
EMPIRE NEWSLETTER

December 2009

President's Letter

Toy time is here! Now is the time to finish those teddy bears and stockings that you have made during the year. This is a very busy time for many of us. Plans for the holidays can be difficult, and in some cases stressful. Try to take time to enjoy what a beautiful city New York becomes with all the lights, and beautiful store windows. I have found that spending more time with friends can be the greatest gift of all.

Many of you picked up the patterns at the membership table. Please bring them in; if you didn't finish them there will be people available with needle and thread to finish the job. If you made things on your own, we are glad to receive them. Denise Walsh Horowitz adds Empire's donations to the many hundreds she makes all year and donates them to several centers that are very grateful for the gifts.

The December meeting will feature a baked goods sale. If you bake, bring in your specialty for us to enjoy. Hopefully many of you do bake-if not perhaps you could bring some fruit and cheese, veggies and dips. Although the purpose of the sale is to raise money-it is also a wonderful way to get to know different "goodies" that some of our members bring in.

The Featherweight sewing machine has already raised over \$300 dollars. Tickets were pre-sold in November, but will also be available at the meeting. If you bought some in November, consider buying a few more prior to the drawing. The machine and a story board will be available for viewing at the membership table. Look for Kitty Squire who will be selling the tickets.

On behalf of the Executive Board I would like to extend our very best wishes to you and your families for a happy holiday season.

--Paula Kenney



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MEETING INFO

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 2009

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:

Holiday Party

VENDOR:

Member Bake Sale

QUILTER of the MONTH:

None

FOCUS GROUPS:

Elm Creek Sampler Club, 12pm

BOM:

Amish Buggy

GUEST FEES:

FREE this month!
Bring your friends to help with
Charity efforts!

December Meeting

Holiday Party • Workshop with Anna Faustino

PROGRAM - CHARITY AND BAKE SALE

This year for our December fund raiser we decided to concentrate on fun, food and charity!

First, we are having a bake sale. Please bring your favorite baked goods or other foods packaged to sell. These can either be sold in individual pieces or as a whole item. We are looking for traditional Holiday cookies, cakes, pies, breads as well as any real food you would like to bring. Please also bring your recipe as we are going to look into making an Empire Quilters Cook Book. We need volunteers to help with the pricing as well as the selling. If you are willing to help, please contact Larry Gifford at lawgifford@me.com or 917-513-8351. Don't forget, the more you bring, the more we can raise for the Guild's activities.

The second part of the program will be our charity work. Members picked up over 100 stocking kits and 200 bear kits at the November meeting! We hope to see all of them assembled and back in December, in addition to any that you have made on your own. The patterns are available on the website.

The last part of the program is the "fun." We will have a few items to auction, a few games to play, a few prizes to win. We will be drawing the winner of the Featherweight machine as well. This part of the program is unstructured, so be sure to bring your UFOs to work on as well as bringing anything you have, especially holiday items, to show during Show and Tell for your fellow members to ooh and ahh over.

WIN A FEATHERWEIGHT MACHINE!

Guild member Janet Randolph has generously donated a Featherweight sewing machine for our guild to use to make money. It will be awarded at the December 12, 2009 meeting. The Featherweight is in prime condition. It is a Model 221 made in 1956, is 11 lbs, and comes with extra feet to do ruffling, smocking, etc., needles, instructions, bobbins, thread, a wheeled carrying case and a new foot pedal. Incredible!



Make sure you visit Kitty Squire at the Membership table to get your chances prior to the start of the December 12, 2009 meeting. If you cannot be at the December meeting, you can still participate by sending your checks and requests to the Empire mail box. Send \$1 for every chance. The more you send, the better your chances of going home with this fabulous machine! You will need to mail your checks by December 7 to make sure you are included. As those of you who have sewn on a Featherweight know, they have the best straight stitch around and are workhorse machines — after all they were made from the 1930s to the 1950s and are genuine antiques and they are still sewing strong.

