

The Brooklyn Bee

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Volume 29
Issue 4

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QUILTS**

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Dear Members,

I was truly wowed by all of the scrap quilts shown at our November Show and Tell. Thanks so much to everyone who participated. Next month we hope to see quilts from our Zoom participants as well. Thanks to Margaret Marcy Emerson, Joy West and Richie Doron for taking us up a rung on the technology ladder to be able to project images at our meetings.

I am sure that I am not the only Guild member who is looking forward to volunteering at FabScrap. I learned so much from Dhamar Romo Chavez's presentation. Thanks to Barbara Danzi for bringing FabScrap to our meeting to present us with practical ways to reduce the impact of fabric waste on our environment.

And thanks to all who participated in our first scrap bag exchange, brought in orphan blocks and took Insul-bright squares. I can't wait to see the potholders that you make for our holiday potholder exchange at the December meeting. In addition to this exchange, we ask that our members dress up in the spirit of the holidays to add to the festivities.

In December we have permission from the Church to celebrate the holiday season with holiday treats! We ask members to bring a dozen or more cookies to share. Bring your own travel mug for coffee or tea to cut down on waste.

We have much to be thankful for this season. I thank you all for your inspiration.

Happy quilting.

Micki Segel
Co-President

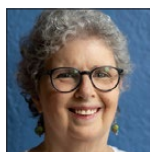
2021-2022 Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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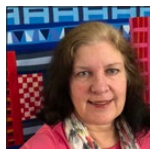


Margaret Marcy Emerson
917-374-7718
margaret.marcy@gmail.com



Micki Segel
917-596-6055
mickisegel@gmail.com

Vice Presidents

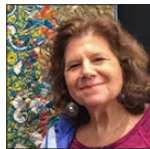


Barbara Danzi
949-697-1721
barbaradanzi@gmail.com



Michael Sengstack
347-291-5084
mgsengstack@msn.com

Secretary



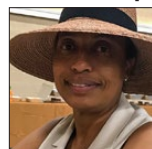
Alice Braziller
917-557-0112
alicebraziller@gmail.com

Treasurer

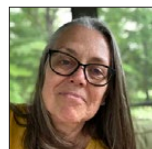


Leona Shapiro
917-478-3835
BQG.treasurer@gmail.com

Membership Chairs



Serena Boyle
516-322-5108
ladyspitz15@gmail.com
bqg.membership@gmail.com



Barbara Christ
718-208-3758
barbchristny@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Community Quilt Coordinator

Debbie Safian
347-677-4672
safiandeb@gmail.com

Easy as ABC/Kid's Quilts

Jennifer Arzberger
917-685-6712
jennarzberger@optimum.net

Comfort Quilts

Dori Dietz
718-853-2153
doridietz1@gmail.com

Hole in the Wall

Carol Lieberman
917-439-9549
clieber@verizon.net

Veterans' Quilts

Carol Sullivan
917-495-6315
sulliquilts@aol.com

Labor of Love Quilts

Diane Pryor-Holland
laboroflovequiltproject@gmail.com

Pillowcases

Annette Wallace
917-647-0770
wallace.netty123@gmail.com

Block of the Month

Joy West
347-845-0016
jjhwest4@gmail.com

Robin Engelman

917-689-0402
raengelman@gmail.com

Lenni Abel Quilt Fund

Madi Appell
718-434-0647
NYCfash@aol.com

Heritage Retreats

Carol Lieberman
917-439-9549
clieber@verizon.net

Robin Engelman

917-689-0402
raengelman@gmail.com

Cross Roads Retreats

Martha Musgrove
718-745-6759
marf86@hotmail.com

Susan Aronoff

917-9573884
susan.aronoff@gmail.com

Vendors

Carol Lieberman
917-439-9549
clieber@verizon.net

BEE BLASTS

Andrew Hansen
Andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com
guild@quiltbrooklyn.org

WEBSITE

Mary Hawley
718-398-3234
mhawley.brooklyn@gmail.com

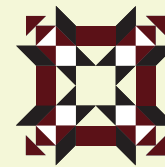
Margaret Marcy Emerson

917-374-7718
margaret.marcy@gmail.com

Something to share? The deadline for submissions for the January 2022 issue of *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m., Monday, December 20, 2021. Please email to: texasgcd@hotmail.com.

