

Great South Bay Quilters Guild Newsletter



December, 2021 • Volume 38 • Issue 2

P.O. Box 5, Islip NY

Mission Statement:

The Great South Bay Quilters' Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering an interest in quilting, encouraging the preservation of our quilt heritage, and offering year round instructional opportunities for its members.

Club Officers

President	Joan Dlouhy
Vice President	Sarajeon Palese
Recording Secretary	Olive Archer
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Garbarino
Treasurer	JoAnn Incalcaterra

Committee Members:

Baby Quilt	Olive Archer
Community Service Coordinator	Donna Ketcham
Facilities	Joan Dlouhy
Historian	Dottie Christofor
Hospitality	MaryAnn Leonard
Immediate Past President	Carol Kollmer
Membership	Kim Young
Name Tag Raffle	Rose Alvarado
Newsletter	Mary-Ellen Ransom
Raffle	Gerrie Fitzpatrick
Website	Joan Dlouhy

Newsletter Submissions:

Please feel free to email your thoughts, pictures, favorite links to quilting and fabric websites, recipes, etc., to mransom699@aol.com. Or hand them to me at our meetings.

We would all love to see your ideas in upcoming newsletters!

Holiday Cheer!

A Message from Our President

Happy Hanukkah!

The Festival of Lights started just shortly after our Thanksgiving holiday and I am reminded that both of these celebrations are reflective of the virtues of charity, hope, and humility. How fitting that just two short weeks before these celebrations, our membership went above and beyond in donating many items of food for the library's Island Harvest collection and the literally hundreds of toys for our Holiday Busy Bags.

You are the "lights" shining to improve the lives of the less fortunate through the Guild's charitable efforts. I received a lovely thank you card from the staff of the library, which says... "To All the Great South Bay Quilters, Thank you so much for all the gift bags and gifts. Your generosity was overwhelming, and we really appreciate your support. Hoping all of you have a wonderful holiday and thank you again. The Bay Shore Brightwaters Public Library".

As we enter into the Christmas season and the end of 2021, I wish you the gifts of family, friendship, love and the promise of a bright 2022.

Joan Dlouhy
President, GSBQ

A Story of Friends

Sometimes...

Friendships form in the strangest of ways.

I ordered thread from Connecting Threads...my usual assortment of gray, beige, and ecru. Colors meant to blend in when I was machine piecing.

About a week later my order arrived, several spools of drab color meant to not be too showy in my quilts. The receipt was nestled among the thread and the word "grape" caught my eye. As I examined the page more closely, the person had ordered just a single spool of "grape" thread. Her receipt was in my box with my thread order.

I might have just tossed it in the recycle.

I might have called the company, but I didn't want anyone to get in trouble.

I reached out to Florence. Enclosing the receipt in a note, I explained the mix-up and was sending along the receipt in case she hadn't gotten her "grape" thread. I told her I thought she must be a sewer and that I was a quilter.

Within a couple of weeks, she had written back and our Oregon --- New York correspondence began. Florence is 94 years young with a beautiful handwriting. She is an avid piecer who donated 100 quilts to the homeless last year. She wrote, "quilting seems to be my life's breath." Isn't that beautiful?

We both belong to quilt guilds: Great South Bay Quilters on the south shore of Long Island, New York (near the Atlantic Ocean) and Oregon Coastal Quilter's Guild (near the Pacific Ocean). I've learned about #9 quilts that she makes for her grand and great grandchildren when they turn nine. We've been sharing photos of our quilts, block patterns, and most importantly a new friendship.

We have truly been connecting threads this past year and weaving a new friendship across the miles. As Florence says, "Life is sew, sew good."

Donna Ketcham

Community Service Coordinator, GSBQ

Ed. Note: While Donna is probably best known for her work coordinating all sorts of community service projects, I am tremendously grateful for her sharing a personal story with us here. You never know how a friendship can begin, but it clearly helps when you are a kind, generous, and considerate person at heart! Thank you for sharing, Donna.

