The Brooklyn Bee

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2016

Volume 24 Issue 4

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At our November meeting we collected:

4 Veterans Quilts

7 Reach to Recovery Bags

3 Comfort Quilts

30 ABC Quilts

11 pillowcases — total of **124** for the year. They will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald house in early December.

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER:

Dear friends,

It was so good to see so many members at our November meeting. It was so much fun. I think that it was due to a combination of things. Our coffee, tea, and bagels are back! Thanks to Gladys Watson and her team. Our Vender Susan Sato bought beautiful fabrics to sell and our Block of the Month and Show and Tell were pretty exciting to see. We really do have great quilters in our guild.
At our December 17, 2016 meeting we will be having our Holiday Party. Please come and enjoy the fun with us!
See you soon!

Madonna Connor
Co-President

Sell and bring your raffle tickets to the December meeting and be ready to win! The Comfort Raffle Quilt drawing will take place at the Holiday Party!

2016–2017 Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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Opening Reception and Artist Discussion

Trip Around The World Quilt Challenge

Saturday, December 3, from 2-4 p.m.

At Windsor Terrace Library

The exhibit runs from November 16, 2016 through January 18, 2017

COME SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW GUILD MEMBERS

Join Us at Our Monthly Meetings

GUILD MEETINGS

Third Saturday of the month, except July and August.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 17, 2016

Holy Name of Jesus Church, Shepherd's Hall
245 Prospect Park West (entrance to Shepherd's Hall in back, off the parking lot).
Business Meeting: 9:45 a.m. Members welcome.
General Meeting: 11:00 a.m. Members: free; guest fee: $5.

Transportation:
Bus: B-68 to last stop at Prospect Park West
Subway: F train to 15th Street/Prospect Park
Parking available.

SUNDAY BEES

Second and fourth Sundays of the month, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Bring your sewing machine and lunch and spend the day. Large tables available for use — great for batting up your quilts.

Marien Heim Senior Center
4520 Fourth Avenue at 46th Street, Sunset Park, Brooklyn.
For more info, call Madonna Connor at 718-748-6512.

The Brooklyn Bee

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Margaret Marcy Emerson

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AREA QUILT SHOWS
Martha Musgrove

QUILT TIPS
Alice Braziller

SEW KNOW
Marcie Brenner

BLOCK OF THE MONTH
Robyn Bellamy & Ginny Dorris

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Martha Musgrove
Linda McNeeley
Marie Towle

Something to share?
Deadline for submissions for the January 2017 issue of *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m., Monday, December 19, 2016.
Please email them to:
editor.BrooklynBee@gmail.com

Above: New quilter Elzie Harris completes her first block ever!! (green and white) at the BQG mini retreat.

Report from the Vice Presidents

WORKSHOP — MINI RETREAT — DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING

Members Teaching Members

OUR MEMBERS TEACHING Members workshop was well attended and fun for both those sharing their expertise and those attending. A big thank you to the presenters:

Marcie Brenner with her easy curved piecing templates in various sizes. If you wanted to buy one and didn't get it at the meeting, you can send her an email at **sewbeary@aol.com**.

Shelly Raffle with her demo of mitered corners. If you didn't get her crystal clear handout, she will email one to you. Send a request at **shelly_nyc@yahoo.com**.

Madonna Connor – Love that plastic bag holder. I now have a whole empty drawer in my kitchen ! To get her great handout, email her at **madonna49@verizon.net**.

Jody Leight Infinity scarves for everyone on my gift list. Cut at least 15" wide and 5-6 feet long. Twist or not as you like.

Gladys Watson with her demo of quilt sleeve making and application.

Lucy Grassi and **Judy Kotkin** for Kay Francis Frye's turtle pincushion pattern.

If you wanted to present but didn't have a chance this time, we may be able to schedule another Members Teaching Members in the spring.

First BQG Mini Retreat

THE FIRST MINI RETREAT held at Marie Towle's was enjoyed by six members on Sat., Nov. 12. An all day affair, with a shared potluck lunch, allowed for much sewing to be accomplished. It was especially good for new members. The conclusion from this experience is that It is worth doing again, perhaps with even more of an "orientation to quilting" aspect.

Friendships were made and quilt knowledge shared during the productive work day in Marie's comfortable home.

December Holiday Potluck Celebration

THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY Potluck is coming up next month. We have many great traditions and this is one of them! The guild is supplying paper goods, coffee, and tea. To ensure all aspects of the meal are supplied, please note the following suggestions. If your last name begins with:

A-F Please bring a MAIN COURSE

G-K Please bring a SALAD

L-R Please bring an APPETIZER

S-V Please bring a DESSERT

W Please bring a BEVERAGE

Fat Quarter Swap

Everyone who brings in two fat quarters for the swap will go home with two new fabrics to enjoy. Any theme or color. Until then, happy quilting.
~Linda McNeeley and Marie Towle

NANCY CROW | Boot Camp for Quilters

Working 9 to 5? It was more like 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.!