The Brooklyn Quilters Guild

P. O. Box 150198
Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, NY 11215-0198



The Brooklyn Bee

EDITORS

Susan Aronoff
Debbie Breckenridge
Martha McDonald

BEAT REPORTERS MEET THE QUILTER

Margaret Pross

SEW KNOW

Marcie Brenner

TIPS N' TOOLS

Alice Braziller

COPY EDITOR

Lyn Hill

Our Social Media Links

Facebook BOM Group

<https://tinyurl.com/ycxzf8fs>

Facebook Member-Only Group

<https://tinyurl.com/ycbwzom9>

Monthly Show and Tell

<https://tinyurl.com/y6xv5wyd>

Instagram

@Brooklyn_Quilters_Guild

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qfeous_-lc

Guild Meetings

NEXT MEETING: December 18, 2021, 11 a.m.

Hybrid meeting: In-Person at the Holy Name of Jesus Church and on Zoom.

The church is located at 245 Prospect Park West (enter at Shepherd's Hall in the back, off the parking lot).

A mask and proof of vaccination required for all in-person attendees.

ZOOM MEETING LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ekc9ug>

SUNDAY BEES: Join us on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, 1 – 4 p.m. Zoom link Information will be emailed on Sunday morning and can always be accessed on the EVENTS page in the Member section of our website.

GUILD MEETING RECORDING: Did you miss the November 2021 Guild Meeting? Watch the Zoom version here: **RECORDING LINK:**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/54T6P4M5](https://tinyurl.com/54T6P4M5)

Guild News & Notes

Community Quilts

At the recent Heritage retreat, Carol Lieberman collected 26 quilts, 14 pillowcases, six cosmetic bags and one tote to donate to the **Hole in the Wall Gang**. For more information, contact Carol at clieber@verizon.net.

Pre-COVID, the **Comfort Quilt** group was donating one quilt a month to the Park Slope Women's Shelter, to be raffled off at the monthly town hall meeting. Those meetings have now resumed, so quilts were donated for the November and December meetings. In addition, Leona Shapiro also plans to drop off six queen size quilts to Ruth's Refuge. She and Dori Dietz gave out packets of six-inch squares at the meeting. For more information, contact Dori at doridietz1@gmail.com.

The **Veteran's Quilt** group recently donated eight quilts to Hewlett Hospice. For more information, contact Carol Sullivan at sulliquilts@aol.com.

As for pillowcases for the **Ronald McDonald House**, Annette Wallace is still collecting them from the kits that were given out at the June picnic and at the October meeting. Please contact Annette to turn yours in, or she is willing to pick them up if necessary. She also handed out more kits at the November meeting. For more information, contact her at wallace.netty123@gmail.com.

The **Labor of Love** Quilting Bee held recently at One Police Plaza went very well, Diane Pryor-Holland noted. The group gave 26 quilts to families at their Bee and they have collected 12 more since then. Forty-two more police family names have been approved for next year. In January, the Labor of Love quilters plan to make kits for tops. For more information, contact Diane Pryor-Holland at laboroflovequiltproject@gmail.com.

Guild Calendar

See the Bee and Bee Blasts for more information on these events.

December

December 12, 1-4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

December 18, 11 a.m. — Guild meeting, hybrid; in-person at Holy Name of Jesus Church and on Zoom. Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend the in-person meeting. Wear your happy holiday clothing and bring a dozen cookies.

December 26, 1-4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

January 2022

January 9, 1-4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

January 15, 11 a.m. — Guild meeting, hybrid; in-person at Holy Name of Jesus Church and on Zoom. Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend the in-person meeting.

January 23, 1-4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom



The winner of the Block of the Month at the November Guild meeting was Farrah Lafontant. She took home a lovely batch of cherry blocks. The block for next month is a mushroom. See the website for instructions.

Spotlight on: Comfort Quilts

BY DORI DIETZ, LEONA SHAPIRO, RUTH MARCHESE AND MARA LURIE

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COMFORT QUILTS STARTED IN RESPONSE to Hurricane Sandy, in 2012. We began as a group of friends who had an informal quilt group that met regularly and worked on our own projects. After Hurricane Sandy, we mobilized to engage members of the Guild to make quilts for people who suffered losses from the storm. During that period, we contributed at least 30 quilts of varying sizes to families in Gerritsen Beach through the connections that our late member, Sarah Vinson, had in the area. We dropped off 35 quilts to a church organization that was distributing them to people in Staten Island and also gave quilts to individuals who suffered losses.



