

The Brooklyn Bee

BROOKLYN QUILTERS GUILD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2021

Volume 28
Issue 5

SMALL QUILT CHALLENGE

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MEET THE QUILTER

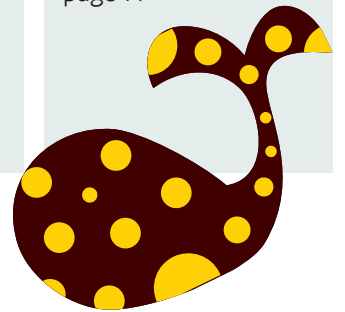
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CIRCLE SEWING BEE

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BLOCK OF THE MONTH

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Dear Members:

Finally, battered and bruised, we've made it through 2020! With several vaccines underway and our national election behind us, I'm feeling hopeful for the days ahead and to physically meet again.

In this trying year, the Guild remained a bright light in my life. With many relationships on pause, the Guild became an energetic virtual space that actually worked! In some cases, even better than before! Our Sunday bees are now so easy to get to— no lugging supplies or subway rides. ;-). It's also been wonderful to celebrate each other's work through the Guild's Facebook groups, especially the Block of the Month page. Best of all, we've been given opportunities to build new friendships. Our bees have been a quiet, creative, and supportive afternoon refuge. I was thrilled to see so many of you at last weeks' bee! Many thanks to Micki for graciously sharing her fun (and addicting!) circle appliqué technique, as well as treating us to a slide show of creative circle quilts.

As you set your goals for 2021, I hope you'll join our Earth Quilt Challenge. In John Muir's words: "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

Be generous. Be kind. Be creative. I look forward to seeing what this new year will bring.

Happy New Year,

Margaret Marcy Emerson
Co-President

2020-2021 Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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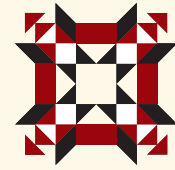
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**To see the BOARD
MINUTES and the
TREASURER'S REPORT
go to the member's
section of our Website.**

Something to share? The deadline for submissions for the February 2021 issue of *The Brooklyn Bee* is 9 a.m., Monday, January 18, 2021. Please email to: texasgcd@hotmail.com.



The Brooklyn Bee

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Facebook Member-Only Group

<https://tinyurl.com/ycbwzom9>

Monthly Show and Tell

<https://tinyurl.com/y6xv5wyd>

The Brooklyn Quilters Guild

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Join Us at Our Meetings

GUILD MEETINGS on ZOOM

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

NEXT MEETING: January 16, 2020

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3ekc9ug>

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. to 4 p.m. Zoom link information will be emailed on Sunday morning and can always be accessed on the EVENTS page in the Member section of our website.

Guild News & Notes

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Join the Brooklyn Quilters Guild Earth Day Challenge

Our incredibly creative **Rainbow Quilt Challenge** was a huge success. Thanks to you all! We had almost 50 quilts entered, all made by BQG members. There was an impressive range of interpretations, techniques and styles. We had a great audience turnout on that October Saturday, and the sharing and love continues daily with comments from people around the world who have visited our show virtually on our website or through Facebook.

We are excited to announce that we are doing it again!

Our next challenge is in celebration of **Earth Day**. Let's show some love and respect for our magnificent planet. We think this is a perfect challenge to contemplate and hold near our hearts as we hide away at home this winter and the theme provides many rich and diverse visual possibilities to let our imaginations soar. In the words of member Alice Braziller, it is time to *"Sew Seams and Plant Dreams!"*

The quilts entered will be ready to share with the world close to April 22, 2021 — Earth Day. We would like to know by February if you plan to participate. The quilts will be due by the March 2021 Guild meeting. They will be collected and photographed. If we are not meeting in person by then, we will arrange a way to collect them.

Challenge Requirements

Theme: Earth Day

Size: 36" x 36" square

Completed Entry Form

Attach a hanging sleeve

Attach a sewn label on the back with your name

Due date: March 2021 Guild meeting

The Earth is What We All Have in Common.

