

SERVICE PROJECTS: Guild members are encouraged to contribute their time and expertise to the service projects and activities that are held throughout the year. Service opportunities include: volunteering to teach or demonstrate quilting to special groups; making items to be donated to the needy through hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, disaster relief etc; or delivering finished quilts to local organizations. Members are requested to make at least one charity quilt a year, or to contribute time or materials to the Service Committee's projects. This committee maintains a table at each meeting where items are collected for distribution to charities. Preemie quilts must be 16"x24" quilted and the minimum size for others is 36"x36" quilted or tied.

Once a year, the guild devotes a full meeting day to completing as many quilts as possible for charity. We assemble, quilt or tie, and distribute these quilts to those in need through various local charities. Basic sewing supplies, sewing machines, irons, and tapestry needles with yarn are the tools of the day. This is a good opportunity to clean out your stash and to donate those tops you've been meaning to finish. It is also a good time to make new friends and learn new tips from the experts. We encourage members to tell us of organizations in need of quilts.

SHOW & TELL: Following the main program during monthly meetings, members display their completed works, heirloom items, unique purchases or works-in-progress. Photographs are taken to post on the guild Website. If you have items to show, complete a slip at the Membership Table. Since we have a large, active group, we ask that you consider time constraints when showing your items.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: This committee sends "sunshine" in the form of a card from the guild to members who have been seriously ill or hospitalized, who have lost a loved one, or who are in need of comfort. If you know of a member who needs some sunshine, please let this committee know.

VENDOR-OF-THE-MONTH: Most months a different vendor comes to the meeting with special wares, usually fabrics, notions, and books. Vendors contribute a portion of their sales to the guild, so keep shopping!

VOLUNTEERING: Our guild is only as good as our volunteers. There are many volunteering opportunities, and the more involved you become, the more fun you'll have! Some tasks (like selling Prize tickets or helping with the meeting activities) can be performed during the meeting, while others (like the newsletter and programs) require several hours during the month. Contact a committee member if you can lend a hand.

WEBSITE: The guild maintains a website with lots of up-to-date information about the guild. Service project guidelines and suggestions, guild documents, pictures of Show & Tell and guild activities, and summaries of guild meetings are all available online. We encourage members to participate in the website by sending in news items and photos to post. Send items of interest to info@empirequilters.net. The website address is www.EmpireQuilters.net.

WORKSHOPS: The guild hosts half-day, and full-day workshops throughout the year led by quilting experts and professionals. The workshops are open to both members and non-members. Check the Newsletter or Website for upcoming workshops.

Empire Quilters, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 to preserve & promote the tradition, culture, and history of quilt-making, and to foster good fellowship among persons interested in the art of quilting in the greater New York area. The Guild has a continuing commitment to raising the level of appreciation of quilts among the general public, to using our talents in service to our community, and to the exchanging of our skills, ideas, and visions with one another. NQA Chapter, 494.

Mailing Address:
Empire Quilters, Inc.
Old Chelsea Station
P.O. Box 1293
New York, NY 10113

Email Address: info@EmpireQuilters.net
Website Address: www.EmpireQuilters.net
Block of the Month: empirebom.blogspot.com
Facebook: facebook.com/empirequilters



GUILD INFORMATION

Welcome to Empire Quilters! Our quilt guild meets in New York City and everyone is welcome. We have members from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania *and beyond*.

Guild meetings generally take place on the second Saturday of every month from September to June at Church of the Holy Apostles. Meeting days are full of a variety of activities. You can tailor your day to your schedule and interests, and you can come for part of the day, or all day. This leaflet describes the main guild activities that take place at the monthly meetings and throughout the year, and specifies the time and location for each activity.

Changes in the schedule or location are announced in the Newsletter and on the guild website.

Meeting Location:

Church of the Holy Apostles
296 Ninth Avenue (at 28th Street)
New York, NY 10001

BLOCK OF THE MONTH: Quilt block patterns and instructions are available at the Membership Table and on the guild Website or Blog throughout the year. Participation is voluntary and offers a fun way to learn a new technique. Block makers compete in a drawing each month to win all the blocks. Turn in your blocks to the Block of the Month table and complete a slip to be entered in the drawing. If you can't be at the meeting, you may send in your block for a chance to win.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Meetings of the Board of Directors generally take place in the morning of the monthly guild meetings. Guild members are welcome to attend, and minutes of the meeting are posted on the guild website. Pick up a list of Board Members and Committee chairs at the Membership Table, or see the Contact page of the guild website.

BUS TRIPS: During the year the guild plans out-of-town bus trips for shopping and/or visits to shows. Trips are open to members and non-members, but space is limited, so watch the newsletter and website for details.

