

NEEDLE NEWS



July 7-9, 2023

WELCOME 2023!



It's a new year with new possibilities! Something about starting fresh always feels hopeful to me. I feel excited to be developing the various aspects of the 2023 Quilt Barn.

Last year was a rebuilding year for both the Festival and the Quilt Barn. So many questions Will the attendees and buyers return? Will the quilters come back to the QB? How many quilts will be registered?

Yes! People did return to the Festival and the Quilt Barn. Yes! Our wonderful quilters also returned, and they brought some incredible quilts that sold well. With that said, we could have used more quilts to offer to our buyers.

What should be the focus for this year? How can you help? Spread the word! We're looking for more quilters to participate. I'm sure that you know of quilters who would enjoy being part of the QB family. Creative quilters with an attention to detail should consider joining us!

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I am available to you. You can email me at hershey@kutztownfestival.com or you can phone the Festival office at 610-683-1597 to leave a message with Linda.

Wishing all of you a happy, healthy, and creative 2023!

Cyndi



Quilt Registration Deadline

Please remember to complete and send your quilt registration forms to us by April 1 if you would like to apply to have your quilts included in the Quilt Barn this July 1 – 9. Please read through the registration packet thoroughly.

We'd love to see you again as well as your quilts! Please share this information with other quilters that you know. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Register online at <https://www.kutztownfestival.com/quilters>

Quilters Informational Session – *There's still space!*

Join us January 29, 2023 from 3pm – 5pm at the Hampton Inn and Suites Kutztown. We are extending a warm welcome to current quilters and any quilters that are curious about how to become involved with our Quilt Barn. R.S.V.P. to zimmerman@kutztownfestival.com or contact Linda at 610.683.1597. We would love to see you there!

What Type of Quilt Should I Bring to the Quilt Barn? (Glad that you asked!)

Let's review a few points! All styles of quilts are welcome – both rich, traditional as well as fresh, modern designs. Either way, the quilt design and the quilting are equally as important.

Queen and King-sized quilts sell the best of the bed quilts although there is a need for all sizes. Lap/Sofa quilts tend to sell the least but if you add a hanging sleeve to one of these quilts, we can promote it as a wall quilt as well! Baby quilts sell particularly well especially if they use current, color palettes. Holiday quilts (Christmas, Harvest, Halloween, etc.) also have a market.

Wall Hangings sell very well! Be sure to sew a hanging sleeve on the back of these quilts. Also, remember that you must submit at least one bed-sized quilt to submit any wall hangings.

We do receive questions about what colors to use in the quilts. My best suggestion is to focus on *classic* color combos and *home-friendly* palettes. Touch base with me if you have any questions or would like to discuss ideas!

Quilt Insight

There have been many questions about requirements for quilting of the QB quilts. Many customers to the Quilt Barn – especially return customers – want to see and buy hand-quilted quilts. For many, this is what they associate with quilts offered in the QB. It's been only within the past 5 years or so that we've accepted machine-quilted quilts. However, I know that machine quilting has now risen to a different level. Many machine quilters have studied and practiced elevating their skills to be exceptional. We had several examples of that expertise represented within the Top 24 Winning Quilts of 2022! The quilting was hand-guided, customized designs that were truly beautiful. These stunning examples help to educate QB customers to show that both hand and machine quilting can be beautiful.

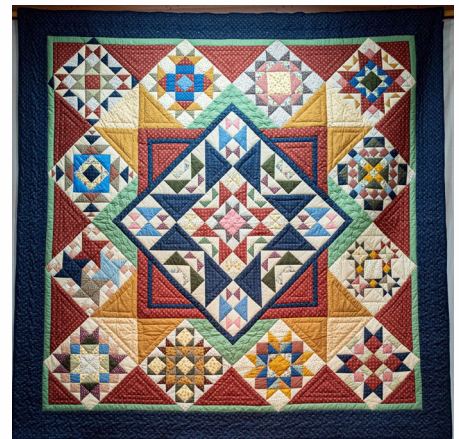
Here are some tips for hand or machine quilting:

Hand Quilting

- Small, even stitches
- Buried knots
- Thread color to enhance quilt design
- ***Fill the space well!***

Machine Quilting

- Long arm or domestic machine quilting accepted
- Hand-guided, custom quilting is preferred – looking for creativity/artistry
- Well executed pantograph quilting will be *considered* but these quilts are not eligible for judging
- ***Fill the space well!***



Hand Quilted



Machine Quilted