Wendell Berry

~Margaret Marcy Emerson

Community Quilt Update

Jenn Arzberger announced that she has recently donated 38 ABC quilts and **Diane Holland-Pryor** has 60 quilts available to donate to NYPD families who lost loved ones due to post 9-11 cancers.

Sunday Bees

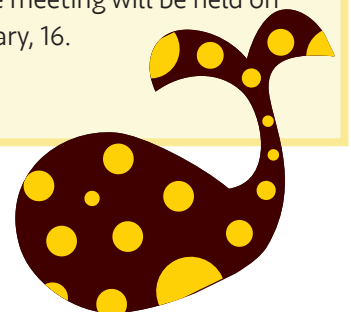
Would you like to host one of our Sunday bees on Zoom? They are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The bees offer a nice, relaxing way to sew with friends. If you can host, please contact Margaret Marcy Emerson, margaret.marcy@gmail.com.

ABC Frenzy in February

Our annual ABC Frenzy will be held on Zoom this year, after our February meeting. Jenn Arzberger will show how to make three baby quilt tops using just three yards of fabric. Her technique involves creating super sized blocks. She may also have some other tricks up her ABC Frenzy sleeve. So get your fabrics ready and come to the the frenzy in February. More information to come soon.

January Vendor

The virtual vendor at our January, 2021, meeting will be Oh Sew Sally. The meeting will be held on Zoom on Saturday, January, 16.



News & Notes page 2

Lenni Abel Workshop Coming in April

Save the Dates:

Sunday, April 11th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 18th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Each year our Guild hosts a quilting workshop which is partially funded by the Lenni Abel Fund. Lenni was an active long-time member of the Guild and served as president shortly before she passed away. The Lenni Abel fund was the idea of Lenni and her husband. They provided the seed money and additional funds were raised by Guild member's contributions. Madi Appell and Barbara Danzi are arranging a workshop called Curvilinear Curves with modern improv quilt artist Maria Shell. Maria is known for using a lot of color, for cutting without rulers, and for focusing on strong design. Maria will teach several ways to improvisationally piece curves and circles. The workshop will be split into two half days (Sunday afternoons) so that we have additional time to sew during the week and get Maria's feedback or help with questions or challenges in the second session.

We can have 30 people in the workshop, and expect it to fill quickly. Registration will take place in January, so watch for the registration announcement in the **Bee Blast**, and hold the April dates on your calendar.

The price will be \$40. This is subsidized by the Lenni Abel Fund. Maria Shell workshops typically cost between \$100 and \$140.



Lenni Abel

Maria Shell on her Work:

With all my work, the driving force is always color. How to make color vibrate on the wall? That is the question for me. Most often the answer lies in proportion of line and shape in relation to color.

Color is dynamic, fickle, explosive, solemn, mysterious, and beautiful. All colors possess these characteristics, and it is my daily work to explore how color is capable of being all these things for the viewer. It is with real joy that I try and try again to evoke deep emotion in the viewer through the use of color. This work is visceral. I do not know, intellectually, beforehand what is going to happen when I put a sliver of chartreuse next to bubble gum pink, but I am always willing to take the leap, to stitch until I find out.

To learn more about Maria Shell and this class, please click the link below to visit her website.

<https://mariashell.com/classes/>



Meet the Quilter: Alzada Boudreaux

How long have you been a member of the Brooklyn Quilters Guild?

I have been a member of the Brooklyn Quilt Guild since September, 2008.

How did you find out about the Brooklyn Quilters Guild?

When I was walking on McDonald Avenue in Brooklyn, I spotted a fabric store. Upon entering, I saw a sign about quilting classes. I inquired and registered for a class. The teacher, Sarah Vinson, and Cece Miller, a customer of Malki's fabric store who became my friend, invited me to a Brooklyn Quilters Guild meeting. And the rest is quilt history.

How and when did you get interested in quilting?

In my youth, my dad constructed a quilting frame for my mother to quilt on. Upon my retirement, I knew I needed something to occupy my time, and to energize my mind. I remembered my mother hand quilting on the quilt frame made by my dad.