BY MARTHA MCDONALD

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, seven members of the Brooklyn Quilters Guild, armed with hundreds of yards of fabric, sewing machines, and loads of supplies, headed for Baltimore, Ohio, for a weeklong workshop with Nancy Crow. Some took two days to drive the 500-plus miles; others completed the drive in a day. The crew included (in alphabetical order): Madi Appell, our organizer, Joyce Crupi, Kirsten Fisher, Martha McDonald, Bryn Meehan, Ellen Piccolo, and Margaret Walsh. Another friend, Susan Byrnes, joined the Brooklyn group, and we are hoping she joins the guild.

Back row: (left to right): Madi, Ellen, Margaret, the chef; Nancy Crow, Kirsten, Martha, and Susan. In front: Byrn, Joyce, and Margaret. We survived!

The class, The Best of Strip Piecing I & II, was held in a historic barn that the family moved and renovated. Built in 1850, it is nestled on the Crow property near another restored barn, the family home, and Nancy Crow's studio.

The barn where the classes are held. Built in 1850, it was moved and rebuilt as a teaching space by Nancy's husband and two sons along with other workers. The first classes were held in the barn in 2001.

Workspaces were assigned when we arrived on Sunday afternoon. We set up our machines, design walls, fabrics, and other equipment before going into the dining room for dinner at six. After dinner, we all introduced ourselves. In addition to the twenty-seven people in the strip-piecing class, there were another fifteen or so students in the dye class. Seven of the eight Brooklyn people were in the strip-piecing class; Kirsten did independent study.

The work began Monday morning with a black-and-white project, then on Tuesday we started working with color. Nancy Crow was there from 9 to 5, but for most of the time, the quilters started work at 7 a.m. and worked through until the barn closed at 9 p.m. It was exhausting, challenging, and finally, exhilarating.

There were many memorable moments. For Joyce, one occurred when Nancy told her to take the "ugly fabric" off her design wall. Nancy suggested that this fabric would be suitable for a dog bed. "I said 'thank you so much' for the suggestion and I promptly hid the piece in my stash," said Joyce.

Interior of the barn. Everyone had his/her individual workspace.

Lunch, snack, and dinner were served at the barn in the adjacent dining room and on the deck. Prepared by Margaret Boys Wolf, also a master quilter, the meals were delicious. No food or drinks were allowed in the workspaces.

At one point during the week, all

TOP: Margaret and Kirsten with the always available chocolate candy bowl.

BOTTOM: In the kitchen with Chef Margaret, Nancy Crow, Nathaniel, and Dale.

students showed previous work and gave a bit of background information. Many were very experienced quilters; some were art quilters and others came from other professions. For example, there was one physician, a psychologist, and a couple of photographers.

During the week, we heard an unusual electronic noise coming from the work area of one of our fellow quilters. It turns out it was her fabulous seam ripper, which was actually a dog hair clipper, available at Walmart for $8.97.

On Thursday afternoon we started composing our quilts on our design walls. This continued, with guidance from Nancy Crow into Friday, as we started sewing the final quilts together. Everyone left with a completed or a near-completed quilt top—and all were very different and beautiful! Some of us took side trips along the way. For example, Madi and Martha discovered Burkholder Fabrics in Denver, PA, quite by accident and it turned out to be a real find. The ad says "30,000 bolts of fabrics at Lancaster Prices." That was no lie; the prices were quite reasonable.

Working on our quilts on the design walls. Left to right from top: Margaret Walsh, Madi Appel, Ellen Piccolo, Martha McDonald, Joyce Crupi, and Kirsten Fisher.

Madi had done research before the drive and discovered The National Museum of the American Coverlet in Bedford, PA. It was also quite a find. We saw historic coverlets dating from the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s, along with historic spinning wheels and looms, and were treated to quite a bit of information by the owners who also founded the museum.

Another wonderful side trip was to The Dairy Barn in Athens, Ohio. Nancy was the curator of its current show. Three of Nancy's quilts and work by Margaret Boys Wolf were in the show, and these were magnificent.

One particularly notable event during the week was Madi's birthday. Her family sent beautiful flowers and Margaret made a red velvet cake and the group sang happy birthday to her and to another person, Elayne, who also had a birthday.

Margaret summed it up this way: "It was a very intense and stressful class that gave me a new way of thinking about color and design. I would describe Nancy as a no-nonsense instructor and the class as best for those who can work without a lot of direction. It was a great start to working without a pattern. I am curious to see how it informs my future work."

