

# The Brooklyn Bee

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Volume 28  
Issue 1

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

page 4

## REMEMBERING WENDY MENARD

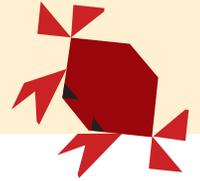
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## BOWL-MAKING CLASS

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## BLOCK OF THE MONTH

pages 17-18



Dear Guild Members,

This has obviously been a summer unlike any other. We sincerely hope everyone has stayed healthy and safe throughout these many months of social distancing. We also hope you've been able to figure out ways to safely visit with your loved ones. And maybe a little less importantly — though only a little! — we hope everyone has been able to keep themselves sane through the magical process of creating beautiful objects.

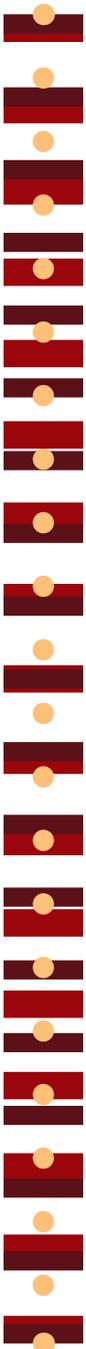
As for the Guild, due to very strict but understandable constraints the church has established for in-person meetings at Shepherd's Hall, we will be continuing our Guild meetings on Zoom for the rest of 2020. We know this is not ideal. We all really miss meeting in person. However, it is very important that we follow the hygiene protocols for this Covid-19 crisis.

Speaking of the online meetings, if you haven't already done so, please give them a try! In addition to our monthly membership meetings every third Saturday of the month, we will be holding a Zoom sewing bee the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Socialize and sew with your fellow Guild members in the comfort of your own home! If you need any help setting up Zoom, please reach out to any of the board members, and we'll do our best to figure it out with you. Remember, you can join our Zoom meetings from anywhere in the world as long as you have an Internet connection. Take advantage of it!

As always and especially during this unprecedented crisis, please feel free to reach out to any of the board members with any questions or concerns or even if you just want to chat. Although we're not meeting in person, we are still 100 percent dedicated to making this Guild a fulfilling, loving, and supportive community.

Most sincerely,

Margaret Marcy Emerson  
Andrew Hansen



# 2020-2021 Brooklyn Quilters Guild

## OFFICERS

### Presidents

**Margaret Marcy Emerson**

917-374-7718

[margaret.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.marcy@gmail.com)



**Andrew Hansen**

646-623-3063

[Andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com)



### Vice Presidents

**Farrah Lafontant**

718-930-2360

[farrah.Lafontant@gmail.com](mailto:farrah.Lafontant@gmail.com)



**Michael Sengstack**

347-291-5084

[mgsengstack@msn.com](mailto:mgsengstack@msn.com)



### Secretary

**Micki Segel**

917-596-6055

[mickisegel@gmail.com](mailto:mickisegel@gmail.com)



### Treasurer

**Anna Fike**

917-716-1503

[anna.fike@gmail.com](mailto:anna.fike@gmail.com)

[BQG.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:BQG.treasurer@gmail.com)



## Membership

**Mary Hawley**

718-398-3234

[bqg.membership@gmail.com](mailto:bqg.membership@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Easy as ABC/Kid's Quilts**

**Jennifer Arzberger**

917-685-6712

[jennarzberger@optimum.net](mailto:jennarzberger@optimum.net)

**Comfort Quilts**

**Dori Dietz**

718-853-2153

[doridietz1@gmail.com](mailto:doridietz1@gmail.com)

**Hole in the Wall**

**Carol Lieberman**

917-439-9549

[clieber@verizon.net](mailto:clieber@verizon.net)

**Labor of Love Quilts**

**Diane Pryor-Holland**

[laboroflovequiltproject@gmail.com](mailto:laboroflovequiltproject@gmail.com)

**Veterans' Quilts**

**Carol Sullivan**

917-495-6315

[sulliquilts@aol.com](mailto:sulliquilts@aol.com)

**Pillowcases**

**Annette Wallace**

917-647-0770

[wallace.netty123@gmail.com](mailto:wallace.netty123@gmail.com)

**Block of the Month**

**Joy West**

347-845-0016

**Robin Engelman**

917-689-0402

[raengelman@gmail.com](mailto:raengelman@gmail.com)

**Challenge Quilts**

**Carol Sullivan**

917-495-6315

[sulliquilts@aol.com](mailto:sulliquilts@aol.com)

**Karen Mahoney**

386-793-1297

[KDZMahoney@gmail.com](mailto:KDZMahoney@gmail.com)

**Lenni Abel Quilt Fund**

**Madi Appell**

718-434-0647

[NYCfash@aol.com](mailto:NYCfash@aol.com)

**Heritage Retreats**

**Carol Lieberman**

917-439-9549

[clieber@verizon.net](mailto:clieber@verizon.net)

**Robin Engelman**

917-689-0402

[raengelman@gmail.com](mailto:raengelman@gmail.com)

**Cross Roads Retreats**

**Martha Musgrove**

718-745-6759

[marf86@hotmail.com](mailto:marf86@hotmail.com)

**Trudy Reeves**

718-415-2955

[trudyreeves@yahoo.com](mailto:trudyreeves@yahoo.com)

**Virtual Vendors**

**Carol Lieberman**

917-439-9549

[clieber@verizon.net](mailto:clieber@verizon.net)

**BEE BLASTS**

**Andrew Hansen**

[Andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.ve.hansen@gmail.com)

[guild@quiltbrooklyn.org](mailto:guild@quiltbrooklyn.org)

**WEBSITE**

**Mary Hawley**

718-398-3234

[mhawley.brooklyn@gmail.com](mailto:mhawley.brooklyn@gmail.com)

**Margaret Marcy Emerson**

917-374-7718

[margaret.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.marcy@gmail.com)

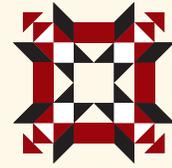
**To see the BOARD**

**MINUTES and the**

**TREASURER'S REPORT go**

**to the member's section**

**of our Website.**



## The Brooklyn Bee

### EDITORS

Susan Aronoff

Debbie Breckenridge

Martha McDonald

**BEAT REPORTERS**

**MEET THE QUILTER**

Margaret Pross

**SEW KNOW**

Marcie Brenner

**TIPS N' TOOLS**

Alice Braziller

**COPY EDITOR**

Lyn Hill

## Our Social Media Links

**Facebook BOM Group**

<https://tinyurl.com/ycxzf8fs>

**Facebook Member-Only Group**

<https://tinyurl.com/ycbwzom9>

**May Show and Tell**

<https://tinyurl.com/ybgqda7d>

**Something to share?** The deadline for submissions for the October 2020 issue of *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m., Monday, September 21, 2020. Please email them to: [texasmc@hotmail.com](mailto:texasmc@hotmail.com).

