

# Empire Newsletter



September 2011



## President's Message

Hello every one. I hope you all had a good summer, and are looking forward as much as I am to the beginning of the new season. This year we are fortunate to have a wonderful and new place to meet.

After many years of steady growth in the membership we were no longer able to be comfortable and safe at our space at FIT. Several of our members are also members of the Church of the Holy Apostle. We are very fortunate to find a space that can accommodate our needs, and is only two blocks away from our former site. I look forward to a long and happy relationship between Empire Quilters and the Church of the Holy Apostle. We are working on the set up for the September meeting, however it will not be perfect, it's a work in progress and I ask for your patience and good humor.

We will be served complimentary tea and coffee however there are no facilities for food nearby. Bring your lunch or what ever you want to eat with you. The entrance into the church has several steps, whereas the side has ramps and is handicap accessible. Larry Gifford is our site liaison so if you have special needs or wants please contact Larry directly at [Lawgifford@me.com](mailto:Lawgifford@me.com).

You may recall that Cindy has retired from updating the website. I am happy to announce that Jane Adler and Armanda Lewis have volunteered to update basic program, workshop and other guild information, while

we continue to work on development of a replacement website. If you have updates for the website, please contact them, or write to [info@empirequilters.net](mailto:info@empirequilters.net).

With the start of this season, in addition to our usual activities, such as Janet Randolph's focus groups (this month on Softie Art Dolls, led by Sandra Samaniego), the Elm Creek Quilters group and Block of the Month, we have a number of special activities. For example, Sandi Howell challenged us to bring in our completed UFOs for the September Show and Tell. Diane Rode Schneck and Beth Pile issued a 'Red and White' challenge for October, which they'll judge and give prizes for. In December we'll have a fundraiser and holiday party. If you haven't started one yet, please think about making a holiday-themed quilt for the auction. Information about these activities can be found on our website. Jennifer Bigelow, Marilyn Korn and Tina Barth are kicking off a monthly charity lunch and teach group to socialize with members and teach basic quilt-making skills. And, while we're talking about charity, please remember that December is our first major 'charity' activity day. Please start making teddy bears and stockings for that meeting.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Paula Kenney, President.

## What is the Alliance for American Quilts?

In 1993, recognizing the need to centralize information about quilts and quilt making, four women joined forces to create The Alliance for American Quilts. This project drew together Shelly Zegart and Eunice Ray of The Kentucky Quilt Project, and Karey Bresenhan and Nancy O'Bryant, corporate officers of Quilts, Inc. and founders of the non-profit Texas Quilt Search. With the establishment of

The Alliance, the founders combined their shared dedication to quilts with their extensive experience shaping the quilt industry and quilt scholarship in this country. In 1981 the Kentucky Quilt Project began to develop scholarship, publications, and exhibitions about quilts and their creators, jumpstarting

*Continued on page 5.*



### NEXT MEETING

Saturday  
September 10, 2011

### NEW LOCATION

Church of  
the Holy Apostles  
296 Ninth Avenue,  
(@28th St.), NY  
Open 9 AM—4 PM

#### **Focus Groups**

10:30 am –11:30 am  
Softie Art Doll  
Elm Creek Sampler Club

#### **Board Mtg**

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### **General Mtg.**

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

#### **Program**

Quilting, Creativity and  
Kids Books

#### **Speaker**

Dalen Keys

#### **Vendor**

Heirloom Batik

#### **Quilter of the Month**

None

#### **Block of The Month**

Taffy

**Scrap Table:** Open

**Show & Tell:** Open

**Library:** Open

**Guest Fee:** \$10

## First Ever Quilters Take Manhattan, by Earamichia Brown

I was pleased to be able to attend two of the three events that were held Friday August 5 through Saturday August 6, 2011. The first event was “Modern Stories: Documenting the Modern Quilt Movement.” This was a sold out event with standing room only. The panel was moderated by Jackie Kunkel and panelists included Melanie Testa, Kim Hryniewicz, Jennifer Paganelli, John Adams and Nancy Sorian.

The panelists were asked a series of questions such as, “what was their definition of modern quilting? To what type of fabric they liked.” John stated that he felt the label was unnecessary. He believed that quilting in 2011 was influenced by all that we see. Kim remarked that “if you are making quilts in 2011, then you are modern.” She also stated that we had the luxury of choosing what to make, and that we were not making them for a survival need. Therefore, the luxury of quilt making was modern. Each of the panelists provided great insight into their craft and what moves them today.