Describe how your quilting has evolved and what are your current projects and goals for the future?

My skills evolved from piecing simple quilts to more challenging quilts. I have learned paper piecing, appliqué by machine and by hand, embroidery, fabric painting, fabric fusing, and making stained glass wall hangings. I have made quilted jackets and bags. I also participated in quilt challenges. Currently, I am working on UFOs and completing promised commitments.



What is the most memorable quilt-related experience you would like to share?

I made a Jacob's Ladder quilt in memory of my mother whose maiden name was Jacobs. This quilt was in the 2010 Brooklyn Quilters Guild quilt show.

What is your professional background?

I was a NYC public school teacher, educational evaluator, and reading specialist.

How does the Brooklyn Quilters Guild and any other quilt groups you belong to, support and/or influence your quilting life?

The Brooklyn Quilters Guild and other groups have inspired me by introducing new techniques and strategies through workshops, lectures and show and tell. The fellowship has been wonderful.

Sylvia Hernandez in New York Times

Once again, our member, Sylvia Hernandez, is in the news. She is one of a number of social justice quilters who was featured in a story in the December 16, 2020 **New York Times**. Here's the link to the story, "Gone but Never Forgotten in a Quilt."

<https://tinyurl.com/ycdmyhg7>

When the story appeared in the **New York Times**, Sylvia received a phone call that she thought was a crank call. But it was not a crank call. It was Spike Lee and he bought two of her pieces — *Injustice* and *Corona 2020*.



Injustice



Corona 2020



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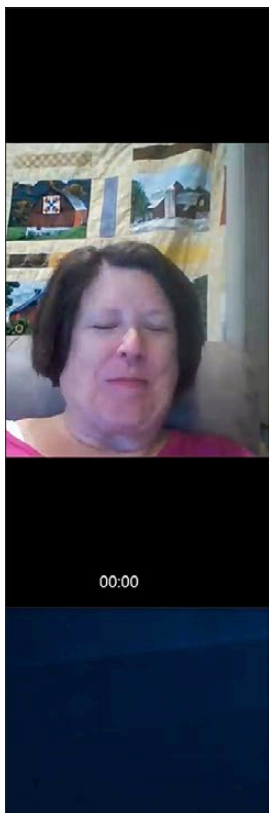
Barn Quilt Lecture

Many thanks to Suzi Parron who took us on a tour of the Barn Quilt Trail with her entertaining and informative talk after our January meeting. For more information on Suzi and barn quilts, go to www.barnquiltinfo.com.

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If you missed this entertaining barn quilt tour, you can watch the recording of the December Guild meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7zvcae8>



SEW SMART Tips N' Tools

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year Dear Quilt Friends,

Out with the old and in with new! In that spirit, I came across this great idea in a quilt magazine about what to do with tattered, stained or unfinished quilt tops. The decorator cut out good sections from a much beloved quilt and displayed them by stretching them over canvas stretcher frames and tacking the pieces in place on the back, using a staple gun. It's such a simple, easy way to repurpose a quilt we know we could never part with. You can use different size frames, as in the picture. I know exactly what quilt I am going to experiment with. Do you?

Are you thinking about resolutions for the new year that include some in your quilting life? Mine is to purge, purge, purge my fabric stash! The problem is, without the free table at our monthly meetings, I have been without a place to discard fabric.

The problem was solved last month when I brought a bagful of nicely folded fabric to my local Housing

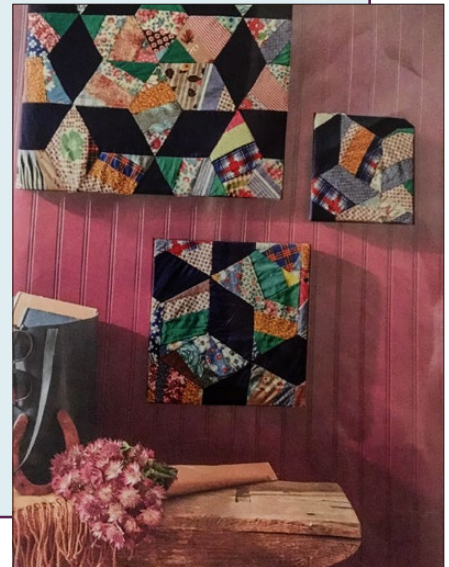
Works Thrift Shop on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. Apparently, there are lots of sewing folk who shop for second hand fabric at this chain. Here's a list of their thrift shops in Brooklyn and Staten Island:

