

# The Brooklyn Bee

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Volume 28  
Issue 7

## MY FIRST QUILT

page 13

## TRIBUTE TO SHERI SALTZ- BERG

pages 6 & 7

## SECOND IN THE SERIES: BETTER BACKS = BETTER QUILTS

pages 9 & 10

## VENDOR OF THE MONTH

Yankee Quilter

Dear friends,

My letter this month is full of gratitude. Your generous contributions of time and talent are what make our Guild a vibrant, rich and growing community.

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who sent in quilts for our special Black History Month show and tell. What a beautiful and inspiring collection of work. If you missed it, it is now up on our website on our gallery page.

A shout out to everyone who made this year's ABC frenzy a success! Special thanks to Jennifer Arzberger for organizing the event, demonstrating Anita's quick nine-patch quilt pattern, and cutting and coordinating many packages of batting and quilt tops for members. Thank you to Susannah Laskaris for delivering the packages throughout Brooklyn. And many thanks to all of you who joined in making the ABC quilts. We have established several collection points where you can drop off your finished quilts. See page 4 for the location nearest to you.

Thank you to Kirsten Fisher for her informative presentation at our last Sunday sewing bee, on how to print on your own fabric from your home ink jet printer. Please reach out to me if you have a skill that you would like to share with our members.

Our Earth Day Challenge fence show is set for April 24. The registration deadline is March 20. We hope many of you will enter a quilt. Our Guild is versatile and diverse and I look forward to seeing the wide range of interpretations, techniques and styles you come up with.

Enjoy your creative gift,

Margaret Marcy Emerson  
Co-president



# 2020-2021 Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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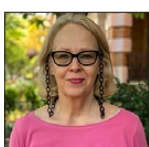
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**To see the BOARD**

**MINUTES and the**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**go to the member's  
section of our Website.**

• **Something to share?** The  
• deadline for submissions  
• for the April 2021 issue of  
• *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m.,  
• Monday, March 22, 2021.  
• Please email to:  
• [texasgcd@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgcd@hotmail.com).



# The Brooklyn Bee

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## Our Social Media Links

**Facebook BOM Group**

<https://tinyurl.com/ycxfz8fs>

**Facebook Member-Only Group**

<https://tinyurl.com/ycbwzom9>

**Monthly Show and Tell**

<https://tinyurl.com/y6xv5wyd>

**Instagram**

[@Brooklyn\\_Quilters\\_Guild](https://www.instagram.com/Brooklyn_Quilters_Guild)

**The Brooklyn Quilters Guild**

P. O. Box 150198

Van Brunt Station

Brooklyn, NY 11215-0198

## Join Us at Our Meetings

**GUILD MEETINGS on ZOOM**

Usually third Saturday of the month, except July and August.

**NEXT MEETING: April 17, 2021**

**ZOOM MEETING LINK:**

<https://tinyurl.com/y3ekc9ug>

## SUNDAY BEES

We will host our traditional Sunday bees via Zoom for the time being. Join us on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, 1 p.m. to 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 News & Notes

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## Quilt Fence Show Celebrates Earth Day

Our Guild's second Quilt Fence Show is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, with a rain date of May 8, so it's time to get busy and make your quilts. Last year's show was an exciting, amazing success and we are looking forward to an even bigger event this year.

The theme this year is Earth Day. Let your inspiration flow from this extraordinary and beautiful planet we have been entrusted with. As Wendell Berry, a noted writer and environmental activist said: "The Earth is what we all have in common."

Our show coordinates with Earth Day which falls on April 22. In fact, the Quilt Fence Show is listed on the official Earth Day site, [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).

The challenge quilts should measure 36 x 36 inches with a label and a hanging sleeve on the back. Registration, with a photo, is due by the March meeting, March 20. The information and registration form can be found on the Guild's website in the Challenge section. The quilts themselves are due April 3.

Your quilt can be included in the show even if you cannot attend.

For more information, go to the Challenges section of the Guild's website or contact [mickisegel@gmail.com](mailto:mickisegel@gmail.com) or Madi Appell at [NYCFash@aol.com](mailto:NYCFash@aol.com).

## Sunday Bees

We're always looking for volunteers to host our Sunday sewing bees, which occur every **second and fourth** Sunday of the month on Zoom. Very little technical knowledge is needed, and it's a great way to meet and catch up with your quilting friends. Please contact Margaret Marcy Emerson if you're interested at [margaret.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.marcy@gmail.com).

## Guild Members Exhibiting

Congratulations to BQG member Diane Pryor-Holland whose work was in a stunning show celebrating Black History Month. The show at Gallery RIVAA on Roosevelt Island closed on February 21, but you can see the quilts at:

<https://tinyurl.com/hztvqduy>

Susan Byrnes is one of the artists featured in the Art Quilt Elements 2020 Exhibition, now scheduled as an online event. A live online opening and video presentation will be held May 14, 2021. The exhibit was originally going to be an in-person show at the Wayne Art Center in Wayne, NJ. More information to follow.