## Join Us at Our Meetings

### GUILD MEETINGS on ZOOM

Usually third Saturday of the month, except July and August.

**NEXT MEETING: September 19, 2020, 11:00 a.m.**

**ZOOM MEETING LINK:**

<https://zoom.us/j/92550733877?pwd=aWc3eGUvY2lPRkFLTD RNK2h6M1l2Zz09>

### SUNDAY BEES

We will be hosting our traditional; Sunday Bees via Zoom for the time being! Join us on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. each month.

Each meeting's zoom link will be emailed in the Bee Blast the week before and can always be accessed on our EVENTS page in the Member section of the website.

# Guild News & Notes

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## The Pillowcase Challenge

Just a reminder that our Pillowcase Challenge is ongoing. For those of you who haven't heard of it, I am accepting donations of pillowcases (your own or kits) until our (virtual) meeting in September. The person who donates the most cases will win a \$50 gift certificate to Brooklyn General. (Kindly donated by Barbara Christ!)

I recently gave out 15 pillowcase kits and also received donations of cases!! Fifteen seems to be the top amount so far!! So keep up the good work. No need to return the cases just yet. Take a photo and email it to me at [wallace.netty123@gmail.com](mailto:wallace.netty123@gmail.com) with the number completed. I live in Windsor Terrace, if you are nearby and would like to deliver them!

We will announce the winner at the September meeting.

I have checked in with the Social Workers at NYP Weill Cornell and Ronald McDonald House NY. They still are trying to figure things out as far as donations are concerned. RMH is happy to accept donations. I am scheduling a date to deliver. There's still a need so don't stop making them!!!

I made more kits that are available, so if any one is interested, please let me know and we can arrange a pick up or drop off! Send an email to the address above.

Hope you are all well and staying safe! To better times and lots of smiles for sick children!!

Best,

Annette Wallace



## Small Quilt Challenge

Great news!

We have retrieved the 2019 Challenge Quilts from the Williamsburg library.

Karen and I are working out a plan to return them to their owners in a timely manner. Expect to hear from us shortly.

We took photos of each of the quilts in the show and hope to get them on the next Bee Blast, so people who missed them in the libraries will have an opportunity to enjoy our Guild members work.

As to the 2020 Challenge, the theme is "My Stars" and we hope you will participate. We will collect them at the very first in-person meeting we have. As always, the quilt should be 20 x20 inches and have a sleeve for hanging. Small Challenge Entry forms will be posted on the CHALLENGE page in the members section of the Guild website this week.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Small Quilt Challenge. You are all Superstars!

~ Carol Sullivan and Karen Mahoney



## Membership Report

As of August 17 only 74 of our 196 members had renewed. Our membership year starts again this September and many people wait until then to renew. However, since we don't plan to meet in person for a while, everyone will have to make an extra effort this time around.

We have gotten a wonderful response from renewing members who have donated over \$1,000 to support others who could use a "gift renewal" this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me privately if you could use some help.

~ Mary Hawley, Membership Chair

# The Brooklyn Quilters Guild 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Come join The Brooklyn Quilters Guild! Annual dues are \$60 and member benefits include information-packed meetings, breathtaking Show & Tells, fabulous vendors, exciting speakers, and the monthly guild newsletter. Need more incentive to join? BQG members receive discounts at local quilt shops! Questions? Visit us on Facebook at Brooklyn Quilters Guild or on our website [www.quiltbrooklyn.org](http://www.quiltbrooklyn.org).

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER DIRECTORY: The member information you entered above will be available to members only on our website unless you check one of the boxes below. Please let us know if there is any information you prefer to remain private.  No address     No phone numbers     No email address

PAYMENT:  DUES \$60 +  DONATION\* \_\_\_\_\_ +  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*By adding a gift to your Membership Dues this year, you can support another Guild member who may need your help to continue participating in our creative community. Any amount makes a difference for someone in need.

- By Check: Make check out to: *The Brooklyn Quilters Guild* and mail to the Guild's PO Box.
- By PayPal: Use email [BQG.Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:BQG.Treasurer@gmail.com). See "How to" details at [www.quiltbrooklyn.org/membership](http://www.quiltbrooklyn.org/membership)
- In Person: Bring this form with your check or cash payment. See website for next in-person meeting.

<p>MAILING ADDRESS The Brooklyn Quilters Guild P.O. Box 150198 Van Brunt Station Brooklyn, NY 11215-0198</p>
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Please email completed form to [BQG.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:BQG.Membership@gmail.com) and attach a photo of yourself if you'd like it included in the member directory. You can also mail the form to the Guild's PO Box and provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you'd like your membership card sent to you.

## VOLUNTEER

Once in-person meetings resume, please consider volunteering at one meeting a year to help maintain an enjoyable and supportive atmosphere. Indicate the committees that interest you and the meeting(s) at which you are available. Chairpersons will check with you before scheduling you for a particular month.

- Hospitality - help Chairs set up before meetings and clean up afterwards
- Membership - assist Chairs at Membership Table before & during meeting
- Easy as ABC Quilts - assist Chair in preparing quilts for finishing
- Small Raffle - assist Chair during the meeting to assemble prizes and sell raffle tickets
  - September     October     November     December     January
  - February     March     April     May     June

For membership committee use

CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_     RECPT# \_\_\_\_\_    DATE: \_\_\_\_\_    INIT: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Change, One Stitch at a Time

BY GAIL OTIS

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**Q**UILTING PLAYS MANY roles in our lives, providing warmth, creativity, and community. Today, nonprofit organizations are taking quilting beyond its traditional functions and making it an instrument to promote social justice, engaging and educating youth and adults in the issues that affect their lives. Take a look at two such groups.

**Social Justice Sewing Academy (SJSA)**, founded by Sara Trail, is a nonprofit intergenerational collective of artists and activists who believe that creativity combined with advocacy will empower students to express themselves and cope with oppression.