Guild members provided us with a mixture of tops and finished quilts created using their own fabrics, and squares distributed by the Comfort Quilt group. After the destruction of Sandy abated, in September 2018,

we gave 28 quilts to Merrimack Valley Hope Mission and Healthy Families of Massachusetts — local community organizations — after a gas explosion destroyed an entire neighborhood in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Other quilts were gifted to people in a Sunset Park apartment building that had a fire which displaced everyone living in that building; and 13 quilts of varying sizes were given to Bethany House, a women's and children's shelter located in Roosevelt, NY, Nassau County. We provided



quilts to a group of mothers and babies being housed by CHIPS in Park Slope, and just prior to the pandemic, the Guild gave baby and twin quilts, through Guild member Sister Margaret, to Hour Children, an organization in Long Island City. Ruth's Refuge, a group that provides furnishings and home support for refugees and asylum seekers, also received quilts at this time.

Recently we reconnected with Ruth's Refuge, donating seven quilts, and in addition provided seven flannel backed baby quilts to the Guild's Hole in the Wall committee. The list of donations is long and includes individuals in the community who have suffered losses from deaths in the family, to a person transitioning from incarceration, to a family who suffered a fire, as well as others.

Thanks to the ongoing support of the Guild, we have given away so many quilts! This month we have been able to resume a monthly gift to women living at the Park Slope Women's Shelter. This lovely thank you note says it all: "Thank you Alice and the Brooklyn Quilters Guild. The quilt has history and screams endurance and patience and happiness."

We welcome anyone who is willing to put together a bag of blocks or machine quilt a quilt, and we will deliver in Brooklyn, as necessary.

Currently, our greatest obstacle to putting more quilts into the hands of people who are suffering is the need for machine quilters who are willing to spend time quilting. We



Comfort Quilts continued on next page

provide the back and the batting, and the Guild provides a stipend for the quilting. We greatly appreciate the contribution of the many Guild members who have been and continue to participate in this project; we could not have done this without you.



Guild members Dori Dietz, Leona Shapiro, Ruth Marchese and Mara Lurie collaborated on this article and with Kirsten Rohrs Schmitt, founded this group. Pre-pandemic we met monthly to organize the "work flow," i.e. to make the "sandwiches" ready for quilting and take them to be quilted by machine, cutting blocks to give to Guild members, soliciting fabrics for backs and piecing the backs ourselves. Since the pandemic, we have found volunteers to quilt the sandwiches with their long arm machines, and other Guild members to sew on bindings. At this time, we have the following tasks: Leona stores the quilts and fabrics and makes contacts with organizations to give quilts; Ruth cuts thousands of squares; Dori applies gentle pressure to Guild members to make tops and updates our activities at meetings; and Mara puts together backs and keeps a photo registry.



Orphans No More



STONE SOUP

Inspired by Pat Decker's orphan block quilts, I put out a call for orphan blocks to the participants at the recent Cross Roads retreat. The response was enormous — enough to make multiple quilts! I had fun trying to puzzle some of the blocks together by color and size. I call it the "Stone Soup Quilt." It will be given to one of our community groups once it's bordered, quilted and bound. I found it a great challenge all around. Thanks to all who donated blocks.

~ Margaret Marcy Emerson

Meet the Quilter: Lisa Peck

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How long have you been a member of the Brooklyn Quilters Guild?

Not too long at all—I joined in September 2021!

How did you find out about the Brooklyn Quilters Guild?

I was looking for quilters in Brooklyn and came across the Guild.

How and when did you get interested in quilting?

Like many others during this pandemic, I needed help soothing anxiety. For me, this meant creating something with my hands, so I began quilting this past March, around the one-year mark of the pandemic. I wanted to make a quilt big enough to give me the space I needed at the park and the beach for the summer. I'm also terribly interested in quilting's historical past. Beyond that, textiles are a family affair—my aunt was a quilter, my mother is a jack-of-all-trades, and my grandmother was primarily a weaver.

Describe how your quilting has evolved and what are your current projects and goals for the future?