## Submit Your Quilt

Would you like to see your quilt in the 2021 Quilt Festival Houston? The show runs October 28 through the 31st with a preview night of October 27. There is a \$20 submission fee for each quilt and quilts can be submitted to several categories, including Hands All Around, In Full Bloom, In the American Tradition, Landscape and Tactile Architecture. Registration closes May 21. For more information:

<https://www.quilts.com/enter-your-quilt/>



## Coming next issue

- Recap of photo-to-fabric printing how-to (from the February 14 Sunday bee)
- Meet the Quilter: Anna Smiarowska

# News & Notes page 2

## ABC Quilts Collection Points

Please drop off your finished ABC quilts to these locations by March 8th. Call or text to make sure someone will be there before you go

**Marie Towle** • Park Slope

[mftowle@gmail.com](mailto:mftowle@gmail.com)

489 13 Street Brooklyn, NY 11215

917-558-5861 (cell, text preferred)

718-499-3749 (land)

**Margaret Marcy Emerson** • Lefferts Gardens

[margaret.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.marcy@gmail.com)

83 Midwood Street Brooklyn, NY 11225

917-374-7718 (cell)

**Jennifer Arzberger** • Sheepshead Bay

[Jennarzberger@optimum.net](mailto:Jennarzberger@optimum.net)

2315 Knapp Street

Brooklyn, NY 11229 (Between Ave X and Ave W)

"If coming from Belt Parkway, there are two speed cameras between the exit ramp and my house."

(917) 685-6712 cell. Call or text.

Available every day except Wednesday

**Andrew Hansen** • Clinton Hill

[andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com)

193 Clinton Ave., #6B

Brooklyn, NY 11205

646-623-3063 (cell)

## Guild Calendar

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

### March

**March 14, - 4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

**March 20, 11 a.m.** — March meeting on Zoom and deadline to submit an Earth Day Challenge Quilt for the Quilt Fence Show.

**March 22** — Deadline to submit articles for the April Bee.

**March 28, 1 - 4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom. Appliqué workshop participants will meet and compare notes

### April

**April 11 & 18, 1 - 4 p.m.** — Lenni Abel Workshop featuring Maria Shell. .

**April 11, 1 - 4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

**April 17, 11 a.m.** — Guild meeting on Zoom.

**April 19** — Deadline to submit articles for the May Bee.

**April 24, 1 - 4 p.m.** — Quilt Fence Show (Rain date is May 8) featuring Earth Day Challenge Quilts. For information, contact Micki Segel, at [mickisegel@gmail.com](mailto:mickisegel@gmail.com) or Madi Appell at [NYCFash@aol.com](mailto:NYCFash@aol.com).

**April 25, 1 - 4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

## Membership Report

Please welcome our newest members, Judith Abbott and Maureen O'Neill, who joined the guild in February. We now have 185 members.

~ Mary Hawley, Membership Chair

## Raffle Winner

The name tag raffle winner at the February meeting was Martha McDonald. Her prize will be sent to her in the mail.

## BOOK REVIEW

### A “Wow” Book

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#### *Modern Fabric Art Bowls*

By Kirsten Fisher

Paperback; 80 pages

Published by C&T Publishing, 2021

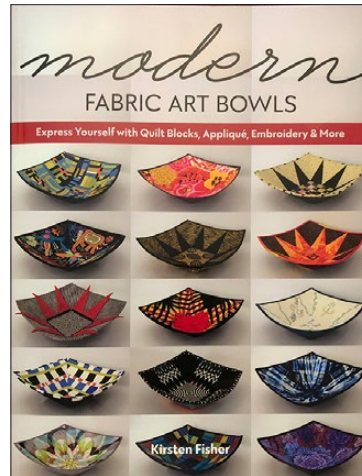
**I**N THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED *Modern Fabric Art Bowls*, author and Guild member Kirsten Fisher asks you to express yourself with quilt blocks, appliqué, embroidery and more, in a three-dimensional container.

Before even opening the book, a “Wow” escaped my lips. The bowls displayed on the cover are stunning. It’s difficult to pick a favorite. Then, when you look at the Contents page, you see the overview — the inside of the bowls from above, revealing color and design and pure happiness.

Kirsten introduces her art bowl making by explaining how her passion began with fulfilling a need, and not her own need, but her mother’s. It’s a lovely story — don’t skip the introduction!

I appreciated the listing of the basic steps, those that apply in all bowl making variations. Supplies for these art bowls are easily available. In addition, the step-by-step instructions are easy to follow and the photos that illustrate each step are clear.

For those of us of a certain age, who had to clean our plate at dinner time and would eat the less pleasing but still



nutritious morsels first, saving the best tidbits to savor, so too, Kirsten has us make the less visible outside bowl first, then delve into the artful inside bowl. We learn that the sky’s the limit. So many possibilities, ideas, variations!

It’s good to note that the book contains Pattern 1 and Pattern 2, one using a template (included). When you begin to plan your bowl it becomes clear which pattern would work best for your design. The finishing techniques can add another design element or blend subtly with the body of the bowl.

I love the chapter on variations! It proves the potential to personalize your design for the recipient or use your signature quilting technique in a new way. As artists/sewists, we love design choices, and bowl making encourages that.

There are hints and tips and notes and even warnings throughout, proving that much bowl testing was done and many samples were made as this book was written. I also enjoyed the humor: bowl as cat bed?

So if you can’t choose a favorite from the cover photos, find a favorite fabric in your own stash —the one that you just can’t cut up—and make it into a bowl.

~ Christine Janove



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# Tribute to Sheri Saltzberg

BY MERRIE HANDFINGER

Our long time member, one time co-president and great friend Sheri Saltzberg passed away on Friday, February 12. She had valiantly fought cancer since before she joined the Guild, but we never heard her complain.