Madi cited many fond memories, in addition to the sewing. "Discovering a fabulous quilt shop, Burkholders, on the way, the Museum of the American Coverlet in Bedford, PA, a visit to The Dairy Barn to see the quilt exhibit..., and eating the famous Greater's Ice Cream." She adds that it was a "great working environment with state-of-the-art equipment surrounded by Nancy's art collection and a delightful kitchen with dining both inside and on the deck. And, the best meals were beautifully presented by Margaret!"

Back home, Bryn added, "I don't know if I will do this again but I'm glad I did it once. I just had a long back and neck massage to help me recover from the physical strain of twelve hours a day sewing, cutting, and ironing." ❖

For more information

Nancy Crow: **www.nancycrow.com**
Burkholder Fabrics: **www.burkfabric.com**
The Dairy Barn: **www.dairybarn.org**
The National Museum of the American Coverlet: **www.coverletmuseum.org**

A Quilt Community 24/7

WE QUIZZED MEMBERS about their participations with online quilt block exchanges and online block of the month programs. Here are the first responses. Please share your own favorites with us by sending them by email to *The Brooklyn Bee* at editor.BrooklynBee@gmail.com.

FROM THE BLOG "CLOVER AND VIOLET": A PATTERN AND TUTORIAL FOR THIS HOLIDAY FESTIVE BLOCK. FIND IT AT: HTTP://TINYURL.COM/HKE27XB

Simplest block exchange ever! No-stress piecing Result: Just fun

TWO GUILD FRIENDS AND I PARTICIPATED in a block swap that was very easy and a lot of fun. It was simply an exchange of 2.5" half-square triangles (to finish at 2"), all made using paper templates such as "Triangles on a Roll" or "Thangles" for excellent accuracy and consistency — not to mention speedy construction. And that worked!

It was sponsored by a quilt shop in Plant City, Fla. — Inspire! Quilting & Sewing! — so it used the Internet to spread the word and the particulars: However many you made and sent in, that's how many you got back, via your enclosed SASE. Guild member Sharon Pratt invited me to participate; she heard about it from our guild member Bryan Pratt, who heard about it from the shop. Inspire! is now one of his favorite haunts since this Brooklyn guy got based in Florida by his always-traveling job of big rig trucker.

We all used the paper Triangles on a Roll, which get pinned to 6" strips of fabric. I found this a very manageable size, and am now a fan of this cool quilting aide. After stitching, we rotary-cut the triangles apart but left them unopened and with the paper attached. Each person was asked to write their city and state on the paper, so folks could see how far and wide their exchanges had traveled to get to them. Mine came from Florida, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, California, New York, Nevada, Michigan ... many states.

But, as it turned out, there is an even bigger Brooklyn connection to this story. Sharon happened to be on vacation and visiting Bryan (he's her son) when the deadline for this exchange hit, and all the triangles rained down on the shop. Sharon and Bryan volunteered to make sense of this chaos and tackled divvying up these lovely little triangles, sending to each participant no duplicates and none of their own, so far as possible.

Sharon told me one person sent in 600! There was a minimum of 30, I think, to participate; but once "on a roll," it was like eating potato chips — really. I doubt there were many submissions of only 30. I made 136; Sharon made 160, and Bryan made about 250. Thanks in part to two of our Guild members, the shop made a lot of happy campers.

None of us have used these little morsels of magic yet in a quilt, but many ideas are percolating. I think this would be a great activity for a quilt retreat — on a smaller scale, of course. It was a lot of fun!

~Martha Musgrove

Block Lotto

www.blocklotto.com

I'VE DONE A GREAT DEAL OF QUILTING by following two blogs or websites: Block Lotto and Bonnie Hunter's Quiltville.

Block Lotto, which I've participated in for about ten years, off and on, is exactly like the guild's block-of-the-month, but it's virtual. On the first day of the month the site's leader, a quilter named Sophie, posts a block pattern and the fabric colors to be used. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome. To enter the lottery a quilter just needs to follow the directions to make a block, take a photo of it, and post a photo to the block lotto website before the end of that month. Each quilter is permitted to make up to nine blocks a month, to get nine chances in the lottery.

Sophie uses a random number program to pick the winners. If in a month there are a lot of blocks entered, sometimes she's pick 2 or 3 winners, and each will get about 40 blocks, enough to make a lap-size quilt. She then creates a chart and instructs the people who did not win to send the blocks they've made to the winners, who live all over the world.

