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NEXT MEETING:

Saturday, June 7, 2008

**LOCATION: F.I.T.
27TH ST. AT 8TH AVE. -
8TH FLR. DAVID
DUBINSKY CENTER**

**BOARD MEETING:
11:00A.M - 12:00P.M.**

**GENERAL MEETING:
1:00P.M. - 5:00P.M.
Guest Fee: \$10.00
Seniors: \$5.00**

**PROGRAM: African
Folklore Embroidery
with Leora Raikin**

**WORKSHOP:
Experiencing Africa
Through Folklore
Embroidery with Leora
Raikin**

**VENDOR: Member's
Flea Market**

**QUILTER OF THE
MONTH: Karen Griska**

**THIS MONTH'S
HIGHLIGHTS: Show
& Tell, Unveiling of
"Broadway Jane"**

AFRICAN FOLKLORE EMBROIDERY

African Folklore Embroidery is quickly growing to become one of our country's most popular cultural and artistic endeavors. The extreme contrasts of brightly colored threads against the black fabric make any completed design both striking and beautiful. **Leora Raikin**, owner of the Los Angeles company **African Folklore Embroidery** is our guest speaker at this month's guild meeting. Leora is a South African native, and was taught this creative and multi cultural needlecraft by her mother.

"African Folklore Embroidery is my hobby and passion," says Leora. "I love stitching, I love using colors and I take a great sense of pride in each design completed by one of my students. No two completed kit designs ever look the same!" Leora continues, "African Folklore Embroidery is a big part of our family culture, my mother, aunts, cousins, sister, sister-in-law and even my five year old son, have completed an African Folklore Embroidery design. We love sitting and stitching together."

Leora, a folklore embroidery artist, lecturer and teacher, has taught at museums, schools, guild workshops, private classes, art camps, summer camps and countless classes and organizations. She encourages her students to "think outside the box," to let their imagination run wild and to imagine that their needle is a paintbrush and the threads are their paints.

Inspired by the Ndebele women who are famous for their beautiful and colorful handcrafted work, and by African wildlife, African Folklore Embroidery is colorful, creative, fun and easy to do. It is a great way to promote cross-cultural creativity.

For more information about **Leora Raikin**, and her company **African Folklore Embroidery**, visit her website: www.afl embroidery.com. Note that Leora will be conducting a full-day workshop on **Sunday, June 8, 2008**.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the meeting year for the Guild. We've had a very good year, with an excellent array of speakers, delightful Blocks of the Month, loads of stimulating Show and Tell entries and fascinating Quilters of the Month. We had two outstanding months when our members demonstrated incredible generosity.

We've had a very busy year with members working on a number of special projects. Some members made a beautiful replica of a quilt for the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum. A group of people began planning for our 2009 show. Members completed one raffle quilt which was a primary starting fundraiser for our show, and then stepped up to make the quilt - "Broadway Jane" - that will be the star attraction for our 2009 show. Many others volunteered on the various committees that keep our Guild running and filled with interesting programs and activities. I want to thank all of you who gave your time and your talents to making this a remarkable year.

Over the summer, the 2009 Show committee will continue the planning and preparation work. As you start your own planning to participate in the show, please consider in what sort of role you'll be willing to volunteer to help make this show a great success. There are many types of tasks to be done before the show and at the time of the show. Even if you aren't submitting a quilt in the show, please plan to participate - it's a great way to meet people, and to support your quilt guild. Contact any member of the Executive Board if you have questions about what you can do. I look forward to seeing you again in June, and wish you all a wonderful summer.
Jennifer

WORKSHOP

**Experiencing Africa through African Folklore Embroidery with Leora Raikin
Sunday, June 8, 2008; 9:00 am - 4:00 p.m.
343 8th Avenue, at 27th Street, New York City (near McDonald's)
Cost: \$60 (includes kit) If you are interested, call Mary Butler at 212-662-7771
Lenora Raikin, originally of South Africa, now a California resident, brings a wealth**

of information on the culture and myths of Africa. African Folklore Embroidery is for those who *love* needle crafts, quilting, fiber arts, stitching, color and creativity — even beginners are stunned by their results! Quilters experience Africa by learning about the history and culture of the Ndebele Tribe in South Africa. Using colorful African threads and beads against a black background, students embroider images of Ndebele life as they learn about the lifestyle and customs of this fascinating culture and community. Develop new skills, expand your world, be creative and have fun in a colorful exciting environment.