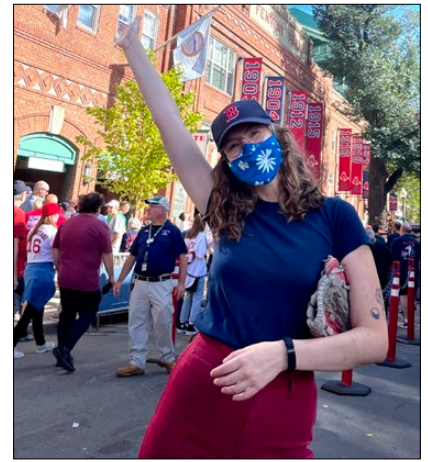
My first quilt was a massive project, a 10 by 10-foot scrappy improv beach blanket. I'm looking forward to making smaller(!), more precise quilts, and exploring following patterns and using different techniques. I'm hoping to purchase as little new fabric as possible, to use primarily secondhand fabric and scraps in a personal sustainability effort. As for current projects, I have a few little quilts promised to friends' cats (and another to my own) this fall!

What is the most memorable quilt-related experience you would like to share?

I hadn't spent much time around quilts before I began making them, but I remember being amazed by the craftsmanship on the quilts on display at the county fair as a kid.

What is your professional background?

By day, I work at the Media Center for Art History at Columbia University. By night, I'm a master's student at Pratt Institute, studying Library and Information Science. I have a background in art history and museum studies, and I'm currently studying archival science and digital humanities as it relates to cultural heritage.



How does the Brooklyn Quilters Guild and any other quilt groups you belong to support and/or influence your quilting life?

I've actually yet to attend a meeting, but I am looking forward to joining the community. I'm hoping to learn all sorts of techniques and tricks from the Guild!

How has quilting and the Brooklyn Quilters Guild helped you during the pandemic?

As I touched on earlier, quilting has been a great way to soothe my pandemic anxiety. I worked from home for a long time and attended classes virtually, and quilting was a great way to distance myself from technology after spending all day on Zoom.





Textile Waste and What We Can Do About it

At the November 20th Guild meeting, Fabscrap Community Coordinator, Dhamar Romo Chavez raised our awareness of how much textile waste contributes to the degradation of the environment and how FabScrap is working to address the problem. While the non-profit organization targets both pre-consumer and post-consumer textile waste, the emphasis is on pre-consumer waste, which is primarily created by the fashion industry.

Chavez pointed out that pre-consumer textile waste is far greater than that generated post-consumer. For example, for each pound of textiles (clothing, linens, etc.) that we discard, the fashion industry throws out 40 pounds. “The fashion industry produces two pounds of carbon emissions for every pound of clothing,” she said.

To help solve the problem, FabScrap, which was formed in 2016 and is housed in the Brooklyn Army Terminal, has partnered with many fashion brands and stores such as J. Crew and Macy’s. They pick up fabric scraps at offices, and process them, thanks to the efforts of more than

7,000 volunteers. The material is then sold or given away in Fabscrap’s shop. Volunteers, many of whom are Guild members, who work a three-hour shift are entitled to a five-pound bag of fabric.

Chavez stated that 5,000 to 8,000 pounds of textiles are received each week at the Brooklyn facility. Clients are given black and brown bags to collect textiles. Black bags are for proprietary materials, which are shredded. Everything else goes into the brown bags and these are sorted, processed and recycled or reused.

Since 2016, FabScrap has recycled more than 900,000 pounds of textiles. The program has been so successful that it has now expanded into Philadelphia.

Bring the textile waste you generate when making quilts (but NOT actual clothing or linens) to upcoming Guild meetings where there will be black and brown collection bags that will be filled and given to Fabscrap. For more information on Fabscrap and how to volunteer, go to fabscrap.org.

FABSCRAP ADDRESSES END-OF-LIFE OPTIONS

PICKUP SERVICE

SORTING

DOWNCYCLING

REUSE

500+ fashion brands

7000+ volunteers

891,000+ pounds collected

- Easy collection and convenient pickups
- Service fees internalize cost of waste
- All data tracked and reported annually

- 25% come to another session
- Corporate Groups volunteer too
- Educating creative communities

- 45% Reused (45% given free, 55% sold in our Shop)
- 52% Downcycled (becomes shoddy, insulation, stuffing)
- 3% Landfill (plastic slip covers, stickers, broken zips, etc)