I've won perhaps seven or eight times over the years and have been very happy with the blocks I've received from all over the U.S. and countries including South Africa, New Zealand, and England. I've made a few small quilts from my winnings, and have combined two months' worth of winnings to make larger quilts. I've really enjoyed "meeting" quilters from all over through the site, and have learned new techniques following Sophie's *patterns.* ❖

BY GINNY DORRIS

Bonnie Hunter's Quiltville

www.quiltville.blogspot.com

BONNIE HUNTER, A QUILT TEACHER and designer in North Carolina, has a wonderful website that contains lots of free patterns and useful tips and other information. Each year, starting the day after Thanksgiving, she sponsors a free online mystery quilt class, of sorts, where quilters from around the world follow along and post photos of their progress each week on her website. Bonnie once explained that she schedules the new mystery project after Thanksgiving because it gives quilters who are alone at the holidays or who've lost loved ones something to look forward to, and a community to connect to. I thought that was brilliant. And I've found it to be a good distraction from the craziness of the shopping, etc., in the past. I've made three of these quilts and have been really happy with the results, and with the experience of being part of her enormous online quilting community. Again, it's open to anyone. ❖

GRAND ILLUSION MYSTERY

CELTIC MYSTERY

Interested in participating? Bonnie's latest mystery just began, titled: En Provence! A Quiltville Mystery. Check it out online at ***www.quiltville.blogspot.com***

SEW SMART

Tips n' Tools

✻✻ THE TOOL ✻✻

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE YOUR BOBBIN RUNS out precisely at the crucial moment when you are so into your project? Winding a bobbin and rethreading your machine at such a moment can seem like a nuisance, an unwanted interruption. Debbie Breckenridge has found a solution: Wright's Portable Bobbin Sidewinder. At a retreat, I saw Debbie happily loading bobbin after bobbin on this nifty tool that comes with a UL-approved AC power cord/adapter (included) or runs on 2 AA batteries (not included). Accommodates all bobbins that have a standard round center hole. This 5½ x 4 x 5-inch package comes in a variety of colors.

There are several sidewinders that do the same thing, but Wright's seems to be the most durable one according to sewers' reviews on Amazon. Debbie has had hers for years and she still enjoys it. Google it and it will come up on many websites and costs $20-30.

✻✻ THE TIP ✻✻

Another shortcut for having those bobbins ready is to wind 4 or 5 bobbins using the thread for your upcoming project before you start sewing. Simple, inexpensive, and makes so much sense. Happy Winding!

~Alice Braziller

BLUE LINE KIDS H.A.L.O.S. PROGRAM

Quilts for Kids

WE NEED YOUR HELP," WAS THE email I received from the National Alliance for Law Enforcement Support for their Blue Line Kids Halos program. Since 2014 over 350 children have had a police officer parent killed in the line of duty and each has received a quilt. This year has been exceptionally bad and quilts are urgently needed. I hope the guild will continue their generosity and donate a lap quilt or larger—48" x 60" minimum size. Please, no religious or law enforcement elements or wording that would make the recipient think that we are celebrating their parent's death. Thank you so much. I will collect them at the December meeting and send them to their headquarters. If you wish to start a quilt now, I can collect them in the spring.

~Kathy Clarke

FROM THEIR WEBSITE / ABOUT US:

Blue Line Kids H.A.L.O.S. program is a part of Wives Behind the Badge, Inc. We are dedicated to providing handmade quilts to all children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. Our goal is to create beautiful, comforting quilts that a child can hug, hold and use during their very difficult time. We serve all children from birth to 18 years old in the United States.

LEARN MORE:

www.facebook.com/blkhalos/about/

Thoughts on Our Autumn Retreat

OUR AUTUMN RETREAT WAS WONDERFUL AS USUAL. THE combination of fabric, friends and good food always makes for a great 3 to 5 day weekend!

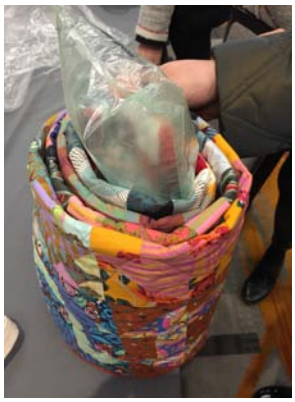
The ride up every October is always very colorful but this year, the Thursday travelers were surprised with some white snow.

This year we enjoyed the addition of a new quilt shop, Cotton Candy. It's a small but colorful shop just up the road from Joann's. They have an on line store with next day delivery too, www.cottoncandyfabrics.com. Of course we delighted in the choice at The Quilt Shop by Lois and The Yankee Quilter too.

At Heritage, the design wall displayed many works of art. We enjoyed sharing ideas and new quilting "gadgets." We munched on goodies from the break-out areas as we listened to music and made our quilts.

If you've never been to a retreat, give it a try next spring! It's a relaxing few days, away from reality, while making quilts with friends.

~Maryann McEvoy



TIP: FOLDING A QUILT

Wrapping a quilt around a shipping air pillow can keep the quilt from unslightly creases. This is especially important when shipping a quilt to a show.