On any Saturday morning Guild meeting, the question echoed: "Is Sheri here/coming?" and "Sheri's over there," was the frequent answer. Rarely did she sit at a table for any length of time. She was up and about, sharing her enthusiasm over a recent quilt another member had made, or greeting a friend. Sheri made an art of caring for others. Everyone wanted to be her friend.

Sheri had a love affair with the color blue. Most of her quilts (except those made for baby girls) featured blue. Anything Japanese also caught her eye. Her style was very simple, but always breathtakingly elegant.

Sheri was the most gregarious, naturally funny story teller I have ever met, and she had many stories. Some were reflections on her travels to Africa. Others were of her family. Still others were about situations she had found herself in which others might never have shared, but if it made for a good story, well, that is what it became.

But Sheri was more than quilter and a friend. Tales of her travels with Mark and family inspired envy/wanderlust for hippy days gone by while, at the same time, inspiring the realization that it wasn't too late to go places, make a difference, be brave. In more recent years Sheri and Mark organized a not-for-profit company to collect donations for schools and communities in Africa. At times she could be seen with her shopping cart, collecting the donations of clothing (bras & shoes especially), gladly given by members, to be sent to Africa. And when she returned from Africa, her stories of the people and places would inspire us to join her. And I will add that the reality of these trips to Africa outshone any story she told.

The foundation of Sheri's life included Mark and her two children, Alexander and Rachel, as well as her five grandchildren. She was devoted to them. So many of her stories revolved around her time with them.

The Guild will miss Sheri's enthusiasm, joy, and generosity. The Guild is the better for having had Sheri as a co-president, and we are the better for having known her.



## A MESSAGE TO THE GUILD FROM SHERI'S HUSBAND, MARK

Sheri loved the Guild. She loved its diversity and liked to work the room, sitting first with this group of quilters and then that group. She also enjoyed the smattering of men. She listened to your stories and told her own. I always looked forward to her return from one of your retreats. The retreats gave her an emotional high that lasted for weeks. My son and I built her a quilting room on the top floor. She would spend hours up there, working on a quilt for a new baby, an approaching wedding or a block association raffle. Occasionally she would call out, "Come here and look at this," and I would be asked about a border or the placement of squares. Quilting became part of the fabric of her life.

My children and I want to pick the perfect memorial for Sheri that embraces her love of people, quilting and Africa. My son came up with the idea of building a sewing and quilting center in Sierra Leone where women could gather and learn to use sewing machines to make quilts, clothing and other needed items. We hope that members of the Guild donate funds for the construction of this center, as well as sewing machines and fabric for use by women learning to sew. And we plan to provide opportunities for Guild members to come to Sierra Leone and teach five-day workshops. In my mind's eye I can picture Sheri walking into such a room and know it would give her great joy.

We will be holding a memorial for Sheri in May and will be asking anyone who received a quilt from her to bring it to the gathering. We will also tell stories and celebrate a life worth lived. Please keep Sheri in your hearts. You were in hers.

~ Mark Grashow

We welcome your donations to the center. You can donate by check or Pay pal.

By Pay pal: [www.usacf.net](http://www.usacf.net)

By check: US Africa Children's Fellowship, Inc.  
475 14th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11218

For sewing machines or fabric please email:  
Mark Grashow, [mars475@aol.com](mailto:mars475@aol.com)

\* USACF is a 501c3 charity and donations are tax deductible



# Celebrating Black History Month

The Show and Tell at the February meeting focused on Black History Month and social justice. Quilts made by African Americans and others using African American fabrics or responding to social justice issues were shown.



Doris Douglas showed a number of stunning quilts made by the quilters at the St. John's Recreation Center, a group that consists of women (and a few men) who represent a wide spectrum of artists from the African diaspora and people of other nations. The Center is a division of the NYC Parks Department and the quilting group has been in existence for several decades.

"Many of these quilt artists are seasoned, some are novices and others are in between," says Doris. "We inspire and encourage each other by sharing our talents and gifts and by creating quilting and fabric art pieces from a variety of fabrics and other found objects. Often when one person presents her or his project, others are inspired to make similar quilts.

"We also participate in challenge quilts and present quilt shows at the Center every two years," she adds. "In addition, we engage in workshops. We utilize modern, batik, Afro-centric and other fabrics to create quilts and other fabric art creations. We celebrate each other's birthdays and other special events. "

Doris pointed out that the quilts shown at the February, 2021 meeting of The Brooklyn Quilters Guild represented many, but not all, of the quilts displayed at the 2019 Quilt Show at the St. John's Center. The Center is located at 1251 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, NY. She added that the group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays and all are welcome.

Elaine Gould also showed a Civil Rights quilt that she purchased in the 1970s from the Freedom Quilting Community in Alabama. The quilt was commissioned by the Sakowitz Department Store and it was hung on the front of the store's five-store building. Recently, Elaine has been in contact with the Brooklyn Museum and they have expressed interest in owning the quilt. Look for more about this in the next issue of the Bee.

Also shown were fabric bowls made by Kirsten Fisher that featured embroidery by the Mapula Project in South Africa. Kirsten met members of the Project when she was on a tour and admired their work. The embroidered bowls are featured in Kirsten's new book. See the review in this issue.

The quilts shown at the February meeting are now available on the Guild's website in the Gallery section (formerly the Show and Tell section).

## Textile Talks

A group of fiber artists have joined forces to offer, "Textile Talks," a series of virtual lectures. All talks are live on Zoom on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. EST. Coming soon are:

Wednesday, March 10, *Conversations with the Artists*, presented by Studio Art Quilt Associates.