Saturday was a wonderful fun filled day. It began with “Marianne and Jay on the Runway: A Quilters Alliance of Fabric and Fashion.” This was held at F.I.T., and featured the

quilt TV host Marianne Fons. She lectured on “Why We Quilt,” and her daughter Mary Fons, a slam poet from Chicago who recently launched her own quilt TV show, “Quilty,” on the Internet followed with some poetic words of her own.

The program continued with the first season of Project Runway’s winner, Jay McCarroll. He is now designing quilt fabric for FreeSpirit. Jay will be interviewed for the Alliance’s prestigious Q.S.O.S. oral history project, and took questions from the audience.

The weekend culminated with the Ultimate Block Party: Cocktails at the City Quilter. It was a great event, we drank, ate and mingled with the

lovely people of the quilt/fabric/fiber art industry. There were artists, textile designers, and product representatives, all gathered with wine and yummy food. The evening ended with the announcement of the winners of the AAQ auction.

## UFO Challenge, by Sandi Howell

They’re hiding in the back of the closet, slumped in plastic bags and weeping in the corners. Who are they? They are our unfinished quilt projects commonly referred to as UFOs. UFOs come about when we’ve taken classes, started projects and got distracted or lost interest and we shove the project aside promising to get to it some day.

Well folks, that someday has arrived. I’m challenging the guild members to hunt down their UFOs, finish them and bring the quilts in to display during Show and Tell during the months of September and October. Sometimes all it needs is a fresh eye to find what we liked about the quilt project in the

first place. If you find that you don’t like the quilt you’ve completed, donate it to charity.

I’m looking forward to seeing our new location and the quilts that have come out of the challenge. Now, I have to get back to finishing up a few UFOs of my own.

*“They are our unfinished quilt projects commonly referred to as UFOs.”*

## 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 [quilterme@gmail.com](mailto:quilterme@gmail.com) (212) 243 3253 to have a copy mailed to you.



### Treasurer's Report

6/30/2011

Guild	Month	YTD Total
Beginning Balance	\$ 65,653.41	\$56,807.78
Income	\$ 16,211.82	\$52,943.12
Expenses	\$ 5,061.12	\$47,385.45
Ending Balance	\$ 76,804.11	\$62,365.45
Show Income	\$ -	\$63,865.99
Show Expenses	\$ 1,888.45	\$51,315.78
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 74,915.66</b>	<b>\$74,915.66</b>

## Empire Quilters Guild's New Meeting Home Church of the Holy Apostles by Lawrence Gifford

The Holy Apostles congregation "was founded in 1844 as the result of an outreach by Trinity Church to immigrants who worked on the Hudson River waterfront to the west of the Church's location in the Chelsea section of Manhattan," evolving out of a Sunday school. Construction on the sanctuary began in 1845 and continued through 1848, with an expansion of 25 feet in 1853. In 1858 the congregation needed to expand, so the building was enlarged again into a cross-shaped sanctuary with the addition of transepts.

The church, the only one that was designed by the architect Lafever, which remains extant in New York City, is also one of the very few there of Italianate design, although the church has also been described as an early example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The vestry is in "pure Tuscan" style.

The Church of the Holy Apostles was designated a New York City landmark in 1966, and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

The church's congregation has always been a socially active one. It is rumored that the church was a stop on the Underground Railroad during the American Civil War. In the 1970s, the church was instrumental in the foundation of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, a synagogue for gays and lesbians begun by Jacob Gubbai. It hosted the congregation until it found a permanent home, and the synagogue's Friday services are still held at Holy Apostles. In that same decade, Holy Apostles hosted the ordination of the first woman minister in the New

York diocese, Rev. Ellen Barrett. In 1982, the congregation began the Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, which continues to serve 1200 - 1500 "guests" from among New York City's indigent.

The sanctuary was badly damaged in 1990 by a fire, in which some of the stained-glass windows were lost, but most survived without serious damage. A restoration began almost immediately, and was completed in 1994 without interruption of the social services the church provides. This restoration was completed without replacing the sanctuary pews, so that the Soup Kitchen would be able to use that space for meal service.