BOOK REVIEW

Simple Super One-Patch Quilts

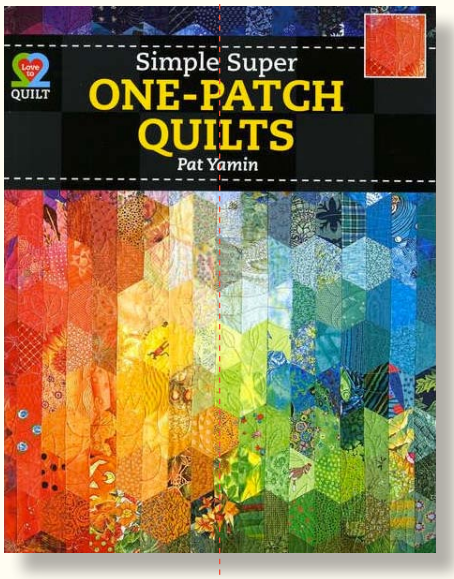
AUTHOR: PAT YAMIN

SIMPLE SUPER IS ONE of two quilt books I'd want with me if stranded on a tropical island, presumably with a substantial pile of fabric and my sewing kit. (The second is *Barbara Brackman's Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*.)

Although Pat Yamin's one-patch patterns can be created imaginatively with repeating fabrics, they are especially wonderful candidates for charm quilts, which provide an opportunity to share and trade fabric with friends to create a quilt with no two pieces of the same fabric and therefore no two quilts alike. Pat describes this exchange as a "beggar's quilt" in her introduction, where she briefly discusses the historical retrospective of quilting, fabric hunts, patterns, fabric prep and storage, templates, and piecing—all in a concise format.

All her quilts are created with a one-patch template: "A one-patch pattern is a single shape (hexagon, diamond, square, or rectangle) without sashing or borders between the pieces." The templates for each of the quilts are graded Easy, Medium (or Harder in the AQS version—*Super Simple* was originally published by American Quilter's Society as part of the Quilt Savvy series and this original version is available in an ebook edition at **www.americanquilter.com** at a very reasonable price).

The quilts shown are in full color; especially appealing is the American flag composed of Equilateral Triangles. There is also a bonus segment featuring templates in combination that create a two-piece charm quilt. The Offset Square uses four offset square units and resembles the Windmill (and Mini Windmill), which uses four blocks of two pieces each. Sounds confusing? Nope, these are rated easy along with Square, Brick, Tumbler, Thimble, Half Rectangle, and Fun Patch. In the medium range of difficulty are Slanted and Half-Square Kite, Hexagon (full and half), Twisted Tumbler, and Pentagon. Four others in the medium range and five in the harder range are in the original AQS Quilt Savvy edition mentioned above.



Pat's second book, *Two-Patch Scrap Quilts*, doubles the fun with two patches that work together. Books and templates are available through Pat's website **www.comequiltwithme.com**. *Super Simple One-Patch Quilts* (the new edition described) is $12.95, but if you order both books, purchase price is $40.00.

Some years ago, I started saving fabrics from Empire Quilters' share table and trading with others while stretching the one-of-a-kind fabric rule for novelty fabrics that, for instance, had six different teddy bears. At the time, lore was that when you finished making a quilt with 999 pieces you would marry the next man you met. It was amusing until several friends went through messy divorces, the quilt still not finished. In the end I started a Thimble quilt, stitching 52 thimbles across—an easy number to recall. After picking deep magenta and gold border fabric, I began stitching rows together and then added top and side borders, appliquéing the thimble side ends to the border as I sewed, creating the illusion that the border was attached in a zigzag manner.

Though there is not much instruction for the inexperienced quilter, to me, Pat's book says here's your template, here's a sample of what you can do, ready, set, let's go!

~Anna Foss

Minutes of the Executive Board
Brooklyn Quilters Guild – November 19, 2016

In Attendance:

Co-presidents Jody Leight and Madonna Connor, Co-Vice Presidents Linda McNeely and Marie Towle, Treasurer Ruth Marchese, Secretary Trudy Reeves, Hospitality Chair Gladys Watson, and Newsletter Editor and Website Manager Margaret Marcy Emerson.

Treasurer's Report

Guild Monthly Income/Expense by Category 10/14/16–11/18/16

ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	$ 13,692.93
Lenni Abel Fund	4,765.03
Petty Cash	267.00
Credit Cards (credit)	1.67
NET WORTH	**$18,726.63**
Income/Expense by Category	
Fifty-Fifty	76.00
Meeting Raffle	165.00
Guest Fees	45.00
Membership Dues	710.00
Interest on Lenni Abel Fund	.12
Postcard-Comfort Quilts	405.00
Bee Ads	100.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$ 1,501.12**
Expenses	
Charitable Work	
Comfort quilts	63.67
ABC quilts	158.33
Postcards – Comfort quilts	176.77
Website	24.75
Printing: Bee	369.00
QuiltShow – T-Shirts	212.50
Professional Services – Meeting set up	40.00
Small Quilt Challenge	62.70
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 895.22**
OVERALL TOTAL (PROFIT)	**$ 605.90**

The meeting was called to order by Jody Leight, Co-President.