Favorites on the Internet

Several of you referenced the article and the info for attending the quilt show at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. That site can be found here: bit.ly/BostonQuiltShow

From Joan: A really wonderful site for machine embroidery is kreativekiwi.com. The designs are super easy, with many "in the hoop" projects and lots of freebies!

Also, Embroidery Library has beautiful designs! Find them at: bit.ly/EmbroideryLibrary

Sandie showed me her folder on sewing machine needles...wow! Some of it is on the next page, but if you really want to see more of the diagrams she collected, check out All About Needles on the Schmetz site: bit.ly/AllAboutNeedles

And that pattern from Providence? It's here: bit.ly/HappyTiersQuilt--enjoy!

Ed. Note: Thank you to everyone who sent in links! One of the challenges with an online newsletter is compatibility. We are using a PDF format so that most of you can access the content easily. But different PDF readers may not recognize clickable links, so I am simplifying and testing them in case you need to retype them in your browser. As we go along we will fine tune using links!



A Special Note from a Special Lady

Accomplishments

How many times have you started something and never finished? Whether it be a New Year's resolution or the list on the refrigerator, it feels so good when you reach your goal.

At one time in my life, my friend and I walked five miles every weekday evening after work. That form of exercise dwindled over the years. Ten years ago we started lap swimming. It took one hour to do ten laps. We were stuck on thirty-six laps (1/2 mile) for the longest time. This past month I decided to get serious and set a goal to swim a mile (72 laps). Well today, I did it and feel so accomplished!

How about sharing something you accomplished because Mary-Ellen is looking for some worthy news. She took on this challenge, let's give her some material to work with.

**Dorothy Christofor
Historian, GSBQ**

Ed. Note: Dorothy, or Dottie as we mostly all call her, is full of surprises, it seems! I had no idea she could swim like that! What I did know is that since first meeting her when I joined GSBQ, she has been a lovely example of a welcoming spirit. And, since I have been working on this project, she has revealed herself to be of steadfast support. I cannot thank her enough for her contributions and ongoing support!

Inspiration

It comes in many forms!

From Cindy: I'm always looking for inspiration for a quilt. This picture of my granddaughter and her three friends prompted me to make one of those little quilts that Sarajeon has encouraged us to make.

I love it.



Ed Note: We do too, Cindy! The mini quilt and the adorable mini ladies. We can't wait to see what you come up with when they get some cupcakes!

"Needle"-less to say:

We have seen the presentations. Listened to our favorite sewing TV personalities lecture about it. But most of us STILL don't spend as much time selecting sewing machine needles as we do wondering why our machines aren't sewing properly!

Sandie found the a website for SCHMETZneedles.com. Definitely check it out. HmMMMMMMMM...which needle would YOU choose for a T-shirt quilt? Discuss!

Universal ●

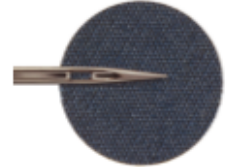
Size: 60/8, 65/9, 70/10, 75/11, 80/12, 90/14, 100/16, 110/18, 120/19,

Assorted, Twin, Triple

Color Code: None

Feature: Slightly rounded point.

Fabric Use: Numerous - woven and knits. A great general purpose needle.



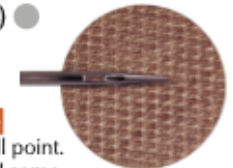
Jersey (Ball Point) ●

Size: 70/10, 80/12, 90/14, 100/16, Assorted

Color Code: Orange

Feature: Medium ball point.

Fabric Use: Knits and some stretch fabrics. Made especially for sewing on knits. The medium ball point does not damage or break knit fibers.



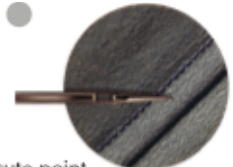
Microtex (Sharp) ●

Size: 60/8, 70/10, 80/12, 90/14, 100/16, 110/18, Assorted

Color Code: Purple

Feature: Very slim acute point.