## On the Road Again...

We are pleased to announce that EQG is on the road again. The first trip of the 2011-2012 season will be on Saturday, September 17, 2011, to the Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. This quilt extravaganza is the largest and most prominent quilting arts event in the Northeast all under one roof. The quilt competition features wonderful entries from around the nation.

This trip is the Saturday after the September guild meeting, and is a one-day trip. The cost for this trip is \$40 plus a \$12 show admission fee. There are still a few seats available on the bus and final payment is due at the September 10th, 2011 meeting. The bus will board diagonally across from the post office (31st Street and Eighth Avenue) near Penn Station.

Bus departs at 8:00am sharp, boards to return at 4:00pm, and arrives back in NYC at approximately 6:00-6:30 pm.

If you have any question about the trip, contact the guild trip coordinator, Mindy Wexler-Marks at [mindywexlermarks@yahoo.com](mailto:mindywexlermarks@yahoo.com).



## Empire Workshop Schedule 2011-2012



**September 10, 2011**— Program: Quilting, Creativity and Kids Books. Speaker: Dalen Keys

**October 15, 2011**—Note..this is the third Saturday of October. Program and Speaker to be announced.

**November 12, 2011**—Program: Stitched by Hand. Speaker: Betty Suiter



**November 13, 2011**—Workshop: Hand Quilting (10:00am—1:00pm) Workshop: Blooming Flowers (2:00—5:00).

**December 10, 2011**—Meeting Feature: Fundraiser and Holiday Charity Gift collection



**December 11, 2011**—Workshop: City Scape Silhouettes. Workshop Leader: Anna Faustino



**January 14, 2012**—Program: 3 Fabric Quilts. Speaker: Leni Wiener

**January 15, 2012**—Workshop: 3 Fabric Quilts. Workshop Leader: Leni Wiener



**February 11, 2012**—Meeting Feature: Members-Teaching Members

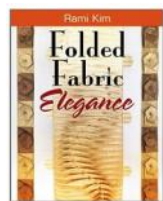
**March 10, 2012**—Meeting: Charity Work

**April 14, 2012**—Program: Pushing Creativity with “What if?”. Speaker: Rayna Gillman



**April 15, 2012**—Workshop: Gelatin Plate Monoprinting. Workshop Leader: Rayna Gillman

**May 12, 2012**—Program: Topic to be Announced. Speaker: Rami Kim



**May 13, 2012**—Workshop: Bag with Folder Texture. Workshop Leader: Rami Kim

**June 9, 2012**— to be announced.

## Workshops...Come and Join the Workshops, by Mary Butler Program/Workshop Chair

Our first program in September will feature EQ's, Dalen and Mitzie Keyes. EQ's, have you ever wanted to write a book? Dalen Keyes did. His subject? A child's attachment to a quilt. "Just a Quilt?" took off and Dalen is now a quilt pro. His wife, Mitzie, designed the quilt for the book and they will tell us about their partnership and the inspiration for the book and the quilt. By the way a second book is on its way.

Next up on Sunday September 12, 2011 from 10AM-5PM, *Designing and Writing a Quilt Pattern*, with Mitzie Keyes. It will be held across from FIT at 343 Eighth Avenue, and will cost \$60.

Whenever you feel stuck in a creative limbo break out of the quilt doldrums, design your own quilt blocks and assemble them. Mitzie Keyes has done that for herself and for the popular child's book written by her husband, Dalen. She supplies a pattern that follows the book quilt but you can do your own thing with Mitzie's guidance. A fresh start to a new season. The Supply list is available on our website at [www.empirequilters.net](http://www.empirequilters.net).

As we begin this quilting season, Empire's line up of speakers

and workshops is quite wonderful. You will find tradition and art, the known and the new. But...If members do not take advantage of the workshop offerings we will have to cancel them in future. The costs of running the workshops has risen more than expected while the benefits have widened to appeal to the full membership.

We NEED your continued participation to ensure the continuation of the wonderful programming that we are known for. Our workshops are usually on Sundays and generally begin at 10AM ... so come on through even if you are a bit late. The nominal cost of the workshop covers EQ's expenses only. Any savings are passed on to you, the membership.

Consider all that you can learn from the wonderful speakers and teachers we have lined up for you.