Wednesday, March 17, *Abstract Design in American Quilts at 50* with Jonathan Holstein and Dr. Carolyn Ducey, presented by the International Quilt Museum.

Wednesday, March 24, *Re-Storying Textiles* with Kira Dominguez Hultgren, presented by the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles.

Other talks are also available. The fiber art groups involved include Surface Design Association, Modern Quilt Guild, Quilt Alliance, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, International Quilt Museum and Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA).

For more information, to register or to view previous Textile Talks, go to [quiltalliance.org](https://quiltalliance.org) or to any of the fiber groups listed.



# Long Arm of the Law: How to Avoid a Quilting Ticket

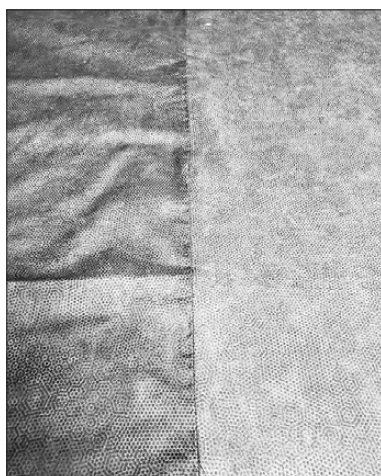
## BETTER BACKS = BETTER QUILTS

BY JOYCE AUSTIN

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I spend a lot of time as a Long Arm Quilter, working around the issues that have been built into quilts. A wavy border here, a puffy block there, even the odd hole; usually they are no big deal. But when I fight with a quilt or have to make fixes, it takes up extra time, and will result in a Quilting Ticket, aka, extra charges.

The biggest area where I spend time making fixes is the quilt back. The quilt back is the foundation for your quilt. It must be square and true and not twist when on the rollers of the frame. I learned this lesson the hard way: I had my mid-arm quilting machine for more than 10 years, and seemed to fight quilt tops all the time, even ones I knew were well constructed. So, when I chose my long arm, I made sure to get a machine with a frame that was very sturdy. Despite having solved the issues of my frame bending when I loaded quilts, I was still having trouble with wonky quilts. The next logical step was to take a couple of courses in how to deal with wonky quilts. I was pleased to learn lots of tricks. I started applying the tricks, but things only got a little easier. My eureka moment came with one quilt.



Added fabric not squared



Added fabric squared

Most of the folks that I quilt for are average quilters. Problems creep in, and they need to be dealt with. As I like to say, long arming is problem solving. One day I measured up a quilt and saw very quickly that this one was a little more problematic than some of the ones I had recently worked on, a rather unusual thing for this quilter. I picked an edge-to-edge pattern that I knew could help with the issues and loaded the quilt with fingers crossed. I called on several of the tricks I had recently learned, and the quilting went fast and easy. This was not what I was expecting, and I was per-

plexed, until I noted that the backing of the quilt lined up on the rollers perfectly with each turn. The stack of backing layers lined up like a deck of cards ready for a deal.

So now I make it a habit to check each back to make sure that it is square and true, before I load it onto the frame. The reason is simple, I know that when I square the back up myself, it is within the tolerances I need. So now you may be wondering what the point of this story is. Well, there are things you can do to be certain that your quilt back is well prepared and here they are:

1. Use a Wide Back. They usually work out to be less costly than regular yardage, and do not have any seams. Be alert to the fact that they are hard to cut squarely from the bolt, so be sure they are 8 to 10 inches wider than your quilt to allow for squaring up. Some shops will rip their quilt backs, telling you that they will be square. In my experience, this is one of the great myths of quilting. I have seen many ripped backs, and only once was the result straight and square. That back still gave me trouble, because the fabric distorted along the tear, and there was not enough extra for me to trim the distortion away. If your shop rips the back, they should be allowing about 8 inches extra when they measure the cut to allow for the distortion.

### Here are some online resources for wide backs:

Keepsake Quilting Fabric: [keepsakequilting.com](http://keepsakequilting.com)

Thousands of Bolts ... only one nut!:

[www.thousandsofbolts.com](http://www.thousandsofbolts.com)

Marshall's Dry Goods: [marshalldrygoods.com](http://marshalldrygoods.com)

Connecting Threads: [connectingthreads.com](http://connectingthreads.com)

2. Seam your back as minimally as possible. Seams are best if they are ½ inch. Use a tight stitch length. Seams are best if horizontal. Make sure that you leave no selvedge in the seams, or on the sides. Following is a link for a document on how to build a quilt back up to 84 inches long from one piece of fabric, it is easy and accurate. <https://tinyurl.com/1ea7yl6q>
3. If you must piece your back with more than one seam, make sure that the pieces you add are square before you add them.

Long Arm of the Law continued on page 10

- If you have blocks that are not behaving, don't put them on the back of your quilt, they will cause problems. If your blocks are behaving, have fun with them on the back, just remember to do as careful a job on the back as you did on the front.

A word about selvages. Folks have asked why selvages can be left on the top and bottom of a quilt back, but not on the side or in seams. Selvages by design, do not stretch to the same degree as the fabric. This is great when pinning the quilt to the leaders, as there will be no side-to-side distortion. But if the selvages are placed on the sides, the back will sag because the fabric will stretch more in the middle than at the selvages. The wider the back, the more the sag. If the back is 45 inches or less, the selvages can be left on, as the sag on this small width is minimal.



