

EMPIRE NEWSLETTER

January 2010

President's Letter

I apologize for missing December's meeting and Holiday Party. Both my husband and I were felled by some miserable virus. Thankfully it passed and we are recovering. I have heard nothing but praise for the day's events. It seems that a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to the members who pitched in to make the day fun and profitable. Special thanks to Michael Greenberg who auctioned off several large cheese cakes and other choice goodies. Kitty Squire stationed herself at the membership table to encourage folks to take chances on the Featherweight Sewing Machine. Congratulations to winner Gloria Johnson.

The Tea Cup Prizes were Beth Pile's idea, who managed to get her husband Phil to drive her in with the gift wrapped presents. Thanks to you both.

I realize I could go on and on citing individual acts and people — but in the interest of time and space I offer a sincere THANKS to Denise Walsh Horowitz, Jennifer Bigelow, Anna Faustino, Janet Randolph, Naomi Shelnut, Larry Gifford and to all the un-named bakers and participants.

The Guild enters the New Year in a difficult situation. Its time for us to begin to make plans for a future show. Mary Cargill and her intrepid group of hand sewers have been busily working on a Quilt for the next show. My question to you is, will there be show in 2011? Many of the people who were Show Committee Chairs are no longer able to fulfill that responsibility. I include myself in that group.

The first issue the Board will look into at the January meeting will be the feasibility of putting on a show. I encourage any of you who are interested in taking on a position, or might want to discuss it further to contact any of the Executive Board Members. Their names can be found on page 8. There are vendors who are waiting to hear from us. I urge you all to give this your attention. Without significant membership support there will be no show in 2011.

I would be remiss if I didn't end with my Very Best Wishes to all of you for a safe and peaceful 2010. —Paula Kenney

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Gloria Johnson for winning the Featherweight Sewing Machine! Many people purchased chances to win this special holiday prize.



MEETING INFO

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 9, 2010

TIME:

12pm: Focus Group
11am - 12pm: Board Meeting
1pm - 3:00pm: General Meeting

LOCATION:

FIT, David Dubinsky Center
Building A, 27th St. & 8th Ave.

PROGRAM:

Quilting My Way, Sharon Schamber

VENDOR:

Sue's Fabric World

QUILTER of the MONTH:

None

FOCUS GROUPS:

Baby Charity Quilts, 10:30am
Elm Creek Sampler Club, 12pm

BOM:

Pineapple Upside-Down

GUEST FEES:

\$10: Regular
\$5: Student/Senior

January Meeting

Program and Workshops with Sharon Schamber

PROGRAM - QUILTING MY WAY

Sharon Schamber is an award-winning quilter with over 20 years experience in the textile industry. Following her retirement from the textile business, Sharon has devoted her talents to designing and making award-winning quilts out of her home in Scottsdale, Arizona. In addition to designing appliqué and pieced patterns for quilters, Sharon has designed continuous-line quilting patterns for the long-arm, free-motion quilting patterns for the domestic machine, and embroidery designs for home machines. Sharon has developed amazing innovative techniques as demonstrated in her popular books "Piece by Piece: Machine Appliqué" and "Piece-liqué Curves The New Way."

WORKSHOPS - TWO DAYS!

Location: 343 8th Avenue, at 27th Street

Time: 10 am - 5 pm

Cost: \$70 each day, \$140 for both days

Sign up: Contact Mary Butler at
citymary@aol.com or 212-662-7771

Day One: Exotic Bloom - Sunday, January 10, 2010

This class will teach you how to use appliqué foundation paper to create the lovely look of hand appliqué — all done by machine! If you have loved appliqué but were afraid to try, with this technique you can do the most beautiful appliqué ever. This class is designed for the average quilter that wants to move onto a higher level of work. Every quilter will love this class.



Day Two: Flying Geese with Piece-liqué Curved Piecing - Monday, January 11, 2010



Curved seams have always been used in quilting. Until now they have been for the more advanced quilter. This class teaches an easy and accurate way of sewing curved seams. Using the special developed technique "Piece-liqué" you will learn how to do this popular and versatile pattern with a fun new technique.