BUSINESS MEETING: The monthly guild business meeting generally takes place on the second Saturday of every month from September to June. The meeting is called to order by the guild President promptly at 1:00 pm. The agenda includes announcements, reports from officers and various administrative details involved in maintaining a not-for-profit guild. Members and guests are then given the opportunity to make announcements or share information. The business meeting generally lasts for 30 to 45 minutes. The business meeting is followed by a Program, Show & Tell, Quilter of the Month, Block of the Month drawing, prizes, the Scrap Table and afternoon Focus Groups.

CLASSIFIED ADS: Members are invited to place a free, needle-art-related classified ad in the Newsletter. Advertise sewing equipment, books, fabrics or services that you wish to sell. Ads can be no longer than 30 words and the guild member name and phone number must appear in the ad. The Newsletter publishes a maximum of three consecutive listings.

FACEBOOK: Join the guild's Facebook Fan Page at [facebook.com/empirequilters](https://www.facebook.com/empirequilters) to post notices, questions and comments.

FOCUS GROUPS: Focus Groups meet either in the morning before the guild Business Meeting, or in the afternoon following the main meeting activities. They are open to all guild members. Led by members who have an interest in sharing their knowledge about particular techniques, groups meet for a limited number of sessions and usually result in a finished project. The topics offered depend on the volunteers who teach. New groups are formed throughout the year. Participation is free of charge, but participants need to supply any required materials. Groups sometimes require reservations due to space limitations. The newsletter and website list the current groups. Focus Groups are a wonderful opportunity to learn a new skill, perfect an old one, or — better yet! — to share your tips and skills with other members.

GUILD SHOW: Approximately every two years the guild sponsors a members-only quilt show featuring members' quilts, challenge quilts, vendors, lectures, workshops, demonstrations, a boutique selling hand-made items, and a member-made fundraising quilt.

LIBRARY: The guild maintains a large collection of current as well as classic books about quilting for members to borrow. There is no fee to borrow but there is a \$1 per month late fee. A complete listing of library books can be found on the guild Website. Peruse the listing and request a book two weeks prior to the meeting day. Library hours are 12:00 to 1:00 pm on meeting days. Donations of books (in good condition) are welcome. Magazines are offered for sale, and the Library occasionally holds a book sale.

MEMBER FLEA MARKETS: Once or twice a year members can purchase tables for a nominal fee and sell their treasures to guild members. Typical items include fabric, hand-made items, and books. Watch the Newsletter and guild Website for times, prices and procedures.

MEMBERSHIP TABLE: This information is central at guild meetings. Members are requested to sign in each month, and to check for any corrections to your mailing address, phone numbers and email address. This table is where you can pay your dues; pick up your membership card; and find Show & Tell forms to complete if you have an item to show at the meeting. You'll also find Block of the Month patterns and instructions, and other handouts highlighting guild activities or events of interest in the community

MONTHLY FUNDRAISER: Mini fundraisers are held at most meetings. Tickets are purchased for a chance to win prizes donated by members, usually fabrics or other useful quilting items. The Committee accepts donated prizes at the Fundraiser table prior to the start of the Business Meeting. The prizes are awarded at the end of each monthly meeting, and winning tickets are drawn until all items are distributed.

NEWSLETTER: The monthly Newsletter is distributed to members via email in PDF format, and is available via mail if members do not have an email address. The newsletter contains a message from the president, information about upcoming meetings and projects, volunteering opportunities, as well as updates on focus groups, programs, and bus trips. We encourage members to write articles about quilt related subjects, and to let us know if they've taken part in a show. Submit items to newsletter@empirequilters.net. The newsletter has advertisements from regional quilt shops and services. Please patronize our generous advertisers.

PROGRAMS: Monthly business meetings are followed by a special program. Often a well-known quilter or fiber artist is the featured Guest Speaker. Other programs have included auctions, finish-your-project sewing days, charity quilting days, and quilting-related lectures on healthy work habits, and quilting history. The program is always varied, and is a highlight of the meeting day. See the Newsletter or Website for an up-to-date listing of upcoming programs.

QUILTER OF THE MONTH: We often feature one of our members as Quilter of the Month at our monthly guild meeting. This presentation takes place following Show & Tell, and is a great opportunity to see one member's palette of colors and styles.

SCRAP TABLE: This is another guild fundraising activity. Each month, members bring in donations of fabrics, trimmings and patterns for the Scrap Table. The Scrap Table opens at the end of the meeting. When you have selected your scraps, a member of the committee will set the price. Scrappers are required to donate at least 25¢ per scrap to the pot. (Bills are gladly accepted!)