Treasurer's Report

Ruth presented the above Treasurer's Report. She also suggested that the guild open a savings account for the increase in dues to be used for the quilt show in 2018. This will physically separate the funds from our general fund. The savings account will be with the same bank where we have our checking account. The Executive Committee concurred.

Ruth reported that in order to give a donation letter to those who have donated nonmonetary items to the guild, she will need names and contact information for those people. The letters will thank the donors who can then use the letters as support for a deduction on their income tax if it is appropriate for them to take such donation.

Guild Accountant

Jody reported that she contacted two accounting firms. One proposed a fee that was too high and she is still discussing the fee with the other.

2018 Quilt Show

The Marriott still has not yet made a commitment to us. Jody is staying in contact with them to obtain a commitment. Carol Lieberman is the point person for the show and will hold an organizing meeting soon.

BQG Event/Activity Proposal

Margaret Marcy presented a draft form for proposals. The draft will be finalized for the next meeting.

Mini Retreat

Marie reported that the first mini retreat was a success. It was held in her home and had six attendees. She is planning another for the future.

December Holiday Party

Marie and Linda will announce the Holiday Party at today's general meeting. It will include a potluck lunch and fabric swap. Everyone who wants to participate in the swap will be asked to donate two fat quarters.

The board meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
Submitted by Trudy Reeves, Secretary

DATE CHANGE:

Edward Bostick Trunk Show and Workshop

THE DATE FOR THE EDWARD BOSTICK TRUNK show and workshop has been changed to after our May 2017 guild meeting. Edward will be teaching a Scrappy Modern Interpretation of the Lemoyne Star using foundation piecing. All are welcome to observe the talk and demonstration and participate in the workshop.

Learn more about Edward and his work on his website: www.africanamericanquilts.org

Sew Know: Ask an Expert

BY MARCIE BRENNER, MCSE

A MEMBER ASKS:
How can I make flying geese blocks?

ANSWER:

There are so many ways to construct flying geese blocks. The method you choose to use may depend on the how many and the end product (that is: will they be pretty much the same or will they need to be scrappy?)

Many rotary ruler companies have templates based on cutting individual pieces for the goose and sky portions of the block. First determine the finished height of the block, add ½", and then cut the fabric strips using the same measurement for both parts. Using the template(s) you cut the geese and sky pieces; the fabric can be layered for multiple units. Sew the sky triangles to each side of the goose triangle to create the block. This has the advantage of making units that are very scrappy looking or you can make just a few, and has low fabric wastage. EZ International has an Easy Star + Geese Ruler or their Companion Ruler with the Easy Angle can be used, Marti Michell has a Flying Geese Triangle Ruler, and Fons & Porter has a Flying Geese Ruler, are just a few that are available.

The Flying Geese X 4 Ruler by Lazy Girl Designs and the Flying Geese Ruler by Quilt in a Day are used to create 4 blocks at a time. With the Lazy Girl template you cut 1 large goose square and 4 small sky squares following the indicated lines. Placing 2 sky squares on opposite sides of the large square with right sides facing, draw a diagonal from corner to corner, stitch a scant ¼" from both sides of the line, cut on marked line, then press. Place remaining small squares at corners, mark diagonal, stitch and cut as before, now you have 4 units. Eleanor Burns' technique involves cutting a larger sky square and a smaller goose square. Centering the goose on the sky, with right sides together, mark a diagonal, stitch a scant ¼" from each side, then cut the diagonal, press seam to sky. Place the new 2 pieces together, rotating so that goose matches sky. Mark diagonal, stitch and cut as before. Using the template cut out the Flying Geese from the block, this creating very accurate units.

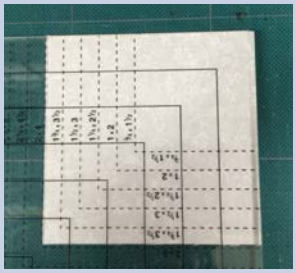
Another technique for Flying Geese is to cut out goose rectangles and sky squares. This takes a bit of math as the finished block length is always 2 times the height, and then add ½" for seam allowances. The sky squares are the same as the cut height of the rectangle. Place 1 square on the rectangle, mark and stitch on diagonal, press, repeat for other side. You can use the Clearly Perfect Angles which is placed on the sewing machine as a guide for sewing diagonals without marking them.

Flying Geese can also be paper pieced individually or in strips a la Jinny Beyer or Judy Niemeyer, just to name 2 designers. Wow, so many ways to make this very versatile block. Have fun. ❖

Do you have a question about quilting techniques, tools, or materials you would like to ask Marcie? Email her directly at sewbeary@aol.com.