Sign up ASAP for Day 1 or Day 2 with Sharon Schamber OR (if you are truly inspired), sign up for both classes with Sharon (\$140.00) — you will not be disappointed. Contact Mary Butler at citymary@aol.com to pledge your attendance and send a check immediately. Early sign up and payment ensures that we will host this award-winning quilter.

FOCUS GROUPS

Baby Charity Quilts

Group Leader: Janet Randolph

janetrandolph@verizon.net or 610-874-3721

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Come to a presentation on sewing baby quilts for our year-long charity project. Ethel Campbell, Sandi Howell and Rhona Triggs will each present baby quilts that they have made. Quilt patterns from our website and other fast and easy quilts will be featured. This is a great opportunity to learn from these expert quilters. They will answer your questions and pass along many tips. We encourage all new members to attend.

Supply List: Bring your enthusiasm and some note-taking supplies. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn some important — and fun! — basics of our art and craft. You'll learn techniques to put to use immediately.

Elm Creek Sampler Club

Group Leader: Helen Beall, Lisa Kehrle, and Lisa Belle, htbeall@yahoo.com or 516-365-9257

12 noon - 1 pm

We have our first finished quilt top!!! Yes, we're all inspired by Linda Vreedenburg and her charming sampler blocks set with four patches. Let's keep this creative spirit flowing into the New Year with our Posies-Round-the-Square block in January. Gentle curves and simple applique will be a nice change. Don't forget to enlarge the templates in the book 150%. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Beall, Lisa Belle, or Lisa Kehrle.

Blocks for February: Lancaster Rose and Sister's Choice

BLOCK OF THE MONTH - "PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN"

Our January block is a Pineapple (Turn Your Scrap Basket) Upside-Down Quilt. No need to buy supplies for this one! Get ready to start the New Year with a new method. You'll love it!

If you haven't made a pineapple block before, you might assume that it requires a degree from MIT, but it's easy, once you get the hang of it. Using this method, you can't help but get nice sharp points too! So stay with me here, and give it a try. Remember, this is a Stress Free Zone.

For more details, visit: www.empirebom.blogspot.com.

--Karen Griska, Helen Beall, Lisa Belle, Shirley Clark, Lisa Kebrle, Nick Alves



LIBRARY

Happy 2010 to all of our members. I want to remind you that the guild owns close to 450 books that can be borrowed at meetings. The library hour is from 12 noon to 1 pm, and we usually take 25 to 30 books to the meeting. Of course you can reserve a book two weeks prior to the meeting; the list of books is available on line. I have a list of the books at the meeting at the sign in table. But it occurs to me that a small percentage of members use the library (basically the same group). While many more members go to the library table to donate magazines and to buy the used magazines (basically twenty-five cents apiece and five magazines for one dollar).

On November 21, Tina Barth and I filed away the books that were brought to the November meeting (normally Susan Stauber also works on this, but she was in Kenya). Then we went through the almost 450 books and decided which books we would bring to the January 9 meeting. Some time before the meeting, I will have sheets listing the books available for borrowing. On the day of the meeting, Tina, Debby Chen, Sandra Samaniego and I will take care of lending books, selling magazines, take return books and take fines for late books. I will email members with outstanding library books.

We have great resources in our Library, but we don't seem to be engaging more of our members. We would love to hear from all of you about this. --*Sylvia Hughes*

LANCASTER BUS TRIP

On Saturday, March 27, Empire Quilters have the opportunity to participate in a bus trip to the AQS Lancaster, PA show. We would leave NYC at 7:30 am and depart from Lancaster at 4:30 pm, aiming to arrive back to NYC by 7:30 pm. The cost is \$72 for members, \$80 for guests, and includes your entry ticket to the show. This trip is tentative until we have at least 24 people to sign up AND PAY by our February meeting. Monies will be returned if the trip is cancelled, however if the trip proceeds and you cancel, your payment is non-refundable unless we find someone to take your place. Please contact Aleeda Crawley immediately if you are interested.

--*Aleeda Crawley, acquiltsy@yahoo.com, or 973-313-0844*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to space limitations, the Treasurer's report is condensed. A complete version is on the website, or you can contact Anna Krassy at quilterme@gmail.com or 212-242-3253 to have a copy mailed to you.

