

The Brown Sugar Press

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Message from the President



Resolve to Be More Active in Your Guild

Happy New Year Brown Sugars!

I hope everyone enjoyed the food, fun and friends of the holidays. Although I could not attend the holiday luncheon, those who were present have reported to me that it was fabulous and fun. Many thanks to Jackie and her committee for organizing such a wonderful activity.

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back to the serious business of quilting. We are looking forward to hosting our sister guilds this month. The January show and tell is always the most awesome show and tell of the year, and I hope everyone has made a "green" quilt for the challenge. I can hardly wait! Myla and Belinda have done a great job getting us organized. However, before we get to the fun part of the meeting, we will have a very short business meeting so that we can make decisions about upcoming activities that are available to us.

Finally, if you made New Year's resolutions, I hope you resolved to be more active in Brown Sugar Stitches. The second half of the year is packed with activities, and we will need everyone's enthusiastic participation to pull everything off.

While we desperately need your participation in guild activities, I hope you also resolved to make time to quilt. After all, quilting is our reason for being. Take a moment to organize your life and especially your sewing room. You will be surprised at how much you can accomplish with a little organization. I am counting on everyone to have at least one quilt in the July quilt show.

With your strong resolve to be more enthusiastically active in guild activities, and your determined resolve to make time to quilt, I know that we can make this year the best ever.

O.V. Brantley

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FROM THE EDITOR

Well, the new year is here and now as BSSers I know we will start concentrating on getting our quilt show together, so we should all be working on quilts for the show as well as items for the silent auction and our selling table.

We have some great programs planned and the now annual (our 4th!) Tri-Guild Challenge is first up for this new year. I am working on my quilt and I know I will see some great interpretations of the challenge this year from our members and the members of the other three guilds. We will have a fabulous and fun time as we always do!

As for Going Green, have you seen the new reusable cloth bags at Jo-Ann's? If you get just a couple of those and use them instead of bringing home more plastic bags from that store and others, you will be helping in your own small way. They are only \$1 and offer an efficient and cheap way to help the environment.

I thought that this month I would share information about some gadgets that I use and another that I want. Please feel free to send articles on your favorite gadgets to share with the rest of the guild. Now, let's quilt!

Myla

quiltmyla@aol.com



Play Ball

The Brown Sugar Press

PRODUCT REVIEW

FAMORE CUTLERY E-Z SNIP SCISSORS

FAMORE CUTLERY E-Z STITCH SNIP SCISSORS

The e-z snips are the best little scissors for cutting threads during quilting. The short, curved blade is great for snipping threads close to the fabric surface without danger of cutting the fabric. The e-z stitch snips are great for use during quilting, too. The hook on the blade allows you to pick stitches out and cut them as well. The design of the scissors with the spring back makes them easy to use. I highly recommend adding these scissors to your gadget collection. Another plus is that once you purchase these Famore scissors, you can get free sharpening for life. You can purchase at <http://famorecutlery.com>. They will also be available at the March Expo show in Gwinnett. Cost is \$14 to \$18 and well worth it to me. I love mine.



e-z snips



e-z stitch snips

SEW PERFECT TABLES

I do not have one of these tables but I have heard good things about them and wanted to share this information. There are several tables available, including a style which orients your sewing machine for free motion quilting. I believe the tables are also adjustable. The tables look to have a sturdy base, much like commercial sewing tables. The nice thing about all the tables is that they are made to have your machine sit flush with the table top which aids in quilting. You can buy an insert for probably any sewing machine, so you could actually use the same table for different machines. For more info go to: <http://www.sewperfecttables.com/sewing-tables.shtml>

FREE MOTION TABLE



ORIGINAL TABLE





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THE DYNAMIC QUILTING DUO OF BSS

This month the member profile features the mother/daughter duo of our group. These two ladies are a family full of talent and creativity and we all enjoy their works as well as their playful and sometimes funny interactions at BSS activities.

MEMBER PROFILE – Anita Crosby

Your name and place of birth – Anita Crosby

How long you've lived in the Atlanta area—I was born in Winder, GA and raised in Jefferson, GA. I moved to Atlanta to attend Morris Brown College and have been here ever since.

What you do for a living and other hobbies and interests- I am a Consolidated Plan Specialist with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I am about a year away from retired, I hope. I am an avid reader and have recently fallen in love with audio books. I also enjoy painting, ceramics, and woodworking.

A little information about your family – I am a divorcee' and have 2 children, a daughter, Thea (34) and a son, Philemon (31).

Quilting history: I have been quilting for about 9 years. I took my first quilting class at Quilts 'n' Fixins in Jonesboro; it was an Eye Spy Quilt. My sister sews and my lovely daughter quilts. I decided to take up quilting after I saw a Brown Sugar Stitchers Quilt Show at the Wesley Chapel Library. I typically make art quilts but also enjoy making traditional quilts as well. I tend to make wall hanging to full sized quilts. I am learning to quilt on my long arm HandiQuilter (HQ) 16. I have never entered a juried quilt show, but I did have a quilt in the BSS Art Station show and have had many displayed in the BSS shows.