Fabric Use: Micro fibers, polyester, silk, foils, artificial leather, coated materials. Very thin acute point creates beautiful topstitching and perfectly straight stitches for quilt piecing when precision is paramount.



Quilting ●

Size: 75/11, 90/14, Assorted

Color Code: Green

Feature: Special taper to the slightly rounded point.

Fabric Use: Made especially for piecing and machine quilting. The special tapered design allows easier fabric penetration and helps eliminate skipped stitches.



Jeans ●

Size: 70/10, 80/12, 90/14, 100/16, 110/18, Assorted, Twin

Color Code: Blue

Feature: Modified medium ball point and reinforced blade.

Fabric Use: Denim and similar fabrics. Advanced point design is a SCHMETZ exclusive. For penetrating extra thick woven fabrics, denims, or quilts with minimum needle deflection, reduced risk of needle breakage and skipped stitches.





My Special Sewing Someone



The one person who inspired me to start using my talents was, as may be for most of us, my mother Jeanette Carbonaro. At ten years old she taught me to knit because she wanted to make a baby sweater set for the lady down the street from us, and I did. When I was thirty she taught me to crochet on New Year's Eve 1972 because I wanted to crochet a poncho, the rage at the time. She quilted, too, and made so many heirlooms for my family, but I never got the calling for this talent. I do know that she guides me whenever I sit down with knitting needles, a crochet hook, or at my sewing machine. A problem? I just look up for her guidance. She was self-taught and would have loved Google and YouTube.

But, quilting began with Maryanne Hansen. We worked together at Suffolk County's Data Processing and had the same lunch hour where we shared our talents.

I would work on counted cross-stitch projects and she was making quilted crib sets for her soon-to-be grandchildren. Maryanne invited me to the West Islip Library for quilting with Jennifer in 1993 and a new love and talent developed. I did learn more about this craft from other members in the class; they taught me so much more than the instructor. The best part of these quilting classes was the wonderful women I met

there: Louise Hartman, Rose Alvarado, Kathy Parrett, and so many more. You know who you are.

Maryanne thought we should join the Great South Bay Quilters and there I met even more great "ladies of fabric". The beautiful quilts and quilt related projects that we share kept me inspired, even during our pandemic "no-meeting" months. So thankful for our website under Joan's guidance and all contributors for the last two years.

I am still a "work in progress", and learn more and more from my "sister" quilters.

-Stephanie Garite

POLL QUESTION: Who introduced you to sewing? Or started your love affair with quilting? Please share!!! Email: mransom699@aol.com to be included in our next GSBQ newsletter!



Congratulations to the Happy Couple!

It's not every day that we have a newlywed within the Great South Bay Quilters membership! With their own take on "Tidings of Joy," on Saturday, December 4, 2021, Susanne Ankner and Joseph Pers were married at St. Patrick's Church in Bay Shore, followed by a beautiful reception at Captain Bill's.

Here they are looking amazing and glamorous on a lovely cold but sunny day. Please join us in wishing a long, happy and healthy marriage to the happy couple.

submitted by Joan Dlouhy



UFO Siting!

Quilting UFOs...a.k.a. Quilting Un Finished Objects. Who doesn't have one, or a dozen, or more?

This one belongs to our very own President, Joan! It looks incredible...so why is it a UFO?

Joan hoped it would be the center of a larger quilt. When she finished this at the beginning of the year, she even bought all of the fabrics for blocks to surround it. And as is the case with many UFOs, she hasn't gotten around to choosing any of the blocks yet!

Says Joan, "I just can't decide on how to frame it. Any ideas? I hope I can get to it in 2022!"

Thank you, Joan, for sharing this! I am sure many of us will offer suggestions...we aren't shy about sharing quilting opinions!

We all have total confidence it will be a show stopper!



Non-Recipe

Admit it! You asked Sandie Kowalchuk for the recipe for her scrumptious chocolate chip cookies. Well, wait no longer!

