

# The Brooklyn Bee

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BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2022

Volume 29  
Issue 6

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Dear Quilters,

Just when I thought I had all the inspiration I needed, I was once again wowed by two fabulous members of our quilting community during our January trunk show. Thank you so much to Pat Decker and Kate Haller for sharing your tremendous gifts. It was fascinating to see your very different processes from start to finish.

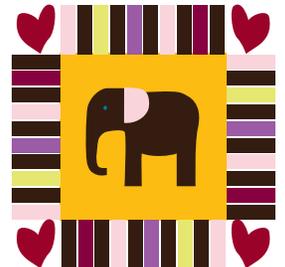
And thank you members for your enthusiastic response to our Guild-wide Round Robin Challenge. I can't wait to see the blocks that you bring to start your quilts. I promise you that we will work out the wonky details of how this works. I'm excited that our Zoom members will also be participating via the postal service.

We will postpone our annual ABC Frenzy from February to a later date but will continue our new tradition of honoring Black History Month by asking our members to show quilts related to the theme of Black history, however you interpret it. We enthusiastically invite the St. John Quilters to join our meeting and/or share their Black History quilts via Zoom. And considering that it's February and Valentine's day, please share your red and white "Love" quilts in the February Show and Tell.

I'm also looking forward to hearing what you all wrote in the January Zoom chat about what projects are exciting you for 2022. My synapses are already buzzing. I'm not sure how many more exciting ideas I can process. In other words, I'm psyched!

Let's continue to spread the quilting love in February.

Micki Segel  
Co-President



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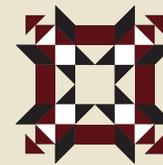
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Something to share? The deadline for submissions for the March 2022 issue of *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m., Monday, February 21, 2022. Please email to: [texasgcd@hotmail.com](mailto:texasgcd@hotmail.com).

## The Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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## 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qfeous_lc)

## Guild Meetings

### NEXT MEETING: February 19, 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.

# Guild News & Notes

## Important News!

## New Date for the Spring Fence Show

The date of the "REIMAGINE: Reuse and Repurpose" Fence Show has been changed to April 2, with a rain date of April 9.

Our original date, April 23, is actually the date of the Guild meeting, so the change was necessary. Remember, we are reimagining, reusing and repurposing, which means that at least 75 percent of the fabric in these quilts was formerly something else (not quilting scraps). All quilts should be 36 by 36 inches and they are due at the March 19 meeting.

~ Joyce Crupi

## Community Quilts

Annette Wallace is still missing some of the **pillowcase** kits that she has given out. She still has eight kits outstanding from the June 26 picnic. "I would love to get these back as soon as possible," she says. "I will pick them up if necessary."

She is also missing 11 from the October meeting, five from November and 18 from December. "I have 43 finished pillowcases available for delivery and 22 kits available so far. I purchased lots of fabric (through *Case for Smiles*) so there will be more kits available soon."

The last delivery was 50 pillowcases on December 6 to the Ronald McDonald House.

Regarding **Veteran's** quilts, Carol Sullivan notes, "As a thank you for our donation, the staff at Hewlett House sent an 8x10 inch framed picture of the quilts. I'll try to post the picture on the website for all to enjoy."

As for the **ABC** group, this year's Frenzy will be postponed to a later month when we hope to be able to hold the event the way we usually do. Jenn Arzberger has received no new quilts since the December meeting and the 14 quilts received at the December meeting have been distributed..

~ Debbie Safian

## Guild Calendar

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

### February 2022

**February 13, 1-4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

**February 19, 11 a.m.** — Guild meeting, hybrid: in-person and on Zoom. Doris Douglas and the St. John's Quilters will join us in celebrating Black History Month. For Show and Tell bring "love" quilts to celebrate Valentine's Day.

**February 27, 1-4 p.m.** — Ankara String Workshop with Lisa Shepard Stewart will replace the Sunday sewing bee on Zoom. Learn how to make African prints "work" together. To register and for more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/mssh2s2d>.

