

NEEDLE NEWS



June 29 - July 7, 2024

HELLO!



Spring has *nearly* sprung! What are your spring rituals? Sprucing up outside? Preparing your flower beds for planting? Spring cleaning...well, maybe not so much. If you're like me, I much prefer being outside on those early spring days!

Looking to see what's popping up through the mulch and taking inventory of things. I do love planning my flower assortment and heading to the flower stands in April. Nothing better than digging in the dirt on a nice, spring day!

While I enjoy playing in the dirt, quilting and fabric is my passion. How about you? What *inspires* you in your quilting journey? I'd love to hear from you and share your thoughts on our "My Inspiration" cards posted in the Quilt Barn this year. We will share your information and name unless you prefer to be anonymous. I know that both customers, and quilters alike will love to read what *inspires* you! The focus of this issue of Needle News is *inspiration* and you can be that *inspiration* for others!

Inspiration comes from so many places and when it comes to quilting, many times it begins with other quilters! We've all seen many quilts that make us say, "Wow". It happens at quilt shows...it happens at your guild's show & tell...it happens in the Quilt Barn! What do you do when you see a quilt like that? Do you take a photo or make a note about some aspects of the quilt construction that you'd like to explore in your own quilts?

Are your quilts well under way for this year's Folk Festival? Are you looking for some last-minute ideas to jump-start your final quilts? Either way, we are all looking forward to seeing you and your lovely quilts this summer! You can reach me with any questions and to share your quilting inspiration ideas by calling the office number below or emailing me at hershey@kutztownfestival.com.

Cyndi



FOLK FESTIVAL 2024

Have you registered your quilts yet? The time is quickly approaching so be sure to register your quilts for inclusion in this Year's Quilt Barn. You can access the full registration packet on our website ... kutztownfestival.com. You can also call the office or send me an email to request a hard copy of the information. Here is the QB timeline:

- ~ Registration week (bringing your quilts) is June 17 – 21 (You will be sent your assigned date and time mid-May.)
- ~ Folk Festival opens June 29 and runs through July 7
- ~ Auction is held at noon on July 6
- ~ Return of any unsold quilts is July 8 – 10

Volunteers needed!

We love our volunteers and Quilt Barn guests do as well! We'd love to have you join us and interact with our guests at the Visitor's Quilt. Guests of all ages absolutely love to sit down at the quilt and try hand-quilting on the quilt. We've heard from customers who have quilted on the quilt, and it *inspired* them to start their own quilt-making journey! Do you have a few hours or a few days to help? It's so much fun and our volunteers always say that they enjoy the experience! (Plus, we give you tickets to the Festival!) Please reach out to the office or to me directly at hershey@kutztownfestival.com.

QUILT INSPIRATION!

What inspires you in your quilting journey? It can be so many different things and each quilt may have its own inspiration. Here are a few sources that I know *inspire* many of you:

~ **The world around us:** nature, life events, love of color.... we are surrounded by so much beauty and imagery. Where does your imagination take you?

~ **Fabric:** what quilter hasn't been inspired to make a quilt upon seeing a stunning fabric?

~ **Quilts:** so many places and ways to view quilts made by others. Quilt shows, quilt guilds, and the Quilt Barn to name a few.

~ **Social media:** Pinterest alone offers a treasure trove of ideas! Have you joined any of the quilting forums that are readily available such as Scrap Quilt Enthusiasts, Quiltville's Open Studio, Young and Millennial Quilters to name a few. There's sure to be a group that focuses on your interests.

~ **Print and online magazines:** Quilter's World, American Patchwork & Quilting, McCall's Quilting, Love of Quilting, Quiltopia, Quilting Arts, QuiltCon Magazine, Primitive Quilting and more.

~ **Home décor stores and sites:** Pottery Barn and PB Kids, Lands End, Macys.... the list goes on. While these quilts may not be of the quality and of the source that we ascribe to, they can provide ideas for pattern and color.

~ **Legacy and gift quilting:** have you been inspired to make quilts to honor a special occasion? Have you made quilts to give to members of your family? Many times, this type of inspiration steers us in terms of design, color, and fabric choices.

~ **Quilting books:** too many to mention but we should all own a copy of Barbara Brackman's *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*. The *Quilter's Album of Patchwork Patterns* by Jinny Beyer is another classic. Whether you like to applique by hand or machine, there is a treasure trove of books and patterns available.

~ **National Quilt shows:** International Quilt Market (10/31 – 11/3) in Houston, TX; QuiltCon 2025 (2/20-23) in Phoenix, AZ; AQS Quilt Week (4/24 – 27) in Paducah, KY

Local quilt shows that you won't want to miss:

- ❖ April 10 – 13 Lancaster Quilt Show in Lebanon, PA
- ❖ May 4 – 5 County Line Quilters Quilt Show in Jamison, PA
- ❖ June 21 – 23 Lazy Crazy Days of Summer Quilt Show in Aston, PA (Brandywine Valley Quilters)
- ❖ September 11 – 14 AQS QuiltWeek Quilt Show in Lancaster, PA
- ❖ September 12 -15 Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza in Oaks, PA (we'll be there!)
- ❖ October 4 – 5 Heart of Berks Quilt Show in Leesport, PA
- ❖ October 18 – 19 Valley Forge Quilters Guild Quilt Show in King of Prussia, PA

How do you use this inspiration? While we don't want to copy another's quilt, we can take ideas from it. Do you like the blocks in one quilt. the setting in another. and the border in a third quilt? Combining ideas makes a quilt your own!

Finally, as I mentioned in the opening, we'd love to hear from you telling us what inspires YOU. We can note your name unless you prefer to remain anonymous, but we would like to post your ideas throughout the Quilt Barn this summer. You can be an inspiration to others! At the very least, if any of the quilts that you bring to the QB have a background story or specific inspiration, please let us know! **Customers LOVE a story, and a story can sell the quilt!**

Please feel free to reach out if you ever want to discuss your quilt ideas or something else. I'm always happy to hear from you and help in any way possible. Please email me at hershey@kutztownfestival.com.

THANK YOU, QUILTERS!