WORKSHOP

Target with Anna Faustino
Sunday, December 13, 2009, 10 am – 5 pm
Sign up: Contact Mary Butler at
citymary@aol.com or 212-662-7771

Location: 343 8th Avenue, at 27th Street
Cost: \$75

Celebrated author, multi-award-winning quilter (and Empire Quilters member!) Anna Faustino will conduct a day-long workshop featuring another new and innovative technique. Anna's workshops are always fun and packed with ideas that you can use in your quilting. Anna is enthusiastic, and is generous in sharing her unique approaches to beautiful quilt constructions.

Supplies: Cutting board, rotary cutter, 18" ruler, pencil, red marker, scissors, 90 pins, iron with extension cord.

FOCUS GROUP

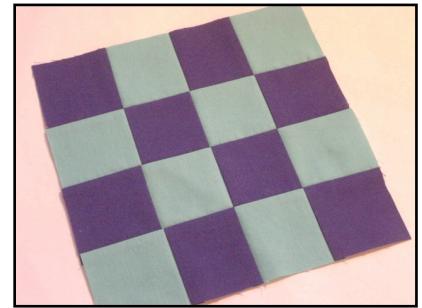
Elm Creek Sampler Club
12 noon - 1 pm

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

We are making good progress, one block at a time. Each block brings a new experience with its own challenges. Our Lemoyne Star for December comes in two versions. The plain diamonds are simpler while the split diamonds are not. In either case, "Done is better than perfect." Why not try both? Bachelor's Puzzle should not be very difficult. Fabric choice will be the challenge and the fun here. Coming next: Posies Round the Square in January.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH - "AMISH BUGGY QUILT"

The Amish make simple buggy quilts to use when riding in cold weather. If you want to try yours out, just bring it to Central Park! This is a simple 16-patch block, but because the squares are fairly small, it will look awesome. Solid color fabrics will give it an Amish flavor. If we all whip up a few of these pretty blocks, the lucky winner (maybe you) will have plenty to make a nice big quilt.



Directions:

1. Cut 2 strips: 2 1/4" wide x 40" long, one each from Color 1 and Color 2.
2. Sew these strips together lengthwise. Press. Cut into two approx. 20" lengths.
3. Sew these together lengthwise. Press seams toward darker color.
4. Cut into eight 2 1/4" strips, as shown.
5. Reversing the direction of every other strip, sew the strips into two blocks. This method will yield 2 blocks.

Color Recipe: Using solid (not patterned) fabrics, choose any two colors you like, except white. These may be high or low contrast, bright or subdued—it's your choice. For more details, visit: www.empirebom.blogspot.com.

—Karen Griska, Helen Beall, Lisa Belle, Shirley Clark, Lisa Kehrle, Nick Alves

SHARE TABLE

Please note there will not be a share table in December.

LIBRARY

Please note the Library will not be open in December.

The Library was very quiet at the November meeting, with donations from Jennifer Bigelow, Kate Iscol, Barbara Jackson and Nicole Kaplan — thank you. Remember that there will be no Library in December, so hang on to your returns and your donations for our meeting in January. Hope to see you all on December 12. —*Sylvia Hughes*

CHARITY

We would like to thank all our members who have brought in their contributions of the Holiday Stockings, Teddy Bears, and all the many toys and coloring books, crayons and great stuffed animals, plus toiletries. The list of contributions so far is so long, I will tally everything up for the January newsletter so you can all see just how great and caring you all are. We would like to thank Betty Ford's niece for making and donating 18 quilts, Karen Monath for one quilt top, Kate Iscol for fabric, Mary Ferry for one quilt top, Marie Annual for six quilts.

We would like to wish all our members a very Happy Thanksgiving! —*Denise, Jennifer and Pam.*

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.