- 266 5th Avenue (Park Slope) 718-636-2271
- 424 7th Ave (Park Slope) 929-314-2150
- 150 Montague Street (Brooklyn Heights) 347-644-2269
- 36 Richmond Terrace (Staten Island) 718-420-0308

Remember to share any tips, tools, shortcuts or resources that will help the rest of us manage in the what we hope will be a brighter year.

My best,

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





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A number of Chilly Willy penguin blocks have found a new home with Margaret Marcy Emerson. She was the winner of the December block of the month drawing. Congratulations Margaret!

My First Quilt

BY DEBBIE BRECKENRIDGE

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Like many Guild members, I've been sewing since I was a teenager, but did not start quilting until later in life. I've always treasured the quilts that my grandmother had made for me when I was a child, so when I was in my 30s, I decided to carry on the family tradition.

My first quilt was actually two matching twin-size Log Cabin quilts. I made these quilt tops more than 30 years ago, working side-by-side with my friend, Beth. We registered for a Beginning Patchwork class in Connecticut, close to Beth's home, but unfortunately, due to a snow storm, the class was cancelled. Since we had both already purchased our fabrics and had received the class outline (along with diagrams and photos), as well as instructions regarding the number of fabric rectangles that had to be cut, we decided to teach ourselves how to make Log Cabin blocks.

I was living in Brooklyn at the time, and my friend, Beth was a single mom of two small boys, so I rented a car, loaded up my sewing machine, fabric, notions, etc. and drove up to Beth's house for a weekend. Each night, once the boys were in bed, we got to work. Like many beginning quilters, we did not have cutting mats and rotary cutters, so all of our fabric pieces were



marked in pencil and cut out with scissors. I made my first two blocks that weekend and then brought everything back to my apartment, set up my sewing space on the dining table and got to work making more blocks. I ended up with 48 12-inch blocks for two twin-size quilts plus a lot of extra blocks. Beth assembled a wall hanging using the 16 blocks she made from her fabrics.

I loved trying out different layouts of the blocks before deciding which design to use. Sewing the blocks together and adding borders was straightforward, but figuring out what to do next was problematic. I pieced two backs, purchased batting and headed back to Connecticut. On the floor of Beth's mom's sunroom, I batted up and basted one of the quilts and concluded that I would never do that again. I also decided that I had no desire to figure out how to do the actual quilting, so I found quilters-for-hire in my home town in Missouri, who quilted both twin quilts for me.

I had intended that these quilts would be displayed on the antique twin beds I inherited from my grandmother, but those antique beds are still in storage, so my matching quilts are stacked on top of my armoire in my apartment. One of these days...

Membership Report

We were pleased to welcome three new members in December: Nathasha Brooks-Harris, Diane Hill and Anna M. Śmiarowska. Nathasha has rejoined the guild after a many year absence. We now have 180 members.