SJSA is all about building community by having students make quilts together. In workshops held across the country, young people create raw edge appliqué quilt blocks expressing their emotions and perceptions and



SJSA Community Quilt

sharing ideas on issues such as Black Lives Matter, immigration reform, gay rights, sexual assault and gun violence. Once the quilt blocks are completed, volunteers embroider and embellish

them, sew the blocks together to complete the quilt top, and add backings and batting. Quilting is done by a participating long-arm quilter.

The activity cultivates awareness of social matters, stimulates thought and conversation in the community, and motivates activism. Young people in schools, prisons and community centers are given the opportunity to engage with the issues they care about and create powerful imagery in fabric to tell their stories.



SJSA Quilt Block

In an interview with Harvard Ed. Magazine, Sara said, "I feel honored to be able to help young people find their voices collectively on issues that they are passionate about... So many mentors and teachers helped me find my voice. Now I'm able to mentor others to discover their passion through art activism."

The finished quilts have been shown at museums including the National Quilt Museum, the New England Quilt Museum, and Museum of Design Atlanta and at schools and community spaces around the country.



Bib & Tucker, detail of "The Selma Quilt"

You can sign up to embroider a block for SJSA [here](#).

**Bib & Tucker Sew-Op** was founded with the dream of cultivating participants' sewing skills in a supportive community so that they may earn income and have flexible hours working in a sewing-based cottage industry. Lillis Taylor, its founder, says, "You can find your best friend just from going to see if you can learn how to sew."

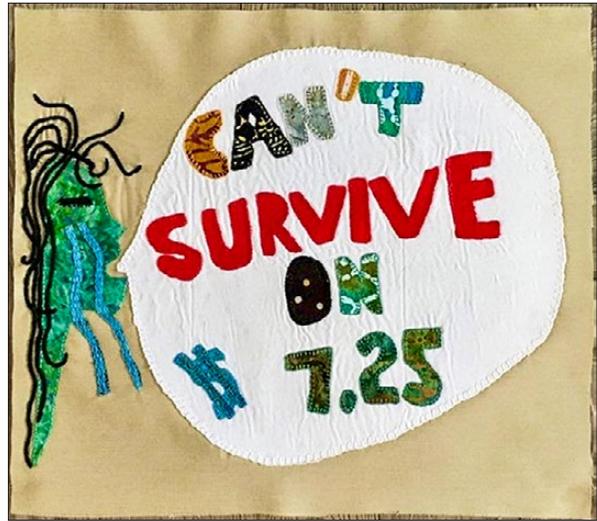
Quilting plays a large role in Bib & Tucker's programs. The organization, in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, runs open sewing sessions where people from all walks of life create quilt blocks relating to the social issue chosen for the year. The seven-inch blocks become part of a large commemorative quilt narrative.

Known as The March Quilts: A Community Project, the program provides participants with a space to learn new ways of expressing themselves.

The project began in 2015 to honor the 50th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The idea caught on and participants produced a total of 461 blocks; enough to make three quilts, which were hung at the Selma Public Library and the Alabama Department of Archives in Montgomery. The success of the project led to yearly programs, each with its own human rights theme, including gender pay equity and environmental justice.

Individuals living outside of Birmingham may also contribute. You can visit the website [here](#).

Quilts provide essential warmth in more ways than one. My hope is that these quilts reach the hearts of everyone who sees them and move into action those who can make a difference. ❖



SJSA Quilt Block



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BY ANDREW HANSEN

I MADE MY FIRST QUILT IN THE SPRING of 2017. Two years later, I realized that my love of quilting was not going to end up being a passing phase. I decided to rework an old website I had started years ago that never went anywhere and transformed it into a site where I could wax poetic about all things quilting. It took a couple days of testing out various quilting-related phrases (so many quilt puns — groan), but I finally came up with the title of my website: Boy Meets Quilt. I think this is a pretty perfect title because my love affair with quilting is just like one of those rom-com “boy meets girl” movies — everything starts out cutesy and perfect, there’s some drama and tears, and then it turns out quilting was the love of my life all along and we live happily ever after. Huzzah!

My website has a variety of pages — a gallery of my quilts, blog posts, a list of classes and home tutorials I’d be happy to teach once the Covid-19 pandemic has passed, as well as a very incomplete quilting glossary that I hope is helpful for people dipping their toe into the world of quilting. My blog posts range in content from helpful tips and techniques to detailed posts about my creative process to philosophical ponderings about quilting and the quilting community.

About six months after my first blog post, I upped my on-line game by starting my Boy Meets Quilt YouTube channel. These videos include interviews with some of my creative friends as well as videos about my actual quilting process including the most recent posts of my virtual trunk show. My big hope is that both my YouTube channel and my website provide a platform for a wider discussion with the entire maker community. I highly encourage anyone and everyone to please leave comments, questions, and helpful advice so that everyone in this amazing creative community can benefit from your experience and wisdom!

If anyone has any questions regarding any of my social media outlets, feel free to reach out to me at any time. My contact info is in the membership directory on our Guild website as well as on the second page of the *Bee*. Happy making, everyone!

Website: [boymeetsquilt.com](http://boymeetsquilt.com)