Guild	Month	YTD Total
Beginning Balance	\$ 48,691.10	\$ 42,802.30
Income	\$ 2,745.60	\$29,861.59
Expenses	\$ 1,415.76	\$ 22,642.95
Ending Balance	\$ 50,020.94	\$ 50,020.94

Upcoming Events

JANUARY PROGRAM & WORKSHOP WITH SHARON SCHAMBER

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 her innovative technique “Piece-lique Curves The New Way.”

Two of her most recognizable works are “Sitting Bull” and “Spirit of Mother Earth:”



Sharon will host two separate one-day workshops:

Day One: Exotic Bloom - Sunday, January 9, 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. Cost \$70



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

Flying Geese with Piece-lique Curved Piecing 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-lique” you will learn how to do this popular and versatile pattern with a fun new technique. Cost \$70



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.

JANUARY FOCUS GROUP - BABY CHARITY QUILTS

Janet Randolph will lead a presentation on sewing baby quilts for our year-long charity project. Quilt patterns from our website and other fast and easy quilts will be featured. Presenters will be available for sewing tips and answering questions. We encourage all new members to attend.

JANUARY RETREAT

On January 29-31, 2010 (Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon), Empire Quilters will have the opportunity to share a weekend of carefree sewing at the Xavier Retreat Center in Convent Station, New Jersey. The sewing room is located in the same building as our rooms, and will be open 24 hours. The center is easily reached by NJ Transit (train) from Penn Station. Round trip transportation to and from Convent Station to the center will be provided. The cost, including dinner on Friday, breakfast lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast/lunch on Sunday prior to our departure is \$200. Full payment is due December 13. Please contact Aleeda Crawley immediately if you are interested. --Aleeda Crawley, acquiltasy@yahoo.com or 973-313-0844

FEBRUARY PROGRAM - SAMPLER MADNESS

Although it is early, we wanted to let you know about the February meeting as it is going to be very different and, we hope, a lot of fun.

We are going to have several different member-led workshops. Members Jennifer Bigelow, Aleeda Crawley, Beth Pile, Nancy Rabatin, and Janet Randolph have agreed to each teach a workshop in foundation piecing, t-shirt quilts, crazy quilting, dolls and handbags. We will be giving you each the opportunity to sign up for the workshop of your choice in January and will have available supply lists available at that time.

Be sure to check the newsletter next month for more details!

LOCAL SHOW INFORMATION

Fine Art Quilts by Marilyn Henrion

Open through November 30, 2009
Berkeley College Art Gallery, Midtown Campus,
First Floor Lobby, 3 East 43rd Street, NYC
www.berkeleycollege.edu

Full-Spectrum

Open through December 5, 2009
Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
www.artmuseum.binghamton.edu

Prospect Park Quilt Exhibit: Sewing the Threads of New York: The 400 Year Anniversary of Henry Hudson's Voyage

December 5-27, 2009
Prospect Park Audubon Center
www.prospectpark.org

Mrs. Delany and her Circle

Open through January 3, 2010
Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT
www.ycba.yale.edu

Serizawa: Master of Japanese Textile Design

Open through January 17, 2009
Japan Society, 333 E. 47th St., NYC
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Member News

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS!!

Rita Reid has quilt in Gallery Show

Rita Reid is one of the featured artists in a show at the Hudson Guild Gallery. Rita's piece Siku Soku, was chosen as a perfect addition for the show's theme: Parents and Children. The group show features works about mothers, fathers, daughters and sons. The show is open December 10, 2009 – February 9, 2010, and is located at the Hudson Guild Gallery, 441 W. 26th Street, New York City. The opening reception is December 10 from 6-8pm.

Trudy Raeburn has quilt featured on Quilt University

Quilt University, the leading online quilting learning center, is featuring a quilt made by guild member Trudy Raeburn. Trudy says: "I designed this myself. The tree was from a pattern I found in a magazine two or four years ago and don't remember the designer. The whole concept came from a Christmas card I received about five years before. I kept the card and put it on my wall every Christmas since. Christmas is my favorite time of year so I just had to make it the way I remembered as a child."

