



Rhonda at Chihuly Garden & Glass, Seattle 2014.

What inspires you to sew? The symbol Fleur De Lis inspired Janet Fogg to create the magnificent *Flower of Light* quilt that graces the cover and pages throughout this issue. Sarah Gunn was spurred to sew by the high cost of designer ready-to-wear and found a creative outlet that brought blogger friends and a newly found appreciation for fit and color to create a glorious and expansive wardrobe. Pokey Bolton is inspired by the attendees and energy of International Quilt Festival all while inspiring us with her creative life force. Yes, inspiration is a full circle. Three very different women who have found their creative voices. Each on their own unique journey.

After you get to know more about our sewing friends, be sure to visit their websites and blogs. Janet has her teaching schedule posted. Yes, I really want to take one of her classes. Sarah has instructions for a beautiful and fun ribbon skirt — I want to make this too! And Pokey ponders International Quilt Festivals with lots of energy, ideas and four-legged furry friends. Can I have dog... and a cat? (My husband respectfully says no... at least for now and I'm not giving up.)

Plus I think you will like the featured product to tame all those loose bobbins in your drawers, sitting among prickly pins and rolling on the floor. Sound familiar? Yes, I have been there and now use the perfect product.

Till next time, I hope that you are *Inspired to SEW*!

Sew SCHMETZ!

Rhonda Pierce Marketing Director & Publisher SCHMETZneedles.com

In this Issue:

Sewing Star: Sarah Gunn

Goodbye Valentino

Page 3

Sewing Star: Pokey Bolton

Pokey's Ponderings

Page 9

Stitch Inspiration: Flower of Light

Janet Fogg Page 6

In My Sewing Room: Grabbit® BobbinSavers

Page 12

Stitch background on cover and all pages:

Flower of Light Janet Fogg

Interviews by:

Rita Farro

www.Ritassewfun.blogspot.com

What Inspires YOU to Sew?



www.facebook.com/schmetzneedles



www.pinterest.com/schmetzneedles/







Sarah Gunn



Sarah Gunn —

Life Force Behind Goodbye Valentino

Goodbye Valentino

Before she became the life-force behind the popular sewing blog, Goodbye Valentino, Sarah Gunn was a busy wife and mother with a successful career as the Executive Director of the Spartanburg Music Foundation. One of the things she was really good at was shopping. She was a big fan of Diane Van Furstenberg, Milly, Nanette Lepore, Lilly P., Kate Spade — anything at Nieman Marcus or Nordstrom's. Her two twenty-something daughters, Katie and Mimi, shared her love of high end ready-to-wear and shopping was a joyful mother-daughter bonding activity.

At some point, Sarah felt like she was spending a lot of money on clothes, but had a closet full of nothing to wear... too many special occasion dresses and a lot of black and white. By August 2011, after a series of graduations, weddings and other special events, she'd been on a six month spending spree.



Sarah Gunn at Edisto Island wearing Style Arc "Elle" slim leg pants and holding SCHMETZ needle packs.

Her "ah-ha" moment came at a home "skirt party" she attended with her daughter Mimi. After trying on several styles, and looking at the fabric samples, they ordered three custom skirts. The bill was nearly \$700. When the skirts arrived, Sarah looked at the simple skirts — and she KNEW she could have made them herself.

She felt such tremendous buyer's remorse—that's when it happened. She snapped.

On that day — August 31, 2011, Sarah vowed to go on a Ready-To-Wear FAST. Her intention was to not buy a thing for one year. She would sew her own clothes for

one whole year. And, to hold herself accountable, she would blog about it. She named her blog, "Goodbye Valentino". Initially, she didn't tell anybody what she was doing. She wasn't sure she could do it, and she didn't want additional pressure from her family.

Sarah dusted off her seldom-used sewing machine, reorganized

her abandoned playroom — and started SEWING. Using an Amy Butler pattern and a Laura Ashley dress (circa 1987) from her closet, she made a really cute skirt.

Sarah had no way of knowing that she was starting a revolution

She learned to sew in high school and after college she sewed for herself for six or seven years. **But after** the birth of her first daughter, her focus shifted. Between her family and her career she had little time to sew.



PATTERN: Vogue 8750 **FABRIC:** Wool Houndstooth, Mood Fabrics leather upcycled from thrift store skirt

Other than clothes for her young daughters, a few quilts or simple home dec projects, she had taken a 25-year break from garment sewing.

When she started **Goodbye Valentino**, Sarah had no idea about



Sarah Gunn Continued



the sewing world that existed on the Internet. As it happened, she enjoyed writing the blog as much as

sewing her new clothes. After three months, she told her husband what she was doing. He was incredulous and quickly became her biggest fan. After five or six months of blogging, Sarah began to receive comments from other women who had been inspired to sew by reading Goodbye Valentino.

