

The Brooklyn Bee

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Volume 29
Issue 8

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Dear Fellow Quilters,

We had another wonderful meeting in March, with a packed agenda. After Clara Nartey's presentation, I came home eager to sew, with a plan to set aside time each day to do something creative and fun. Thanks so much to Barbara Danzi for bringing this gifted artist to our Guild. I loved Clara's spirit as well as her amazing work.

And thanks to all of you who stayed for our very first 2023 Quilt Show Meeting. We are so lucky to have Martha McDonald and Andrew Hansen spearheading this enormous endeavor. If you have never participated in one of our shows, now is the time, and you won't regret it. Our shows are a wonderful, exciting celebration of our Guild and our love of quilting. There is a place for each of our members to contribute to the show beyond showing your work. Thanks to each of you who have already stepped up to join the effort. Look for more information on how you can contribute in this issue of the Bee.

I am also excited by our Round Robin Exchange. I have seen many of the evolving Round Robin Quilts and I am awed by your creations. They are amazing! Perhaps we should include them in our show? Another committee?

Please remember that our April meeting is on the fourth Saturday of the month for April only. I can't wait to see the trunk show by Barbara Danzi.

In May we look forward to our annual ABC Frenzy and in June we will highlight the work of our newest members with a special "new member" Show and Tell.

There is always something new to inspire us at the Brooklyn Quilters Guild!

Happy Quilting.

Micki Segel, Co-President



2021-2022 Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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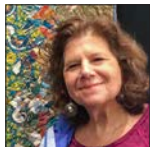


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Something to share? The deadline for submissions for the May 2022 issue of *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m., Monday, April 25, 2022. Please email to: texasmc@hotmail.com.

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The Brooklyn Bee

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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: April 23, 2022, 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.



QUILT FENCE SHOW

Here we go again! Another great quilt fence show is scheduled for Saturday, April 2. Approximately 50 quilts made of recycled materials will be featured on the fence behind Holy Name of Jesus Church, 245 Prospect Park West., Brooklyn, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme is *Recycle, Reuse, Reimagine*. All quilts must be made of at least 75 percent recycled materials. Rain date, April 9.

Guild members reimaged and recycled discarded socks, curtains, tea towels, doll clothing, jeans, plastic bags and more to create these amazing quilts. The popular Grab 'N Go table will also be at the show.

Tell your friends and family about the fence show and be sure to volunteer, if you haven't done so. To volunteer, go to this [link https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/nelvDvVb](https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/nelvDvVb), or contact Alice Braziller at alicebraziller@gmail.com or (917) 557-0112.

If you have any questions or concerns about the show and delivering your quilt, contact Joyce Crupi, jcrupi50@gmail.com.

Membership Report

As of March 20th, 2022, our Guild has 190 members. A warm welcome to our newest members, Danielle Begnaud, Heidi Swanson and Reggie Sorsino.

~ Barbara Christ, Membership Co-Chair,
membership@quiltbrooklyn.org

April Guild Meeting Set for April 23

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The April Guild meeting will be on the 4th Saturday, (rather than the usual 3rd Saturday) of April. This is not an April Fools joke. We'll see you on April 23rd at the usual time, 11 a.m.

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Guild Calendar

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

April 2022

April 2, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. — Quilt Fence Show. On the fence behind Holy Name of Jesus Church

April 9, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. — Rain date, Quilt Fence Show

April 10, 1 – 4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

April 23, 11 a.m. — Guild meeting, hybrid/Zoom. Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend the in-person meeting. Trunk show by Barbara Danzi.

April 24, 1 – 4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

May 2022

May 8, 1 – 4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

May 21, 11 a.m. — Guild meeting, hybrid/Zoom. Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend the in-person meeting. ABC Frenzy after the meeting

May 22, 1 – 4 p.m. — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

June 2022

June 18, 11 a.m. — Guild meeting, hybrid/Zoom. Proof of vaccination and masks are required to attend the in-person meeting. Show and Tell will feature the work of the new Guild members.