### March 2022

**March 13, 1-4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

**March 19, 11 a.m.** — Guild meeting, hybrid/Zoom. Speaker will be Clara Nartley, portrait quilter. She will bring quilts and talk about her process.

Quilts for the fence show are due.

**March 27, 1-4 p.m.** — Sunday sewing bee on Zoom

### April 2022

**April 2, 1-4 p.m.** — Quilt Fence Show

**April 9.** — Rain date, Quilt Fence Show

# GUILD ROUND ROBIN

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## The Round Robin Exchange

**BEGINS FEBRUARY 2022**

Our Guild's first-ever Round Robin Exchange will begin this month. If you are planning to participate, don't forget to bring a block and some coordinating fabric in a plastic bag to our February meeting. Your starting center square should be at least 12 inches square. Don't forget to write your name on the seam allowance of your block and place your name on a piece of paper inside your package.

Everyone who brings in a Round Robin package will receive another one to take home and work on. Be sure to set aside time to work on a border each month for four months. If you can't attend a meeting, please find someone who is attending to bring your work to the meeting. Each month you are asked to return your work and it will be passed on to a different maker. By June, the quilt should have four borders and it will then be returned to the person who made the center block.

Please add your own new fabric to travel with the work. Everyone is free to make use of the scrap table as well. As the quilt grows, more fabric will be needed for the borders.

Robin Engelman has graciously offered to provide us with muslin squares on which makers can add their names. These squares will serve as the quilt labels at the end of the exchange. Thank you, Robin.

If you live out of town, you can still participate. To be included, send your name, email and address to Micki Segel at [mickisegel@gmail.com](mailto:mickisegel@gmail.com) by February 14. You will be emailed the name and address of someone to send your block and fabric to, no later than February 18.

I know that this promises to be a fun and creative project. Perhaps we can even set up Round Robin groups to work together at people's homes — COVID permitting, of course.

A few examples of Round Robin projects that were shown at our January meeting can be seen on the next page.

~ Micki Segel

[Round Robin examples on next page](#)

## Possibilities

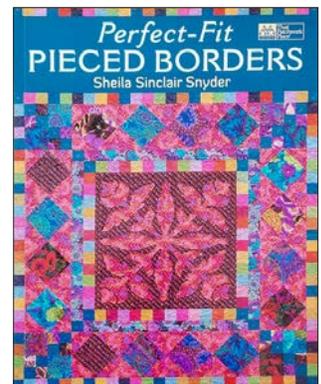
**BY CHRIS PETERSEN**

I'm very much looking forward to our upcoming Round Robin. It will be so interesting to have a variety of different centers to work on. I've always felt fortunate to be part of the Brooklyn Quilters Guild, but never more so than during this pandemic. Our leadership has enhanced the Guild in so many ways, especially over the past two years, and are now moving ahead with even more engaging programs and projects.

A few years ago, our small group of quilters who were meeting weekly at the Gerritsen Beach library, decided to participate in a "pizza box" challenge, which shares some similarities with a Round Robin. The idea came to us from Elizabeth Hayes, who was already part of a pizza box swap in an upstate guild with her sister, Agnes Fetter. We had a structured setup — we passed the boxes each month to a specific person, we always made a 12 1/2-inch block, we were only supposed to use the fabrics provided by the original creator. The exchange worked really well, and we had a good time creating quilts from the blocks we made for each other.

Now, with this Round Robin, we'll have a bit more poetic license. A border could be simple or complex, thin or wide, free-form or traditional. If you're unsure what border to add, you could collaborate with another quilter. Or look for inspiration online or in some quilting books. I found one in my collection called *Perfect-Fit Pieced Borders*, by Sheila Sinclair Snyder.