My First Quilt

BY ROBYN BELLANY

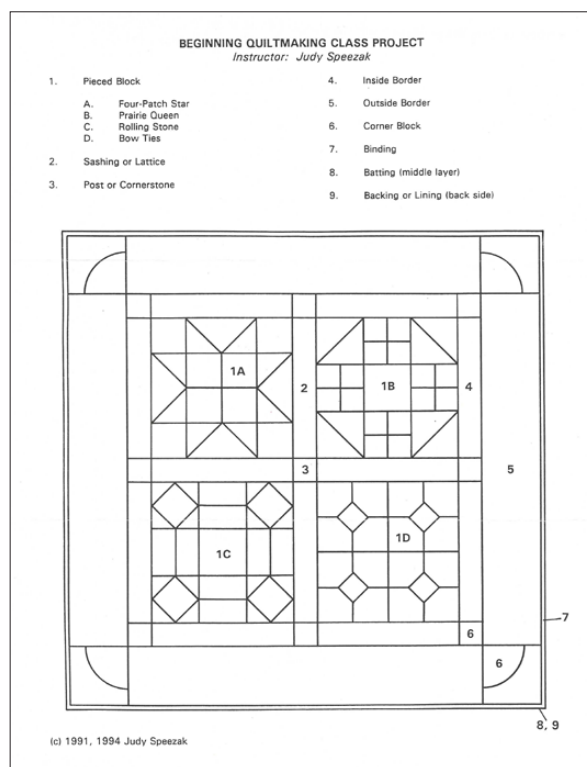
8 Like many of my fellow quilters, I was raised surrounded by women who crafted. My mother, grandmothers and aunts all knitted, needlepointed, painted, and crocheted. So, it was natural that as a young girl I made the occasional latch hooked rug, god's eye art, and gimp lanyards. It was the 1970s, after all!

Quilting was never on my radar. I was living in Park Slope raising two young children and working part-time for the Prospect Park Alliance. But then in 1997, a girlfriend in my mothers group invited me to take a class at Sew Brooklyn. Yes, you may remember the class. The one taught by the very patient, very precise, and master quilter, Judy Speezak. I was hungry for time with friends sans kids and husband, so I eagerly signed up for the Beginning Quiltmaking Class.

I remember vividly the feeling of dread as I reviewed the extensive list of class supplies. It was daunting. Rulers, thread, rotary cutter, cutting mat, scissors, and fabric. I didn't own a sewing machine! I was certain I'd never use these tools again. Would I really love quilting? Who was I going to ask for help? Did I have room in my apartment to work on a quilt?

I wish I fell in love with quilting immediately, but I didn't. It was all so new. Quilting required precision and my undivided attention. I really didn't know if I had the talent and time. The class required us to make four pieced blocks by hand — a Four-Patch Star, Prairie Queen, Rolling Stone and Bow Tie. I found Judy's instructions recently (see photo). There were borders and corner blocks. There was batting and basting and fabric selection. Washing and ironing and math. I can't remember the "aha" moment when I fell in love with quilting, but I am truly so grateful for Judy's class. She was the finest teacher. She shared her love of quilting through careful and good-natured instruction. I was so proud of my first quilt, which I made for my three-year-old daughter, Samantha. She's 27 now!

I can safely say that a day doesn't go by that I don't work on a quilt, think about a quilt that needs to be finished, or dream about the next project. I will always find the time to quilt! Yes, there are many unfinished quilts in my stash but it's a joyful pastime. I love learning new skills and gifting quilts. Thank you to all the skilled and talented quilters who are always willing to share their joys.





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Membership Report

As of November 22 of this year, there are 177 members in good standing in the Brooklyn Quilters Guild.

Thank you to all those who paid their dues before the September meeting. Members can pick up their badges at the sign-in table at in-person meetings. If a stamped and self addressed envelope was included with dues, your badge is in the mail.

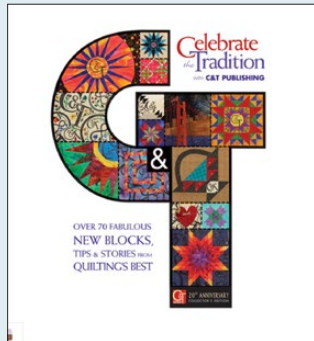
Thank you to all our volunteers and especially Mary Hawley, former Membership Chair for her expertise and guidance during the transition. It now takes two to manage what she did alone!

