

THE SUGAR BOWL



Brown Sugar Stitches Quilt Guild Quiltsites.com/Brownsugarstitches.htm E-mail address: brownsugarstitches@yahoo.com

December - the countdown to finishing those seasonal gifts is on!



Hi Members,

I am working on something and I need your help.

I will be collecting scraps at the next few meetings. I will bring some sort of a collection container to upcoming meetings for you to place them in. No scrap is too large or too small. Any color will do. Any type of fabric will do.

What am I going to do with them? It's a surprise for later.

Thanks, Myla



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Have a
Joyful Holiday Season!





From the President's Desk

To all members,
Happy Holidays! Let me first wish you holidays that are full of love, food, and free time for quilting. Secondly, following our last meeting, I was so motivated by our guest speaker, Ms. Marquetta Bell-Johnson, I was led to establish the simple phrase "No Excuses" as my motto for the upcoming year.

Over the years, I have developed a phobia for machine quilting... thread breaks, stitches too tight, too loose, lots of ripples, etc. This phobia caused me to send my tops to others to be completed as quilts. This practice costs money. Consequently, many of my creations sit as UFOs, waiting for the final magic of hand or machine quilting.

I was so fearful of machine quilting that once I heard that our submissions into the juried exhibit in Arts Station during the NBAF had to be totally done by the creator, I decided to not even participate.

But as I sat listening to Ms. Bell-Johnson, who became a paraplegic as a result of a gunshot wound, I quickly realized how weak my fear was. This wonderful person not only refused to succumb to her condition, but she explained how she uses her left hand to move her beautiful quilts around during the quilting process and her right hand to control her foot pedal. It didn't take me long to realize that if she can produce the beautiful works she showed us, neither I (nor any one else, for that matter) has an excuse for not pursuing their goals.

Piecefully Yours,

Jocelyn Carter
President,
Brown Sugar Stitchers

*"Ninety-nine percent of all failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." **George Washington Carver***

*"Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to everything, and if we had sufficient will we should always have sufficient means. It is often merely for an excuse that we say things are impossible" **F.D.L. Rochefoucauld***



MYLA'S REMINDERS--

Well, many members said they enjoyed Marquetta Bell-Johnson's program and workshop. Her recounting of how she is continuing to acquire her machine quilting skills was inspirational and her grandmother's hand-tacking method is unique and useful. Her dyeing method is easy and quick, and I'll be using it!

This Month is our annual Holiday Party. Hope to see everyone there. This is the last time to bring any scraps that you may wish to donate to my call for scraps. Don't forget -put them in the car now!

In January we are hosting the Phoenix Quilt Guild for what I call A Big Ole Show and Tell!!! Members of the Intown Quilt Guild will be attending as well. Please bring your batik swap quilts and quilt tops for show and tell, and any other works you want to share. We also want you to tell us just a little about your favorite quilt book, pattern or gadget. Those members who took last month's workshop: don't forget to bring your fabrics to show the rest of us!

In February we will have Cleo Ward for a short workshop on using Procion MX dyes for coloring fabrics. Before that, we will have a short program from the Atlanta Sewing Machine Company (not to be confused with Atlanta Sewing Center) on embellishment. This may be handy since the gallery quilts are required to be embellished. Cleo's workshop is \$10, which includes all dye supplies and other things needed, but doesn't include the fabric. You can buy it from her or bring your own-there will be more information in January's newsletter.

There are still open months for programs, including June, September, October, November and possibly May. If you have any suggestions, let me know. The workshop with Debby Kratovil has been tentatively scheduled for August, and we will need members to participate to make sure the workshop will take place.

Myla

Letters to the Editor:

Meeting Etiquette

Sister Stitchers,

I sit in the “audience” section of meetings, not at the table up front. There have been occasions in the last few meetings when I have been unable to hear the speakers, or even our guest presenters, due to loud “side” conversations between members. Please refrain from engaging in such rude and distracting behavior. Let’s all be more considerate of each other, our guest stitchers, and our guest presenters.

Thank you,

Sharon Gipson

Sharon, you are not alone in your views. The conversations, as well as the cell phone ringing are unacceptable while others are speaking/ presenting. Let's remember to set our phones to vibrate and leave the building if we need to converse during our meetings. The library is hosting us, and our “chatter” should not disturb their patrons either.

Lynette

The Sugar Bowl

I LOVE the name The Sugar Bowl, and I think that we should officially name our newsletter that.

Myla Chapman

I also love the new name. My first thoughts were Sugar for Brown Sugar and Sugar Bowl as being one of the ultimate football games and BSS as being an ultimate guild.

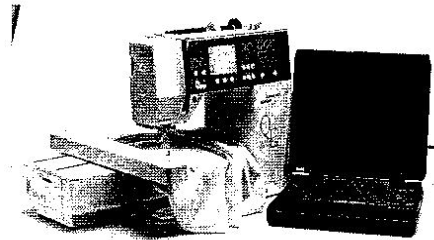
Jocelyn Carter

Thank you for your positive comments ladies. It's always nice to know that someone is reading our work.

Lynette



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CARDS, cards, cards.... If you agreed to add to the guild card "stash" by contributing a handmade creation, please remember to bring your masterpiece to Nina at the next meeting. Thanks!

Gallery Exhibit

The Guild voted for the theme: Quilts: A Colorful Journey.

You should have received an e-mail attachment with all the details on the upcoming gallery exhibit for June 3 to August 20 of next year. I also went over some of the details at last month's meeting. I have posted the document at our yahoo site, and will be making revisions and additions from time to time. There is also information about making fiber postcards at the yahoo site. These documents can be found in the Files section. If you haven't received it, please let me know.