Planning the 2023 Quilt Show

The pandemic caused us to cancel our 2020 Quilt Show, but we are enthusiastically getting ready for a big show in 2023. The first planning meeting was held March 19 right after our regular meeting and a number of members have already volunteered to head up committees. Here's what we have so far. To volunteer for any committee, please contact Martha McDonald at texasacd@hotmail.com or Andrew Hansen at andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com.

- Show Chairs: Martha McDonald and Andrew Hansen
- Recording Secretary: Mary Hawley
- Location committee: Martha, Andrew, Madi Appell and Lori Lupo
- Raffle Quilt
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Marketing/Publicity
- Signage: Joy West and Susan Aronoff
- Silent Auction:
Micki Segel and Kate Haller have it set up, waiting for new volunteers
- Quilt Layout:
Ellen Piccolo and Joyce Crupi
- Quilt Hanging:
Richie Doron, Donna Rae, Thomas Urciuoli
- Raffle Tickets:
Kathleen Mahoney
- Tote Bag Raffle:
Karen Mahoney has it set up, waiting for new volunteers
- Vendors: Susan Sato
- Demonstrations: Madi Appell
- Speakers/Presentations
- Ticket Sales
- White Gloves/ Guided Tours: Debbie Breckenridge
- Quilt Collection: Merrie Handfinger
- Take Down
- Quilt Distribution
- Information/Welcome Desk
- Photography and filming: Farrah Lafontant
- Data/Announcements: Robin Engelman
- Merchandise - pins, t-shirts, etc.:
Margaret Marcy Emerson

March COMMUNITY QUILT COLLECTION



Meet the Quilter: Margaret Pross

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

I have been a member of the Guild for about seven years.

How did you find out about the Brooklyn Quilters Guild?

I was interested in joining a guild and I saw an ad in a local paper about a quilting group meeting at a local church in Forest Hills. I went one day and I met Brooklyn Quilters Guild member Pat Decker and she invited me to the Guild.

How and when did you get interested in quilting?

My mother took up quilting later in her life. She loved it so much she gave up all her other crafts and devoted her time to quilting. She would ask me to take her to fabric stores and quilt shows all the time. She wanted to teach me but I was too busy with work and everything else. One of the biggest regrets I have is that I did not take the time to let her teach me. When she passed away in 2003 she left me all her handmade quilt tops. She never finished one. I was determined to finish them all but I was afraid I'd ruin them so I started to learn and gain confidence.



Mom's quilts to finish

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

I have learned so much from friends, books and videos. Sometimes the best way of learning is to make mistakes and I have made plenty! I am no longer afraid to tackle Mom's quilts, which are traditional, but when I make my own I seem to lean toward a more modern style and bright

colors. My goal is to finish all of Mom's quilts and design some of my own with Tula Pink and Kaffe Fassett fabrics.

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

I have many memorable quilt experiences but two stand out. One is going to a gigantic quilt show in Manhattan with my mother many years ago and the other is when I finished one of her quilts and it was exhibited at one of the Guild's shows.

What is your professional background?

I worked for Citibank for 38 years and had many different positions in International Human Resources.

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

I love seeing what the Guild members make and I get so much inspiration from them.

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

The Guild and quilting helped me tremendously during the pandemic. If it was not for the Guild Zoom meetings and communications and having hobbies such as quilting and crocheting, I don't think I would have gotten through it very well. I am very grateful.