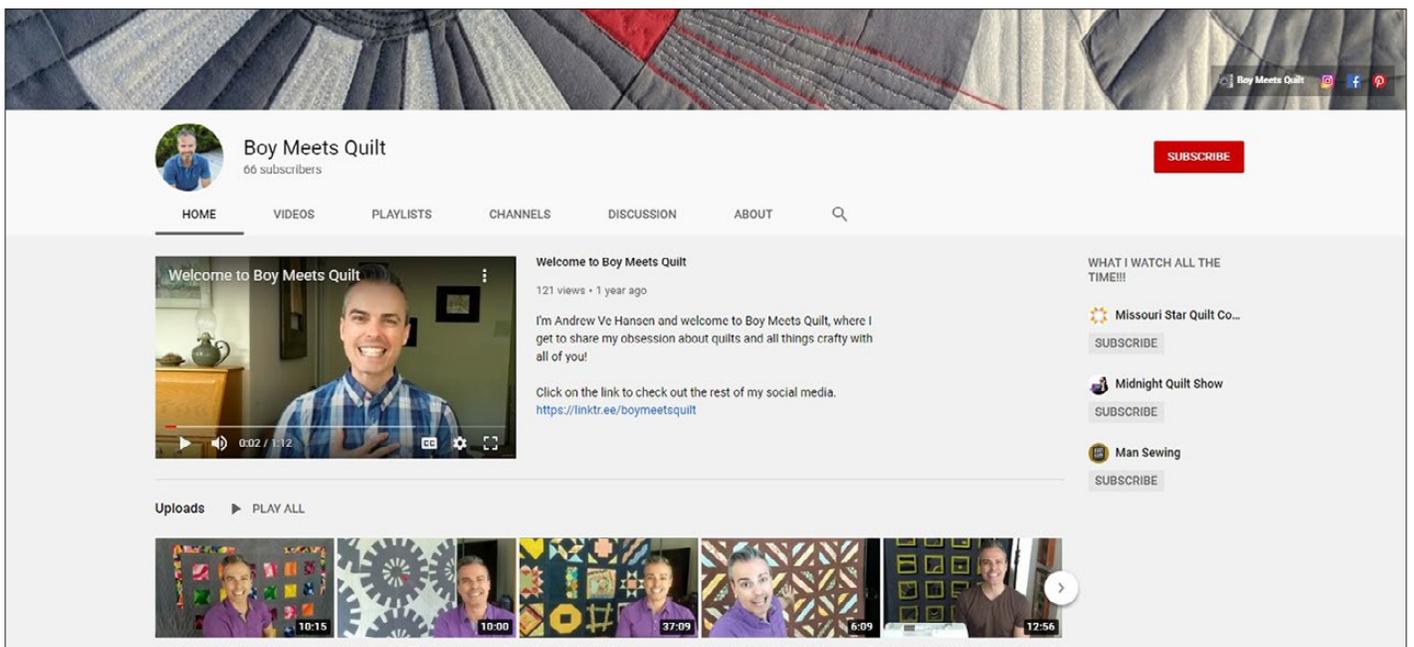
YouTube:

[youtube.com/channel/UCP3bZ5hZJDXpaD\\_guo7Aq1g](https://youtube.com/channel/UCP3bZ5hZJDXpaD_guo7Aq1g)

Facebook: Boy Meets Quilt

Instagram: @boymeetsquilt

Pinterest: [pinterest.com/boymeetsquilt/my-quilts/](https://pinterest.com/boymeetsquilt/my-quilts/)



Andrew's YouTube Channel

# Upcoming Quilt and Textile Shows

COMPILED BY MARTHA MUSGROVE

A video glimpse of a solo show by **Nancy Crow**, at Nebraska International Quilt Museum; through **March 7, 2021**.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4ltehqy>

**Bisa Butler: Portraits**, exhibit **extended through Oct. 4**, at Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah, NY 10536. 25 quilts that capture African America identity and culture by artist Bisa Butler. Slideshows, videos, and more: Information at [katonahmuseum.org/exhibitions](http://katonahmuseum.org/exhibitions).

**American Folk Art Museum, reopening Aug. 28**, 2 Lincoln Square, New York, NY. On Sept. 16, 1:00 – 2:15, there will be a discussion by museum curators of the work of fiber artist Judith Scott, who was blind and deaf. Free Zoom presentation, registration required.. Information at [folkartmuseum.org](http://folkartmuseum.org).

**Metropolitan Museum of Art, reopening Aug. 29**, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York, NY. More than 1500 videos are also available for viewing art works and past exhibits. Collections from The Costume Institute have a material vibe that may interest quilters. Art for the Community: The Met's Circulating Textile Exhibits 1930–1940. **Oct. 31, 2020 to June 13, 2021**. Showcases European textiles, ranging from Italian Renaissance velvet to French 18th-century printed cotton. Information at [metmuseum.org](http://metmuseum.org)

Thank you

Martha Musgrove

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Martha

has been contributing to every single issue of the *Bee* since Rosa Gentile was the editor, and she was heading up advertising. She started writing the Upcoming Shows column when Maura Pinnavaia was the editor and continued through Micki Segel's and Margaret Marcy Emerson's stewardship, and until now. She has now decided to hang up her Upcoming Shows hat. We are most grateful for her long and dedicated service!!



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# Wendy Menard

1960 – 2020

BY LYN S. HILL

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Wendy Menard, a longtime member of our Guild, who had served on the executive board as treasurer, passed away on August 14, 2020. Many members may also have known Wendy as the person who was responsible for producing and distributing commemorative t-shirts and tote bags for multiple quilt shows.

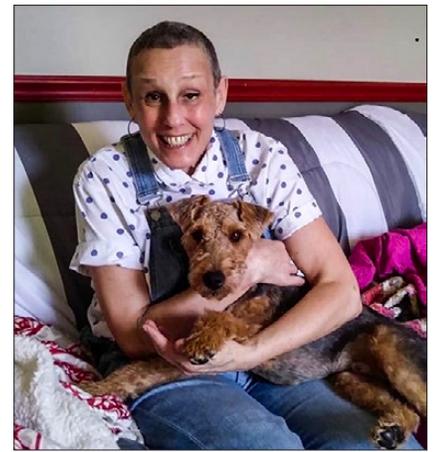
Most of all, Guild members will remember Wendy for her many beautiful quilts, usually made with specific family members and friends in mind. Her design sense was stunning and unique and she was a perfectionist when it came to workmanship, often ripping out and redoing sections with problems that no one else would ever have detected. But if she could see a flaw, she was determined to correct it and the results were spectacular.

Wendy certainly understood that perfection was not always possible in life, but she rose to the challenges she encountered. When she found that her secure job brought her little satisfaction or appreciation, she made a mid-life career change that involved a new degree and training and required her to start at an entry level. The result was that she finally had a career that made her happy—and in just a few years she advanced quickly and became an extraordinary math teacher, most recently at Midwood High School. She loved teaching and finding new ways to teach. She was loved by her students and her colleagues. She became an active and important member of the Math for America program.

Wendy especially loved geometry and was often called on for help at retreats and elsewhere to solve quilt math challenges and problems. (Her math skills were also important at the end of Guild meetings, when a group of friends adjourned for lunch at one of the restaurants across the street. At the end of the meal, the check was always handed to Wendy, who could quickly let everyone know how much they owed.)

When it came to her cancer diagnosis, Wendy met the greatest challenge of her life. She lived years beyond her doctors' expectations, with an emphasis on "lived." Until the very end, Wendy was not dying of cancer; she was living with it—making whatever accommodations were needed but never allowing the illness to get in the way of what was important to her.

When she realized that recurring treatments were likely to cause the loss of her hair, she shaved her head—and she incorporated the new style into her own distinctive fashion aesthetic and looked glamorous.



She continued to work and grow as a teacher and a mentor to other teachers.