~ Mary Hawley, Membership Chair

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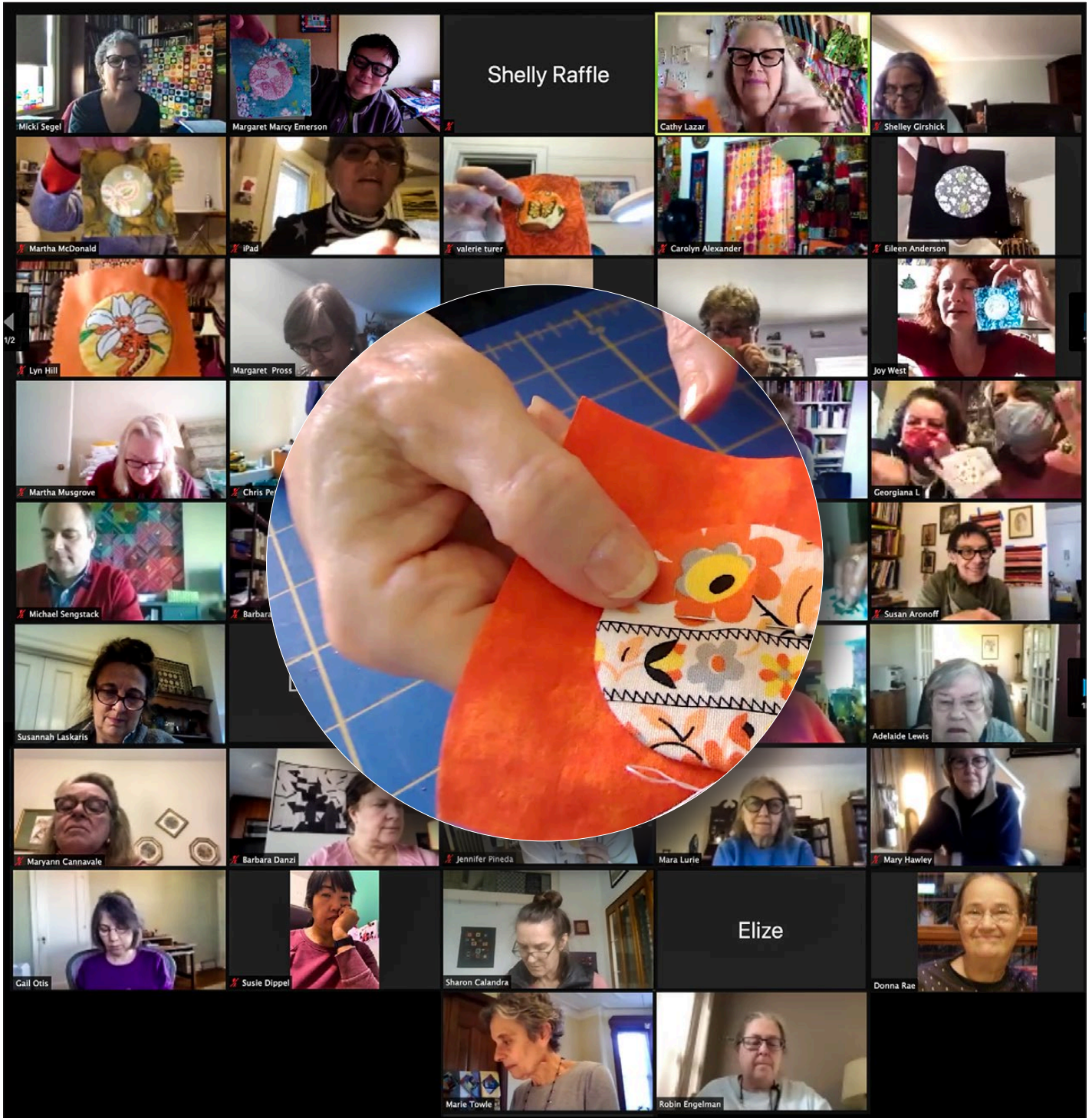
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Circle Sewing Bee

The biggest-ever Sunday sewing bee was held on December 27. Forty-eight Guild members joined the bee to attend Micki Segel's circle workshop on Zoom. She showed a variety of inspiring projects made with circles and then showed how to make them. All the work is done by hand. Micki says it's like eating potato chips, you just can't stop making them and it's a wonderful way to use up scraps. Thank you, Micki, for a wonderful workshop!



Sew Know: Technique Sampler Block 4

BY MARCIE BRENNER, MCSE

THIS MONTH WE WILL be making flying geese, highlighting two different techniques. You will need a 4 ½- or 6 ½-inch right-angle ruler with a companion angle, an all-in-one flying geese ruler, or a flying geese no-math ruler. The standard finished flying geese block is twice as long as the width, so if the width is two inches, the length is four inches.

Technique 1: Good for making many different color combinations. (If you are making multiples of the same color combinations, there is a faster technique that can be used.)