This back with blocks is perfectly flat      Backing fabric stacked on the roller

This is the second in a series of how to prepare for your long arm quilter. The first one, "Prepping Your Quilt for the Long-Armer," appeared last month in the **February 2021, Bee**.

## Events of Note

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art, October 31, to June 13,** 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. <https://www.metmuseum.org>

**The National Quilt Museum, January 15 - April 6, 2021,** 215 Jefferson St., Paducah, KY. Exhibit featuring the 191 winners of the 2021 School Block Challenge, a competition sponsored by Moda Fabrics United Notions. The 16 x 16-inch blocks were made by 210 students from around the country. [Quiltmuseum.org/SBC; #schoolblockchallenge](http://Quiltmuseum.org/SBC; #schoolblockchallenge)

**Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia), January 28 - September 19, 2021,** 2400 Third Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN. Exhibit featuring fabric artist L'Merchie Frazier. *Freedom Rising: I am the Story,* is part of Textile Center and Women of Color Quilters Network's We are the Story initiative. <https://new.artsmia.org>

**Osilas Gallery at Concordia College, February 4 - March 21,** 171 White Plains Rd., Bronxville, NY. 40 x 40 at 40 show features contemporary quilt art by The Manhattan Quilters Guild, celebrating the guild's 40th anniversary. Each artist created a 40 x 40-inch quilt for the exhibit. The gallery is open for in-person visits and the quilts can also be seen online. <https://osilasgallery.org/current-exhibition/>

**Quilt Festival Houston, October 28 - 31, 2021.** George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida de las Americas, Houston, TX 77010. The preview night is **October 27** and classes and events begin **October 25**. <https://www.quilts.com/quilt-festival/quilt-festival-houston/>



A herd of elephant blocks are headed toward Anna Fike's home. She was the winner of the Block of the Month drawing at the February meeting. Congratulations Anna!

## 2021 RETREATS

### Heritage in Connecticut

April 23–25 (extra days 4/21, 22)

July 23–25 (extra days 7/21, 22)

October 22–24 (extra days 10/20, 21)

If interested in attending, please contact Carol Lieberman at [clieber@verizon.net](mailto:clieber@verizon.net) or 917-439-9549.

### Cross Roads in New Jersey

June 2021

June 1 – 6, with the option of attending for fewer days. The meals begin with dinner on the first day and end with breakfast on the last day.

5 nights, 14 meals (Tues. – Sun.)

\$394 (shared room) | \$434 (private room)

4 nights, 11 meals (Wed. – Sun.)

\$321 (shared room) | \$361 (private room)

3 nights, 8 meals (Thurs. – Sun.)

\$258 (shared room) | \$298 (private room)

A deposit of \$125 for the retreat is required to reserve a place. Checks should be made out to Martha Musgrove and mailed to her at 637 90th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Reservations will be honored in the order of checks received. Please email to let Martha know your check is in the mail. A final count must be given to Cross Roads two weeks before the retreat; therefore, all payments are nonrefundable after that date.

Contacts:

Trudy Reeves, [trudyreeves@yahoo.com](mailto:trudyreeves@yahoo.com), 718-415-2955 or Martha Musgrove, [marf86@hotmail.com](mailto:marf86@hotmail.com) 718-745-6759

## Community Quilt Update

Jenn Arzberger reported that 1,836 ABC quilts have been made by Guild members since 2014. In addition, the total number of preemie quilts made is 120. These were introduced in 2019.

In other news, at the Zoom ABC Frenzy held after the February meeting, Jenn demonstrated Anita Solomon Grossman's technique for making three quick baby quilts.

Regarding the Hole in the Wall quilts, Carol Lieberman noted that 33 were delivered in December and she has another batch to be delivered at the April retreat.

Carol Sullivan said she has 13 red, white and blue quilts ready to go to the Veteran's Hospice in Sullivan County.

Diane Pryor-Holland noted that 269 NYC Police Officers have passed away from post-9-11 cancers and many others are in treatment. She continues collecting quilts for their families. These are being mailed because they cannot be delivered in person because of COVID.



Comfort Quilts for children, using flannel donated by Elaine Smith.

## Fire at Hole in the Wall

On February 12, the Hole in the Wall campsite in Ashford, CT, sustained a massive fire. Several buildings, including the cooking, wood shop, arts and crafts and main buildings, were destroyed. Thankfully, no one was injured.

The good news is that the building where they keep the quilts and campers' gifts was untouched! They have received many donations and are planning to open this summer.

If you have any quilts or other handmade items for the campers that you would like to donate, please contact me at 917-439-9549 or [clieber@verizon.net](mailto:clieber@verizon.net). Items must be smoke free, pet free and perfume free.

We delivered 33 quilts in December. They are very thankful and appreciate everything we do.

