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# EMPIRE NEWSLETTER

April 2010

## President's Letter

For me there is something special about the making of a charity quilt. When I make a quilt for someone I don't know, I think about them. What has happened to them? I wonder will they like it and will it keep them warm enough. It has been said that anonymous giving can be the most difficult thing for people to do. We like to be thanked and know that it is given to the right person.

Empire Quilters has, in the over 28 years of being a guild made thousands of quilts without knowing who the recipients were. A recent exception was the Veterans Quilt Project; many of us had tears in our eyes as they were graciously accepted. It was a satisfying experience for us all.

Although our By-laws do not require each member to make one quilt for charity each year, we are all STRONGLY encouraged to do so. Sadly this is not happening. On Charity Saturday there were quilts galore. Watching as people sew, tied and participated in some form of the process it was wonderful to see. People appeared to be having fun, and I saw some beautiful quilts being worked on. Our goal was 200 for the day; the last number I heard was about 160. Yes, it was a rainy miserable day. I THANK all of you who showed up. Presently we have almost 400 members. Where were their quilts? I know we will get some more quilts next month. I also THANK the many of you who make several quilts each month. I look forward to increased participation next year.

We have a lot coming up in the next few months. The preparation for the 2011 show is in progress. The incredible Subway Series Quilt is being worked on by Mary Cargill and her group of hand quilters. The dedication of this group is outstanding.

Additionally we have Betty Pillsbury to tantalize the Crazy Quilters, and leave the rest of us thinking "maybe I could do that."

Three years ago, we raised the dues in order to help off set a significant raise in our rent. Fortunately we have been able to hold the dues as there are, for a significant period of time. Regrettably this is no longer possible. The Board is looking at the smallest raise in dues, without having to come back at a later time to ask for more money.

It is never easy to ask for more money; however I think we offer you some of the finest programs and workshops available. We have a library that is available to all members, focus groups and member workshops. There is something here for all--just ask.

Happy Holidays to all. --Paula Kenney

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### MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you have not picked up your yellow membership card for 2009-2010, it is available at The City Quilter. See Nancy Rabatin.



### MEETING INFO

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 10, 2010

#### TIME:

11am - 12pm: Board Meeting  
10:30am: Focus Groups  
10am - 3:00pm: General Meeting

#### LOCATION:

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

#### PROGRAM:

Betty Pillsbury

#### VENDOR:

Bailey & Murphy

#### QUILTER of the MONTH:

Rhona Triggs

#### FOCUS GROUP:

Ruched Flower, 10:30am  
Elm Creek Sampler Club, 12pm

#### BOM:

Double Friendship Quilt

#### GUEST FEES:

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

# April Meeting

*Program & Workshop with Betty Pillsbury*



## PROGRAM

Betty Pillsbury, she of the award winning crazy quilts (her Rose's Song is pictured in this issue of Quilters Newsletter), is coming to Empire in April. She will show her quilts and discuss her process in creating the pieces that have made her famous. Betty is an award winning textile artist and accomplished instructor. She is perhaps best known as one of the foremost experts in Crazy Quilting and embellishments. She is the recipient of almost 200 awards for her pieces, and was the recipient of the Embroiderer's Guild of America Educator's Award of Excellence. Betty has written articles for many publications, and has lectured and taught all over the country.

## WORKSHOP

**Sunday, April 11, 2010, 10 am – 5 pm**

**Sign up: Contact Mary Butler at**  
[citymary@aol.com](mailto:citymary@aol.com) or 212-662-7771

**Cost: \$75**

**Location: 343 8th Avenue, at 27th Street**

Betty's class on Sunday will expand the knowledge of those who have attempted to create their own crazies without the desired perfection as well as introduce new aspirants to the field. Students will work on a crazy quilt notebook sampler that will give "crazies" — from beginners to advanced — a little taste of everything. The class is full! Call or email Mary Butler to be put on the waitlist.

*Note:* Betty says that cotton floss works as well as the silk floss listed as a supply and metallic thread may be purchased from Nancy's Notions on line if your local store does not carry it.