And she continued to care about, laugh with, and offer unconditional love to friends old and new, and to her family: her husband, David, her sister, Holly and—most of all—her children, Marilyn and Geo. Her acceptance, appreciation and especially her pride in their gifts and accomplishments, was always palpable.

Even as she confronted her personal challenges, Wendy was invested in working to perfect the society in which we live. She was a staunch advocate for social justice, standing tall against bigotry and hatred. She listened intently to her colleagues of color, loved reading multiple perspectives and helped her white peers understand where change was needed because she genuinely cared about society's most marginalized and vulnerable.

Wendy's life was too short, but it was a life well lived. We can honor her by following her example and finding ways to meet the challenges our own lives present.

Donations in Wendy's memory can be made to [MakeTheRoadny.org](http://MakeTheRoadny.org), an organization that Wendy designated because of its commitment to building the power of immigrant and working class communities to achieve dignity and justice. ❖



# Free Bowl-Making Class for Members

Learn to make beautiful fabric art bowls with Kirsten Fisher. She has been teaching bowl-making around the country for a while, and now she is moving to the Zoom format. The class will teach the Triangle Bowl (see photos). It is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., with a 15-minute break at 1 o'clock.

There is no fee for the class, but attendees will need a few supplies:

- The corner template that Kirsten developed, plus 2 fabric grippers,\*
- 1 yard of double-sided fusible interfacing, Peltex 72.\*

\*The items above will be supplied by Kirsten for a fee of \$20. She will arrange a pick-up location here in Brooklyn or you can pick them up directly from her home. Contact her at [kf7willows@gmail.com](mailto:kf7willows@gmail.com). If you live out of area, she can mail the template. The price would be \$10 plus priority rate shipping of \$7.15. You can purchase the interfacing online or at JoAnn Fabric and Craft Stores.

Additional supplies:

- Fabric from your stash — one fat quarter for the outside of the bowl, plus 4 rectangles that measure 9 1/2 x 15 inches,
- Sewing machine,
- Non-stick surface such as Goddess sheet or parchment paper,
- General sewing supplies such as a cutting mat, quilter's ruler, pencil, pins, seam ripper and a pressing cloth,
- If you want to fussy cut your fabric, you will need Scotch Blue original painter's tape. You can buy it at your local hardware store.

Students will be able to have a FaceTime conference with Kirsten prior to the class to assist with fabric selection so they can come to the class prepared to get to work. Email Kirsten at [kf7willows@gmail.com](mailto:kf7willows@gmail.com) to arrange the conference.

The class will be limited to 30 students, enrolled on a first-come basis. To register, go to <https://forms.gle/SbfekmAqEDKEc61p8>. The link is on the Events page of the Guild's website and will also be available on the Members-Only page in Facebook.

If you have already taken the class, please allow new students to register first. If there is still space available, we can accommodate alumni. We will keep a waitlist and consider a future session if there are more than 30 students who are interested.

For more information on Kirsten, go to [kirstenfisher.net](http://kirstenfisher.net).





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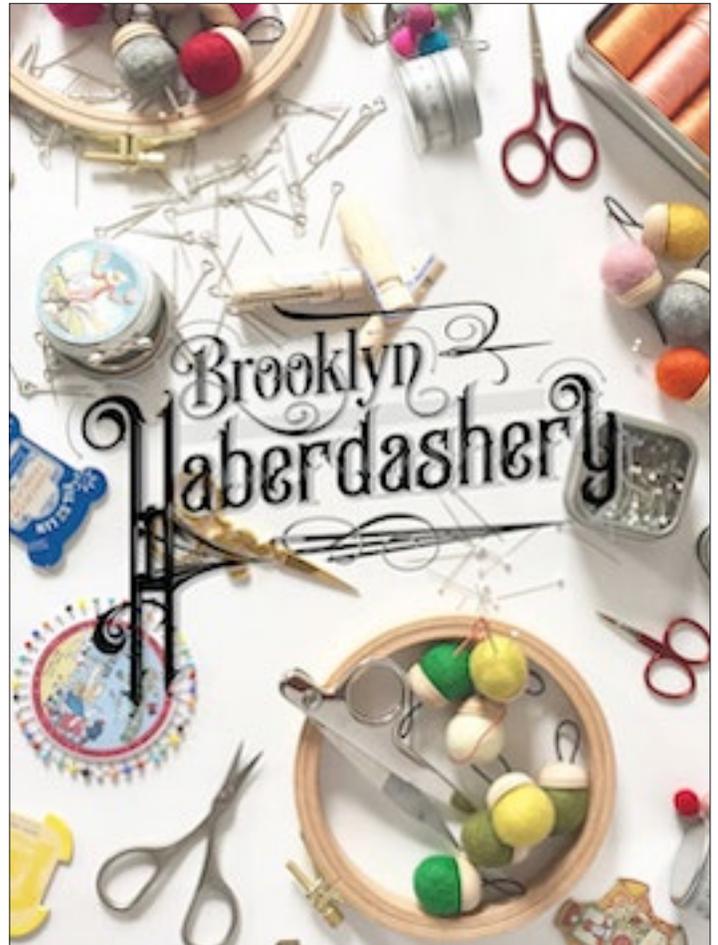
## Brooklyn Haberdashery

Founded in 2016, Brooklyn Haberdashery is an online shop that pops up at several shows throughout the year (virtual shows only during Covid-19). You may remember it as one of the vendors at the Brooklyn Quilters Guild 2018 quilt show at Industry City. They bring well-designed tools and supplies to the market by sourcing a curated selection of needle craft tools from around the world.

Many of their suppliers are themselves very small businesses. They know each one personally and have visited many of their workshops. Brooklyn Haberdashery helps to elevate skilled artisans doing ironwork, leatherwork, glasswork, wood bending, bladesmithing and ceramics. They seek fair trade, natural materials, and sustainability.

The team of employees, affectionately called the haberdashers, represent the Brooklyn community — all are talented makers in their own right. Among their many talents, are crochet pattern design, garment sewing, industrial design, and costume production.