~ Carol Lieberman

## WHY I ENJOY THE SUNDAY BEES

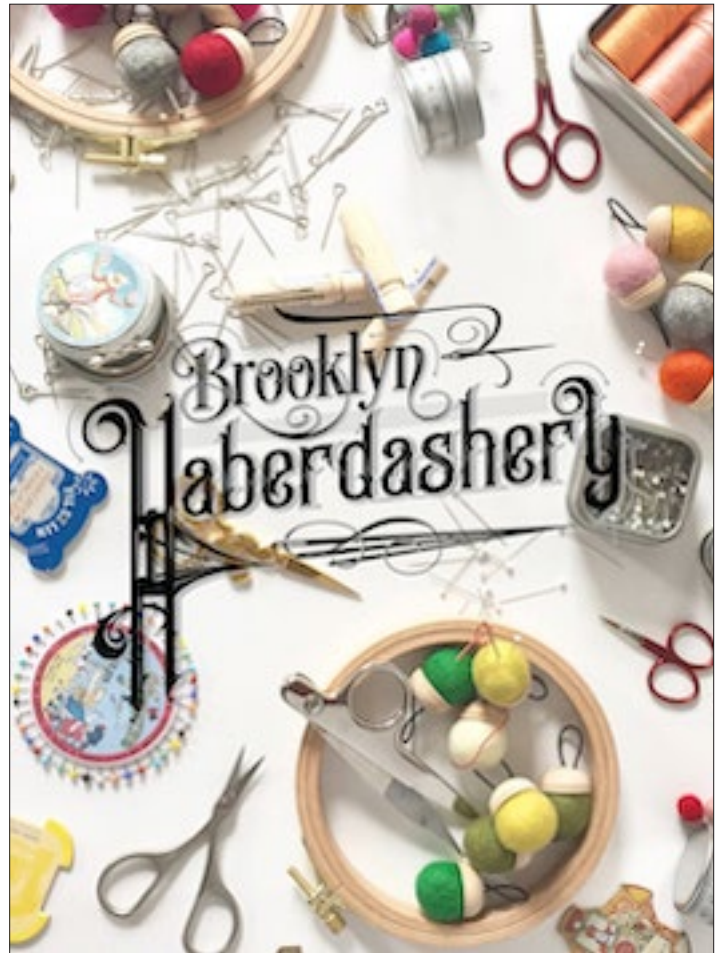
The Sunday bee is one of the very few things that improved in 2020! Due to COVID (what else) the Sunday in-person sewing bee now takes place on Zoom.

This means you don't have to schlep projects and tools on the subway, or find a parking space. You can attend even if you are far from Brooklyn. You don't get to the bee and then find that you forgot something crucial. You can work on projects that involve a design wall and/or a sewing machine. Everyone can interact and do some informal showing and telling.

We have had workshops — Micki Segal demonstrating her adorable circle appliqués and Kirsten Fisher showing how to print on fabric — and everyone had perfect views. I suggest we continue Zoom bees even when we don't have to, whether or not we someday resume in-person bees as well.

The Zoom bees take place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, from 1 to 4 p.m.. (You can drop in or drop out at any time during the session.) So far, Margaret Marcy Emerson ([margaret.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.marcy@gmail.com)) has been setting up the meetings — contact her if you need an emailed link.

~ Kate Haller



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# My First Quilt

BY JOYCE CRUPI

13

The story of my first quilt starts around the dining room table at a holiday meal. A relative mentions that she is taking a class at City Quilter called "Dear Jane." I had no idea what that kind of class would be, but I was newly retired and had plenty of time to try something new.

I bought a fortune of new sewing gear, including a rotary cutter, a cutting mat, the Dear Jane book and many yards of fabric, and attended the first class. I had done some sewing so the skills that were introduced were comfortable for me and I was excited to begin. At the first class we learned a paper piecing technique that made sewing the complicated blocks so much easier. The teacher mentioned that there would be a prize for the student who completed the most blocks before the next class and I was ready to win.

I spent the entire month sewing, never leaving the house without my Ziploc bag of pieces to hand sew. At the next class the teacher went around and asked how many blocks the students had completed. To my surprise not a single person had done more than eight; I completed 26. After the four-session class I had learned many new sewing skills, including paper piecing and applique. I had completed 64 blocks and was ready to do something with them, but I had no idea where to begin.

I stopped by City Quilter with my finished blocks and dumped them onto the counter. The obvious question, "What do I do with these?" The helpful employee at the shop started talking about sashing and borders and I was lost. The look on my face spoke volumes and I was told that the next step for me was the beginner class taught by Chris Janove. I enrolled on the spot.

It was during Chris' beginner class that I fell in love with quilting. At the final class Chris asked where I lived and I had the correct answer: Brooklyn. Chris invited me to attend the next meeting of the Quilters Guild of Brooklyn and the rest is history. I actually completed my Baby Jane quilt at the first retreat I attended at the Heritage Inn in Connecticut.

\*Dear Jane is the original quilt made in the 1800s. Baby Janes are all of the quilts inspired by the original, size not being a factor.





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Yankee Quilter, the full service quilt shop in Seymour CT, that is very familiar to Guild members who attend the Heritage retreats, is the vendor of the month for March. Details of special deals for Guild members will be shared in upcoming Bee Blasts and in the March 20 Guild meeting.



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## JANUARY PROGRAMMING

### RECAP:

## Birth Flower Appliqué Workshop with Kathy K. Wylie

On January 9th and 30th, 17 members of the Guild participated in a virtual appliqué workshop with award winning quilt artist Kathy K. Wylie. Kathy designed 12 16-inch blocks inspired by her quilt For "Such a Time As This" and the corresponding birth flower for each month of the year.

Members were able to select their birth month, favorite flower or any design that caught their eye. In a series of recorded lessons, live instruction and Q&A, Kathy covered everything from fabric selection, to three different appliqué techniques, as well as hand and machine stitching and finishing.