An idea that might be helpful — if members have specific preferences, they could write them in a note to go along with their center block and extra fabrics. Some examples — if they have a focus fabric they are including, they could specify whether they want it in each added border, or maybe just in alternating borders. If they'd like a certain color used predominantly, they could say that, too. They could say whether they like free-form or wonky or traditional. Or let people know they should just do whatever they'd like. While the person who

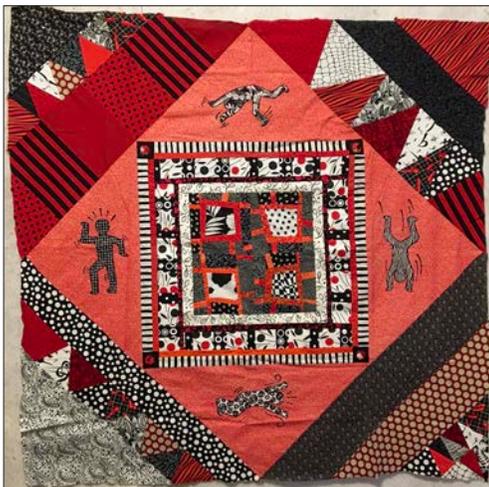


[Round Robin Possibilities continued on next page](#)

makes the center should include some fabric which coordinates with the original block, they could also ask that the other creators add their own fabrics, and maybe just suggest a particular palette.

I would say the main thing is to participate — jump in, enjoy the process, and have a good time!

### ROUND ROBIN EXAMPLES



# Programming Update

Here's what to look forward to in the next few weeks:

## February Meeting

Our focus will be on honoring Black History Month with guests from the St. Johns Quilting Group, led by Doris Douglas. They will present a slideshow of quilts made by their members and/or Brooklyn Quilters Guild members.

We all love to see quilts, so bring your recent quilt or quilt top finishes to share at the February Show and Tell. Also bring quilts you've made that fit with these two themes (they don't have to be recent quilts):

1. Black History Month, featuring African fabrics, social justice, Black heroes or culture.
2. Valentine's Day, hearts, love themed, double wedding rings.

## March Meeting

Clara Nartey, a portrait quilter, will speak at our March meeting. She will speak about her process for designing and sewing portrait quilts and bring quilts to share. You can see some of her work on her website:

<https://claranartey.com/>.

## Upcoming Workshop

Lisa Shepard Stewart of Cultured Expressions in Rahway, NJ, will teach a workshop in Ankara String Quilting, using African fabrics on Sunday, February 27, 1-4 p.m.

To register and for more information, go to

<https://tinyurl.com/mssh2s2d>.

African fabric rolls with 50 unique strips are available for \$54.95 for 2.5-inch strips, or \$34.95 for 1.5-inch strips. Or use your own fabric. For more information on Cultured Expressions, go to <https://www.culturedexpressions.com>. Workshop registration information will be available soon.

~ Barbara Danzi

# EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR

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While 2021 had many challenges, members of our Guild are not stuck in the past. We're looking forward to sewing adventures in 2022. Here's what some of us said in the chat at our January Zoom meeting in response to the question:

**What's something in your sewing life that you're excited about as you look ahead to the new year?**

**Sonya Nygard:** I got a new presser foot!

**Sara Goggin:** Making baby quilts for our first baby, due in July!

**Micki Segel:** Learning to make improvisational quilts.

**Ginny Dorris:** I plan to make a crazy quilt for the fence show. It will be my first! I got gifted two big boxes of dress-making scraps I plan to use. Stay tuned.

**Reggie Sonsino:** Using all my favorite fabrics. And I just got inspired to use my African fabrics.

**Sharon Calandra:** Very excited to BLAST the "U" from UFO!

**Ann Davenport:** I have discovered that I really like paper piecing. Looking forward to working on much more intricate patterns in 2022.

**Alice Braziller:** Learning how to make pajama bottoms and other wearables.

**Barbara Danzi:** I have three quilts in the Road to California show this coming week. And four quilts will be in Quiltcon next month.

**Gail Otis:** I'm doing embroidery for a change of pace and am taking a Zoom class with the Royal School of Needlework.

**Valerie Wingfield:** I will be taking a hand sewing class at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

**Margaret Pross:** Taking a class with Kaffe Fassett, including a tour of his home. We're making a tumbling block quilt.