## What is the Alliance for American Quilts? *(Continued from page 1.)*

the state quilt project movement. Quilts, Inc. has been the primary catalyst behind the development of the international quilt industry and has worked for more than 20 years to foster the public appreciation of contemporary and historic quilts around the world.

The Alliance's founders soon gathered a distinguished group of quilt scholars, artists, experts, and enthusiasts to develop a vision for gathering, disseminating, and facilitating the interpretation of the great body of information about quilts and quilt makers. The Alliance developed projects that tap into the full potential of quilts and inform the study and understanding of history, the arts, and culture.

Many of these original visionaries continue to work together to advance the projects and programs of The Alliance through their membership on The Alliance Board of Directors.

In its short history, the Alliance has made significant progress toward its goals. It has launched a series of partnerships and projects that are preserving, documenting, and sharing the stories of quilts and quilt makers, including The Quilt Index, H-Quilts, Quilter's S.O.S.—Save Our Stories, Boxes Under the Bed™, Quilt Treasures, and Regional Centers for The Quilt.



## What Happened to My Old Newsletter?????

Hello everyone, my name is Earamichia, and I have the privilege of serving as the new Newsletter Editor. I know, Lauren was absolutely wonderful, never made mistakes, and was overall, brilliant. I have big shoes to fill. I do believe I am, indeed, up for the challenge. I expect some growing pains, such as: wonky text, misplaced features, perhaps a typo or two and member complaints that they missed their favorite section or don't like the new layout. I am hoping to

Bring more articles from and about our members, as well as write ups about the many fiber related events in the New York area. I see the newsletter as informational, inspirational, and over all a go to piece of reading material. My goal is to ensure that you, the members, are kept informed, entertained, and gain insight and knowledge through the reading of this newsletter. After all, many of you could be quilting instead. Smiles Earamichia



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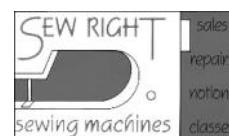
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# Quilters "Took" Manhattan... A Gallery View—Who Do You See?



Answer: John Adams, Jennifer Paganelli, Kim Hryniewicz, Melnate Testa, Nancy Soran, and Jackie Kunkel (left to right).



Answer: Mary Fons and Marianne Fons (left to right).



Answer: Jay McCarroll, Mark Lipinski, Luke Haynes



Answer: Victoria Findlay Wolfe, Interviewed by the American Alliance of Quilters



Answer: Margaret Cibulsky... Winner of Jay McCarroll's bag at Saturday Afternoons event



Jay McCarroll's Fashions modeled by various quilters.

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Weekend Giveaways



Weekend Goodie Bag Loot



Answer: Jackie Kunkel, Mary Bostwick



Answer: Marianne Fons



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## Around Town...



### NYC's Art Quilt Gallery

The City Quilter recently announced its fall plans for their ArtQuilt Gallery.

Beginning September 9 through October 29, 2011, *Explosions in Color* by Carol Taylor will be exhibited.

This will be followed by a group show titled *Material Witnesses*, from November 15, 2011 through January 7, 2012. This exhibit will feature 22 quilts from the 22 members of the Manhattan Quilters Guild, including quilts from Paula Nadelstern, Daphne Taylor, Emiko Toda Loeb, and Melanie Testa.

The ArtQuilt Gallery is located at 133 West 25th Street open from 11 to 6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is Free.



**Benedicte Caneill** : Her work, Units 2-Cityscape was selected to be part of the exhibit: *CROSSING LINES: THE MANY FACES OF FIBER* at the Courtyard Gallery, Three World Financial Center New York City. The exhibit will run from December 6, 2011–February 19, 2012.

The Opening reception: Thursday, December 8, 2011, 6–8 pm



### Battle of Harlem Heights celebration

Morris-Jumel Mansion is celebrating the *Battle of Harlem Heights* on Saturday, September 17 from 11 AM to 4 PM. They would like some quilters to demonstrate and chat about quilting. Bring some samples and handwork to the historic New York landmark, that includes the room where Washington slept and where Aaron Burr spent time. This is a way to spark interest in the Empire Quilters Guild and to spend a pleasant Saturday working and talking about quilts.