The workshop was challenging, with so many decisions to make not to mention lots, and lots, and lots, of tiny pieces. We had to keep reminding ourselves that this was not a race and there was no timer or deadline to complete the work. It's okay to take your time, try different tips and techniques, and, of course, lean on your fellow Guild members for support.

In the end, we all learned something new and have another project to keep us busy in quarantine.

We will have a class reunion during the March 28th Sunday bee from 1 to 4 p.m., so feel free to bring your current project and join us all then to learn more.

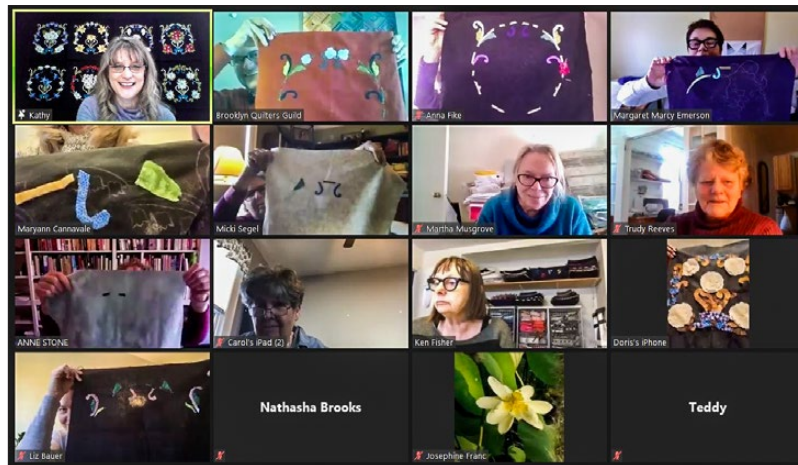
~ Michael Sengstack



Kathy's quilt For "Such a Time as This" was the inspiration for her appliqué workshop.



Kathy designed 12 different birth-month flower patterns



Guild members at work during the appliqué workshop.

## Community Quilt Sizes

**ABC Quilts:** No less than 32 inches or more than 44 inches. Use colorful fabrics, no beading or buttons.

**Halo Quilts:** From 48 by 60 inches to twin size. No religious or law enforcement themes. No hand-tied; machine quilting preferred.

**Hole in the Wall:** 40 by 40 inch lap quilts preferred, up to twin size.

**Comfort Quilts:** Queen/Full should measure 84 x 94 inches; twin, 64 x 84. Twin preferred

**Soldier Quilts:** No smaller than 50 by 60 inches; no larger than 72 by 90 inches. Add a signed and dated label thanking the wounded soldiers.

**Labor of Love (HOPS):** No smaller than 50 by 50 inches; no larger than 80 by 80 inches. Made in red, white and blue fabric



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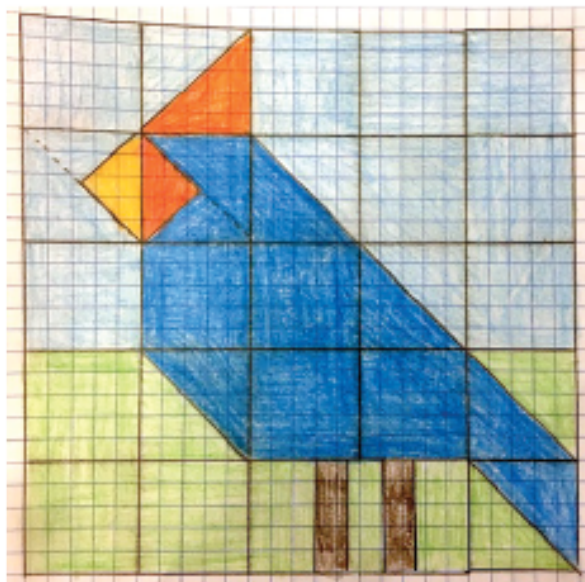
# BERTIE THE BIRD

**THIS EARLY BIRD** is popping in to remind us that Spring is coming, even though the Ground Hog gave us six more weeks of winter. Number nine in our Block-of-the-Month animal series, Bertie Bird can be feathered as shown, garbed in bright scraps or with contrasting wings or tail. The sky's no limit for a bird! ~Robin Engleman & Joy West

first of two pages



## Assembly Diagram



## Fabrics & Cutting

**Ground (grass shown):**

1 - 6" w by 3" h strip

3 - 3" squares

2 - 3 1/2" squares (cut diagonally - you will use 3)

**Legs: dark contrast color**

2 - 1" w by 3" h strips

**Sky:**

8 - 3" squares

2 - 3 1/2" squares (cut diagonally - you will use 3)

1 - 4" square (cut diagonally once and then cut one of the halves again into quarters)

**Head Crest: suggest a bright contrast color**

1 - 3 1/2" square (cut in half diagonally - you will use 1)

**Beak: suggested yellow or orange**

1 - 4" square (cut diagonally twice - you will use 1)  
(or a scrap triangle - see Step 3: Beak)

**Face: suggest a different bright contrast color**

1 - 4" square (cut diagonally twice - you will use 1)  
(or a scrap triangle - see Step 3: Beak)

**Bird's Body: this will be the main bird color (may be scrappy)**

4 - 3" squares

3 - 3 1/2" squares (cut diagonally once - you will use 5 of these)

1 - 4" square (cut diagonally once and then cut one of the halves in half again)

## Sewing instructions

All seam allowances are 1/4".