## QUILTER OF THE MONTH

Rhona Triggs has a long history of sewing -- her mother was a fashion design student at Pratt Institute and she grew up with a sewing machine. Rhona sewed her 8th grade graduation dress! She also attended ceramic classes at the Museum of Modern Art prior to her family's move to New Rochelle, New York and following the completion of graduate school, had a ceramics studio for awhile. Rhona became interested in road running. One of Rhona's running partners introduced her to Empire Quilters. As a result, Rhona immediately became a quilt maker. In the mean time, she was enrolled at Hunter College in the ceramics department as a non degree student and became an expert at firing large gas fired kilns although ultimately she had to give up her studio at the school. Rhona attends Empire Quilters and Quilters of Color meetings. She has enhanced her quilting skills by taking classes at Quilting by the Lake and Empire Quilters workshops.

## FOCUS GROUPS

### Ruched Flower

**Group Leader: Lucy Torres**

[janetrandolph@verizon.net](mailto:janetrandolph@verizon.net) or 610-874-3721

**10:30 am - 11:30 am**

A hands-on focus group.

*Supply List:* 2 needles (sharps); chalk white pencilmarker (necessary!); small ruler; scissors; a few pins; paper/pencil for notes. *Fabric and thread will be supplied by the group leader.*

### Elm Creek Sampler Club

**Group Leader: Helen Beall, Lisa Kehrle, and Lisa Belle, [htbeall@yahoo.com](mailto:htbeall@yahoo.com) or 516-365-9257**

**12 noon - 1 pm**

Our March gathering was pre-empted by Charity Day — a most worthy cause. Therefore we will feature Hands All Around and the ever-popular Ohio Star in April.

## BLOCK OF THE MONTH - DOUBLE FRIENDSHIP QUILT

You know the Friendship block: a nine-patch with 4 half-square triangles. Well, this block is similar, but it has twice the number of triangles, therefore it's a Double Friendship block.

Fabric Recipe: This quilt will feature fabrics from the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. The fabrics in this sample block are from the "Happy Camper" collection by American Jane from Moda. Isn't it soft and sweet? Please visit our blog for more details: [www.empirebom.blogspot.com](http://www.empirebom.blogspot.com).

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



## LIBRARY

Among the books available to borrow in April are *Making Kimono and Japanese Clothes*; *Strips 'n Curves, a New Spin on Strip Piecing*; the most recent Alex Anderson series -- *Super Simple Quilts - 9 Applique Projects*; two Log Cabin books, *Log Cabin Quilts a Brand New Story* and *Creative Log Cabin Quilting*; also the latest issue of the Journal of the National Quilting Association, Winter 2009. See you all on April 10 and don't forget to return your late books. --Sylvia Hughes, Librarian.

## CHARITY

I would like to thank all our members who braved the bad weather and came out with pins, scissors, fabric, quilts, sewing machines, sergers and pure determination to make our Charity month a great success. We probably made about 120 quilts in total for Saturday, but after all the take home quilts come back, we will have a more definite total. Nothing stops the Empire Quilters!

I would like thank, as always for her unending assistance, Véronique Milliez, — we couldn't do it without her! — and also Janice Ewing for her help too.

Members who made this year a success are: Jane Adler, Elizabeth Adorno (10 crochet hats), Cathy Anderson, Dorothy Arkell, Floraminda Balmaseda, Jennifer Bigelow, Mary Butler, Anjean Carter, Helen Chin, Paula Cruz, Megan Cuffy-Nettey, Pat Decker, Lee Ebs, Janice Ewing, Gladys Fischhoff, Verna Fitzgerald, Pauline Frederick, Sally Goodwin, Michael Greenberg, Nicole Gustafson, Wini Handel, Janna Hannum, Diane Harris, Joan Hellmann, Jacqui Holmes, Sylvia Hughes, Barbara Hull, Kate Iscol, Jackquelynn Jones, Nicole Kaplan, Paula Kenney, Marilyn Korn, Anna Krassy, Karla MacKesson, Christine Nadziejko, Agneta Noe, Diane Paul, Cathy Peterson, Mildred Purdy, Nancy Rabatin, Rena Rappaport, Janet Randolph, Edna Ray, Rita Reid, Fran Riede, Winifred Sanders, Diane Rode Schneck, Naomi Shelnut, Kitty Squire, Hillary Stillman, Alison Taylor, Rhona Triggs, Melanie Vaughan, Véronique Milliez, Ina Wolf and Ellen Yamaguchi.