As of December 12, 2009		
Guild	Month	YTD Total
Beginning Balance	\$ 50,020.94	\$ 42,802.30
Income	\$ 3,008.00	\$32,869.59
Expenses	\$ 3,457.15	\$ 26,100.10
Ending Balance	\$ 49,571.79	\$ 49,571.79

CHARITY

I would like to thank the members of Empire Quilters for their very kind contributions of teddy bears, stockings, stuffed animals, toys, toiletries, hats, scarfs, mittens/gloves, socks, games, cards, coloring books, crayons, quilts, and draw string bags. I was able to make up 238 stockings with a teddy bear or a stuffed toy; 8 prefilled stockings (by two of our members) 26 stockings with coloring books and crayons, 55 stockings for teens and moms with toiletries, goodie bags with toiletries, two very large bags for grab bags with toys and games, and 32 sets of earrings which will be distributed to the moms for the holidays. Kitty Squire bought a wagon full of cookies, candy, drinks and other treats for the kids as well. I would like to thank the following members (if your name is not here, please let me know at the January meeting):

Jane Adler, Floraminda Balmaseda, Catherine Bancroft, Tina Barth, Helen Beall, Shirley Beckwith, Betty Belford, Jennifer Bigelow, Anne Blachley, Alice Brody, Alison Burmeister, Mary Butler, Sandra Cain, Paula Cruz, Pat Decker, May Eason, Lee Ebs, Mary Ferry, Verna Fitzgerald, Kathy Francos, JoAnn Gatch, Marge Geary, Mary Gillette, Brenda Gold, Michael Greenberg, Diane Harris, Pauline Hazard, Joan Hellman, Melanie Hill, Andrea Homer-MacDonald, Sandi Howell, Sylvia Hughes, Barbara Hull, Felicia Ingram, Judy Isaacs, Kate Iscol, Jan Jenicek, Gloria Johnson, Maudelyn Johnson, Golda Kantor, Joan Kedziora, Margaret Kelly, Paula Kenney, Judy Klein, Susan Knaster (and students!), Marilyn Korn, Cynthia Kulakoff, Susan Louis, Marilyn Lutzker, Ulla McCarthy, Peggy McGear, Jean Moccio, Sheila Molitz, Karen Monath, Meghan Nutre, Alice Palmer, Cathy Peterson, Martha Phillips, Beth Pile, Trudy Raeburn, Janet Randolph, Rena Rappaport, Wilma Reid, Lea Williams Rose, Diane Rubenstein, Allison Ruggiero, Sandra Samaniego, Diane Rode Schneck, Marcia Schulman, Naomi Shelnut, Kitty Squire, Andrea Tebesceff, Rhona Triggs, Charlotte Vetta, Denise Walsh-Horowitz, and Mary White.

The December meeting is one of our most important events of the year and makes the holiday season very special for so many kids and parents. I appreciate everyone's efforts in taking your time to make something special and from your heart for a child.

Charity is a very important part of the guild, and I would like to remind our new members and our old members that March 2010 is Charity Month. There is a Focus Group at the January meeting to revisit the world of the baby quilts and different patterns. If you need a review, or you are a new member and need to learn how to make a Charity Quilt, please try to make this focus group. For more information about that focus group, see page 2. Thank you again. --

Denise Walsh-Horowitz, Chair

UPCOMING...FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The February meeting promises to be something different! We are going to have Members Teaching Members! Our guild is full of talented, experienced, and generous members who are always willing to share their tips and techniques with their fellow guild members. After the business meeting, Show & Tell, the monthly fundraiser and the scrap table, we will separate into six groups to attend six different workshops.

Each member will have the opportunity to sign up for the workshop of their choice and will get the detailed supply list at the January 9, 2010 meeting. For those of you unable to attend the January meeting, you can contact Kitty Squire at kesquilts33@msn.com. The six workshops/demos are:

Bags & Totes with Janet Randolph

A presentation on constructing a bag / tote to hold your needlework projects. Learn techniques for choosing various fabric weights, color combinations and sewing methods. Also we will discuss interfacing, batting, lining, zippers and trims. Examples shown at the meeting will include directions.

Cutting Edge with Mary Butler

A straight cut is a straight seam is a straight quilt. Pick up the pro tips on cutting using the rotary cutter, self-healing mat and quilter's ruler(s). You will learn angles from straight to all degrees and shapes. An explanation of the various rulers and their benefits will be included.