In JUNE 2012, after only TEN months of blogging, Sarah was invited to join the Mood Sewing Network. She



was honored to be one of their original bloggers because the mission of the **Mood Sewing** Network is to inspire fashion sewing. When asked about the benefits of sewing her own clothes, Sarah answers thoughtfully, "I started the RTW fast to save money. and I celebrated with a trip to the

Mediterranean at the end of my fast! An unexpected benefit is that while sewing my own clothes, I learned how to fit myself. Because of that, I am much pickier about ready to wear. Also, I've



PATTERN: Butterick 5683 FABRIC: Faux leather/faux fur backing

discovered my own style which includes a love of color, a fondness for ruffles and classic feminine lines."

"My sewing skills have also improved, and I've learned the little things can make a big difference in my end result. For example, I used to be one of those people who only changed my sewing machine needle if it broke! But now I actually enjoy sewing on knit fabrics because I know there is a specific needle for that purpose. Using a topstitch needle has made a huge difference in the quality of my garments. I've also developed a little finesse with the iron."

Sarah Gunn has always been determined to live creatively, but the reaction to Goodbye Valentino has been more than she ever imagined.

During her first RTW fast, she made 64 garments, and it changed her life. As it happened, it also changed the lives of thousands of other women who were tired of spending too much money on clothes.



可

Goodbye Valentino convinced them that they could do it, too. In January 2014,

needed to go back on the wagon, so she started another RTW fast. This time, she invited her readers to join her — and 277 of them are along for the ride. To follow their progress. there is a page on the blog, "2014 RTW Fasters".

www.goodbyevalentino.com

"If you can read a recipe, you can read a pattern. If you can drive a car, you can operate a sewing machine. If you can shop, you can sew."

Sarah Gunn





Floral top and skirt. Photo: Tim Kimsey



Flower of Light

Quilt Artist: Janet Fogg www.janetfoggguilts.com

Photographer: Dale Leix

Custom Hand-Dye Fabrics:

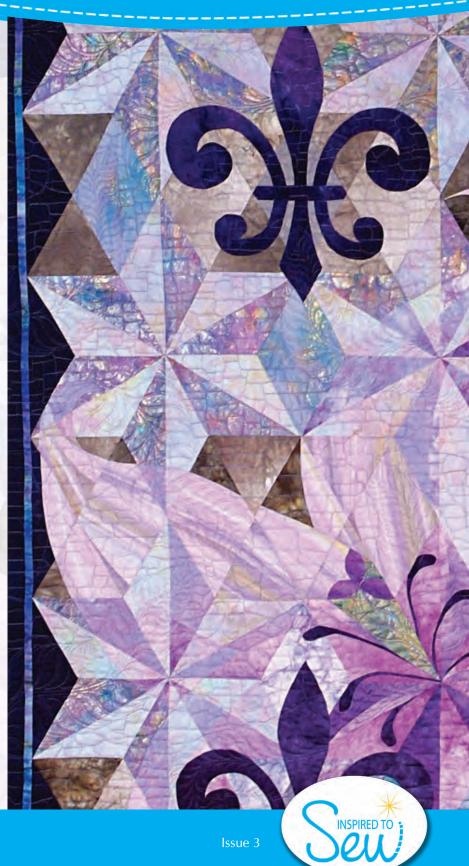
Jeanette Viviano

www.jeanettesfabrictodyefor.com

Artist Statement: The symbol Fleur De Lis is the inspiration for this piece. Combined with the lily, symbolic of purity and the Queen of Heaven, this quilt is machine pieced with the illusion of the subjects superimposed yet transparent over a grid of six pointed split stars. The quilt, consisting of rocks and ferns suggests an ancient mosaic wall as the canvas for this vision.

Two years ago at International Quilt Market & Festival in Houston TX, Flower of Light captured my attention. Those beguiling eyes. The kind smile. The all-knowing confidence of this heavenly being grabbed my heart and spoke to my spirit. How could all these split pointed stars — geometric shapes create such a soft and alluring quilt? Hand-dyed fabrics, metallic painted fabrics, batiks and crystals accentuate the subtle brilliance. What can I say? I see thousands of quilts every year, but Flower of Light is still one of my all-time favorites. Janet Fogg mastered the artistry of fabric, thread and imagination. I am so pleased to share this inspirational masterpiece with you.

Lhonda

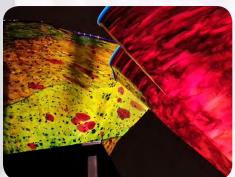












www.chihulygardenandglass.com





Rhonda's favorite pics from Chihuly Garden and Glass, Seattle 2014. Chihuly was inspired by his Mother's garden. His colorful and playful glass captivates the eye with heartfelt joy. Yes, Chihuly inspires me!