Just a gentle reminder to those members who took fabric home to make quilts and tie quilts, to bring them back to a meeting whenever you can. I would especially like to thank The City Quilter for their continued support in supplying our batting and a special thank you to Nancy Rabatin for coming to our rescue with additional batting. If your name is not mentioned on this list, please let me know at the next meeting so we can include you in the next month's list. Once again, thank all very much for making this a very successful Charity Day. --Denise, Pam and Jennifer

## 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](mailto:quilterme@gmail.com) or 212-242-3253 to have a copy mailed to you.

| Guild             | As of 3/13/2010 | YTD Total    |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 49,832.53    | \$ 42,802.30 |
| Income            | \$ 145.00       | \$ 39,385.56 |
| Expenses          | \$ 528.20       | \$ 32,738.53 |
| Ending Balance    | \$ 49,449.33    | \$ 49,449.33 |

# Upcoming Events

## MAY PROGRAM - THE LEGEND OF FREEDOM QUILTS

Guest speaker Trish Chambers will discuss the history, legends and personal stories that make up the rich heritage associated with the Underground Railroad. Trish's theatrical presentation explores how African traditions and the use of story cloths documented the history of tribes and set the stage for the slaves to learn the lessons needed for survival during their arduous journey to freedom. African slave songs and the lessons contained in them are also discussed.

Trish Chambers is a businesswoman, author and Civil War re-enactor. She has appeared on and consulted with the History Channel, appeared on local TV stations and radio and also participated in the making of the movie Gods and Generals. For more information about Trish Chambers and her presentations about the history of America visit her production website: [Trish Chambers Productions](#).

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## JUNE FLEA MARKET

Mark you calendars! The next Members' Flea Market will take place at the June 12, 2010 guild meeting.

All of our tables have been reserved, so we will have an extremely successful flea market. If you missed out on reserving a table, you can still contact Kitty Squire at [kesquilts33@msn.com](mailto:kesquilts33@msn.com) or 718-541-5545 and she will put you on a waiting list. Payment for the tables is due by the end of April (\$10 for 4-foot space, \$20 for 8-foot space). If payment has not been received by then, your table will be released so that we can fill the space by June. You can either give Kitty your payment at the April meeting or you can mail it to either her or to the Guild mailbox. When you send the check, make sure you clearly write on it Flea Market Table so it is correctly applied.

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# 2011 Show

The first official meeting of the co-chairs and committee heads took place on Monday, March 8th. The discussion was lively and far ranging with many new and familiar faces. Just to remind you, the Urban Inspirations 2011 Show is set for March 26 and 27, 2011. There are still openings in the various committees for volunteers and we welcome your ideas and input. If you have any questions, please send them to [info@empirequilters.net](mailto:info@empirequilters.net).

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# Member News

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS!!

### **Anna Faustino and Roz Manor win awards at Quilt Fest of New Jersey!**

Anna Faustino won Best of Show at the Quilt Fest of New Jersey for her quilt Butterfly Dance. Roz Manor received the Best Use of Embellishments award at the Quilt Fest of New Jersey for her quilt Women, Etcetera. We are extremely happy for Anna and Roz, and proud of their accomplishments!

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# Notices

## THANK YOU FROM CINDY RUSSELL

Thank you to my friends at Empire Quilters for your many thoughtful and generous expressions of sympathy at the passing of my mother. Mom started a quilt for me when I was in kindergarten, and finished it for my college graduation. Yes, I learned the art of persistence from her! She would have loved our guild. Your notes, kind wishes and memorial meant a lot to me over these last several weeks. Thank you all. --*Cindy Russell*

## EMPIRE QUILTERS MEMORABILIA

Spring has finally arrived and summer is just around the corner. To get in the mood for short sleeve weather, we will again have our short sleeve, bright tee shirts available for purchase at the Membership table in April. Of course, you can also get our wonderful lanyards, pins, pencils and shoulder bags as well. Make sure that you are dressed for success this spring with your bright tee shirts!

Tee Shirts-\$15.00, Bags \$10.00, Lanyard and pin-\$4.00, Pencils-\$2.00. If you want to buy all of them together-\$25.00.