You will learn ...

Stitching techniques for completing an African Folklore Embroidery design including 3a chain stitch, 3b Satin Stitch, 3c French knots, and 3d Bullion stitch.

Embellishment techniques: Use of color, variegated threads and metallic thread for enhancement and effect

Beadwork techniques: Playing with threads, fiber and color, mixing fibers, threads and metallic

Enhancement and visual art techniques: Creating fiber art out of African Folklore Embroidery — cutting and stitching of different fabric onto the design. Completed kit designs can be made into quilts, purses, pillows, wall-hangings and more.

WORKSHOP SUPPLIES: The kit for this class includes everything necessary except a pair of scissors.

JUNE MEETING

The membership will have opportunity to discuss and then vote by show of hands on the 2009 show budget. For those who did not receive a copy of the proposed budget at the May meeting it can be found on the Empire Quilters' website on the Committees page or you can call **Kitty Squire at 718-956-3005** to have a copy mailed to you.

These activities will NOT be happening in June:

Outside Vendor; Monthly Raffle; Library (if you have a book signed out, do NOT bring it in June; return it in September); Monthly Share table; Vendor: this month is there will be a members' flea market. All tables have been reserved. To be added to a waiting list in case someone cancels, please contact **Larry Gifford 212-717-0892**.

QUILTER OF THE MONTH

Karen Griska is a passionate and prolific quilt artist who made her first quilt at age 13, a charming one-patch. A self-taught quilter, she has now made well over 200 quilts, all original designs. Karen is inspired by antique quilts, particularly those pictured in the state quilt survey books, which she studies avidly. Her favorites are dynamic interpretations of traditional quilts. She loves quilts with quirky, improvisational elements and huge numbers of pieces and different fabrics.

Her favorite part of the quilt making process is creating the design. Karen does not usually sketch a plan in advance, but prefers to develop the design as she works. She loves to be astonished by the surprising twists and turns that occur during the process.

Her new book, *Quilts from the Selvage Edge* is published by the American Quilter's Society, June 2008. For more on selvage quilts, visit Karen's web site, www.SelvageQuilts.com. There you will see other selvage art including a selvage-covered lamp! Instructions are included. You are invited to exhibit photos of your own selvage art on the Gallery page at this web site. You can read more about Karen at www.RealWomenQuilt.com in the Featured Quilter-Archives section. Karen and her husband have two grown sons, and live in White Plains, New York. They are photography enthusiasts and love to travel and hike.

LIBRARY NOTES

Thanks to Debby Chen for volunteering to work at the Library, remember the more the merrier. Magazine and book donations were received from the following members: Sandra Cain, June Calender, Tom Cuff, Carol Gray, Sylvia Hughes, Evylina Ojoe, Alice Palmer, Beth Pile, Stefanie Sheehan, Kitty Squire, Anne Townley, Rhona Triggs and Dorothy Vasil. Again, no Library in June so bring in donations (especially magazines) in September and look forward to lots of new books. **Sylvia Hughes 212-665-5036**

JANUARY, 2009 PROGRAM

The program for January 2009 will be Organization and will include two contests: for most organized and most disorganized. When you are Spring or Fall Cleaning, take a photo of your quilt stash--or quilt room, if you are that lucky. Most of us live in city apartments and either have creative storage and organization methods or are totally lost. Put your name on the back and hold until January, or send it to Ann (Ann Foss, 465-84 Street, Brooklyn NY 11209) if you're afraid it will be sucked into the quagmire. Also needed, since we try to be open minded, someone for rebuttal, why we should not try to be organized, the joys and benefits of disorganization. Contact Ann at: annamfoss@earthlink.net Thanks.

ARCHIVES

If you have been published in a quilt magazine and would like to have the article and/or photo included in Empire's Archives, please send copy to Ann Foss, 465-84 Street, Brooklyn NY 11209.

SHARE TABLE

Thanks to everyone, both donors and buyers, who have helped to make the Share Table a successful fund raiser for the Guild. Many of you have been faithful participants over the years and for that we are very grateful. Wishing you a healthy, happy and fun-filled summer and hope to see everyone in September. **Veronique Milliez and Anna Krassy**

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Once again, I really appreciate all those who have been active and brave enough to make blocks each month. I hope that you enjoyed the process as much as I have. I wish you all a relaxing and healthy summer and see you in September all refreshed for new (and I hope exciting) blocks. **Anna Krassy**

2009 Empire Quilters *Urban Inspirations* Show Information

A complete package of information with additional details about quilt submissions, categories, prizes, etc. will be presented to members at the September 13, 2008 meeting.