**Chris Petersen:** I'm looking forward to the Round Robin project. And I hope to share a good amount of my fabric stash with other members, and with Sheri's Place.

**Jennifer Franc:** I am also doing the Kaffe Fassett workshop with Jenni Smith of Quiltfolk. Loving it!

**Anne Stone:** Among my UFOs I found a needlepoint I made 30+ years ago. It was designed by Kaffe Fassett before he became a designer of knitted items and, later, fabrics and quilts. Fortunately, my color preferences have been consistent over the years and I still like it. I researched how to block it and finally made it into a 14-inch square pillow!

**Trudy Reeves:** I'm finally putting the binding on a primrose quilt for my sister whose name is Primrose, our grandmother's maiden Scottish name. Prim has Alzheimer's so I've put some childhood memories on the back of the quilt.

**Mary Hawley:** I just got a new free-motion quilting foot that will replace the 'cheaper' one I bought at the beginning of the pandemic. Looking forward to overcoming some of my sewing frustrations (though that hasn't stopped me for the last two years).

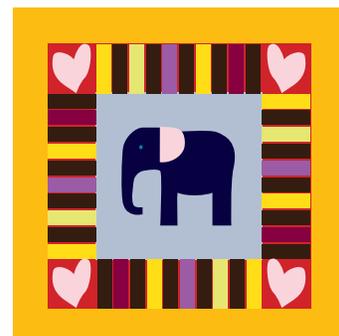
**Claire de Laszio:** Scrap piecing is now what I'm most excited about!

**Martha McDonald:** I am looking forward to the Guild workshops!

**Susannah Laskaris:** Looking forward to all that lies ahead for all of us in 2022!

Didn't get a chance to share your 2022 excitement? It's not too late. Send me a sentence or a few, and we'll include it in a future **Bee**. In the meantime, Happy New Year and may all our sewing dreams come true.

~ Alice Braziller



# SEW SMART

## Tips N' Tools

### Making Easy Half Square Triangle Units

Half square triangles are the building blocks for so many quilts. I discovered a quick, time saving, no waste way to make eight of these at one time. Here are the simple steps:

- First decide how big you want the final finished half square unit to measure. Then multiple that by two and add 1 3/4 inches. This is the size of the two squares of contrasting fabrics you will cut out. For example, if I want my finished half square triangle to finish at two inches, I will cut out two squares that measure 5 3/4 inches.
- On the lighter fabric, mark the two diagonal lines from corner to corner in a solid line. Then draw a solid line from the center of each side. (Figure 1)
- Now draw a sewing line 1/4-inch on each side of the two diagonal lines. I draw a line with dashes to distinguish the sewing line from the solid cutting line. (Figure 2)
- Place the marked light square atop the darker square with right sides facing each other. Use a pin or two to keep the squares together. Sew along the marked sewing lines lifting pins as you go.

- Cut along the solid lines you drew in Figure 1.
- Voila! You will have eight perfect half square triangles.

This method works for any size half square triangle unit.

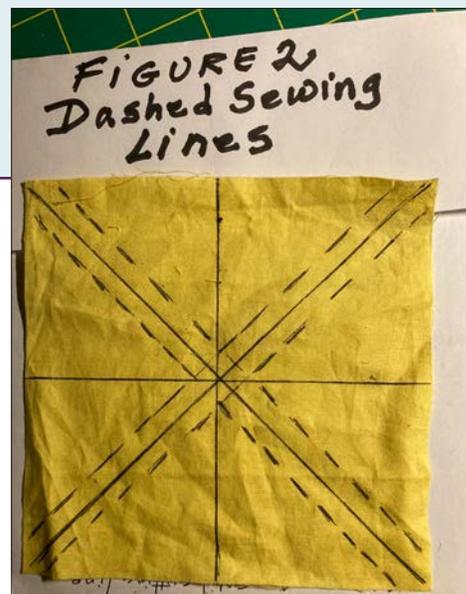
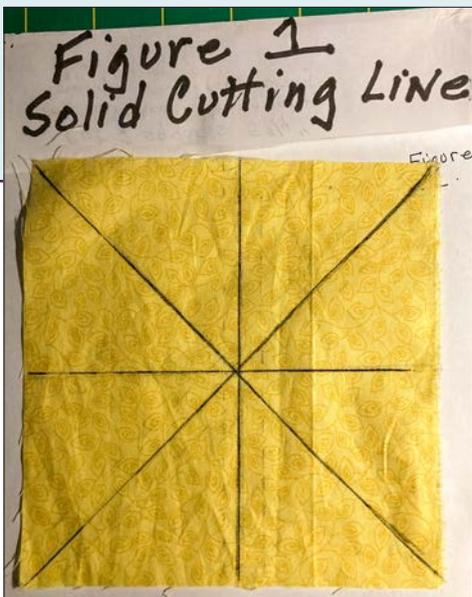
To make future half square triangle units the same size, draw the diagram on a sheet of paper and make copies for easy paper piecing templates.