Sandie sent in her yummy, mouth-watering, recipe...or, in this case, NON-recipe!!!

Wondering what a NON-recipe is? Check out our last page... you will find it there. Enjoy!



Ed. Note: Bet even if you didn't ask for the recipe you want it now!

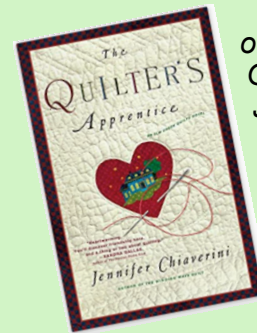
Book Nook

We have two reviews for you this month!

From Olive Archer: If you are enjoying the mini quilt BOM we are doing this year in the guild, this book is for you. "Scrappy Improv Quilting: 22 mini quilts to make with easy piecing" from Landauer Publishing. It starts with a chapter on piecing basics including improv piecing and cutting, followed by projects arranged by single blocks, simple shapes, seasonal quilts and twists on standard blocks. The final



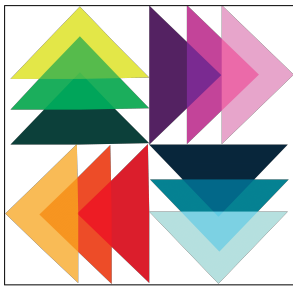
chapter gives finishing instructions. The author uses plenty of pictures in her instructions which are easy to follow. Some of the blocks could be repeated to create larger quilts. Blocks range in size from 14' x 20' to 30' x 30'. Most are square but a few are rectangular. Examples are colorful and have a contemporary vibe. If you are looking for more small quilts or want to try some modern quilting, try this book.



Good news for fans of "The Elm Creek Quilts" series by Jennifer Chiaverini! Sandy Maniscalco loved every one of the books, and says, "you always wanted to get to the last page. It was a wholesome read,... imagine that in this day and age!" She would love to give her collection away.. Interested? Give her a call at: 631-665-0113!

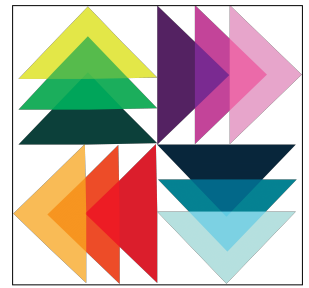
Have a book you recommend? Send an email with your recommendations to: mransom699@aol.com





BLOCK PARTY

GSBQ STYLE



Many of you know we have a HUGE lot of Born to Read bags all sewn up, but with no place to go since the program is on hold for the moment at Southside hospital. So, The programming committee put their heads together and decided to have GSBQ fill some bags with toys, and donate them through the

Children's Department of the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Public Library to the Family Service League in Suffolk County!

At our last meeting, everyone turned into little elves, and over 100 bags were put together for donation! Thank you to all the members who participated in our little production gala!



The born to read bags were part of our community service. We had about 130 bags. It was organized by Joan, Joann and myself.

We came up with the idea at our program committee meeting. We had so many bags and the hospital was not taking them at that point. It was a great effort on all our members' part.

-Sarajeon Palese, GSBQ VP

Happy Tiers or Elegant Chandeliers?

When Providence Block recommended this happy quilt for the newsletter, we just had to fit it in!

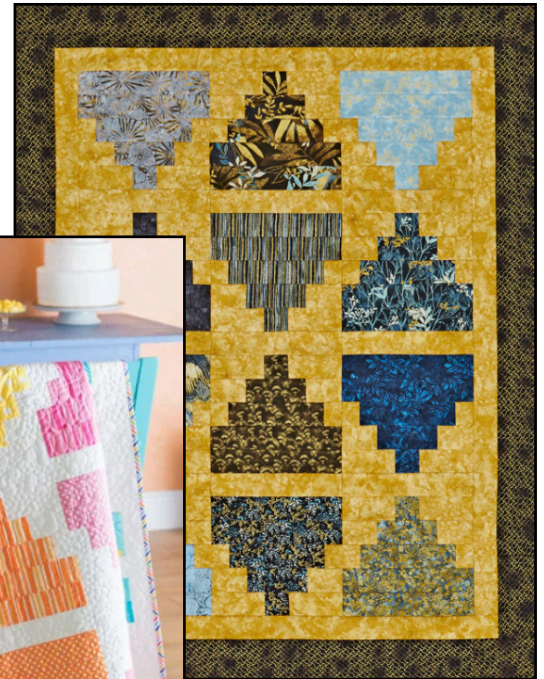
You will find the exact link to the *Elegant Chandeliers* pattern in our online links recommendations on page 2, or you can search on your own.

