



Village Squares Quilters Newsletter

November 2023

MESSAGE FROM VSQ PRESIDENT JANET BOZZONE

¡Hola! from Madrid.

I hope all my fellow Village Squares Quilters are enjoying the fall weather back home. It is chilly and rainy here in Madrid, and what is worse, I haven't found a single fabric store on our tour. Dana Jones (one of our past speakers) assures me that she will correct that situation when I visit Denver, Colorado for a dental conference next week. After that, I am making a quick detour to Portland, Oregon, to spend a few days with my son where some long-arm quilting may be in my future. Fingers crossed!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Location: Westchester Reform Temple
255 Mamaroneck Rd
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Schedule:
10:30 a.m. Board Meeting
11:00 a.m. Meeting Room available for
Sit'n'Sew, Chit Chat, etc.
11:30 a.m. Lunch
Noon VSQ Meeting
Followed by Show'n'Tell
01:00 p.m. Program
02:30 p.m. End of the day's activities.

After all that traveling, I will be looking forward to our next meeting on Tuesday, November 14, when Lisa Shepard Stewart is sure to dazzle us with her presentation on "Global Textile Influences" and show us how to incorporate these into our own creations. This presentation is especially timely given Lisa Moore's "African Fabric Challenge" that was announced at October's meeting. See more information later in this newsletter.

Hope to see you all soon.

Until then, "¡Hasta Luego!"
J Bo (AKA Janet Bozzone)

A FEW REMINDERS:

Food restrictions at WRT – no pork products, no shell fish and no nuts.

Should there be any last-minute changes to the meeting location, VSQ will contact you via email (for those with email) or phone (all others) as per VSQ's snow emergency procedures. So, please check email (or voicemail) before leaving home for the meeting.

AND.....Please wear your name tag.

AFRICAN FABRIC CHALLENGE

Submitted by Lisa Moore

At our October meeting I introduced a challenge to the guild members to participate in an "African Fabric Challenge." 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 February, Black History Month. The other goal I had was to place an order to one of my sources who is a small business owner in Abuja, Nigeria. Because of shipping time, I needed to place the order as soon as possible and interested participants gave me their names at the October meeting. However, if you missed the meeting, have access to another source and want to participate, all are welcome! As you will read below, Lisa Shepherd Stewart is scheduled to be at the November meeting and her topic, "Global Textile Influences," explores a variety of fabric techniques from around the world - she might have fabric with her for purchase. Happy quilting! Lisa Moore

NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM

Provided by: Donna Greene

Lisa Shepard Stewart will be our featured speaker at the November meeting.

<https://www.cultureexpressions.com/>

Bio: Lisa Shepard Stewart is a writer and designer based in New Jersey. Her obsession with African textiles began in 1986, during a trip to Senegal, West Africa. She has written 3 project books, offers classes and events internationally, and travels to Ghana to source artists, fabrics and materials. She also organizes and hosts SewJourns to Ghana, Colorado, New Mexico, and other fun destinations.

Lisa opened CE's first studio location in downtown Rahway, NJ in December 2017. The space combines retail and event space for classes and private parties. Faraway customers can shop all the studio's merchandise by way of Virtual Visits, personal shopping appointments via Zoom, WhatsApp or Google Duo video call apps.

In addition to sewing and fabric collecting, she is a part-time vegetarian whose other interests include travel, entertaining, holistic health, and yoga.

Lecture: GLOBAL Textile Influences explores a variety of fabric techniques from around the world, the cultures that created them, and how to incorporate them into quilting & home decor projects. Based partly on Lisa's second book, Global Expressions.

CALENDAR – UPCOMING VSQ MEETINGS

An update from the VSQ Website:

2023:

Dec. 12: In-person: *Leni Levenson Wiener: (topic to be determined).

2024:

Jan. 9: Via Zoom: Thomas Knauer: The lecture looks at what it means to put text on quilts, using quilts as a means to activism, and the history of and implications of making text-based quilts.