Respond to Carol Ward at [education@morrisjumel.org](mailto:education@morrisjumel.org)

## Library Notes.....

After serving for many years, Sylvia Hughes is stepping down as head of the library and Lisa Belle and Mary Cargill are taking over. If you want to request any books, please email either Lisa [lbinnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:lbinnyc@yahoo.com) or Mary [Cargill@columbia.edu](mailto:Cargill@columbia.edu). The list of library books can be found on the Empire Guild's website. Also, thanks to the members who made donations in June: Sylvia Hughes, Susan Mendoza, Melanie Hill, Diane Cohen, Mary Cargill, and Joanne Downes.

Our September speaker, Dalen Keys, will be talking about children's quilts, so, if you are inspired to make one, here are some of the books the library has to help you.

- *Colorful Quilts for Kids* by Beth Wheeler
- *Incredible Quilts for Kids of all Ages* by Jean Ray Laury
- *Quilts for Kids* by Carolann Palmer.

The Sunday workshop on designing quilts will be led by Mr. Keys' wife Mitzi, and these books might be helpful.

- *Color Confidence for Quilters* by Jenny Beyer
- *Color Design in Patchwork* by Paula Nadelstern

- *Creative Guide to Color and Fabric* by Jane Townswick.

Again, please email [lbinnyc@yahoo.com](mailto:lbinnyc@yahoo.com) or [cargill@columbia.edu](mailto:cargill@columbia.edu) to reserve these or any other books.



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## Dear Jane...Taught by Judy and Diane, 12 Years and Counting..


The just-out October, 2011 issue of *American Patchwork & Quilting* magazine features a 4 page article on the 12 years of *Dear Jane* classes at The City Quilter, co-taught by Judy Doenias and Diane Rode Schneck. Seven student quilts are shown, along with *In Our Time*, a striking, inspirational *Technicolor Jane* quilt by Judy and Diane. *Jane and the City* is about the special qualities of a long-running, popular *Dear Jane* class, taught in an urban setting. The story starts on page 20 and was written by CQ staffer and teacher, Diane Rode Schneck.



Technicolor Jane, By Judy & Diane



Empire Quilters, Broadway Jane

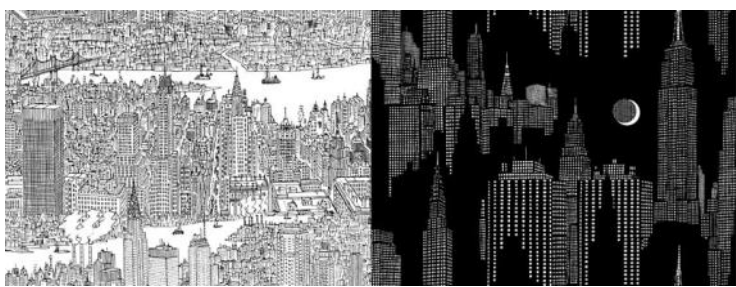


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## News from the Membership

Sue Clayton's quilt was one of 13 selected for Quilting Arts Magazine 2012 calendar. (Hers is the llama.) They are on sale now!



**Quilter Wanted:** A collector of "molas" is looking for someone to turn 12 "molas" into a quilt for a full size bed. These "molas" were obtained directly from Kuna women during her trips to the San Blas Islands in Panama several years ago. The "molas" are of excellent quality and they are beautiful. The fee for this project is negotiable. If interested, please contact:

pssaddler@hudson-ethicsconsulting.com,  
(cell) 917-757-1822.

### Flea Market

Don't forget-November is Member Flea Market month! We will be taking registrations for large (\$20) and small (\$10) tables at the September meeting. If you are not able to attend, you can contact Kitty Squire ([kesquilts33@msn.com](mailto:kesquilts33@msn.com)) or Lisa Kehrle ([lisank94@aol.com](mailto:lisank94@aol.com)) to make you reservations.

## Renew Your Guild Membership for 2011-2012!



### 2011-2012 Empire Quilters Guild Membership Renewal

1. Dues for Guild Meeting Season Sep 2011 – Jun 2012 : \$55 (all ages)
2. **Contribution:** Additional tax-deductible contribution (optional): \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Newsletter:** Select one method to receive your newsletter:
  - Email to email address: \_\_\_\_\_
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#### 5. Submit Form: Bring completed form to a meeting, or mail to:

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- Enclose a check for your annual dues, payable to: Empire Quilters, or bring cash to a meeting (no credit cards accepted).
- Please pick up your membership card at the next guild meeting.
- Memberships are not acknowledged by mail . If you want to have your membership card mailed to you, **please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.**
- For more information see: [www.EmpireQuilters.net](http://www.EmpireQuilters.net)