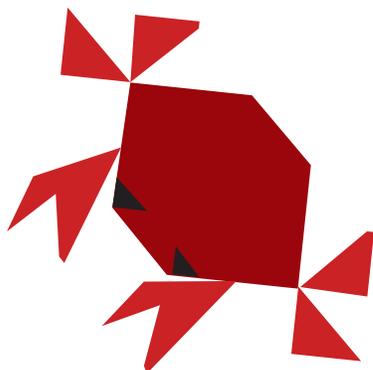
Kristin Axtman, the founder of Brooklyn Haberdashery, hails from a long line of makers and do-it-yourselfers. Kristin grew up with brilliant, hard-working parents and a large talented family who inspired her with their sewing, mending, gardening, fixing and general pioneer spirit. Kristin has continually made things — from the timber frame house she designed and built with her husband down to annual handmade holiday cards. When she is not playing with fabric, Kristin is eating her way through the world, combing flea markets, gardening, and renovating her brownstone with her husband and son right here in Brooklyn.



Welcome New Advertisers continued on next page

### Your Quilt at The National Quilt Museum

Would you like to see one of your quilts in the permanent collection at The National Quilt Museum in Paducah, KY? The museum is currently accepting donations. If you are interested, go to this link for more information: <https://quiltmuseum.org/acquisitions>.



# Cotton Candy Fabrics

Cotton Candy Fabrics is a full-service community quilt shop in Brookfield, Connecticut, that also offers online shopping to provide designer quilting fabrics, great prices, and lightning-fast shipping to sewing friends around the world. They are about 20 minutes from the Southbury, Connecticut, Heritage retreat site that many Guild members frequent, making Cotton Candy Fabrics an easy stop on the way to or from the retreat.

The store has thousands of bolts of designer quilting cotton, as well as a selection of batiks, flannel, knits, and canvas. They have sewing patterns and kits, and many notions, including Aurifil and King Tut thread. The shop offers a variety of sewing and quilting classes in its Bernina classroom, and they sell and service Handi Quilter longarm machines. They also make custom quilts and quilted gifts, and they finish quilts on their longarm machines.

They have facilities for small retreat groups in their Bernina classroom, which is outfitted with state of the art technology and Bernina sewing machines, along with dedicated cutting and ironing stations, design walls for each student, a private rest room, and a refreshments station. They have a wide variety of classes that you can select from to customize your group event or retreat experience.

The shop is known for high-touch customer service. You can call, text or email Erin at any time if you need help (917.907.2406 / [erin@cottoncandyfabrics.com](mailto:erin@cottoncandyfabrics.com)). As a small token of her appreciation for our support of her shop, Erin is pleased to offer members of our Guild a discount on their first online purchase. Simply enter the coupon code BROOKLYN at check-out to have the 15% discount applied to your entire order during the month of September 2020.



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# THIS IS WHAT'S COMING TOGETHER

BY ANNA M. FOSS

13

I recently found a couple of new patterns that are good for using up "excess fabric," also known as "scraps," and/or "stash."

## ROAD TO OMAHA

The points are sand with footprints fabric that I won at a Brooklyn show. The batik bars were bought the same year at the Staten Island show. I found them in a basket labeled \$.25 a handful, but I put my hand all the way down and came out with so much I was charged double. This is about \$3 worth of batik strips.

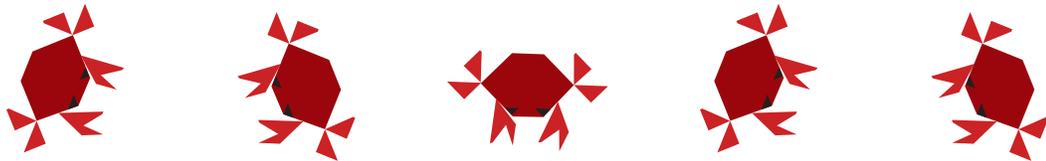
The white isn't rick-rack but I'm not sure what it's called. It has little loops. I saw a wall hanging at a Pennsylvania expo that same year which simulated ocean water and waves. The surf was ruffles from a white ninon curtain. My blocks were already together so I simply hand-stitched the trim onto the bars for surf. This will be a wall hanging so I am not concerned about anything coming off in laundering.



## SEMI-LUDDITE DELIGHT

I found this pattern on Pinterest and named it Semi-Luddite Delight. I have plenty of log cabin strips cut and I bought the chambray when Dan Sacks was closing. The logs are one-inch wide but this is a pattern you can adapt to any size. If squares are two-inches square, the bar length is three times that or 2x6 inches. I don't care to machine stitch one inch pieces so I have been hand stitching the blue-salmon-blue together. After that, the machine takes over to join bar and three block bar. Then back to hand stitching. I have apricot grunge/Moda for a narrow lattice because there's too much fabric meeting at the seams.

Hand stitching is slow but we're on slowdown anyway. Put on an old 30s or 40s classic you've seen before or let someone read to you, and stitch away. Slow but sure. ❖



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# Sew Know: As We Start Another Guild Year

BY MARCIE BRENNER, MCSE

We didn't get to celebrate our 27th year anniversary together, but we should remember it. We have been a group, friends and family for a long time. We have said hello to new people and goodbye to cherished members. We have shared the happiness of good times and eased the burdens of bad ones. Our common love of quilting brought us together and that bond has made us stronger.

We don't know when we will be able to meet again in person as a large group, but our Guild is still functioning: meetings on Zoom, retreats following CDC guidelines, community quilting projects are ongoing, quilt challenges issued, fabric swaps, Block of the Month, our fantastic newsletter arrives each month full of articles, the new *Bee Blast* comes with up-to-the-minute info and we are still treated to everyone's favorite: Show and Tell.

Why is all of this important? Because of what we are going through, we have

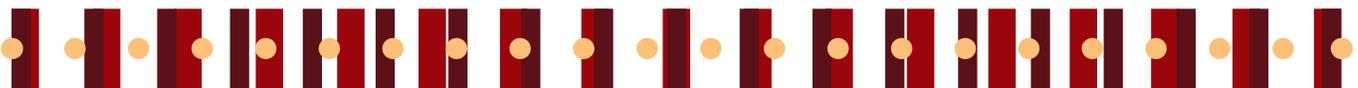
a support group and an activity that keeps us healthy, physically and mentally. Much has been written about the benefits of sewing and quilting. Sewing machine sales have gone through the roof, retailers can't keep them in stock, there is at least a three-month wait to get them in, and it's even made the news. Machine embroidery has also seen a surge.

Other crafts have also seen an increase in interest; yarn is hard to find (I've shopped online: Michaels requires a three-skein purchase on many items, Joann allows one coupon, percentage off or shipping deal, not both and tax is added even though the merchandise is not taxable in New York). People are purchasing cutting machines to create all kinds of items. With the time now available to them they are resuming old creative outlets and learning new ones. One of my daughter's friends has been doing some unbelievable woodworking, a desk for his twins

home schooling (Mom couldn't take the dining table chaos). Small businesses are being created as more women have lost their jobs and/or have to stay home with their children.