Do you have a favorite way to make half square triangle units? If so, don't keep it to yourself. Please share what works for you and we will publish your suggestions in a future Bee.

Hope to hear from you.

My best,

Alice Braziller  
[alicebraziller@gmail.com](mailto:alicebraziller@gmail.com)





## Green/Genesis: How Will It End?

Guild member Valerie Turer is a leader in our "green" quilting movement. In 2010, she completed a quilt called "Green/Genesis" for the Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park. The top is made with unbleached muslin, a minimally processed fabric; selvages, and scraps too small to save. The batting is reused plastic bags and the backing is a worn and frayed pillowcase.

What's more, she didn't use any electricity (fossil fuels) when making the quilt. It is hand pierced, hand appliquéd and hand quilted, all done without the use of a sewing machine, an iron or even electric lights. All of the work was done during natural daylight.

Valerie explains the meaning of the quilt:

"We tell ourselves stories about life on our planet, but the beginning and ending are unknown, and we understand only in part what is happening now.

"The circle/sun is the source of energy for 'this fragile earth, our island home.' There are forty squares, a significant number in Hebrew and Christian scripture.

"The narrative begins with the black square on the lower right.

"In the beginning, darkness was on the face of the deep.

"God said 'Let there be light.'

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden. Rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

"The rainbow is God's promise: flood waters will never again cover the earth.

"In the post flood world, we see increasing

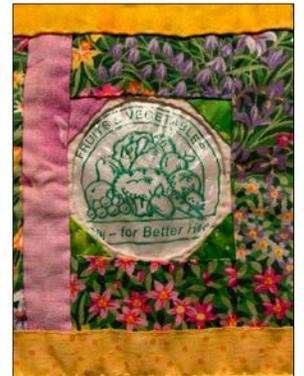
destruction of creation. Pollution and extreme weather bring suffering to humankind. As the planet grows warmer, we may see the prediction in the Negro Spiritual come true: 'Won't be water, but fire next time.'



Green/Genesis measures 27 by 77 inches.

"Question: will the 'fire' bring about another flood, as the polar ice caps melt?"

~ Valerie K. Turer



A shopping bag from City Quilter



Out of darkness came light.



Waters covered the face of the earth.

## REMEMBERING GUILD MEMBER ANNA FOSS

### SWATCHES AND STITCHES

A POEM BY ANNA'S NIECE ~ KRISTINA BRANDT

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Unwanted, discarded, forgotten about  
by all except my Aunt who  
in her special way, curated each scrap,  
each square, and kept them close.  
You just never knew when swatches were needed.

A small yellow scrap of fabric  
left over from a previous project  
would be perfect for this small detail.  
Or the greens piled high in the living room  
of various hues and patterns would make  
for a lovely tree, if stitched just right.  
You just never knew what you would need,  
so she kept them all and gave them a home.

My Aunt was a quilter. An artist. A creator.  
She took the little pieces that  
on their own got lost or blended in,  
and gave them new life, a new purpose,  
as something warm and comforting and beautiful.