Barb Christ and Serena Boyles
Co-chairs

SEW SMART

Tips N' Tools

My friend **Madi Appell** loaned me a book, *Celebrate the Tradition with C and T Publishing*, which contains new blocks, tips and stories from the publisher's quilting experts. Below are two tips in the authors' voices that I found interesting:



Mary Mashuta:

"Break the habit of pulling the spool off the spindle of a threaded sewing machine when you are ready to change cotton thread, because you deposit excess fuzz in the tension mechanism which hastens it being out of balance. Instead, cut the thread at the spool and then pull the piece on down through the machine until it is free. Knot the end as it comes off and loop the thread around two fingers. The thread is ready and just the right length for the next time you need some basting thread."

Jennifer Rounds:

"I got this from Alex Anderson, who said she picked it up from Jean Wells-beyond that, I haven't a clue. Keep a tiny fabric scrap handy whenever you are piecing, and feed the scrap into the sewing machine to start sewing. Use the scrap to begin and end any sewing sequence and avoid thread balls collecting on the underside of your sewing. It's a great way to keep an even flow and eliminates the need to hold the top and bobbin threads as you press the foot pedal."

I will be sending out more of these tips from the experts in future columns. In the meantime, be like Madi and send me any tips or tools, books or notions that have improved your sewing lives.

My best,

Alice Braziller
alicebraziller@gmail.com
917-557-0112
alicebraziller@gmail.com

Sew Know: Looking Forward

BY MARCIE BRENNER, MCSE

10

THIS COLUMN IS INSPIRED by events that started this past spring. I wanted to create a display area in my living room for my doll collection, an old/new passion of mine. I got into sewing because my Barbie needed clothes and by the time I was eight, I was creating fashions for her. That love eventually led to a career in design and pattern making, writing instructions and more importantly, teaching: passing that joy onto others. Having a granddaughter was the excuse to explore the doll world again and oh, my! What's now available!!

Sorry, I'm digressing, I wanted to put up shelves for the dolls, but before I could do that, I decided I needed to paint the walls. It had been 42½ years of various shades of beige. I was bold and went with light gray and white trim; what a welcome change! As I was standing on the ladder, I realized that this was the last time I'd be doing this. In 20 years, I'll be too old to be up on a ladder. I also started to contemplate what other changes I will need to make in my home livable in the future. I guess this is what happens when you are in the last year of your

current decade and facing a new one next year.

How does this affect your quilting and what can you do to ensure that you can enjoy your craft as long as possible? Evaluate your current sewing situation; how comfortable are you? I'm very short, so to be in the correct position, I raise my chair, but that leaves my non-sewing foot unable to rest on the floor. That puts stress on my leg and back, so I've added a support for it, providing balance. Look at your chair: is it comfortable and supportive? I put a seat and back cushion on mine to put me in a better position.

Another issue we face is aging eyes; the more light the better. You can add lighting very easily with positional lamps and ones that attach directly to the machine. The overhead lighting in my studio consists of shop lights with daylight LED bulbs. Another challenge is seeing stitches when having to unsew them. There are clip-on lighted magnifying tools for machine and table that make it so much easier.

An additional consideration is fabric cutting: how will you continue to cut your pieces? Rotary cutting might be-

come harder, small pieces not as easy to cut and standing more difficult. You may have to rethink the kinds of quilts you will be making. I've been a long time user of an AccuQuilt Go! Cutter. I was first cutting the 2 ½-inch strip rolls I sell by hand, but when the hand cranked cutter was introduced, I bought one. It made it so much easier and faster to produce the rolls. With my latest cutting extravaganza, my shoulder was protesting a lot. I joined an AccuQuilt FB group and saw that many people were purchasing the Go!Big which is electric for to help with shoulder and hand problems. I put it on my wish list, hit a good sale before the price went up and got it. I've bought many dies over the years when my distributor was carrying them, so I have many of the basics. I will also admit that I recently added to the collection as AccuQuilt is always designing new ones.

Another option is purchasing precut quilt kits. Search precut quilt kit on the web and many sites will pop up. Keep quilting!!

I'm looking forward to many more years of quilting.

Food Pantry donations at our monthly in-person meetings

Just a reminder that there will be a table set up for you to drop off food donations at every in-person meeting. Some canned items that are particularly needed: tuna, beans, vegetables, fruit, pasta & sauce, mac & cheese, sloppy joes, soup, cereal, juice, chicken, peanut butter, rice -- one or two lb bags or boxes -- no large bags. Any shelf-stable foods are welcome. Please: no bakery items.