Feb, 13: Via Zoom: Brita Nelson: "Now You See It, Now You Don't. The Magic of Disappearing Blocks."

Mar, 12: In-person: Charity quilting or Members Teaching Members (TBD).

Apr, 9: In-person: Charity quilting or Members Teaching Members (TBD).

May, 14: In-person: Jennifer Strauser: "Kawandi Style Quilting."
Jun, 11: In-person: Annual Luncheon and possible sewing items tag sale.
*Repeat VSQ speaker

A REQUEST FOR OLD, NATURAL FIBER FABRICS....

Submitted by Brent McGee:

I am making a large, very large, fabric collage and am looking to use repurposed fabrics. If anyone in the guild has any old plain white or cream or solid light color bed sheets or curtains or any other natural fiber fabrics (cotton, linen etc.) that they no longer need, I would so appreciate putting it to great use in an ambitious art project. The fabric will be dyed, painted, and cut up so any kind of natural fabric will do, even if it is stained or discolored! If you would like to contribute, bring the fabric to the meeting or I can come pick it up from you at your convenience.

SEWING CLASS FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

Submitted by Doris Capello:

We began the sewing class for migrant women at Catholic Charities on Wednesday, Sept. 27 and are off to a great start. We currently have a group of seven very enthusiastic women, who are eager to learn skills from how to thread a sewing machine to how to design and sew a quilt pattern. Susan Wolman began by teaching them how to make multiple design choices using half square triangles, using paper pieces. They moved on to making small quilt blocks with fabric and now are completing their small Quilts using those blocks. The next project is making tote bags and everyone is looking forward to starting those in November.



There was a great response to our request for Christmas fabric. Many VSQ members contributed their time and resources (fabric, pins, needles, pressing mat, etc.) for this project. We will be using these pieces to create beautiful Christmas Tree napkins, using a Jordan Fabrics design. We hope that the migrant women can make enough of these to sell for the holidays and earn a little money. We could not have done this without the help of the following members:

Peggy Altman, Jean Borsellino, Maureen Carline, Janice Ewing, Rose Fox, Pat Julian, Jeri Serota and Connie Walsh.

In addition, a big thank you to Whitman's Sew and Vac in Huntington, LI. The owners, Al and Carl, repaired and donated four sewing machines for the Migrant Women's project. We also want to thank Mitchell Wasserberg, who has generously fixed several of the sewing machines we use with this project at no cost. A big thank you to Mitchell.

If we left anyone's name out of the contributors list please let us know. Thank you again to all our VSQ supporters, we could not do this without you.

VSQ Coordinators: Peggy Altman, Doris Capello, Debbie Johnston and Susan Wolman.

OUTREACH

From Maria Eyckmans

Hello everyone:

Thank you to the following VSQ members for their quilt donations at the October 2023 meeting:

Candace Abraham - 1 quilt for Marymount
Maureen Carline - 1 baby Quilt for Pins and Needles
Janice Ewing - 1 baby quilt for Project Linus
Donna Greene - 2 baby quilts for Pins and Needles
Rhona Hiney - 1 baby quilt for Pins and Needles
Rhona Hiney - 6 bedrunners for the VA
Rhona Hiney - 36 wheelchair bags for the VA
Pat Julian - 1 lap quilt for VA
Jean Powers - 8 quilts for the VA
Nancy Pruyne - 1 bedrunner for the VA
Ida Pucino - 1 baby quilt for Project Linus

Now that we are entering November, it's almost time for Pins and Needles to deliver their annual donation of quilts to Blythedale and Beacon Health. If you are working on a quilt for their donation, it would be greatly appreciated if you could bring it to the November meeting.

Looking forward to the next meeting!

Maria

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

OUTREACH SITES	VSQ CONTACT	RECOMMENDED DONATIONS / QUILT SIZES
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" or 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.

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