When: on the weekend of March 21-22, 2009 with set-up on Friday, March 20.

Where: The show will be held at FIT – at Reeves Great Hall (same as in 2007), on 28th street, near 7th Avenue.

Admission to show: \$10 for 1 day and \$18 for 2 days; \$8 for 1 day and \$15 for 2 days for seniors 65 and older and for students with student ID. Children under 12 are free. We will provide a special discounted entry fee for groups from other Guilds or organizations that prepay for entry.

Who may submit entries: Empire Quilters members who are members in good standing by the January 2009 meeting.

➤ **Each member who submits a quilt is required to volunteer a minimum of 4 hours to activities immediately preceding (within 1 month of the show), or during the show.**

Judging: Entries will be judged by highly experienced judges Sandra L. Dorrbecker and Mary Walter. Both judges are accredited by the National Quilting Association. *Quilts do not have to be judged to be hung in the show.*

Judging

The judging will be completed prior to the quilts being hung. Members who want to have their quilts judged must present their quilts for judging at the March 7, 2009 monthly meeting.

Judging for this show will be on a 'points' system and ribbons will be awarded according to judging scores.

Except for crazy quilts and 'art' quilts for which tying is part of the artistic statement, tied quilts and comforters do not qualify to be in the show.

Quilts that are quilted by a professional quilter will not qualify for Best of Show ribbon or for Best Quilting ribbons.

Submitting

Fee: \$20, non-refundable; it is \$20 whether you submit one or two quilts

Members can submit up to 2 quilts that were made at any time, as long as the quilts have not appeared in previous Empire Quilters quilt shows. The quilter should specify preference for which to hang if only one can be hung due to space limitation

Each member may also submit one President's Challenge Quilt (see details in May 2007 newsletter or September package)

Any quilt submitted must not exceed 93 inches wide by 100 inches high (roughly queen sized).

Submission categories:

1. Hand quilted: pieced, appliqué, mixed, pictorial
2. (Self) Machine quilted: pieced, appliqué, mixed, pictorial
3. Professionally quilted: pieced, appliqué, mixed, pictorial
4. Other Techniques - including, but not limited to, yo-yo quilts, fabric manipulations, whole cloth, cathedral windows, painted cloth, crazy patchwork, nontraditional fused appliqué
5. Group quilts – including, but not limited to, round robin quilts, quilts made by one person and quilted by another. To be eligible for a prize all work must be done by members of the Empire Quilters Guild. All members of the Group must be named on the submission form
6. President's Quilt Challenge

Size of quilts:

Large quilts: 60-93" by 80-100"

Small quilts: 25-60" by 25-80"

Miniature quilts: 24" by 24"

Group quilts: up to 93" by 100"

Other techniques: up to 93" by 100"

"Broadway Jane" Raffle Quilt Tickets

In September we will give each member their allotment of raffle tickets to sell. Each member is asked to sell a minimum of 5 books of tickets. Each book will have 6 tickets. The price will be \$1 per ticket, or a book for \$5.

NOTE – Due to space limitations this month, Birthdays, Show & Tell and the Board List can not be published in this issue of the newsletter. This information is accessible on the website.



QUILT RETREAT

Learn to quilt or broaden your skills in a joyful and easygoing setting. Three different projects, experienced teachers with positive attitudes. All materials are available. Absolutely no experience necessary. Transportation provided from Metro North station to the **Quilter's Alley**.

Get out of the hustle and bustle, enjoy clean air, New England atmosphere, relaxation. All you need to bring is a positive attitude and your toothbrush!

Saturday, Sunday July 19 and 20

Saturday: Take Harlem line at Grand Central Station Time: 7:45am to Katonah. Be picked up at the Katonah, NY train station by van and escorted to **The Quilter's Alley** in Ridgefield, CT

Schedule:

Intro and Light breakfast: 9:30am at the Quilter's Alley

Session 1: Crazy Quilting 10-1:00pm Learn foundation piecing and the victorian art of embellishing with beads and embroidery stitches.