## Thirty-Something Quilter Tells All, by Mary Fons

**A talk given to the Alliance For the American Quilt, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**



“Times have changed. Quilters have changed, too.” Clearly, technology has never had a greater impact on not just the way human beings communicate with each other, but how we see ourselves. Today, we MMS pictures of our latest projects, we book airline tickets to

quilt shows online at two in the morning, we go to these quilt shows and blog -- at two in the morning – about what we saw and loved, saw and hated, and then we update our Facebook status. As technology increasingly meshes with our daily activities, handmade objects like quilts can seem further away – at least for the people who don’t make them all the time like we do. But even, sometimes, for us too.

I stand before you a quilter today, but I wasn’t always a quilter. My mother is a famous quilter and for many years I felt totally okay having a more than healthy regard for quilts and little to zero desire to ever make one myself. It was something I would maybe pick up later, at some misty, future time when I had time, when I had nothing but time, when I had nothing else to do at all, I would make quilts. I would do it when I was older, or just... old. Never mind the fact that my mother the famous quilter was not old (and she’s still not and looks fabulous). So I followed my non-quilting path. I worked and continue to work in the theater. After years of hustle and nose-to-the-freelance grindstone, I became a successful freelance writer as well – and by “successful,” I mean that I haven’t waited tables in 6 years. Now, somewhere along the way, I did agree to be a guest on my mom’s PBS show a couple times; it was cute, people liked the “mother-daughter quilting together” thing, and I was a professional performer, after all, so it was easy for me to really sell that pillow project. Pillows are great! I love pillows! The shows were good, I enjoyed working with my mom very much, and people liked seeing us together, liked seeing a connection between one generation and another, two worlds sharing one spool of thread.

But I was still in my twenties. The twenties are a crazy time, whether you’re working for yourself or someone else, whether you’re married or single, living at home or living on your own; the twenties are there for self-exploration, successful and otherwise. But, the twenties are soon over, and this happens very quickly and there is absolutely no breather afterward, and then we hit our “thirties.” When that hap-

pened to me, everything changed, and I became a quilter.

My first point is this: If you’re spending a lot of time and energy or money to get 20-something persons to start quilting, you’re barking up the wrong tree. I feel confident that I can say that with some certainty. That tree you’re barking up? That tree is wearing something it got on sale at Forever 21. It is broke and wants to drink beer and sleep. Shake that tree and you will litter the ground with Starbucks receipts, a copy of *On the Road*, and more debt than you figured could be possible so early in life, but you will not shake loose much desire to craft warm, soul-nurturing, artful quilts from cotton fabric. The twenty-something tree is busy with other things. I know this because I was one of these people and Marianne Fons is my mother. If there was any 24-year-old on the planet who wanted to make a quilt, it probably would’ve been me. I couldn’t have had access to more sewing machines if I lived at a Jo-Ann’s Fabrics outside of Houston. But I wasn’t into it. Why? Because it’s not the time to sit down. It’s not the time to reflect, which is what I think quilting is better at facilitating than any other meditative act. We quilt now to reflect on all the stupid and brilliant things we did IN OUR TWENTIES. It’s just not the right audience, I think, and though it’s bold to say it, I think a lot of the frustration that happens in the industry and where it’s going comes from this push-and-pull to get “girls” making quilts when they just aren’t feelin’ it yet. One yoga bag project does not a life-long quilter make.

(I am the first to allow that there are exceptions. There are quilters who are teenagers, quilters who start chain piecing as kids and keep making quilts all the way up into their nineties. I actually do not know any of these people, but I’d love to have them on Quilty, so just email me their contact info and that’d be great. I’m always online.)

When I hit my thirties, a bunch of stuff happened. I was a year into my marriage. I was diagnosed with a chronic disease in a late, dangerous stage and endured multiple surgeries with multiple complications over the course of about 18 months. My husband at the time, an army reservist, was away for a year and a half. These events overlapped, which made everything even more awesome. At some point, I woke up in the night seized with a desire to make a quilt. It was then that I instinctively understood that when life as you know it is torn to pieces, it makes perfect sense to essentially tear something else into pieces and sew it all back together again, only prettier and with a nice biased-edge binding. I finally understood quilts and quilt-making, because it finally made sense for me and my life.