Let's look at some of the benefits of quilting: the comradeship of like-minded people able to share the passion of the craft, forming lasting friendships provides mental stability. The creativity of designing quilts, working with color and block choices and the challenges of techniques and execution provide mental challenges. The physical activity includes being in motion from cutting, sewing and pressing. We can escape into another reality, we never have to figure out what to do with ourselves, just what project we will work on next, boredom is not an issue. All of this brings joy and a sense of accomplishment.

Keep safe, stay healthy and engaged. Keep Calm, Quilt On! ❖



July's Butterfly block of the month

## BLOCK OF THE MONTH WINNERS

The summer has been a busy time for the Block of the Month, thanks to our two new chairpersons, Robin Engelman and Joy West. The winner of the June Block, the Scrapy Scottie, was Sr. Judith Shea, and Joy West won the July block, the Butterfly. Most recently, the winner of the August block, the ladybug was Wilda Smith. Congratulations to all!

## SEW SMART

# Tips N' Tools

Hello everyone,

With all this down time, I am finding lots of opportunities to discover shortcuts and gizmos found around my home. Here are two:

1. If your bobbins are becoming undone with loose threads everywhere, use ouchless ponytail holders to keep threads straight on your bobbins where threads belong. Just stretch one over the bobbins and twist once or twice to hold snugly in place. Different colored ones can help keep your bobbin drawer or case bright rather than an eyesore.



2. I find empty aluminum foil or other wrap containers handy for storing quilt blocks. Just drape those blocks on the empty cardboard roller and voila, a neat way to keep your handiwork clean, pressed and organized. Most containers are at least 13 inches long so they are perfect for accommodating standard 12- or 12.5-inch blocks.



I know many of you have been doing a lot of quilting these days so don't hesitate to send me those sweet little shortcuts, tips or new tools you have discovered.

Always my best to you,

Alice Braziller  
Alicebraziller@gmail.com 917-557-0112



## Community Quilts Specs

**ABC Quilts:** No less than 32 inches or more than 44 inches. Use colorful fabrics, no beading or buttons.

**Hole in the Wall:** 40 by 40 inch lap quilts preferred, up to twin size.

**Comfort Quilts:** Queen/Full should measure 84 x 94 inches; twin, 64 x 84. Twin preferred

**Veterans Quilts:** No smaller than 50 by 60 inches; no larger than 72 by 90 inches. Add a signed and dated label thanking the wounded soldiers.

**Labor of Love (HOPS):** No smaller than 50 by 50 inches; no larger than 80 by 80 inches. Made in red, white and blue fabrics.

## WHAT TO DO DURING A PANDEMIC WHEN YOUR SEWING MACHINE BREAKS

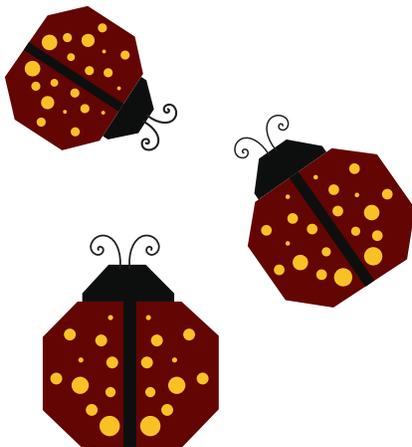
When we had to all stay indoors starting this past March because of Covid-19, I thought that it could be a great opportunity! I will have plenty of uninterrupted time to finally get some quilts done. Unfortunately I lost my ambition. I just sat around staring at the sewing machine telling myself to get started.

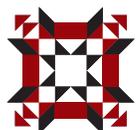
Instead I chose to finish a crocheted sweater I had started in the '80s and then start another crochet project I had purchased the yarn for. It was a pattern for a crocheted poncho, an inmate had made for Martha Stewart when Martha was released from prison. So, that tells you how old that pattern was.

Finally I had some ambition and started crocheting lots of things. As carpal tunnel started to settle in I felt a rest from crocheting was needed and I really needed to start quilting but I wanted to make a face mask first. Finally got everything set up, made the mask, and the sewing machine broke. It would only sew in reverse.

I took it to be repaired. They had received a record number of machines for repair so I had to wait a month. I just started a baby quilt and am also contemplating my next crochet or jewelry project. So many hobbies, lots of time!

~ Margaret Pross





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## SEPTEMBER 2020 BOM

# CRAFTY CRAB

This little **Crafty Crab** may be sweet, but we don't recommend that you boil him just yet! Number three in our Block-of-the-Month animal theme, **Crafty Crab** pairs nicely with other critters in the theme, in a nautical or sea theme or with a rainbow assortment of his own kind. ~Robin Engleman & Joy West

### Fabrics & Cutting

**Body:** Dark color  
4 - 3 1/2" squares  
7 - 3" squares  
2 - 3 1/2" by 4" rectangles

**Eyes:** Black/ high contrast color  
2 - 1 3/4" squares (Draw a diagonal sewing line on each of the squares from corner to corner.)



**Background:** Light contrast color  
10 - 3" squares  
4 - 3 1/2" squares (Draw a diagonal sewing line on each of the squares from corner to corner.)

### Sewing instructions

All seam allowances are 1/4".

#### STEP 1: Eyes

• Take two of the 3" body squares and place a 1 3/4" eye piece at one corner of each. Sew on the diagonal line as shown (fig. 1). Trim to 1/4" and press open (fig. 2).



fig. 1



fig. 2

#### STEP 2: "Half Square Triangles"

• Pair the 3 1/2" background squares with the 3 1/2" body squares. Sew a seam 1/4" from each side of the drawn line. (fig. 3) Cut on the draw-line, press open the triangles and trim to 3" squares. This will make eight Half Square Triangles. (fig. 4)



fig. 3



(fig. 4 - Eight blocks like these)

#### STEP 3: Crab Claws - "Wonky Triangle in a Square"

• Take the two - 3 1/2" x 4" rectangles and stack with wrong sides facing together, placed vertically.  
• Make a mark 1/2" from the corner on the upper left and opposite lower right edges.  
• Cut between these two marks.  
These are your "claw" pieces.



fig. 5

### Sewing instructions (Cont.)

#### STEP 3: Claws - "Wonky Triangle in a Square" (cont.)

• Take two 3" background squares and mark the center on the top and up 1/4" on the sides from the bottom corners. (fig. 6)

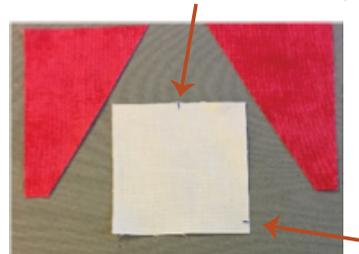


fig. 6 - Background square with two claw pieces

- Place one of the claw pieces face down along the marks (center and 1/4", fig. 7)
- Sew 1/4" along the edge of the body, press open (fig. 8)
- Flip over and trim using the background as a template (fig. 9).