Lunch: served at the Quilter's Alley 1-2pm In-store shopping

Session 2: Improvisational Pieced Tote 2-5pm

Dinner: On your own or with new friends. There are numerous dining establishments within walking distance to the shop. We will gladly recommend.

Saturday Evening: Return to Quilter's Alley to sew late into the evening.

Accommodations: Walking distance from shop.

Sunday: Continental Breakfast in your room at the Bed & Breakfast

Session 3: Raw Edge Applique blocks 10-1 pm-Shop & tour Ridgefield

Van service to Metro North Station 3:00pm Train departs Katonah 3:32pm

Materials List: Sewing Machines and cutting mats are provided at the Quilter's Alley. Please bring your personal sewing kit, which should include rotary cutter, scissor, seam ripper, pins, neutral thread, stash fabrics.

\$550/Single Room \$450/Double Workshop ONLY \$375

The Quilter's Alley 422 Main St. Lower Level Ridgefield, CT 06877
www.thequiltersalley.com 203.431.0023
mail@thequiltersalley.com



Renew your Empire Quilters Guild Membership for 2008–2009

Individual renewal notices are **not** mailed to members. Please use this form.

1. Yearly Dues Category: Regular \$45 Senior \$30 (65 and over)

2. Contribution: Additional tax-deductible contribution (optional): \$ _____

3. Newsletter: Select **one** method to receive your newsletter:

Email to email address: _____ – **OR** – First Class Mail

Please consider receiving your monthly newsletter via email, and check that preference above. You will receive the newsletter in a more timely fashion, and you will save the guild printing and postage costs. Thank you!

4. Contact Information:

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Cell: _____

_____ Email: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____ Birthday: _____

5. Submit Form:

Bring completed form to a meeting,

or mail to: **Empire Quilters, Inc.**

Old Chelsea Station

P.O. Box 1293

New York, NY 10113

- Enclose a check for your annual dues, payable to: **Empire Quilters.**
- Please pick up your membership card at the next guild meeting .
- **Memberships are not acknowledged by mail.**



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Several weeks ago, member Helen Beall's husband passed away. Our sympathy's are with you and your family.

MAY CHARITY QUILTS

Our members generously returned and donated many quilts, baby hats and fabric to the charity table. We apologize, in advance, if we omit or incorrectly state any member's name or number of quilts, tops and backs, etc., they either returned or donated in the following listing.:

Quilts Returned and/or Donated - Catherine Bancroft, 1; Pamela Leonard Wexler, 7; Sandy Syken, 2; Gloria Johnson, 2; Tedi Brown, 2; Rena Rappaport, 1; Jennifer Bigelow, 4; Mary Butler, 1; Mary Ferry, 1; Judy Klein, 1; Helen Beall, 1; Nancy Gulisano, 1; Andrea Tebesceff, 1. **Baby Hats**- Sandy Syken, 25; Fannie D'Avino, 12. **Fabric** - Joan Hellmann, backs and piles of 4" and 6" squares; Virginia Stotz, backs; Karla MacKesson, several tops of 18" squares; Doris Julis, quilt tops and backs. Please leave your name and number of quilts, etc., in any bag of quilts or items you drop on the charity table so that we can correctly credit your name and number of items you bring.; this especially holds true if you drop items off before we arrive or if we are short staffed and backed up, as we were at the May meeting. — **Denise, Pam and Joan**

WELCOMING/SUNSHINE/NQA

The guild had 8 guests at our last meeting. The word is out about our wonderful Guild. The women and men of the NY area are responding. I have found this year that our members are very friendly. We are changing our image of not being welcoming. Congratulations for a year well done!

The NQA show is taking place in Columbus Ohio June 19-20. I have attended this show and it is very good. If not a member of NQA check out their web site, www.nqaquilts.org. Our judges for our show are NQA certified. We have a lot to do this summer to prepare for our big show in the Spring. Any questions or comments call **Beth** at 631-286-5532 or bpile@optonline.net

HELP WANTED ON GUILD COMMITTEES

Please consider volunteering for the following committees. If you've been waiting to be asked to fill a job — *we're asking!*

Nominating Committee

A hearty *thank you* to **Rhona Triggs** for stepping up to head the guild's **Nominating Committee**. We have several openings coming up on the guild's Board of Directors, and Rhona will be spear-heading the effort to get those jobs filled. Rhona can use some help with this task, so please consider working with Rhona on this committee. The **Nominating Committee's** job is to find people to fill various jobs in the guild. The nominating committee doesn't have to *do* all the jobs — they just need to find people to fill the positions. So please contact **Rhona Triggs** (212-932-9226) or Guild President **Jennifer Bigelow** (president@empirequilters.net) if you can help with this important job. *Thank you!*