Flying Geese X4 Ruler

Cutting the "goose"



Cutting the "sky"

Position "sky" squares on corners. Draw diagonal, stitch 1/4" along both sides of line. Cut along diagonal.

Add final sky square on goose corner, draw diagonal, stitch 1/4" along both sides of line. Cut along diagonal and press open to finish.

DECEMBER 2016 BOM

SPLIT 9-PATCH BLOCK

BY GINNY DORRIS AND ROBYN BELLAMY

We'll use green and white fabrics for our December block in anticipation of the coming of winter and the holiday season. This block is another variation of the traditional 9-patch, and it goes together quickly. The block will finish at 9½" square (9" in a finished quilt) and it's made from four different fabrics.

FABRIC:

Dark Green: You'll need one dark green fabric. It can be solid green or have a pattern which contains other colors as long as the fabric reads as dark green from a distance.

Medium Green: You'll need two different medium green fabrics. They can be solid green or have a pattern which contains other colors as long as they read as medium green from a distance. **Take a moment to look at your medium greens next to your dark green to make sure there's a good contrast between the darker and lighter fabrics.

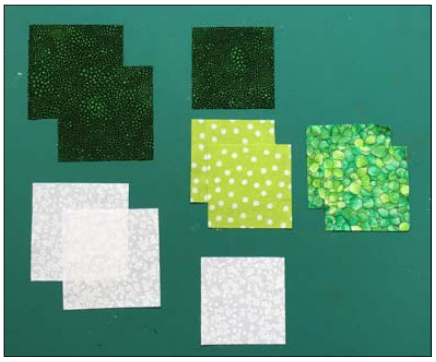
White: Solid white, white-on-white, or fabric with a white background that has a small pattern on it in another color is acceptable.

CUTTING:

From the white, cut:
- Two 4" squares
- One 3½" square

From the dark green, cut:
- Two 4" squares
- One 3½" squares

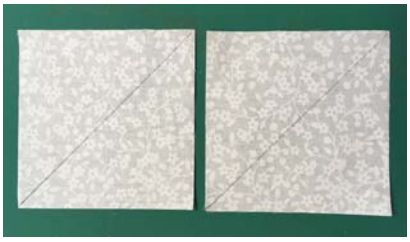
From the two medium greens, cut
- Two 3½" squares from each fabric for a total of four squares.



SEWING:

Start by making the three half-square triangles. There are lots of ways to make half-square triangles, and feel free to use any method you wish, but here's a simple one that's become our go-to method.

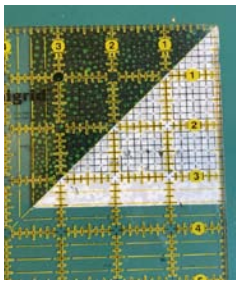
1.) Draw a diagonal pencil line across the wrong side of the two 4" white squares.



2.) Place these two white squares right sides together with the two 4" dark green squares, and sew a 1/4" seam to both sides of the diagonal pencil line.

3.) Cut both blocks on the pencil line, open the blocks, and press the seams towards the dark green fabric. You will now have four green-and-white half-square triangles. (One to spare.)

4.) Using a gridded ruler or your cutting mat, trim each of the blocks so that it measures 3½" square, making sure the diagonal is in the center of the block.



Now that you've finished the hardest part of this block, all that's left to do is lay it out and sew it together.

1.) Lay out your squares, including the half-square triangles you just completed, as shown in the above photo and sew them together in rows. Press the seams toward the center for the top and bottom rows and away from the center for the middle row.

2.) Sew the three rows together.

The finished block.

Quilt and Craft Shows

COMPILED BY MARTHA MUSGROVE

JOYRIDE, Dec. 1-Feb. 4 at Hudson Guild Gallery
441 W. 26th St., New York. Textile wall hangings and multimedia works that evoke carousels. Artists showcased include our own Sylvia Hernandez. Opening reception: Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m.
Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-7; Sat. 1-4. Closed Dec. 9, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
Info: 212-760-9837 or jfurlong@hudsonguild.org.

The Secret Life of Textiles: Animal Fibers, through Feb. 20
at The Metropolitan Museum, Fifth Ave., gallery 599. This exhibit explores the use of wool, hair, silk, and feathers in works of textile art by numerous cultures throughout history. Info: metmuseum.org. Fashion Masterworks, through Feb. 5. The fall exhibition of the The Costume Institute at the Met. **Info: metmuseum.org**.