A. The strips for both the geese (main triangle) and the sky (corners) are cut the same finished width + ½ inch for seam allowance.

B. Using a companion angle or flying geese ruler, align the template top to the strip top edge and the bottom to the lower edge of the strip, which should be marked at the finished length of the block. Cut the needed number of geese, rotating the template for each cut, aligning with the previous cut.

C. Using the right angle or the flying geese ruler, align top, bottom and side edges with the cut strip. Rotate the right angle or flying geese ruler for each cut, aligning with the previous cut. Cut twice the number of geese.

D. Stitch a sky half triangle to one side of the each goose (assembly line stitch), press to the dark side or press open. Stitch the other half triangle to the other side of the goose, press as before.

Technique 1



Technique 1: Cut strips 2 ¾ inches wide for geese and sky.

Technique 2: Good for making multiples of the same or different color combinations.

A. Using a flying geese no-math template, four blocks are made at the same time. The template is marked for the goose portion and the sky portion and the marked measurements are the finished goose block size. I measure the two squares and cut my strips to that width. I cut the number of geese I need from the wider strip and then four smaller squares of sky for each goose square. Draw a diagonal line on each sky square.

B. Place a sky square on opposite corners of a goose square, placing the diagonal line at the corner and overlapping the squares. Stitch ¼ inch from each side of the diagonal line, cut on the line, press to the dark side or press open. Align a sky square with the goose's remaining corner, with the diagonal line at the corner. Stitch ¼ inch from each side of diagonal; cut and press as before.

Technique 2



Technique 2: Cut geese strips 5 ¾ inches and the sky strip 3 1/8 inches.



Technique 2-2 Flying Geese No Math Template Cutting, Pressing, Stitching, Cutting Finishing



The block shown is made up of 12 flying geese blocks, each measuring 2 ¼ x 4 ½ inches finished

Events of Note

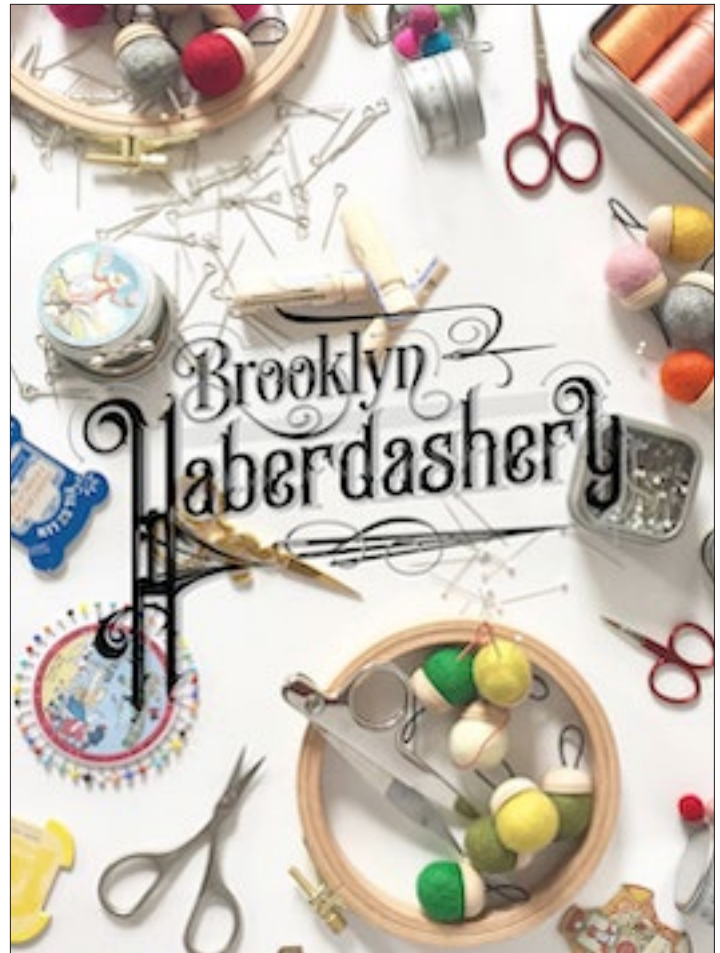
A video glimpse of a solo show by **Nancy Crow**, at Nebraska International Quilt Museum is available through **March 7, 2021**.
<https://tinyurl.com/y4ltehgy>