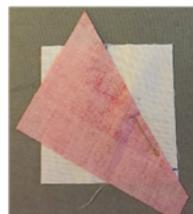


fig. 7



fig. 8

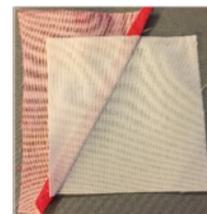


fig. 9



fig. 10

- Flip the square back to face up (fig. 10).
- Add the other claw piece to the opposite side of the square in the same way and press open (fig. 11-12)
- Again, trim to the edges of the background square. (fig. 13)



fig. 11



fig. 12

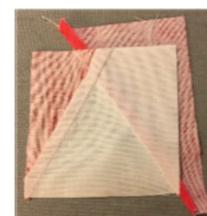


fig. 13

These blocks are "wonky" because they don't have to be precise! You will need 2 claws!



back



front

(fig. 14-15, Finished Claw "Triangle in a Square")

Continued on next page ...



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# SEPTEMBER 2020 BOM

# CRAFTY CRAB

second of two pages

## Sewing instructions (Continued from previous page)

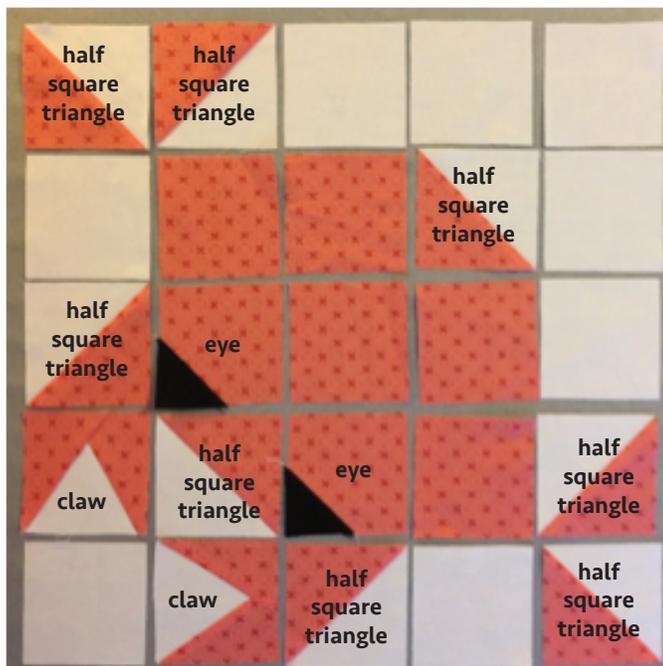
### STEP 4: Assembly

- Layout your squares according to the layout picture and sew together.

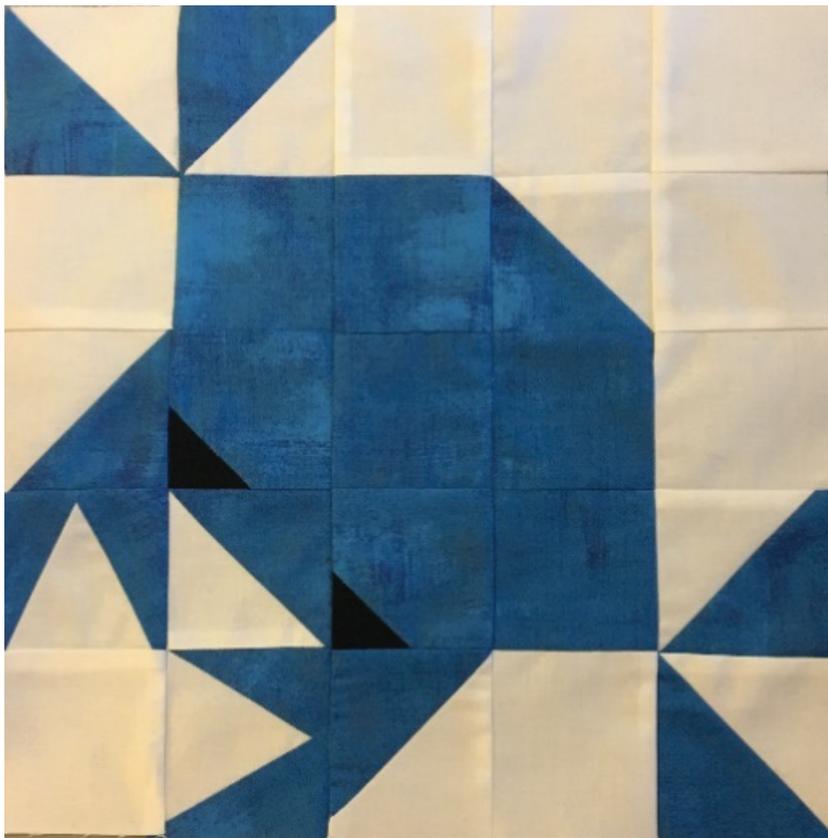
### Helpful Hints

- As you go, carefully measure the distance across the squares. They should be 2.5" finished.
- Try to match up the seams to each other. A pin placed perpendicular to the edge through both seams can help keep blocks aligned while sewing.
- Alternate pressing the seams to one side to reduce the number of layers that come together at the corners.

**Have fun! Make Crafty Crab in all sorts of colors!**



Finished block should measure about 12.5 – 13" inch square.  
(12 - 12.5" block with 1/4" seam allowance all the way around.)



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Join our **BQG Block of the Month Group (BOM)**  
(<https://tinyurl.com/y99wbfgy>)  
where you can share your block and enter the online lottery to win the collection of blocks!

Post your completed BOM by 11 am the third Saturday of the month (Sept. 19th) to enter the drawing. Each completed block gives you a chance to win. The entries will be numbered and the winning number will be pulled and announced. Everyone will privately mail their block/s to the winner.

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