SHOWS, EXHIBITS OF INTEREST (and other miscellaneous quilting-related info):

May 4 – 5, 2024: “World of Quilts - A Celebration of Traditional, Modern and Art Quilts.” Quilts, vendors, speaker (Irene Roderick), and more - presented by Northern Star Quilters. Location: Purchase College Gymnasium, 735 Anderson Hill Rd, Purchase NY. For more info: www.northernstarquilters.com.

From The Yankee Quilter (www.yankeequilter.com).

Feb 10 - 11, 2024: “Super Bowl Shop Hop CT” Yankee Quilter, Cotton Candy Fabrics and Quilted Ewe are participating. For more info: www.yankeequilter.com

April 12 - 20: “Quilt Across CT Shop Hop.” Visit five leading CT shops for an educational, informative, trendsetting shop hop. For more info: www.yankeequilter.com

Oct 31 – Nov 3, 2024: “International Quilt Festival - Houston” Quilts, vendors, speakers and more. Location: George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston TX. For more info: www.quilts.com.

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