Service Committee

The Guild needs people willing to help with the **Service Committee**. This team coordinates the monthly collection and distribution of the many quilts and other items our members make to donate to various charitable organizations. This team also organizes and runs our annual **Charity Day** and other programs focused on service to the greater New York City community. We would like to have several people participating to expand our reach in the community. Please contact **Denise Walsh-Horowitz** (718-454-1944) or guild President **Jennifer Bigelow** (president@empirequilters.net) if you have questions or if you want to participate in this committee. Participation on this committee is a very rewarding experience. *Thank you!*

Monthly Raffles Committee

We need some volunteers to run the monthly raffles at the guild meetings during the **2008–2009** season. The raffles are a fun activity (and good money-maker!) for the guild, and we need a person or group of people to continue this tradition next season. You don't need to commit to an entire year — you can take a month or a few months. The job involves collecting and receiving donations for raffles, gathering the items into prize packages, and selling tickets during the guild meetings. If you've been wanting to get a little more involved with the guild, this is a great opportunity. Please contact guild President **Jennifer Bigelow** (president@empirequilters.net) if you have further questions, or if you are willing to volunteer for this activity. *Thank you!*

JUNE FOCUS GROUPS Focus Groups are open to all members and take place in our 8th floor meeting space.

Embroidery - Date: Saturday, June 7, 2008 - Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 noon - Group Leader: Ligaya Siachongco

Ligaya will teach basic and advanced embroidery, including surface stitchery and evenweave embroidery. **Supply List:** Bring 1 (12"x12") piece of muslin; 1 (12" x 12") piece of Aida cloth (cross stitch fabric) 12- or 14-count; an embroidery needle and some embroidery floss (any color). Design provided.

Embellish! - Dates: Saturday, June 7, 2008 Time: starting at 10:30 am - Group Leader: Anna Foss

Bring in what you've been working on, what you've finished, and what you're planning for spring and summer. We'll have a Focus Fashion Show for the June meeting, so get stitching. **Supply List:** Bring your ideas, a notebook and basic sewing supplies.

Face Studies - Date: Saturday, June 7, 2008 - Time: starting at 3:30pm - Group Leader: Sandy Naval

What we will need for step 2 is: * one piece of background fabric, 9x11 1/12", not solid - a fabric that will set a mood; * piece of batting or flannel ironed on its back, * an oval face shape, wonder-undered; and either sewn or basted to backing fabric. *an assortment of small pieces of fabric on wonder-under® for face features. * fabric or embellishments for hair and other details, * scissor, * iron, * a willingness to play!!!!

2008 – 2009 Guild Meeting Calendar

Sat., Sept. 13, 2008 – Helen Squire. Sat., Oct. 11, 2008 – Pat Rodgers/Sulky Thead. *Sun., Nov. 9, 2008 – Philippa Naylor. Sat., Dec. 13, 2008 – Fund Raiser & Holiday Charity. Sat., Jan. 10, 2009 – Anna Foss/Storing your Stash. Sat., Feb. 14, 2009 – TBA. Sat., Mar. 7, 2009 – Charity Quilting Day/Show Judging Day. **Sat., Apr. 4, 2009 – Jennifer Chiaverini. Sat., May 9, 2009 – Sue Dennis. Sat., Jun. 13, 2009 – TBA & Member's Flea Market.

*Note – general meeting on a **Sunday**. **Note – Meeting is **first** Saturday of the month

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance: \$54058.62
Income: \$ 4560.00
Expenses: \$ 4472.86
May 12 Balance: \$54145.76

If you wish to see the complete Treasurer's Report for the month, you can find it on our website or you can see Kitty Squire at the June meeting.

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One Stitch Further — Works by Carol Lenthall -- June 3 – 30, 2008

Exhibit of Contemporary Embroidery Presented By the Larchmont Public Library
Oresman Gallery at the Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Ave, Larchmont, NY
For more info: Larchmont Public Library: www.larchmontlibrary.org or 914-934-2291
About 20 pieces of contemporary embroidery by artist Carol Lenthall will be on display
along with works by mixed media artist Valerie de Gaulmyn.

DATED MATERIAL
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