## WE WANT YOUR IDEAS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS!

Do you have a favorite speaker you'd like to hear at a guild meeting? ... or a favorite teacher for a workshop? ... or a favorite quilting topic? Maybe you have an idea for a focus group or a meeting activity? We want to hear from you! Look for the new suggestion box at the membership table starting in April. Please bring your ideas! We're looking for suggestions for speakers and workshops as well as comments about the current programs.

## EMPIRE QUILTERS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

We're happy to announce that Empire Quilters is now on Facebook! Become a fan of the new Empire Quilters page, and stay up-to-date with the latest guild news. You can also post your own news, or comments or suggestions. Facebook is a fun way to stay connected. To get started, look for the link pictured here on the home page of the guild website: [www.empirequilters.net](http://www.empirequilters.net) or go directly to the guild's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/empirequilters](http://www.facebook.com/empirequilters).



## HELP UPDATE THE WEBSITE

The [Quilting Resources](#) page on the Empire Guild's website is an extensive list of local addresses and phone numbers of businesses that support our Guild and/or sell all kinds of fabric, beads, buttons and other quilting supplies. Stores go out of business and relocate. We need to update this information for members as well as for visitors to New York City. Do you have new information from your favorite shop?

Call Myrna Williams at 212-580-1846.

## QUILTS FOR RESCUED CATS, KITTENS AND PUPPIES

Diane Rubenstein will be collecting these much needed mini-mini quilts at April meeting. Going forward a good size would be approximately 22 x 15", but any already made a different size will be fine. Please make these as simple as possible - no binding is needed. Finish off as we do the charity quilts by turning right side out with batting inside and close up seam. A little quilting is needed.

Spring time is when there is an influx of kittens and the shelters are overflowing with animals that have been brought in due to the financial situation of many people. I know our work is needed for all the people going through hard times and cats & pups take a back seat, however, these do not take long to make or require a lot of fabric.

Your help is needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for all of your help and kindness.



## MEMBERSHIP DUES UPDATE

In May we will begin accepting renewals for membership. As we all know, every year the cost of everything rises. Our rent has increased 210% since the last time we raised our membership fees (from \$5000 in 2007 to \$15490 this year). When you think about all the benefits of membership-the programs, workshops, focus groups, trips, blocks of the month, and our bi-annual show-it is the best deal in town! We have been the lucky recipient of a \$10,000 anonymous grant for the last 3 years that has been used to cover the costs of all our programs. We will fortunately be receiving it again next year.

This year our dues did not cover our rental costs. Therefore, we are going to be forced to increase them for next year. The amount will be determined by the Board and voted on in April. In addition, we are discussing the possibility of charging an additional \$5.00 for mailing the newsletter-this would cover the cost of the postage only.

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# The Value of an EQ Membership

Empire Quilters was founded in 1982 by a group of women who wanted to meet to work on quilts together and educate their members on what quilting is all about. It has evolved over its 28 year existence to be a registered non-profit organization that is dedicated in preserving and promoting the tradition, culture and history of quiltmaking and to foster good fellowship among persons interested in the art of quilting in New York. However, you might ask yourself exactly what does that mean- it sounds great, but what's in it for me?

This year alone, we have had lectures and workshops from David Taylor, Gwyned Trefethen, Sherry Shine, and Sharon Schamber-all noted quilt artists. Coming up, we have Betty Pillsbury talking about "Why I am a Crazy Quilter", Trish Chambers educating us on "The Legend of Freedom Quilts and the Underground Railroad" and Judith Larzelere on "Making Color Strips Sing". All of these speakers have been paid for by a grant from an anonymous donor, who has enabled our Guild to bring in all of these internationally known quilters at no cost to the Guild. Our program chair, Mary Butler is always looking for suggestions for speakers as well as for comments about the current program. Starting in April, there will be a suggestion box at the tables out front as well as paper at each table. We encourage you to give us your comments and suggestions for future programs.

Also this year, we have had an extremely successful program of member led workshop/demonstrations. This program was so successful, we will be repeating a form of it next year, so be sure to let us know what workshop/demos you would like to have included next year-a good thing for you to put in the suggestion box.