The original *Happy Tiers* quilt appeared in *American Patchwork & Quilting* in April of 2016, and was designed by Barbara Groves and Mary Jacobson of *Me and My Sister Designs*. It's clearly a great option for those extra jelly rolls sitting with your sewing stuff!

Sometime later, the pattern was reinterpreted with a more sophisticated color palette from *Timeless Treasures*. The pattern and instructions are the same, and are luckily still available on allpeoplequilt.com.

Which do you prefer? Providence was absolutely correct in identifying this pattern as fun, easy, and a great way to use up those 2 1/2" strips. It only uses 25!

Thanks, Providence!



Recipe: *Eclair Cake*

From the Kitchen of: *Gerrie Fitzpatrick*



CAKE:

2 packages (3.4 oz.)
instant vanilla pudding
mix, dry
3 1/2 cups whole milk

12 oz. Cool Whip
2 packages (14.4 oz)
graham crackers

FROSTING:

3 Tbs. butter
3 Tbs. milk
3 Tbs. cocoa
1 cup powdered sugar

Directions: Mix milk with vanilla pudding for 2 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip. In a 9x13 pan, cover the entire bottom of the pan with graham crackers. They may have to be cut and shaped to fit nicely.

Layering: Pour half the cold pudding/whisking mix on the top. Put another layer of graham crackers on top covering entire surface, cutting and shaping crackers accordingly. Put the rest of the cold pudding mix on top. Place the last layer of graham crackers on top with the bumpy side down. This will help the top look softer when you are putting on the embellishments. **Topping:** Microwave

butter and milk just enough to melt. Do not boil. Add cocoa and powdered sugar. Mix. Pour on

graham crackers and smooth. Chill overnight and decorate. I put Santa in a sleigh with reindeers.



Friendly Quilting Advice

Sandie has 3 different ways to avoid tangling when she's adding binding! And, she took the time to show how she does each method. Thanks, for sharing, Sandie!

Method 1: Fold binding accordion style and put it into a thread catcher that hangs from your sewing machine table, or a large coffee mug placed on the floor, so it feeds out smoothly.



Method 2: Roll the binding into a spiral, then place it on the upright thread spindle of your machine to have it unroll smoothly.



Method 3: Wind the binding around an empty thread spool, loop a ribbon through the spool and suspend it from a drawer handle so it will unroll smoothly as you sew.



Do you have some special quilting tips or tricks you'd like to share? Send 'em on in...you know where: mransom699@aol.com!

Secret Non-Recipe

I am so glad that so many of you enjoyed the cookies I made for the snack table at November's meeting. Several of you asked for the recipe and one of you asked that I submit the recipe to the Newsletter so it could be shared. So here it is, the "non-recipe" — Enjoy!
-Sandie Kowalchuk



October Winner!



Dottie Christofer was the winner of our "Guess the Number of Treats in a Jar" for October. Congratulations, Dottie!

Special Thanks to:

Donna Ketcham, Stephanie Garite, Cindy Carroll, Providence Block, Gerrie Fitzpatrick, Sandie Kowalchuk, Joan Dlouhy, Sarajeon Palese, Dottie Christofer, Olive Archer, Carol Garbarino, and everyone who offered content, ideas, words of encouragement, and proofreading skills!

The GSBQ Newsletter is YOUR newsletter...please contribute or share your words, thoughts, links and pictures!