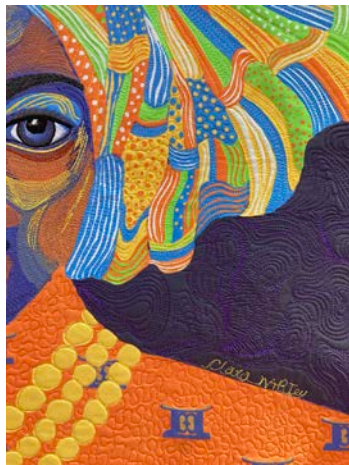


Clara Nartey At the March Guild Meeting

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Fabric artist Clara Nartey held Guild members spellbound at the March meeting with her inspirational talk and beautiful quilts. A computer specialist turned artist, she reviewed her life experiences and how she became an artist as well as her techniques and her guiding principles. "The key is practice," she said, and "be consistent every day." Her final rule was "have fun."

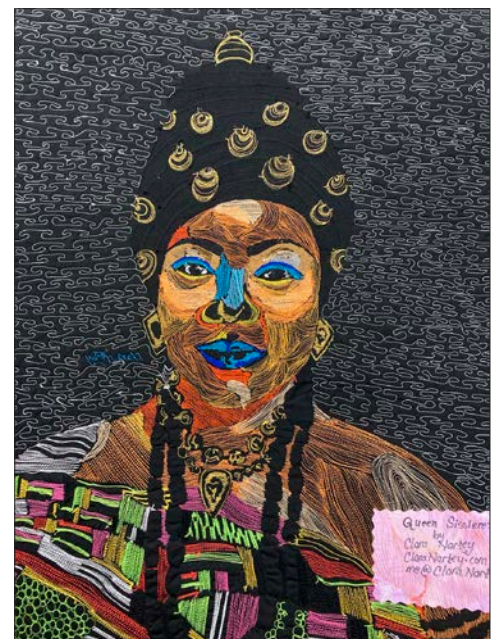
As for techniques, she has evolved from a traditional quilter to an artist who paints with thread. She focuses on portraits, especially of black women, to encourage them to be proud of themselves and their black hair. For more information, go to www.claranartey.com, and for a copy of all five of her guiding principles, go to www.claranartey.com/BQC.



Quilt details



Queen
Left: Front of quilt
Right: Back of quilt



SEW SMART

Tips N' Tools

A big thank you goes to Andrew Hansen for this month's Tips N' Tools column. I checked out the links and both methods are appealing and time saving. So be like Andrew and send your tips my way please. My best, Alice Braziller 917-557-0112. alicebraziller@gmail.com

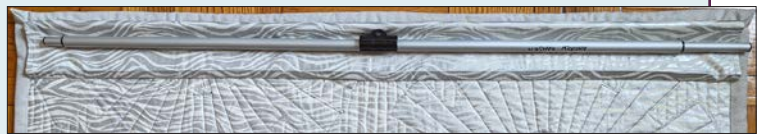
I currently have three quilts hanging in my apartment using three different methods. I prefer to not see the rod that is holding the quilt up, so I intentionally don't use curtain rods or quilt hangers that can be seen.

The first method is pretty standard; I use a very inexpensive dowel rod that I cut down to size and slip into corner pockets sewn into the back of the quilt. Then I hang it on a couple of nails. If I were to do this with a larger quilt, I would use corner pockets as well as a small hanging sleeve in between them, but still leaving a couple of gaps to rest the dowel rod on the nails. This method is certainly the cheapest, but I definitely recommend using a level to mark out where you'll hammer in your nails before making a bunch of holes in your wall.

The second method uses plastic wedges that I bought on Etsy. They are relatively inexpensive and are made to use Command strips that attach them to a wall. Again, I cut a dowel rod to size and slip it through the hanging sleeve on the back of the quilt and then rest the ends of the dowel rod on the plastic wedges. I like this method because it doesn't require nailing a bunch of holes into your wall. Here's the link: https://www.etsy.com/listing/876141409/quilt-hanger-hooks-dowel-hanger-qty-4?ref=yr_purchases

The third method uses a "Hang It Dang It" rod that I bought online. This is a pretty expensive product, but it works really well and it comes in a few different sizes. It requires a hanging sleeve on the back of your quilt. You slip the rod through the sleeve, clip a plastic hanging tab over the sleeve and onto the rod, and then hang it on a single nail. I really like how the rod can be adjusted to different lengths. I bought the small rod and use it on a 40 by 40-inch quilt. It works perfectly and I really love that it only requires one nail. That said, I probably won't buy another one because they are pretty expensive. Here's the link:

<https://www.hangitdangit.com/>



Hang It Dang It rod outside the sleeve



Hang It Dang It rod inside the sleeve



Etsy Wedge



Quilts hung with Hang It Dang It rod and dowel rod

The History of ABC Quilts

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ABC Quilts — the Early Years

BY CHRISTINE JANOVE

My memory is a bit foggy about the exact years I was involved with ABC quilts, but I believe it was probably the mid to late 90s through about 2005. At the time, long-time Guild member Joan Shapiro was leading the ABC effort. We did not bring batting to the Guild meetings. We mostly collected an occasional finished quilt and lots of quilt tops.

Batting was stored at my house, where another long-time Guild member, Dorothy Zuercher, Joan and I would gather every four to six weeks for an all-day assembly session. My ground floor was turned into a quilting studio, with one area for ironing the tops and backing, another for cutting the batting and pinning (pillow casing) the quilts together. We usually set up two machines, though the prep work was so time consuming that often only one person was sewing.

We would evaluate each quilt top, sometimes adding fabric from my stash to make the top larger or more colorful. We also had to re sew some of the poorly constructed offerings.

Kathi King joined us for one of these sessions, during the time she was president of the Guild. It may have been during this time, or shortly after, that the ABC frenzy began at the February meetings. I'm not sure if she or someone else gets credit for that idea.

These marathon sewing days were not all work. We had breakfast together, we had lunch delivered, and we had a lot of laughs — sounds like a mini quilting retreat! My daughter, Gracie was in middle school at the time. She would come home in the middle of our sewing time and complain that there was nothing in the house to eat — which was a big laugh for Dorothy and Joan and me. Then, as she got a bit older and didn't come home directly after school, they were disappointed not to have a chance to see her.

We were always pleased with our stack of 12, 15, even 18 (once) quilts that were trimmed, sandwiched and ready to be tied. We would top stitch the edges as a false binding. Then I would bring them to the next meeting and members would tie them during the meeting. Joan was very dedicated to this project. We all were.

[Continued on page 9](#)

My ABC Quilt Days

BY PEG HALLER

My memory is hazy, but I believe I joined the Guild in 2001 or early 2002. It was after 9/11, and against my natural loner tendencies, I was looking for ways to connect with people. I joined a book group. I joined a chorus. And I joined the Brooklyn Quilters Guild.

Sitting through meetings makes me antsy, so when it came to picking a work slot, I jumped at the chance to join ABC. It allowed me to sort fabrics (that is, play with them) during meetings. The fabrics themselves were very random. There were many small scraps, some leftovers from non-quilt projects, some cut from used clothing, many of dubious content. There were always some gems, but a lot of them were hideous. We quietly tossed the worst of them.

The ABC practice at the time was to sort the fabrics into somewhat harmonious bundles that members could take home and do their best with. Some of the resulting quilts were beautiful, but many were not. Still, they were made with love, and any quilt is better than no quilt. There was a constant demand, and our ABC quilts were gratefully received by the nurses who distributed them to babies and mothers.

From those early ABC days, the person I remember best is Sarah Vinson. She was smart, formidable, somewhat cranky — a smoker-voiced, no-nonsense doer of good deeds. I liked her a lot. A crew of mostly older women worked on the ABCs, but Sarah was the mastermind of the whole operation. I imagine she was skeptical of me at first, but every month she gathered and transported and stored huge bins of fabrics, and I was gung-ho to do heavy lifting. We stored the bins ourselves. I would take some home, other committee members might take some, but mostly Sarah's husband would turn up and they would load the bins into their large car and take them home, before Hurricane Sandy ended that.

