



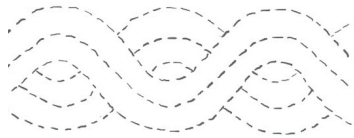
APRIL 2009

Heartstring Quilters

From the Editor

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Upcoming Meetings:

May 14th

**June 11th --
POTLUCK PARTY**

Greetings, quilters! Recently I have been reading a fascinating book: *Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber* by Stephen Yafa. I had just about finished two books on color pigments (which I listed in the last newsletter) and I thought this book would add some complementary information. The writing is very readable, yet also packed with specific historical and political information. The author uses a narrative style, and a combination of a sense of humor and gravity to describe cotton's life in the times of the famous European explorers and during British and American Colonialism.

As I got further into this book, I thought about how intimate a part of regular life the planting, harvesting and spinning of cotton used to be. Cotton is of course the most common fiber content of fabrics for quilt making, past and present. And yet, how very little most of us know today about the origins of cotton. As with so many other things in our modern lives, we are quite disconnected from the working industry that makes what we buy.

I discovered quite a few interesting trivia facts about cotton itself in this book:

*There are approximately 500,000 fibers in each cotton "boll" or pod.

*The species of cotton that came to be known as Egyptian cotton was not actually native to Egypt. It originated in Peru and Chile and eventually migrated to the Carribean and then to America. It was introduced to Egypt in 1821.

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MAY MEETING

The May meeting on **May 14th** will feature Nic Coviello, a landscape painter from the Philadelphia area. In reference to his current exhibition with Nexus: "The artwork is divided and arranged thematically into a series of concrete framed wall spaces that defines the NEXUS/Foundation for the Arts' floor plan. Each "frame" isolates some aspect of the process of making, exhibiting or looking at these intentionally artificial images."

Heartstring Quilters

The newsletter of Heartstring Quilters is published monthly. Monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:15 PM when there is a speaker, and 7:30 PM if there is no speaker.

Membership dues are \$25/year
Guest fee is \$3, or \$5 when there is a speaker.

Officers & Committees

Presidents:

Suzan Hirsch and
Robin Levenberg

Co-Secretaries:

Judy Fliegelman and
Marcy George

Treasurer: Susan Soiferman

Assistant Treasurer: Martha Klein

Hospitality: Lida Pos Klesius

Programs: Cindy Friedman and
Deborah Schwartzman

Newsletter:

Elizabeth Van Schaick

Membership: Karoline Wallace

Raffle: Terri Ciampitti

Website: Karoline Wallace

Sunshine: Soryl Angel

Newsletter Submissions

Send items for newsletter, announcements and information from other guilds, etc. by the 18th of each month to Elizabeth Van Schaick at:
skoik@comcast.net

Please make sure submissions have been proofread and are free of unnecessary formatting.

Eileen Belmont Wischnia has been invited to teach two classes this Summer Session at the Main Line Art Center. Look for them on the MLAC website: www.mainlineart.org.

Give Your Clothes a New Look... The Artful Way and Introduction to Quilting



Eileen's "Miss Crimson"

See more of Eileen's work on the next page!

From the Editor, continued from p. 1

*95% of the cotton grown and used around the world today is the “upland cotton” species, *Gossypium barbadense*.

*The main distinction between various species of cotton is the length of the staple or fiber. Short fibers break apart more easily and are more brittle, producing coarser fabric. Long staple cotton is strong and produces silky fabric.

*The oil from cotton seeds is an ingredient in many soups and snack foods, as well as Crisco shortening. The short fuzzy fibers on the seed are used in dynamite, rocket propellants, shoes, handbags and book bindings. They are also used as a thickener in ice cream and as an additive to lacquer.

When we purchase our fabric or select it for pieces in our quilts, we usually don't think at all about the long process that the cotton boll must go through to be transformed into that fabric. Many many hands had a part in the work that brought about cloth yardage, even though machines do a lot of the motions. Fluffy white puffs must be harvested, deseeded, combed, cleaned and evaluated and given a grade and a market price based on quality, color and cleanliness. Merchants must make sale agreements and ship the cotton to mills, possibly in another country. The processing and spinning and the development of complex looms and other machinery is quite a saga in itself. Suffice it to say that the unpredicted change that took place when Richard Arkwright improved the spinning jenny and created the centralized weaving mill was truly a revolution. There were, of course, both wondrous and hellish results. If you are curious about this industrial revolution and the obsession with cotton production, I highly recommend *Cotton: The Biography of a Revolutionary Fiber*.

Elizabeth

Eileen's Latest Projects



I have had many commissions to design memory projects using heirloom ties. This customer wanted her husband's ties to remain intact, so they were hand stitched onto the silk backing that makes up the pillow form. The pillow made from the jewel tone ties was made for my customer's grand-daughter, the black and white pillow was made for her grandson.

Elinor Peace Bailey Doll Workshop

Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Day 1: Flat Dolls

Day 2: Wearable Doll makers Choice (3 hours) and Face Painting (3 hours)

A student can register for one or both days. Lunch to be provided.

elinor@epbdoll.net 360-892-6657

Karen Louise Fay, Director of Special Projects

Wayne Art Center 413 Maplewood Avenue

Wayne, PA 19087 610.688.3553, ext 211

Chenille Workshop

Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 10AM - 4PM

Workshop will be held at Fabrics on the Hill (the same site where the doll workshop was held). We are limiting the attendance to 20 people and the price is \$10.00. Lunch is on-your-own -- bring a lunch or go to a near by restaurant. Margo will give you directions on how to be successful at making chenille and we will sew and cut our little hearts out for the day.