My Aunt was also a teacher,  
though I was a poor student.  
When I was younger she brought  
stacks and stacks of squares, with lines  
drawn on them to show  
where to put my needle and thread.  
Pinks and greens, blues and reds,  
they didn't seem to work together,  
but she saw, and she knew, they did.

Each visit brought more swatches and with it  
more lessons, though less patience on my part.  
While my aunt created works of art  
my quilting kept falling apart  
with crooked stitches too big, too small,  
too loose, too tight.  
It seemed my seams had a habit of wandering off.

My Aunt never scolded, never told me  
it wasn't good enough.  
She'd listen, and look,  
and tell me,  
Just rip the stitches out  
and try again.

Whenever a stitch seemed out of place  
or my lines didn't match,

or a square I picked was actually  
destined for a different spot,  
I could always undo the stitches,  
line up my squares,  
and start again.

My Aunt was a quilter.  
A creator, a second-life-giver to fabrics long  
forgotten.  
I am not.

My stitches are still uneven, my seams crooked.  
The swatches she brought me over the years  
still sit dormant in some dark space.  
I do not have the talent for quilting.

Yet I never stopped stitching  
the moments she gave me,  
piece by piece,  
square by square.  
Over the years I have made spaces  
for the piles and miles of swatches  
of time she gave me,  
and hoard them in every nook and cranny  
in my mind.  
Through the years of lessons,  
of clippings, of thriftings,  
of talks about writing and books,  
my career, my degrees,  
each memory became a swatch  
that found its place among  
the mismatched pieces  
of our time together.  
All imperfectly stitched together  
the only way I know how.

True, the stitches still aren't perfect,  
and missing swatches from memories  
I'll never have will leave gaps,  
but it's the quilt I carry with me, around me,  
and the one I continue to build.  
If the pieces don't fit,  
or the pattern longs to change,  
or the stitching falls apart,  
I can always undo the stitches,  
line up my swatches,  
and start again.

# Sew Know: PRESSING MATTERS

BY MARCIE BRENNER, MCSE

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**H**OW WILL YOU PRESS your seams starts before you begin piecing the blocks. The question that must be answered is how will you quilt the quilt? It used to be an easy decision, there was hand quilted or machine quilted with stitch-in-the-ditch or ¼-inch from the seam; seams were pressed to the side, usually the darker one.

When the fabric is pressed this way the stitching is not exposed and the seam is not under stress. I can remember when I started quilting, that if it was not hand quilted, it was not considered quilted; machine quilting was not even accepted into shows.

Times have changed and we get to enjoy the artistry of machine quilters. With machine quilting, it is preferable to press seams open to prevent bulk at the seam intersections, which gives the top a smoother surface for

the machine to travel over. Machine quilting is not confined to following the seams and can be very elaborate, crossing over seams to strengthen them.