How long have you been a member of BSS? Have you served in any officer or committee chair positions in the guild? If so, which ones? I have been a member of BSS for 5 years. I have held many positions in BSS including Hostess and Librarian (2 times). I am currently serving my second term as the Property Chairperson.

Who do you admire most as far as well-known, professional or any other quilters? Why?

I admire Sharon Schamber because her quilting is exquisite. I like her style of appliqué and her machine quilting techniques.

What's your favorite local quilt shop? Favorite internet source for quilting supplies?

I love Quilts 'n' Fixins. I consider it my home and know that I can always go there for whatever I need. Jeanne and her crew are warm and are always willing to lend a helping hand. My favorite Internet shop is Hancock of Paducah.



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MEMBER PROFILE – Thea Crosby

Your name and place of birth – Thea Crosby

How long you've lived in the Atlanta area if from somewhere else –I was born and raised in Atlanta. I am a true Georgia Peach!!

What you do for a living and other hobbies and interests- I am an educator and I currently teach 3rd grade science and social studies at White Elementary in Atlanta Public Schools. I love to read and can read a 500 page book in less than 24 hours. I also love to belly dance and swim.

A little information about your family – married, his name, how long, kids, how old, pets? I am single, with no children of my own, and no pets (my mother is afraid of all animals and has threatened not to visit if I get a pet). I have 1 brother, but my father has 8 children including me, so I guess I really have 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

Quilting history: I have been quilting for about 9 years. I took my first quilting class at Quilts 'n' Fixins in Jonesboro; it was an Eye Spy Quilt. The first quilt I finished was a Bug in the Jar Quilt (a class also taken at Q 'n' F). My oldest aunt and my mother both sew, but it was my mother that wanted to take up quilting after she saw a Brown Sugar Stitchers Quilt Show at the library. I of course being a very obedient daughter was dragged kicking and screaming into this hobby. I love to design my own quilts and have many stored in my Electric Quilter (EQ) file. I typically make art quilts but will piece whatever strikes my fancy. I am mostly a quilt starter not a quilt finisher. Needless to say I have many UFOs some pieced, some cut, and some just in the fabric has been purchased stage. I don't make anything too big because my patience is very short. I definitely prefer to do all parts of quilting my machine (my double jointed fingers get stiff very easy) and machine appliqué is my favorite, favorite quilting technique. I have never entered a juried quilt show, but I did have a quilt in the BSS Art Station show and have had many displayed in the BSS shows.

How long have you been a member of BSS? Have you served in any officer or committee chair positions in the guild? If so, which ones? I have been a member of BSS for 5 years. I have held many positions in BSS. I have been the Historian, the VP of Membership (2 times), and Co-President. I am currently serving as the Special Programs Chairperson.

Who do you admire most as far as well-known, professional or any other quilters? Why?

I am not really sure who my favorite quilter is, I've never really thought about it. I like different things about different quilters. But the quilters I admire the most are the ones that I come in contact with as a member of BSS. I admire OV Brantley and the way she makes those huge, beautiful quilts. I admire Belinda Pedrosa, her use of fabric and color, and her teaching skills. I admire Aisha Lumumba for her quilting style and her dedication to turning her passion into an career as an entrepreneur. I admire Vicki Clark and her business of pattern designing (that's what I like to do) and how she makes such difficult looking quilts easy to make.

What's your favorite local quilt shop? Favorite internet source for quilting supplies?

I love Quilts 'n' Fixins. I consider it my home and know that I can always go there for whatever I need. I not a big Internet shopper, but I have used some shops, but always have to ask my mother for the name.

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THEA CROSBY

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Any other information you'd like sister guild members to know: I attended Morris Brown College and was a member of the band that was a model for the movie Drumline, yes, I was a Marching Wolverine. I am a flutist, my mother and aunts are too, I still play, and they don't. I am member of Tau Beta Sigma Band Sorority and my mother and I are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Finally, I really enjoy being a member of BSS and look forward spending time learning and sewing with everybody.

OPPORTUNITIES TO DONATE QUILTS FOR FUNDRAISING

If you are interested in making quilts to donate to organizations for sale or auction to raise funds, consider Ami Simms's Alzheimer's Art Quilt Initiative (AAQI), an Internet-driven, grassroots, totally volunteer effort to raise awareness and fund research through art. It is a Michigan nonprofit corporation with tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. All profit is used to fund Alzheimer's research. Since the AAQI began they have raised more than \$157,000 for Alzheimer's research. You can make quilts for the "Priority: Alzheimer's Quilts" project, so named for the urgent need for research dollars and the requirement that these quilts must fit into a cardboard USPS priority mailer without folding. They are small works of art no larger than 9 inches by 12 inches, auctioned on the first day of each month (see below) or sold outright on the Internet or at selected venues across the United States. Go to <http://www.alzquilts.org> for more information.