TWO QUILT EXHIBITS AT SCHWEINFURTH ART CENTER:

QAQ Quilts=Art=Quilts Exhibit, Oct. 29-Jan. 8, Auburn, NY
An international juried exhibition of 65 quilts at Schweinfurth Art Center, 205 Genesee St., Auburn. Includes show, classes, and workshops. Also, **American Quilts: History and Art**, running for the same dates, features historical quilts from the collection of the International Quilt Studies Center & Museum in Nebraska. Admission: $10 includes both exhibits. Tuesday through Saturday 10-5; Sunday 1-5. Artists' reception for QAQ Oct. 29, 4-6.
Info: www.myartcenter.org

Guild Member Sylvia Hernandez in the news!

"Quilting a Patchwork of Latin American and Caribbean Identity"

Read it here: **http://tinyurl.com/z5jvx7n**

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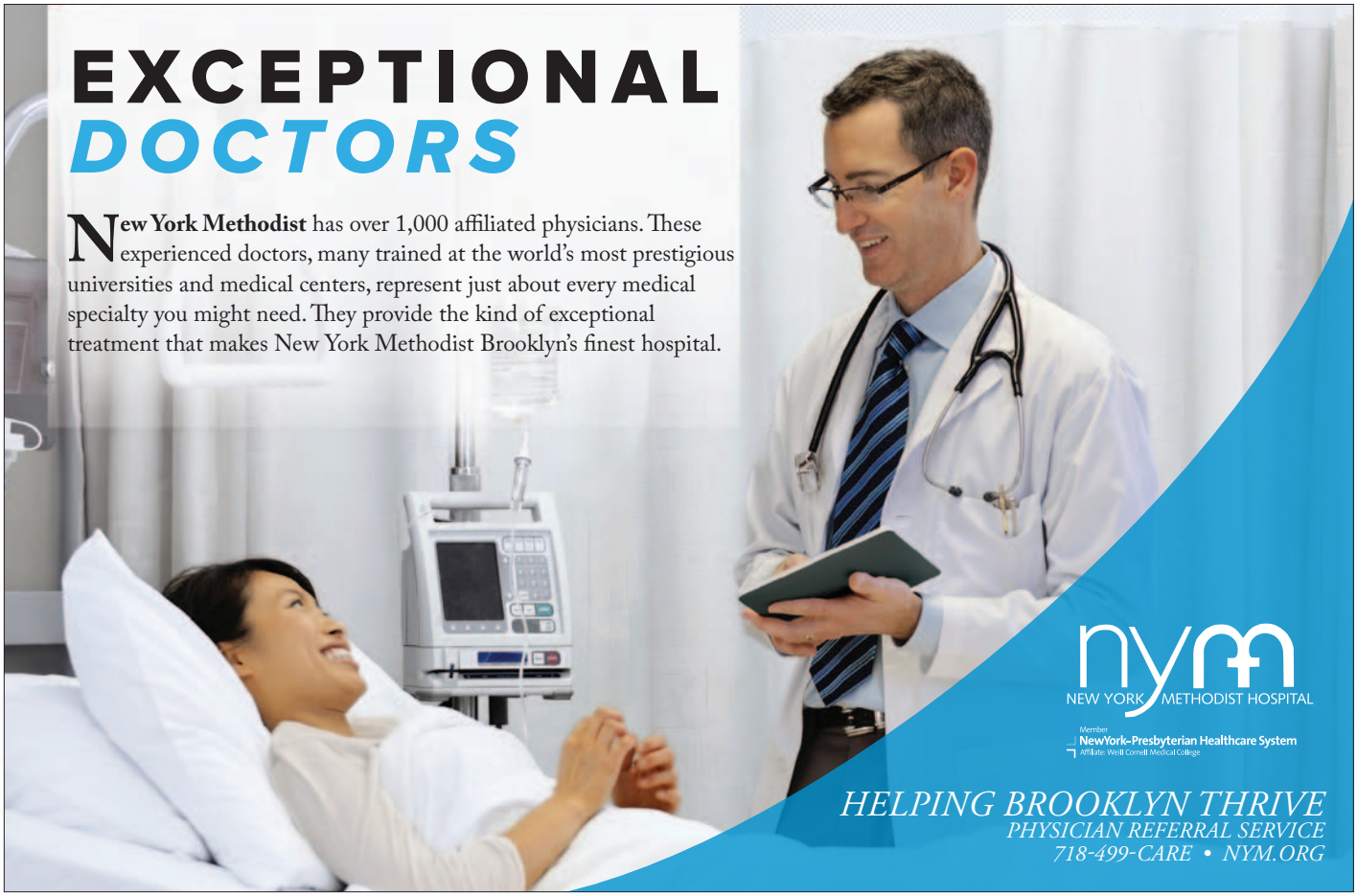

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November Block of the Month

Thank you to all the members who participated in the November Block of the Month. The blocks were won by delighted member Shelley Girshick. She planned to make more of these blocks for a quilt for herself and now she is much further along. We look forward to seeing the final quilt at a future Show and Tell!

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