Crazy Quilting with Beth Pile

This will be a color themed block. Learn how to use various fabrics of different textures and weights within the same color family as well as embroidery threads, cording, charms, buttons, laces, trims and beads.

Foundation Piecing with Jennifer Bigelow

Learn how to make precise points for wonderful mariners compasses using foundation piecing. This is a wonderful technique for hand and machine piecing.

Doll Making with Nancy Rabatin

Nancy will show you how to make and dress a simple cloth doll. Start a new craft obsession!

Tee Shirt Quilts with Aleeda Crawley

Learn how to turn your old tee shirts into a memory that will last forever! Aleeda will show you the various techniques needed.

Member News

VETERANS QUILTS PROJECT

Thanks again for all you help and support. Our initial goal was 52 quilts, but we surpassed that by far! 76 lucky vets will get our quilts for Christmas. For those of you still working on yours, don't worry, other vets will be happy to get a quilt any time. Please send them to: Tommy Mullifield, New Era Veterans, 1150 Commonwealth Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472.

— Lee Ebs, Project Coordinator

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Susan Knaster is looking for volunteers to help with her quilting class on Wed. mornings from 8:40-9:35. Due to budget cuts at the school, she has more students than usual. The kids are a delightful bunch of 4th grade boys and girls. All first time sewers; they need encouragement and supervision. If you are a west sider living around my school and have the time, I would love help manning sewing machines, threading needles, ripping, supervising ironing, working with hand sewers as they wait their turn for time on the machines, etc. I have three, sometimes four, machines.

I am also looking for someone who might be able to help put a wall quilt together. My other student leadership group will be making the top for a local food shelter along with presenting a check resulting from our school wide Penny Harvest. This is not a sewing group and they spend their weekly period running events such as food drives, and presently encouraging participation in our Penny Harvest. The quilt would need to be put together and quilted. If you can help with any of these endeavors - even a one time assistance can make the difference for one of these children, I would appreciate it.

The school is P.S. 163, located at: 163 West 97th Street, 212-678-2854. Thank you. --Susan Knaster, 212-662-8204

LOCAL SHOW INFORMATION

York College Community Commemorative Quilt Committee Art and Quilt Exhibit

Open January 10 - February 7, 2010
York College Performing Arts Center,
94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY
www.york.cuny.edu

Solo Exhibition of works by Kim Kamens

Open through January 15, 2010
Snyderman-Works Gallery, 303 Cherry St,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
www.snyderman-works.com

Serizawa: Master of Japanese Textile Design

Open through January 17, 2009
Japan Society, 333 E. 47th St., NYC
www.japansociety.org

Knitted, Knotted, Netted

Open through January 24, 2010
Hunterdon Art Museum, Clinton, New Jersey
www.hunterdonartmuseum.org

The Allure of Lace

Open through February 28, 2010
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art,
600 Main St, Hartford, Connecticut
www.wadsworthatheneum.org

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very Healthy & Happy New Year!
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- Machine felting
- Accessories & Wearables for your sewing room, home, and yourself!
- Scrappin' Happy: Use those fabric scraps for a special project
- Silk screening: Traditional & Thermofax
- Tabula Rasa: make your own fabric!
- Finishing Techniques: blocking, binding, mitering
- Independent Study: choose a one-on one class!
- Monthly dyeing and mixed media sessions

All at affordable rates in a large, sunlit studio. Visit inspiredacts.com for class descriptions and current schedule.

Reminders!

- * **Lancaster Trip** - You must sign up and pay by our February meeting! See page 3 for more details.
- * **February Newsletter Deadline** - Submit your articles for the February newsletter by Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please send articles to lauren.dieterich@gmail.com.

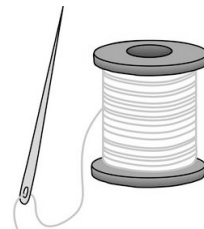
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Calendar

- February 13, 2010**
Sampler Madness
- March 13, 2010**
Charity Day
- April 10, 2010**
Betty Pillsbury
- May 8, 2010**
Trish Chambers
- June 12, 2010**
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