### STEP 1: Legs

- Take the 6" x 3" grass and cut it into three pieces as follows: cut a 1" w strip off one end and then cut the remaining piece in half. (figure 1)

- Sew together one larger piece to one leg and the 1" grass to the other leg, followed by the last larger grass piece. (fig. 2)

- Press and trim a bit from both sides of the width to equal 5 1/2" across. (figure 3)

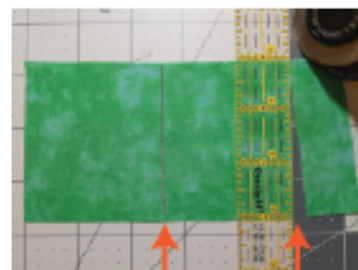


fig. 1

cut

cut

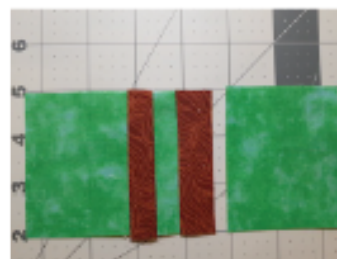


fig. 2

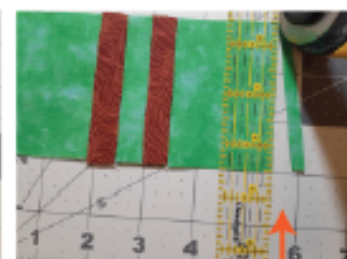


fig. 3

trim  
to size

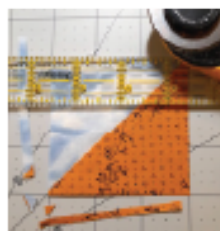


fig. 4

### STEP 2: Bird's Feather Crest

- Pair one of the sky-3 1/2" half squares to the crest-3 1/2" half square. Sew along the diagonal side, being careful not to stretch your fabric. Press open and trim to 3" square, aligning the diagonals carefully with the corners. (figure 4)

### STEP 3: Beak

- Cut the 4" sky in half diagonally and then cut one of the halves again into quarters.

- Do the same to the 4" beak square.

Replace one of the small sky pieces with a small beak triangle. (figure 5) *Alternatively you could find a scrap for the beak and cut to the size of the small triangle.*

- Sew the small beak to the small sky, press. Sew the larger half of the sky to the pieced beak and sky half.

Press an carefully trim down to to 3 inches square, aligning the diagonals at the corners.

(figures 6-7)

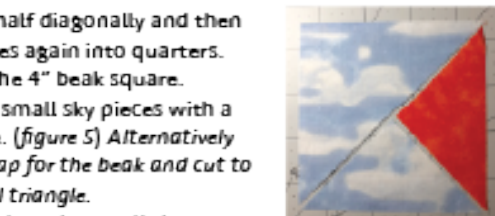


fig. 5

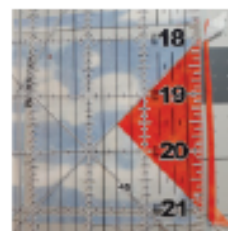


fig. 6

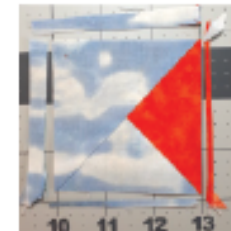


fig. 7

Continued...





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# BERTIE THE BIRD

second of two pages



## Sewing instructions continued

### STEP 4: Head/ Face

- The construction is the same as the beak but facing the other way. Use the face small triangle and the bird body 4" square, cut as directed, for the rest of the square. Press and trim to 3" square.
- Sew the beak and face together matching the triangles (suggestion: Press this seam open to reduce bulk.)

### STEP 5: Bird Body and Tail

Make 2 half square triangles with sky and body halves. Do the same with 3 half square triangles of grass and body halves. Press and trim to 3".

### Final Assembly:

- Assemble the squares according to the diagram. Sew together into rows and then sew the rows together. Press and trim to 12 1/2" square block (you can trim from the bottom and beak sides without cutting off points).
- You can also assemble the pieces to have the bird pointing in the other direction!

## Additional Helpful Hints

- As you go, carefully measure the distance across the squares. They should be 2.5" finished.
- Alternate pressing the seams to one side to reduce the number of layers that come together at the corners.
- Try to match up the seams to each other. A pin placed perpendicular to the edge through both seams can help keep blocks aligned while sewing. (fig.8)

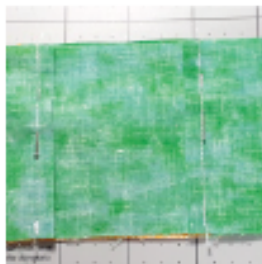


fig. 8

- When sewing blocks together that have a diagonal seam in the corner, position the block so that the seam will be just a bit past the corner point. (fig.9) When the seam is pressed out the corner will be right on point!



fig. 9

Post your block  
to our  
Facebook  
page! 

Join our BQG Block of the Month Group (BOM) (<https://tinyurl.com/y99wbf-gy>) where you can share your block and enter the online lottery to win the collection of blocks!

Post your completed BOM by 11 am the third Saturday of the month (Sept. 19th) to enter the drawing. Each completed block gives you a chance to win. The entries will be numbered and the winning number will be pulled and announced. Everyone will privately mail their block/s to the winner.

**Not on Facebook?** You can still participate! Email [margaret.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.marcy@gmail.com) for details.

Finished block measures about 12.5" to 13" square. (12 - 12.5" block with 1/4" seam allowance all sides.)