## Thirty–Something Quilter Tells All by Mary Fons (continued)

My second point today is to ask for a favor. When I started quilting, it was as though I was some Arabian princess with like, a sneeze bowl, and a palace vault packed with toys and fabric. I could use my mom's cutting table when I went home to Iowa. I got cast-off, brand new notions and vintage pincushions from the 1970s. I had mountains of scraps at my disposal and if I wanted a book or a pattern, I just sort of spoke it on the air and it would materialize. I know that I'm lucky – and different. I'm grateful – more grateful than I will ever be able to properly express. But what wasn't different, even for me, was the lack of projects and instruction in my style. Mom and the cadre could bequeath me a project bag, they could lead me through rotary cutting and quarter-inch seams, but to what were they leading me? Projects that they liked, of course. That they would make. I appreciated those quilts, but I didn't want to make them, just like I didn't want to wear my mom's pants. I want my own pants. Do you want to wear someone else's pants? No, you don't. Pants are personal. So are quilts.

It became clear really early on that if I was going to deeply bond with this family legacy – I like to call us the Quilt Mafia – it was only going to be because I was my own quilter. I was ready. I was thirty and I was ready, but I had to break free. I don't want to use Civil War reproduction fabrics. I wouldn't use a batik if you offered to pay me – and that could ostensibly happen at some point, given the current trajectory of my career. For me to want to quilt, my quilts had to be mine, in my style; they had to fit my vision – and you might be surprised at how difficult this was to assert at first and you might be surprised to know how difficult it even continues to be from time to time, much to my surprise. Quilters can be super judgey and not trust your design choices, rookies. If you don't know this already, unfortunately you might learn it soon. Let newer quilters be free. Don't hate. Appreciate. If some rookie quilter – she can be 30 or 60 or 90 – wants to put pink and orange and puce together, for God's sake, let her. If it's truly heinous, she'll figure it out eventually BUT it might actually be brilliant. She'll never know, and you'll never know, unless she tries. Looking back, I see that the main deterrent in my non-quilting for so long was actually not my age, perhaps, but the pressure, subtle or not-so-subtle to make quilts I didn't feel connected to.

My third and final point is to provide a word of encouragement to all of us; new quilters, experienced quilters, and people who haven't thought even once that they might make a quilt one day. The future of quilting is bright. Over a lifetime of hanging out with quilters, I've heard a lot of worry, a lot of tsk-tsk-ing and I've seen people shaking their heads about the future of this industry and, of course, what's behind the industry: the art of quilt-making. It can seem at times that, like

block-and-tackle construction methods or calligraphy, quilting is bound to slip into antiquity, becoming something our culture simply replaces with something else faster, easier.

It doesn't have to be that way. Humans have a need to create. We find our mediums. Not everyone wants to make a quilt, no matter how easy it is with the latest machine or the simplest pattern. Perhaps more depressing: not everyone will make a second quilt. A person might make one, but to make two...and three...and four? We're a select few. But there's no need to fear the next generation, with their tweets and their mobile apps, with what seems to be a short attention span and a blank look of panic when they first sit down at a sewing machine in a beginner class. A lot of people who are new quilters never took the home-ec classes that our parents or grandparents took. Those classes were replaced by keyboarding and internet skills classes when we were in school. We didn't choose to not learn how to turn on a sewing machine. We didn't learn about patterns then, so we have to start with them now from zero and build on it. And if a rookie quilter is texting while she's sewing patchwork in her beginner's class? Who cares? Either she'll realize that's taking away from her enjoyment of making a quilt or she'd prefer to text and let her! You're not reading her texts, after all. Maybe she's talking to her friend about how she loves piecing and can't wait to show off the block she made.

Let's meet the rookies where they are. If we do, the future of quilting is not just bright but illuminated. Women on the prairie would've given anything to be able to send a picture of their quilt top to their cousin in California in under .002 seconds. We have better tools than we ever have had before. Let's use them together. I urge us all to welcome the new kind of learning that comes with this added technology and this new America. Our numbers aren't huge, relatively speaking. We've gotta stick together. Make a deal with a new quilter: You show her how to use fusible web, she'll show you how to use Google Plus. Thank you."