ABC has changed. The last 20 years have seen a great leap in the quality and abundance of fabrics. Sewing machines do more and tools are vastly refined. We have long-arm machines. We have networks of active quilters. Thanks to the Internet we can find more inspiration and patterns and

[Continued on page 9](#)

I also remember driving the finished quilts to a church in the middle of Brooklyn. I would leave 30 quilts in a black plastic garbage bag in the narthex of the church, concerned that the bag would not be opened by the appropriate person. Somehow, it always worked out and they reached the right person. ❖

instructions than any of us can absorb in a lifetime. We're in a golden age. Our ABC quilts are more sophisticated in design and technique and more beautiful than ever. But there is one constant thread: they are still given and received with love. ❖



ABC Collections

Using Jenn Arzberger's accurate records on totals for ABC donations and by looking back through old issues of the Bee, I came up with a somewhat accurate estimate for the number of ABC quilts donated from September 2014 through the March 2022 meeting.

First, Jenn's records show that 1,036 ABC quilts were donated from September 2017 through June 2021. Then so far this year, through the March 2022 meeting, guild members have donated another 145.

Then searching through old Bees, I found 336 donated in the September 2014–June 2015 year, 230 for the 2015–2016 year, and 308 for the 2016–2017 year.

I am quite certain that I missed a few in the earlier years and, of course, there were many more ABC quilts made and donated before 2014, so this is quite impressive. Congratulations to our Guild members!

To summarize:

September 2014 – June 2015: 336

September 2015 – June 2016: 230

September 2016 – June 2017: 308

September 2017 – June 2021: 1,036

September 2021 – March 2022: 145

Total since 2014: 2,055

~ Martha McDonald

Were you involved in ABC quilts in the early days? Please send your memories, and photos if possible, to the Bee at texasgcd@hotmail.com. We will publish them in future issues. Be sure to put ABC quilt in the subject line. Thank you!

ABC Frenzy at the May meeting!

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD 2022 PROGRAMMING SURVEY

BY MICHAEL SENGSTACK

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WE WANT TO THANK everyone who participated in our recent 2022 Programming Survey. We had almost 60 members share their thoughts on where they would like to take their creative journey this year. Here are a few highlights from the survey. Does this sound like you?

The majority of our membership consider their skill level to be intermediate and enjoy participating in workshops both virtually and in person. It seems that having all your tools and your workspace available is nice, but you still crave that face-to-face interaction where you can feel that sense of community and idea sharing.

When and how do you like to participate? The sweet spot for length of a workshop seems to be about two hours or several hours spread over a couple of days, ideally with a little time in-between to work on your own.



Most prefer to do about four workshops a year, especially if they charge tuition fees, and like to schedule them either during our regular Guild meeting or in the morning on a weekend.

Of the techniques and ideas we asked you to select from the top 12, included Time Saving Tips and Tricks, Applique, Machine Quilting, Precision Piecing, Collage, Curved Piecing, and Improvisational Quilting. And there was a lot of interest in slower movement quilting like Hand Quilting, Sashiko & Boro, and English Paper Piecing.

Thank you all for sharing the many quilt designers, artists and techniques that inspire you. We received lots of great suggestions including many from those who really enjoy learning from their fellow members. A very special thank you to the members who offered their expertise to share with fellow members. We will be reaching out to request that they share their expertise and advice in the coming months.

As always, your feedback is very valuable in helping to guide us to support your creativity and build confidence in your work. Your programming team is grateful for your generosity in sharing your ideas. ❖

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



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Round Robin Exchange is Underway

Our Round Robin Exchange is off to a fantastic start at the end of Round one. All of the projects have been distributed for Round 2. Please continue to take photos of the different stages of your Round Robin and send them to Micki Segel at mickisegel@gmail.com. See examples below of blocks with the first round completed.

To help you all as you proceed to Round 2, you can find videos on Youtube to inspire you. Here is one example. <https://tinyurl.com/3aj2ate7>. Be sure to watch to the end of this video to see examples of many round robin quilts.