You may want to make a pillow cover from the chenille that we create that day. However, if you want to try a jacket or vest, you will need a bit more instruction in advance of our workshop. So give Margo a call at 610-566-9348 and she will give you some additional homework before the workshop.

Fabric choices: 100% cotton or rayon. Select fabric that is LESS than quilt-top quality. Gauze or somewhat poor quality cottons or rayons or cheap batiks are suggested. Do NOT use your best batiks or any fabric that has a high thread count. Collect 5 different fabrics that have a rather general color theme - go for prints, flowers, and plaids and any sort of surface look. Do NOT wash the fabrics. Bring about 3/4 yard of each fabric to the workshop.

Bring:

5 fabrics - approximately 3/4 yard each

sewing machine in good working order

walking foot

scissors

lots of pins

chenille rotary cutter (use your Joann's coupon for a good price)

lots of coordinating thread and several bobbins

QUILTS OF CHESTER COUNTY

An exciting new exhibit of quilts never publicly shown before reveals the many stories of **Chester County, Pennsylvania quilts**, their makers and their owners. Don't miss these gems uncovered during the Chester County Quilt Documentation Project!

Three installations selected by the community:

February 27, 2009 — August 1, 2009

August 25, 2009 — February 6, 2010

February 26, 2010 — September 11, 2010

Quilt Programs

Lecture: A Painter's Approach to Quilt Design

by Velda Newman

June 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Cost \$15 per person; \$10 for CCHS members

Workshop: Texture and Form

with Velda Newman

June 4 and 5, 2009

Cost \$100; \$80 for CCHS members (for 2 days) | RSVP required

Lecture: Baltimore Album Quilts: A Visible Face of Social Revolution!

by Elly Sienkiewicz

January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Cost \$15 per person; \$10 for CCHS members

Workshop: Baltimore's Clipper Ship

with Elly Sienkiewicz

January 20-22, 2010

Cost: \$125; \$100 for CCHS members (for 2½ days) | RSVP required

Please call 610-692-4800 to make a reservation for lectures and workshops.

A book, *Layers: Unfolding the Stories of Chester County Quilts of the Chester County Quilt Documentation Project* is available now.

The exhibit and publication are funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Chester County Historical Society,
225 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380
610-692-4800

Elizabeth Van Schaick Teaches at the Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial

Elizabeth has just finished her first term as an instructor at the Fleisher Art Memorial in South Philadelphia. She led a ten week course, "Introduction to Quilt Arts," and also held several one-day workshops to introduce new sewers to the sewing machine. Students in the quilt course chose their own projects and took their idea through construction, quilting and finishing. Elizabeth invited Christina Johnson to visit as a guest speaker during one meeting, with hopes of having more speakers in future terms.

Elizabeth will be teaching the course again during the seven-week long Summer term. Fleisher offers numerous classes and workshops in various media. There are both free workshops and tuition workshops for adults as well as programs for children and teens.

Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial
719 Catharine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147-2811
(near the Italian Market)
215.922.3456

www.fleisher.org

Summer Term
Seven Weeks
June 8 - July 31

Introduction to Quilt Arts
Wednesdays, 6:30 - 9:30
Tuition: \$175 (members),
\$200 (non-members); plus \$30 lab fee

Writing for Artists
Mondays, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Tuition: \$175 (members), \$200 (non-members)



Garage Sale
Saturday, May 16
9AM – 3PM

Rain or Shine
at MJ Clark's house
1003 Richmond Rd.
Broomall, PA

Fabric! Trims! Notions! Books! Odds and ends!
Add to your collection by reducing mine!



Scrap Bags Galore



Some Yardage



Lots for crafters and costumers!



Around the Guilds

Love Apple Quilters

<http://www.loveapplequilters.com>

Undercover Quilters

<http://www.undercoverquilters.com>

Valley Forge Homestead Quilters

<http://www.valleyforgequilters.org>

Main Line Quilters

<http://www.mainlinequilters.org>

Guild Consortium Speaker Information

May 13, 2009 - Marcia Stein will be guest speaker www.marciastein.com. Marcia will also be teaching a workshop Tuesday, May 12th from 9AM – 3PM at the Goodwill Fire Company in West Chester. Her workshop is called “Picture This” – Marcia will walk you through transforming one of your favorite photos into a beautiful quilted wallhanging. Make one for yourself or as a gift for a friend or relative. The cost of the workshop is \$45. Workshop questions please contact Kathleen Winters at wintphila@aol.com.

June 3, 2009 -- Velda Newman will be speaking at the Chester County Historical Society on June 3rd. at 7:30 pm; admission is \$15 for non members of the museum. She will be lecturing about the evolution of and inspiration for her quilts. Please see below for additional details.

Her website is www.veldanewman.com

**Please submit all
content for the**

June

NEWSLETTER

by

May 19th

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Refreshments

May:

Joanne Nolt: App/bev

Lida Pos Klessius: Savory

Anita Schecter: Sweets

June: POTLUCK!

If your name appears in the newsletter for next month's refreshments and you will not be able to provide them, please contact another member to take your place. The refreshments responsibility is rotated in alphabetical order. If you do need to switch with another member, please notify the hospitality chairperson, Lida Pos Klessius at aklessius1@comcast.net