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The Metropolitan Museum of Art, reopened 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. Is on display from **October 31, to June 13**. The exhibit showcases European textiles, ranging from Italian Renaissance velvet to French 18th-century printed cotton. Information at <https://www.metmuseum.org>

QuiltCon, February 18-22, 2021, Virtual. Presented by the Modern Quilt Guild, Approximately 600 modern quilts on view, including 400 juried from MQG members from around the world, plus lectures, panels, tours and on-demand workshops. For more information, quiltcon.com.

Mid-Atlantic Quilt Festival, February 24-27, 2021. Virtual. 32nd annual show sponsored by Mancuso Show Management. Competition quilts, online vendors, workshops and lectures. For more information, quiltfest.com.



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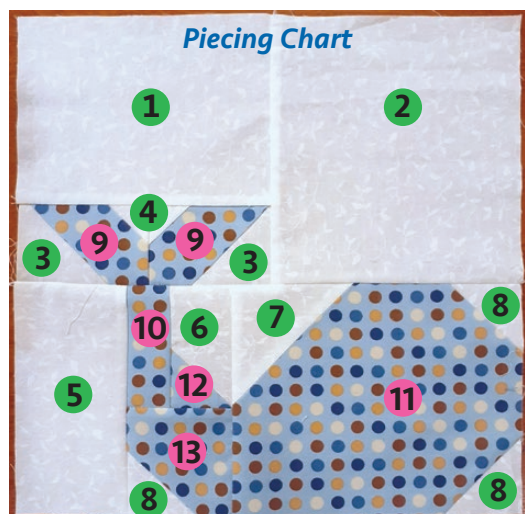
BROOKLYN
QUILTERS
GUILD

JANUARY 2021 BOM

WALLY WHALE

WALLY and his sister WANDA WHALE are spouting with enthusiasm, not just for turning the calendar page over to 2021, but for January's block of the month! Seventh in our series, this little whale offers the opportunity for a personal touch on finishing. Add a spout of water or bubbles with the templates here or create your own look! ~Robin Engleman & Joy West

Fabrics & Cutting - Number the cut pieces with pins or stickers for easy reference.



Background: Contrast to Whale

- 1 6 1/2" w x 5" h
- 2 6 1/2" w x 7" h
- 3 Cut two: 2 1/2" squares (Draw a diagonal sewing line on each of the squares from corner to corner.)
- 4 Cut two: 1 1/2" squares (Draw diagonal lines)
- 5 3" x 6"
- 6 2" x 3 1/2"
- 7 3 1/2" Square (Draw a diagonal line)
- 8 Cut three: 2" squares (Draw diagonal lines)

Whale: Contrast to background

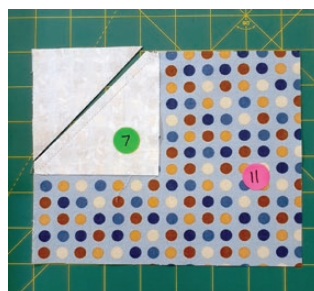
- 9 Cut two: 3 1/2" w x 2 1/2" h
- 10 1 1/2" w x 3 1/2" h
- 11 7 1/2" w x 6" h
- 12 2" square (Draw a diagonal line)
- 13 3" square

Sewing instructions

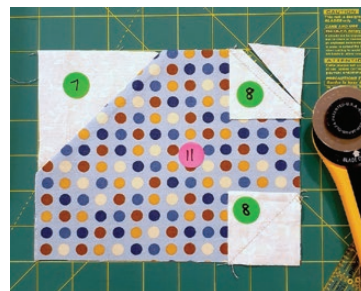
All seam allowances are 1/4".