Have questions? Contact Susan Sato at sewsusansew@gmail.com

2022 RETREATS

Cross Roads in New Jersey

Cross Roads is a camp and retreat facility located in Port Murray, NJ, one and a half hours from Brooklyn. Information about Cross Roads can be found on the website, www.crossroadsretreat.com.

We have secured three retreat dates for **2022 at Cross Roads**: January 23–28, March 2–7, and May 31–June 5.

For more information, contact:
Martha Musgrove (marf86@hotmail.com) or
Susan Aronoff (susan.aronoff@gmail.com).

More detailed information on the retreats can be found on the Guild's website at <https://www.quiltbrooklyn.org/retreats>.



Heritage in Connecticut

The Heritage Hotel is a Spa and Conference Center in Southbury, CT, about one hour and 45 minutes from Brooklyn. For more information, go to: <https://www.heritagesouthbury.com>

2022 Heritage retreats

Wednesday-Friday 4/27-29 (extra day Tuesday, 4/26)

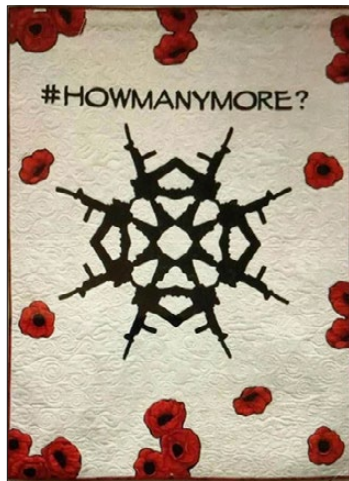
Tentative July/October:

Friday-Sunday 7/29-31 (extra day Thursday 7/28)

Friday-Sunday 10/28-30 (extra day Thursday 10/27)

Depending on how the April retreat goes the July and October retreats may be moved to midweek. If interested, please contact Carol Lieberman, 917-439-9549, or email: clieber@verizon.net.

Events of Note



Sylvia's Quilt at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, October 31 – June 13, 2022, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York, NY. *Art for the Community: The Met's Circulating Textile Exhibits 1930–1940* showcases European textiles, ranging from Italian Renaissance velvet to French 18th-century printed cotton. Information at <https://www.metmuseum.org>

Whitney Museum of American Art. Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950–2019. November 22, 2021 – February, 2022. 99 Gansevoort St., NYC. Information at Whitney.org.

Quilt Week, November 30 – December 4, 2021. Daytona Beach, FL. American Quilter's Society. Member opening **November 16**. General Opening, **November 30, 2021, Wednesday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Email: shows@americanquilter.com.

Quilt Week, December 29, 2021 – January 1, 2022. Branson, MO. American Quilter's Society. Member opening **December 14**. General Opening, **December 28, 2021. Wednesday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Email: shows@americanquilter.com.

Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories. October 10, 2021 – January 17, 2022. 465 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA, 02115. A selection of contemporary and historic quilts presents voices from multiple perspectives. Featuring quilters including Sylvia Hernandez, Bisa Butler, Carolyn Mazloomi and Harriet Powers. Information at mfa.org



December Holiday Potholder Exchange

At our December meeting we will host a Potholder Exchange between members. To participate, bring in a home-made potholder of your design. You will go home with another potholder from a Guild member. The more members who participate, the more fun we will have! This is a chance to spread some love and be creative!

To make your potholder, use a layer of insul-bright and a layer of batting. If you don't have insul-bright use two layers of batting. Make the top of your potholder using an orphan block or scraps as in the examples below. Finished pot-

holder will be 8-9 inches square. There are plenty of YouTube videos with step by step instructions.

Online members can also participate. To participate online, you will need to mail your potholder to the winner. Please send an email to Micki Segel at mickisegel@gmail.com if you intend to participate online. Micki will then send you the name and email address of the member to who is to receive your potholder. Questions? Please contact Micki Segel.



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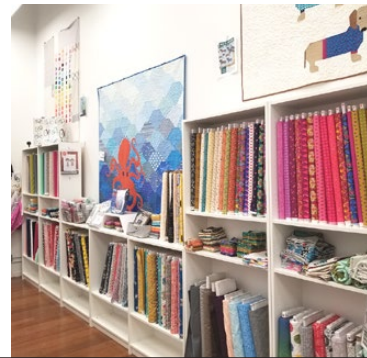
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