To learn more about Quilt University see www.quiltuniversity.com. To see Trudy's quilt in quilt in their gallery setting, click [HERE](#). It's in the Student Commons, Happy Holiday! Section, Gallery 3.

Benedicte Caneill will have quilt in Art Quilt Elements 2010

Benedicte Caneill will have a quilt in the upcoming Art Quilt Elements show in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Benedicte's quilt *Units 19: Cityscape* will be a great addition to this prestigious biennial exhibit promoting the contemporary quilt as an art form.

For more information about the show, see: www.artquilelements.com.

Anna Faustino's quilt chosen for national advertisement

Where is the Quilt Show? by Empire Quilters member Anna Faustino has been chosen by the Mancuso Show Management to be the featured quilt on the advertising for their upcoming Quilt Fest of New Jersey VI. The show will take place in March 2010 in Somerset, New Jersey. They couldn't have picked a better quilt, and we're happy to see Anna get this national exposure. Congratulations, Anna!

For more information about the Quilt Fest see: www.quiltfest.com.

BUS TRIPS - BUDGET UPDATE

Prior to the budget vote, there was a brief discussion on the loss incurred by our Trips effort. Here is the promised update. Losses incurred by the Trips Committee totaled more than \$11,000, and upon learning of the loss, we set out to do two things: first, understand how the loss occurred, and second, establish processes to prevent such a loss in the future.

Trips during 2008-2009 lost money because many were undersold. The largest problem is that members sign up, and later cancel without penalty. The guild, however, had already made a deposit to the bus company (the largest cost of most trips) and could not cancel without incurring a substantial penalty. In one case a cost calculation error was made, and in a small number of cases, we are tracing/confirming trip payments. Trips were never planned to be a profit center, and the pricing reflected this philosophy.

Going forward, we are adhering to a strict payment policy. Trips will have to be paid for two months prior to the date, to protect the guild from any cancellation penalties. If not enough members sign up, the trip will be cancelled. If you are interested in joining a trip, sign up and bring the deposit or full payment to the next meeting. We will also be considering smaller buses and reviewing pricing. This will mean slightly higher costs, but again, will protect the guild's assets.

We look forward to planning additional trips, and with these safeguards in place, we will ensure that trips will be self-funding.

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 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 spends their weekly period running events such as the 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

VETERANS QUILTS PROJECT

Thank you all! Tom the vet was so overwhelmed and overjoyed, and I'm so grateful for all your help, generosity, and support. Our original goal was 52 quilts by Veterans Day. As of the day before Veterans Day, we had 66 quilts and 1 afghan, and I expect at least 5 more soon. Clearly, Empire Quilters outdid ourselves again. --Lee Ebs

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- 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

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NOVEMBER WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Thanks everyone who donated to the table and to all those who found new treasures and who helped out. We raised \$221.21. --Annie Foss



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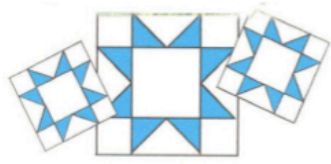
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Reminders!

- * **December Bake Sale** - Bring in your baked goods and recipes for our December Holiday Bake Sale.
- * **January Workshops** - Please sign up for the Sharon Schamber workshops ASAP. See page 4 for more details.
- * **January Retreat** - Full payment of \$200 due by December 13. See page 5 for details.
- * **January Newsletter Deadline** - Submit your articles for the January newsletter by Wednesday, December 16, 2009. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please send articles to lauren.dieterich@gmail.com.

Calendar

January 9, 2010

Sharon Schamber

February 13, 2010Sampler Madness
Workshop: Anna Faustino**March 13, 2010**

Charity Day

April 10, 2010

Betty Pillsbury

May 8, 2010

Trish Chambers

June 12, 2010

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