## Charity Coach and Chat

We mentioned in May and June that the Service Committee will start a new monthly activity in September called "Charity Coach and Chat". Jennifer Bigelow, Marilyn Korn and Tina Barth will take turns moderating the sessions through which we want to bring together members with all levels of skill, experience and time in the Guild to buddy up and coach each other on all sorts of quilting skills. Our aim is to develop a 'live' social network, bringing together 'seasoned' members with new members, through friendly chatting, and hopefully create more quilts and other items for our various charity efforts. At the September meeting we'll focus on planning a quilt and the tools you need to get started.

**Long-standing members:** Please email Jennifer at [Jennifer.Bigelow@chase.com](mailto:Jennifer.Bigelow@chase.com) and let her know if you would like to help by attending one or more of these Charity Coach and Chat sessions or to answer questions from newer quilters. The sessions will be held from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, before our regular meetings.

**Newer quilters:** Make your charity quilts with us! By coming to these Charity Coach and Chat sessions, you'll learn all you need to know about making beautiful, useful charity quilts. During these sessions, you'll learn how to plan, cut, sew, and finish your charity quilt. And we'll also talk about making other items — like the holiday stockings and teddy bears.

Marilyn taught a series of such sessions a few years ago. The members who attended not only learned how to make charity quilts, they picked up techniques they now use to make their own beautiful quilts.

This is open for all members and guests. We look forward to having a lively time with many people.

Jennifer Bigelow and Marilyn Korn, *Service Committee Co-Chairs*, and Tina Barth.

## Things to Remember....

### September Focus Group

#### SOFTIE ART DOLL

**Date:** Saturday, September 10, 2011

**Time:** 10:30-11:30 a,

**Group Leader:** Sandra Samaniego

#### Questions?

**Contact:** [janetrandolph@verizon.net](mailto:janetrandolph@verizon.net)

or (610) 874-3721.

#### A hands-on group

**Supply list:** paper and fabric scissor, favorite different fabrics for body parts, pin, neutral color thread, needle for basting, paper and pen for notes. Pattern supplied in class and details on embellishment.

### Wanted:

#### Holiday Themed Quilts

We are going to be having a small fundraiser this December, auctioning off small quilts donated by our members. This is your opportunity to have fun designing and making a small quilt and the Guild benefits! It is easy! We are looking for members who want to make a small (no more than 24" x 24") quilt with a holiday theme to be auctioned off.

These do not have to be only regular holidays. If you can think of a theme, you can come up with a holiday to match, such as: Japan Day, Arbor Day, etc. We live in New York and have parades and holidays for everything under the sun!

The quilts can be any shape as long as the total outside circumference does not exceed 96." We will start the bids at \$20 and go up from there. The more quilts donated, the more money the Guild will raise!

If you have any questions, please contact either Kitty Squire [kquilts33@msn.com](mailto:kquilts33@msn.com) or Lisa Kehrle [lisank94@aol.com](mailto:lisank94@aol.com).



### BOM

#### Taffy Block for September

For more info go to  
[www.empirebom.blogspot.com](http://www.empirebom.blogspot.com)



#### Empire Quilters BOM Squad:

Karen Griska, Chair. Email: [bom@empirequilters.net](mailto:bom@empirequilters.net)  
Helen Beall, Lisa Belle, Shirley Clark, Lisa Kehrle.

Questions about Advertising?????

Contact:  
advertising@empirequilters.net



### October Newsletter Deadlines

Ads: **September 15, 2011**  
Article Submission: **September 17, 2011**

Empire Quilters encourages members to write articles about quilt related subjects — even to toot their own horn if they've taken part in a show — and to send them to the Editor: [newsletter@empirequilters.net](mailto:newsletter@empirequilters.net)

### 2011-2012 Calendar

**September 10, 2011**

*Dalen Keys*

**October 8, 2011**

*Anna Hergert*

**November 12, 2011**

*Betty Ekern Suiter*

**December 10, 2011**

*Holiday Fundraising  
& Charity Gift Collection*

**January 14, 2012**

*Leni Wiener*

**February 11, 2012**

*Members Teaching Members*

**March 10, 2012**

*Charity Work Day*

**April 14, 2012**

*Rayna Gillman*

**May 12, 2012**

*TBD*

**June 9, 2012**

*TBD*

Questions? Contact Us at:  
[Info@empirequilters.net](mailto:Info@empirequilters.net)

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