Each month, Janet Randolph ensures that our members who are early birds can enjoy focus groups that teach everything from Crazy Quilting to Ruched Flowers to Charity Quilts to Redwork to Double Miter Binding to Beaded Spiders. We also have an ongoing Elm Creek Quilt Sampler club that meets after the focus groups. Either of these are a wonderful way to meet and enjoy the company of your fellow Empire members.

As a charitable organization, one of the most important functions of Empire is supporting our community with our art. At Christmas, we focus on stockings and stuffed animals, etc to give to a shelter for abused or at-risk women and children. This last December, our members donated close to 300 stockings and 238 bears as well as a huge number of toiletries, earrings and other items. Each year, we also spend an entire day making quilts to be donated to various hospitals, shelters and other charitable organizations in New York. This year, despite the pouring rain, 75 to 80 incredibly dedicated members spent a wonderful day finishing over 120 quilts. In addition there were many other unfinished tops that were taken home to be returned at a later meeting. Charity day is one of the best days of the year for working together, talking together and most importantly, laughing together while doing something that we all love. Although our By-laws do not require each member to make one quilt for charity each year, we are all **STRONGLY** encouraged to do so. If each of us just made one quilt each year, we would have 374 quilts to donate. As terrific a number as 120 finished quilts is, 374 would be better!

Every two years, Empire Quilters likes to brag a little by putting on a show. In 2009, we hung about 215 quilts to show off to our approximately 2000 visitors. We showcased quilts made by our extremely talented membership ranging from crazy quilts to art quilts and including every type of quilt between. We are in the midst of planning our 2011 show. We expect it to be just as gorgeous and successful.

As you can see, for our members, Empire Quilters truly does fulfill its mission.

# Fundraiser

## FLOWERS FOR SYLVIA

A few years ago, Sylvia Zeveloff, a former Guild President, stood up at a meeting and offered a flower block of the month project to anyone who wanted it. I wanted to do some hand appliqué so I took the project from her. When I got home and opened it, I found it was not appliqué but piecing, some of it very intricate. I told Sylvia, when I took it from her that I wouldn't be able to start on it until the following Fall, and that I would donate the quilt to raise money for charity when it was completed.

It took a bit longer for me to start the project than I wanted and Sylvia asked about it at a meeting. I told her I would definitely get to it. I did start piecing some of the easier blocks but left some of the more difficult ones for later. Eventually I got them all done. In the meantime, Sylvia had become ill. I wasn't aware of her illness and when she came to a Guild meeting with a health aide, I became determined to finish the blocks quickly. I brought them to a Guild meeting a few months later to show her and learned that she had passed away. I told the Guild I would put the quilt together and quilt it.

I brought the quilt to our March meeting, and the Board has decided to hold a special raffle of the quilt; the proceeds will go to the Guild. The quilt is machine pieced with some appliqué and hand quilted. *—Diane Paul*



### LOCAL SHOW INFORMATION

#### **Around the Block Again, Quilters' Guild of Brooklyn Show**

April 17-18, 2010  
Block Institute, 376 Bay 44 St, Brooklyn, New York  
[www.quiltbrooklyn.org](http://www.quiltbrooklyn.org)

#### **Art Quilts from the John M. Walsh III Collection**

Open through April 25, 2010  
Morris Museum, Morristown, New Jersey  
[www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org)

#### **Kinder Komforts: Amish Crib Quilts**

Open through May 9, 2010  
New England Quilt Museum, Massachusetts  
[www.nequiltmuseum.org](http://www.nequiltmuseum.org)

#### **Night & Day (Fashion Exhibit)**

Open through May 11, 2010  
F.I.T. Museum, Seventh Ave at 27th Street, NYC  
[www.fitnyc.edu/museum](http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum)

#### **Unraveling History: Using Textiles to Date the Past**

Open through May 2010  
Queens Historical Society, Flushing, New York  
[www.QueensHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.QueensHistoricalSociety.org)

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## Reminders!

- \* **April Workshop** - Please contact Mary Butler to register for the workshop with Betty Pillsbury. See page 2.
- \* **May Newsletter Deadline** - Submit your articles for the May newsletter by Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please send articles to [lauren.dieterich@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.dieterich@gmail.com).
- \* **June Members' Flea Market** - Spaces are filled, but you can add your name to a waitlist. See page 4 for more details.

## Calendar

**May 8, 2010**

Trish Chambers

**June 12, 2010**

Judith Larzelere

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