



Good Hope Quilters' Guild - 2024 Mystery Quilt

www.goodhopequiltersguild.org.za

When You Shine

By Diana Vandeyar



Welcome, fellow quilting enthusiasts to the unveiling of the 2024 GHQG Mystery Quilt Challenge!

"When You Shine" is not just a quilt; it's an invitation to explore the patchwork of connectedness that threads its way through the quilt's design. Each block represents a unique expression of individuality, yet when pieced together, they create a cohesive and striking whole, much like the diverse threads of humanity uniting to form a rich fabric of shared experiences and collective strength.

Every South African knows the meaning of Ubuntu, I am what I am because of who we all are... I am, because you are... we are all connected. But have you heard of shine theory*, the "I don't shine if you don't shine" ethos?

This mystery quilt challenge is a celebration of Ubuntu – the belief in the interconnectedness of humanity, and embraces the empowering philosophy of shine theory – the notion that when we uplift and support one another, we all shine brighter.

*a term popularized by Aminatou Sow and Ann Friedman <https://www.shinetheory.com/>

As we sew each stitch and share our progress, let's inspire and encourage our fellow quilters. Just as each block plays a vital role in shaping the overall quilt, so do we, as individuals, contribute to the greater quilt of life.

With each quilter bringing their distinct style and fabric choices to the pattern, we celebrate the beauty of diversity. Whether your quilting style leans toward traditional, modern, or art quilting, "When You Shine" welcomes and accommodates all, valuing the unique perspective and creativity each quilter brings to the table.

Let the fabrics you choose reflect your individuality and speak to your heart – batiks, florals, geometrics, or solids – each piece contributing to the overall design. Explore the interplay of colours, textures, and patterns, as every stitch sewn is a testament to your unique voice.

I will be taking the concepts of connectedness, positive teamwork, and relationships (which are awesome in themselves) and applying them to make a quilt.

I have often spoken about how fabrics and colours relate within a quilt. Each fabric or colour has an important part to play in the overall design. Each adding flow and movement, creating interest and interactions.

Throughout this mystery quilt journey, anticipate each pattern release as the unveiling of a shining new dawn, bringing with it the joy of discovery and the thrill of creating something beautiful. Embrace the mystery, trust the process, and revel in the magic of crafting something extraordinary.

This will be a process quilt, a series of defined parameters and steps to create, firstly blocks and then, a spontaneous quilt top. Scary right! In trusting the process, you will make (with traditional patchwork techniques) something unique.

No matter which fabrics you select, you will discover there is no wrong way to put these fabrics (or colours) together. Make it scrappy (we love scrappy), use those fabrics that have been hanging around too long (we all have those), or a swoon-worthy curated bundle. But, if you want a further challenge, I dare you to do your worst by going off-the-wall crazy with a wild and whacky combination!

Your organization skills will get a workout, sorry about that. No way to avoid this, I'm afraid.

Though the construction of the blocks is basic, the excitement (or mystery) of the quilt comes from the fabric combinations in each block. And the final layout (the blocks' position in relationship to each other)... now here's another awesome challenge (or scary, depending on how you look at it)... will be up to you. I promise, you will be amazed!

This mystery quilt is not your usual mystery quilt; this is an exercise on how to make a cohesive quilt with any group of fabrics. Open-mindedness and the adventure of finding new ways awaits.

So, are you ready for something different? It won't be total chaos; I'm not a maniac!

Let's embark on this quilting adventure. Select your fabrics, ignite your creativity, and let "When You Shine" illuminate our quilting journey.

QUILT SIZE: 42" x 42"

BLOCK SIZE: 14" x 14" finished (14½" x 14½" unfinished)

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS:

OPTION 1: YARDAGE: Nine different fabrics: ¼ yard (¼ meter) Width of Fabric (WOF) of each. Fabric requirements assume at least 42" useable WOF.

OPTION 2: FAT QUARTERS (FQ): Nine different fat quarters. This quilt is "fat quarter friendly" if your FQ is (at least) the standard 18" x 22".

OPTION 3: A combination of yardage, fat quarters and/or large scraps.

A mix of light, medium, and dark fabrics or prints with distinct personalities. Choose fabric with different scales or motifs, but really, anything goes for this quilt.

I will be using this eclectic assortment of solid fabrics.



A border/s can be added to extend the finished size, if you like.

By next week, you will need have your fabrics selected because we will be cutting the entire quilt in one go. Since we are following a "process", all the fabric must be cut in order to do the special thing I will tell you to do... sounds mysterious...

PREPARATION AND CUTTING

Press your fabric before cutting.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Use a ¼" presser foot for sewing. Utilise the "needle down" function if you have it.

Pressing is an important part of quilting. I press my units and blocks frequently; always when "setting the stitches" (press the sewn line of stitching, so that the stitches settle into the fabric), and then pressing again from the front. Good pressing also helps to reduce flipped seams.

There are many patchwork techniques and construction methods; I will be showing you how I make the units and blocks.

I will be pressing my seams open.

We all strive to get sharp points and matching seams, but please do not stress if some are imperfect. Your quilt will still be gorgeous.

Every machine and quilt maker is different, so not all practices work for everyone; if you have a technique that works for you, then do it. We are all on our own quilting journey, and it is important to enjoy yourself, learn something with each project, and know that you are an essential part of this community.

Take your time and enjoy the process!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, diana@vandeyar.net

Share your awesome work and progress photos we love to see them!

Facebook: [Good Hope Quilters Group Facebook Page](#)

Instagram: tag @ghqg_south_africa and @dianavandeyar

Hashtags: #GHQGMysteryQuilt and #whenyoushinequilt