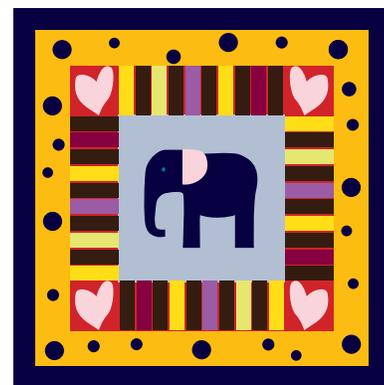
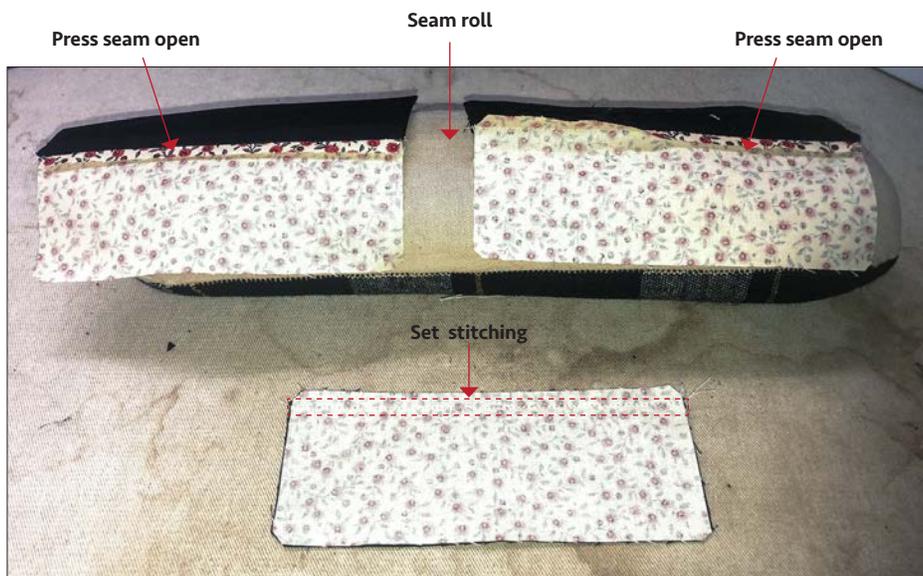
Many people are very adept at maneuvering the sandwich on their home machines, creating their own designs or following a pantograph (design printed on paper or using stencils). Manufacturers have produced machines with a wider harp (distance between needle and the side of the machine) to make it easier to quilt a quilt. The production and market for mid-arm and long-arm machines has grown, both hand guided and robotic.

Seams must be pressed throughout the construction process to create a flat block/quilt. First press the seam as stitched to set the stitches, next press to the side or open, then press the front, taking care to remove any

pleating or wrinkles, as they will become part of the quilt if not eliminated as the creation progresses. Doing assembly-line stitching and pressing helps to reduce the trips to the iron. Using a seam roll with the seam lying on top allows only the seam to be pressed and is especially helpful when pressing seams open.

Another good pressing tool is a wool pressing pad on the ironing board; it traps the heat between the iron and the ironing board so that more of it focuses on the fabric. Steam is not used with it, and threads can be removed with a lint roll. It should be hand washed and air dried when necessary, never in a washer and dryer.

A quilt can be improved or ruined in the pressing stages. ❖



## JANUARY BLOCK OF THE MONTH



Left: The winner of the January Block of the Month, "Pudgy Pear," was Eileen Anderson. Congratulations Eileen! Watch your email or check the Guild's website for the February Block of the Month, an "Heirloom Tomato."

Right: This photo shows a possible layout for this year's fruit and vegetable blocks.

## Membership Report

As of January 18, 2022, our Guild has 182 members. We welcome our newest members, Valerie Wingfield and Linda Patron, who joined the Guild in December.

~ Barbara Christ, Membership Co-Chair

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# Events of Note

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**Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950-2019, Through February, 2022.** Whitney Museum of American Art, 99 Gansevoort St., NYC. For more information: <https://www.whitney.org>.

**QuiltCon, February 16-20, 2022.** Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ. Sponsored by the Modern Quilt Guild. Exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, lectures. Four-day pass is \$36; one-day pass \$12. Additional fees for lectures, workshops and special events. Guild member Barbara Danzi has quilts in this exhibit. For more information, <https://www.quiltcon.com/attend/>.

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

**Lancaster Quilt Show, March 23-26, 2022.** The Double Tree Willow Valley Resort, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster PA. More than 40 vendors, antique quilt exhibit and lots of classes. Admission and parking are free. To register for classes, go to <https://thelancasterquiltshow.com>.

**American Quilter's Society Quilt Week, March 23-26, 2022.** Branson Convention Center, 200 S. Sycamore St., Branson, MO. Exhibits, vendors, instruction and more. For more information: <https://www.americanquilter.com/quilt-week/event/landing/eventid/21>.

**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/>.

## 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](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com).

We have secured the following upcoming retreat dates for **2022 at Cross Roads**: March 2-7, May 31-June 5 and October 23-28.

For more information, contact: Martha Musgrove ([marf86@hotmail.com](mailto:marf86@hotmail.com)) or Susan Aronoff ([susan.aronoff@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto:clieber@verizon.net).

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

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