> What Inspires YOU to Sew?



www.facebook.com/schmetzneedles



www.pinterest.com/schmetzneedles/







Pokey Bolton



Pokey Bolton —

Pokey's Ponderings



Pokey on the set.

Pokey Bolton burst onto the quilting scene in 1998. Art quilting and mixed-media literally took over her life — so much so that she left her doctoral program and full-time teaching job to found Quilting Arts Magazine®. Pokey is the author of The Quilting Arts Book: Techniques and Inspiration for Creating One-of-a-Kind Quilts, The Best of Quilting Arts, and 1,000 Artist Trading Cards: Innovative and Inspired Mixed Media ATCs.

Pokey is now the Chief Creative Officer for Quilts, Inc. in Houston, Texas. She is also the founding host of "Quilting Arts TV" on PBS, and when she isn't working, she can be found in her studio at home — her absolute favorite place to be!

People often ask her why she is called Pokey, especially since she is known for having such a high energy approach to life. She says, "Believe it or not — my middle name is Pocahontas, a name that has been passed down through generations in my family. Even though I don't look it, I am a descendant and hence Pokey."

After taking the job with Quilts, Inc., Pokey became aware that homeless pets were a huge issue in Houston. By combining her

love of animals and her passion for art quilting — Pokey came up with a creative fundraising project — Quilt Festival's Pet Project — one of the most remarkable and successful charity projects in the quilting industry.

Pokey did some research and found **Friends For Life**, Houston's only no-kill shelter. **Friends For Life** takes in the pets, makes sure they are healthy, trains them and then, through a robust fostering program, matches them with their forever families.



Clarence, Pokey's rescue pooch (and bed hogger) that she got from Friends For Life.



Pokey Bolton Continued

She asked quilters to make a 4x6 postcard, which would be sold for \$20 at the Fall Quilt Festival. In 2012, they raised an amazing \$21,000 for the shelter.

At the 2013 Quilt Festival, more than 1400 quilters from all over the world sent in postcards!!

Pokey writes: The \$40,000 (+) is twice the amount of funds raised from last year's edition of Quilt Festival's Pet Project, so if I do my math correctly based on last year's amounts, it means that the money will approximately:

- Vaccinate 8,000 cats
- Vaccinate 10,500 dogs
- Neuter about 700 tomcats
- Provide heart worm treatment for 100 dogs
- Provide 2000 Project WARM feral cat shelters for distribution to colonies all over Houston.

It will also help dogs who otherwise would have been euthanized to heal and find forever homes....

Inspiring art quilters has been the core of Pokey Bolton's working life. And she gets her inspiration from other quilters — past and present. One of her prized possessions is a quilt made by her greatgrandmother, Julia Connor. "My



Pokey snuggled up in her Gram's quilt.

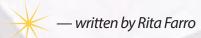
great-Grandmother, (Gram to me) came from very meager means, and she was forced to make ends meet in all ways — and her quilts were a part of that. When I cover up with Gram's quilt, I pull it all the way to my chin (just how we used to do it together) — and she touches me. She triumphed in her life by being very creative, resourceful, and generous. She guilted, made dolls, painted and could basically take any bit of paper or fabric and fashion it into some kind of art. She was a lovely woman to me, a positive force in my life, a glass-is-half-full type of person, teaching me that any hardship is surmountable if you have the right attitude."



At International Quilt Festival/Houston, hundreds of people donated and purchased pet postcards to benefit Friends For Life. So far more than \$60,000 has been raised for the shelter through Festival's Pet Project.

Being the Chief Creative Officer for Quilts, Inc. is the perfect job for Pokey Bolton. She is inspired every time she attends a show. She rushes home and goes directly to her sewing machine. "I am eager and inspired to take things that are very important to me in my life and interpret them in stitch."

www.pokeysponderings.comwww.adoptfriends4life.org/







Grabbit® BobbinSaver™



BobbinSavers[™] are cute flexible plastic shaped circular channels that hug up to 20 metal or plastic bobbins.

Original BobbinSaver[™] — Class L (Home Sewing Bobbins) — Measures 3/4" tall and 5-1/8" diameter. Available colors: Blue, Lavender, Red.

Jumbo BobbinSaver[™] — Expands to fit snugly around metal or plastic bobbin measuring at least 1-1/16" in diameter. This accommodates the Series 7 and 8 Bernina bobbins as well as some other industrial machine bobbins. Not compatible with Class M bobbins . Available color: Purple.

Class M BobbinSaver[™] — Designed to fit M bobbins and any others measuring about 1" in diameter. Available color: Lime Green.



Compliments of Your Local Retailer

Click to Replace with Store Logo Size: 250 x 250



www.SCHMETZneedles.com