Some of the main points are: it is a double-juried exhibit and the Arts Station gallery will make the final decision on which pieces will be exhibited; you have to do the piece ALL on your own, including quilting; the piece must have been created since August 2005, and not shown anywhere- DO NOT bring it to a guild meeting (ours or anyone's) for show and tell; the quilts must be made to the precise size specifications listed for each category; the piece must be embellished in some way; the piece should be colorful. You can submit up to 3 pieces, but no more than 2 in any one category. Also remember that all guild members are asked to donate fabric postcards to sell at the gallery with the after commission proceeds going directly to the guild treasury.

I would like to recommend the following to those of you who are concerned about machine quilting. Diane Gaudynski's Guide to Machine Quilting is an excellent book

on that subject. I think that her work is THE BEST and even though I have seen some great machine quilted work these past few years in Houston, her's still stands out in front of the pack to me. She does her work on a regular Bernina machine, and her book gives great information on setting up your machine and area, choosing threads, backing, preventing pain and fatigue, washing and more.

For a more visual lesson on machine quilting, I recommend Sharon Schamber's (2005 Best of Show IQA winner) No Marking Machine Quilting video (on CD-plays on the computer CD player and the t.v. DVD player). You can obtain at Sharon's site. www.sharonschamber.com. She gives good tips on set-up, thread, and I now use her method for basting quilts which works great, and saves me so much time over the way i used to do it. I think that between these two resources, and plenty of practice, you can learn how to do machine quilting, or improve your current skills.

I also recommend that you consider getting a Sew Steady extension table for your machine to help give a steady, uninterrupted surface for machine quilting.

Hope that everyone is working on their exhibit pieces.

Myla

From Angela Hinton

The BSS holiday lunch gathering will be on Saturday, December 10th, at 12:00 noon, at Romano's Macaroni Grill. (This is in lieu of our December meeting.) The address is: 1566 Pleasant Hill Rd., Duluth, GA 30136 (Phone: 770-564-0094). You can view their menu and a map for directions at their website www.macaronigrill.com. Even though we are going "dutch," Angela Hinton needs to give the restaurant an approximate head count. Please e-mail responses by Saturday, December 3rd. Also, we will be doing a gift exchange. Participants are asked to spend \$20` creatively OR a hand-crafted gift would be great, too. Everyone is invited to come out for some food, fellowship and fun!



Reply to amhinton@earthlink.net



Hey Quilters, There is a new magazine on the store shelves called "**The \$100,000.00 Quilting Challenge (quiltingchallenge.com)**", published by the folks at "**The Quilter**". They claim to be the first "reality publishing" magazine. They are seeking entries for a judged quilt contest. Over the next year, entries will be narrowed down to a final few, and then the \$100,000.00 winner will be selected. The magazine offers tips from the pros, suggestions, examples, rules, and several categories of competition. There are several dates over the next year by which entries must be submitted. With all the talent in our guild, surely someone from BSS will enter the contest. **You** could be the first "reality publishing" winner!!

From the Editor:


How Can I Quilt the Principles of Kwanzaa?

Sister Stitchers,
Here we are in another holiday season. As an African-American my thoughts turn to Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a non-religious holiday created by Dr. Maulana Karenga. The official website describes Kwanzaa as a "celebration of family, community, and culture." There are seven principles of Kwanzaa (nguzo saba) which we are to remember and rededicate ourselves to annually. While the names of the principles are in Kiswahili, the ideals are those which easily translated and adhered to here in the U.S. Let's remember the principles of Kwanzaa as we seek out businesses to patronize, and create our work. My 2006 principle to stress will be **Kujichagulia**, which in English means self-determination. Self-determination is further defined as; to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

As a traditional quilter I will seek to define my work, name my work (by making sure the work I create falls under the definition I am using), create quilts that I enjoy and speak for myself and other quilters who feel as I do about the craft of quilting. I will make this principle a focus of my work and of my quilting. The principles of Kwanzaa are not things that roll around once a year to kill time between the Christmas feast and the New Year's feast. As quilters, we embody the principle of kuumba (creativity) with what we do. If you choose to celebrate Kwanzaa this year, how will you "quilt" it?

*Lynette S. Jackson**
nyasha@bellsouth.net

For more information on Kwanzaa, go to the official website
<http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/>



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*Any views expressed by the editor do not constitute a viewpoint shared by the Brown Sugar Quilt Guild. The Brown Sugar Stitches Quilt Guild is a diverse group of African American Quilters in Metropolitan Atlanta. If you would like to become a part of the **Brown Sugar Stitches** we extend a warm invitation to join us one Saturday morning. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the William C. Brown Wesley Chapel Branch of the DeKalb County Public Library. For more information about our activities and mission, please contact us.

E-Mail:
Brownsugarstitchers@yahoo.com

Meeting Date:
Third Saturday of each
month

Next Meeting:
January 21, 2006

Sugar Bowl Editor
Lynette S. Jackson
nyasha@bellsouth.net

2005-2006 Officers

LITTLE TREASURE
2005-2006
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3/06 - Renee' Allen
4/06 - Paulette Strain
5/06 - Akilah M. Hill
6/06 - Anita B. Crosby
8/06 - Nina Moore
9/06 - Aleathia Chisolm
10/06 - Sonia Mack
11/06 - Abel Williams

Co-Presidents: Jocelyn Carter and Abel Williams
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VP Membership: Thea Crosby
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We're on the Web!

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