Center Block: Leona Shapiro; Round 1: Debbie Breckenridge



Center Block: Phyllis Segel; Round 1: Lyn Hill



Center Block: Judith Abbott; Round 1: Lisa Benson



Center Block: Madi Appell; Round 1: Leslie Pollard



Center Block: Lyn Hill; Round 1: Martha Musgrove



Center Block: Mara Lurie; Round 1: Robin Engelman

Events of Note

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African/American: Making the Nation's Table. Through Juneteenth, June 19, 2022. The Africa Center, 1280 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10029. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a 406-block Legacy Quilt that measures 14 feet tall and almost 30 feet wide. It was sewn by members of Harlem Needle Arts including Guild member Sylvia Hernandez. The Legacy Quilt represents stories of African American contributions to our nation's cuisine. The exhibit is presented in conjunction with MOFAD, Museum of Food and Drink. Admission is \$15, \$10 for seniors. For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/53u3cwup>

Faith Ringgold: American People, February 17 – June 22, 2022. New Museum 235 Bowery, New York City. A retrospective of Ringgold's life's work includes her story quilts. For more information: <https://www.newmuseum.org>.

Southford Falls Quilt Guild, Quilting Auction. April 23, 2022, 2 – 4 p.m.. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 25 Great Hill Rd, Oxford, CT. Fabric, batting, quilting tools, books, patterns, door prizes and more. Admission \$5. For more information: sfquilters@yahoo.com.

Stitch into Spring Quilt Show, April 23, 2022. 10 – 4. Holy Family Parish Center, 366 Watchogue Road, Staten Island, NY 10314. Sponsored by the Staten Island Quilters Guild. Admission: \$5.

Quilt Show, Friday, April 2 – Sunday, April 24, 2022. Friday/Saturday 9–5 p.m., Sunday noon – 4 p.m.. Sponsored by the Champlain Valley Quilters Guild. At the Holy Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln St. Essex Jct, VT. Quilts, vendors, demonstrations and featured artist Catherine Symchych. Admission \$8, children under 12 are free. For more information: <https://www.CVQGVt.org>.

Art Quilt Elements, through April 30, 2022. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne, PA 19087. This is the 15th exhibition of this international show of fine art quilts. Two Guild members, Susan Byrnes and Shari Werner, have work in the show. For more information, go to <http://www.artquilelements.org>.

Quiltfest, April 28 – 30, 2022. Greenville Convention Center, Greenville, South Carolina. Workshops, merchants, competitions and more. For more information: <https://www.quiltfest.com/upcoming-shows-and-events/quiltfest-greenville-sc/>.

World of Quilts XLI show, April 30 – May 1, 2022. Saturday 10 – 5, Sunday 10 – 4. Sponsored by the Northern Star Quilters' Guild. SUNY Purchase Physical Education Building, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY. More than 250 quilts, raffle, guest speaker Jane Sassaman. Advance tickets and more information at <https://www.northernstarquilters.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 the following upcoming retreat dates for **2022 at Cross Roads**: May 31–June 5 and October 23–28.

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

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, April 27–29 (extra day Tuesday, April 26)

Tentative July/October:

Friday – Sunday, July 29–31 (extra day Thursday 7/28)
Friday – Sunday, October 28–30 (extra day Thursday, October 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.

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

BLOCK OF THE MONTH



The winner of the March Block of the Month, the Saucy Strawberry, was Madi Appell. She took home a nice batch of berries. Congratulations Madi!

The corn cob:
April Block of the Month

QUILT SHOWS

Interested in Quilt Shows Around the World? Here's a link that will show you where they are. It also offers guidance for packing for a quilt show.

https://ronatheribbiter.com/2022-quilt-shows/?fbclid=IwAR2TfZLLHXQMF2bHYymnF19_b6vCxsW1nTXo3Pm1KqOfLN_OC-ackrdYOWEs



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