Another place to donate small quilts is the National Quilting Association's Little Quilt Auction, a fundraising event that is held during the group's quilt show every year. Donated quilts should be no larger than 28 inches on any side and should be sent to the NQA by June 1. This year's show is June 18-20 in Columbus, OH. For more information, go to <http://www.nqaquilts.org/2009show/littlequiltauction.php>.

Myla



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QUILTER PROFILE:

Rachel Clark

Name and where you live? My name is Rachel DK Clark and I live in Watsonville, CA.

A little bit of personal information you'd like us to know: married, kids, what you've done in the past (not quilt related). I am a widow and have one son, (Kincy) a daughter-in-law,(Grace) and 2 grand-kids, Vittoria (5) and Sanders(3.5). I am not sure how to answer this question. I have quilted most of my life. A long time ago, before I had a child, I worked for the Telephone Company, but after that I was a stay-at-home mom. I later became a Certified Pre-School teacher, but only did that for about a year before I went to work teaching QUILT MAKING for adult education.

Please write a brief (not too brief, though) paragraph or two about your early fiber/textile/quilting history and how you came to be a well-known professional?

As I stated early I have been quilting most of my life. I taught beginning quilt making - Adult Ed for about 8 years. Even though, I was quilting, I am also a seamstress. When I was busy making quilts, I would miss the dressmaking and vice versa. One morning, I woke up and decided to marry the two crafts. Hence is why I consider myself a Folk Artist. I begin being invited to come and talk to groups, organizations and guilds about my work. I can't say that I had a specific goal in mind. I just love what I was doing. I was lucky, the first year that Empty Spools Seminars was at Asilomar, a group of quilters from Sacramento stopped by our guild show and I was hosting a fashion show of some of my work. They thought I was funny and very good. To make a long story short, they shared that information with Diana McClun one of the 3 sponsors and she invited me down to show them what I was doing. The next year I did a fashion show lecture for them and the following year I was invited to teach and as they say the rest is history.

What do you like most about being a professional? What do you like least?

What I like the most about being a professional are that I have met some amazing people, have a small pattern line and I am getting to do this full time at least for the present. With the changes made in Airline travel it is getting more difficult and expensive, which leads to what I like the least - That is the airline traveling hassles.

What is your favorite class to teach? My favorite class to teach is: The Technique Class in a short venue and Clothing for the Body and Soul in a longer venue.

What is your dream teaching venue and subject?

My dream venue is a 4-5 day class and the Clothing for the Body and Soul

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Rachel Clark

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Have you won any major awards at quilt shows or other related venues?

I don't really enter my work in judged shows. But I have had an opportunity to have work in the Fairfield Fashion show and The Bernina Show sponsored by the International Quilt Festival. I have had several One Woman Shows. A real ego booster.

What is your favorite quilt that you have made?

I make mostly garments therefore I am going to give you my favorite garment. I have 2 that I can't choose between. One is the infamous Watermelon Coat, Just Another Colored Girl Having Too Much Fun and the other is Alligator Swing.

What is your favorite place in the world that your profession has taken you to?

I would have to say Christchurch, New Zealand. I had never been to that part of the world.

What do you want to do in the future in your professional career?

I want to do another coat pattern and I would love to do a book.

In ten words or less, what words of wisdom do you have for the quilters in our guild?

"Do the best work you can and Do"

Editor's Note: You can find more info on Rachel and her patterns, lectures and workshops at <http://rdkc.com/blog/>



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UPCOMING EVENTS

BROWN SUGAR ACTIVITIES

January Meeting—1/17/2009-Annual Tri-Guild Challenge—What Does Going Green Mean to You?
For challenge information go to the private yahoogroups site in the files area.

February Meeting 2/19—Quilting as a Business-Marketing & Entrepreneurship—Aisha

March—21—Founder's Day, National Quilting Day—Sit n Sew Bead Workshop

July —Brown Sugar Stitchers Quilt Show

August 15—Annual BSS Tea—Details TBA

March 5-7—Original Sewing and Quilt Expo, Duluth, GA - www.sewingexpo.com/cities/atlanta.htm

March 6-8-Quilt Show, Cotton Patch Quilters, Oconee County—www.cpquilters.org

March 18-21—Georgia Quilt Council Spring Convention, fea. Jan Krentz. Details TBA.

March 21-29—Bulloch Hall Quilt Show, "Recycling Traditions" www.bullochhall.org/quiltshow.asp

April 22-25— AQS Quilt Show and Contest, Paducah, KY - www.americanquilter.com

June 18-20—National Quilting Association Quilt Show, Columbus, OH—www.nqaquilts.org

July 22-25— AQS Quilt Show and Contest, Knoxville, TN

Little Treasure

2009

February - Jeanette Walton

March - Vanessa Brown

April - Carolyn White