STEP 1: Whale Main Body

- Place the whale #11 fabric horizontally and sew the background square #7 to the top left corner, trim and press back. (fig. 1)
- Sew a #8 background to both the top and bottom corners of the right hand side. Trim and press back. (fig. 2)
- Sew the third #8 background to the bottom left corner of whale #13, trim and press back. (fig. 3)



(fig. 1)



(fig. 2)



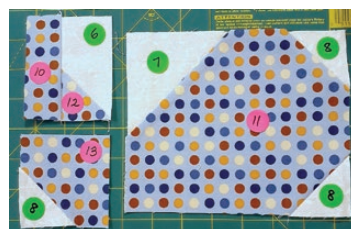
(fig. 3)

STEP 2: Whale Tail

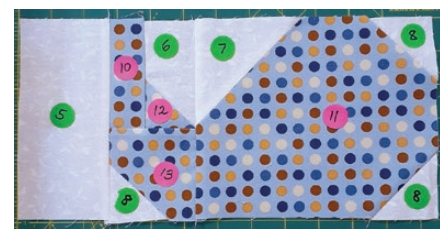
- Orient background #6 vertically and sew the whale square #12 to the lower left corner (fig. 4), trim and press back.
- Sew whale #10 to the left side of the previous piece (#'s 6-12). (fig. 5)
- Sew the tail units together as shown and then sew to the head portion of the whale.
- Sew background #5 to the left side of the whale to complete the bottom half of the block. (fig. 6)



(fig. 4)



(fig. 5)



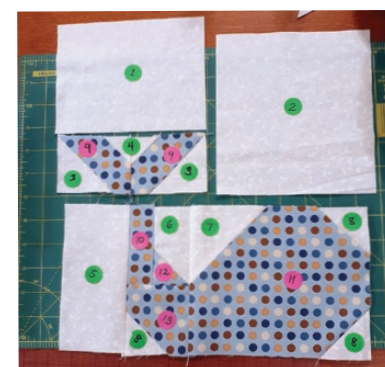
(fig. 6)

STEP 3: Whale Flukes and Background

- Place the #9 whale pieces horizontally and sew #3 background to the bottom left and a #4 background to the top right of one, and do the opposite for the other. Place the other #3 background to the bottom right and #4 background to the top left. Trim and press back all the background squares. (fig. 7)
- Join the two flukes together matching the points of the two #4 pieces. (fig. 8)
- Assemble the remaining pieces. Sew the #1 background piece to the flukes, and then sew that to the #2 background piece.
- Join the top to the bottom!
- Use templates on the next page to add a spout or bubbles to your block.



(fig. 7)



(fig. 8)



BROOKLYN
QUILTERS
GUILD

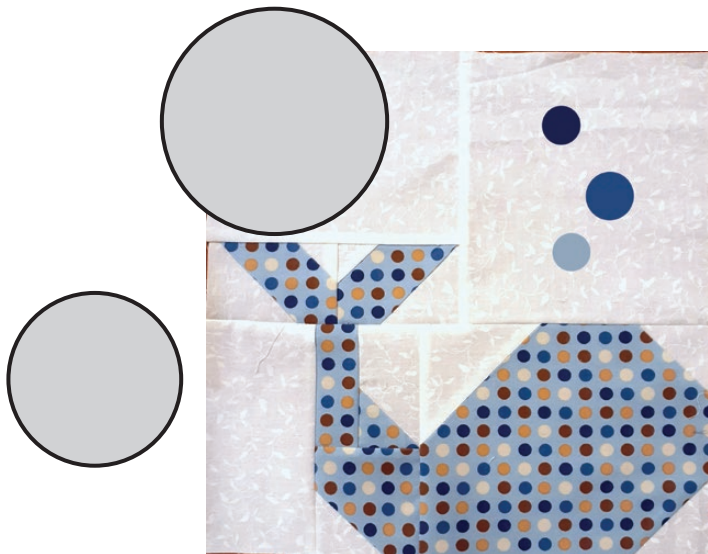
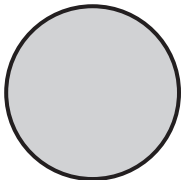
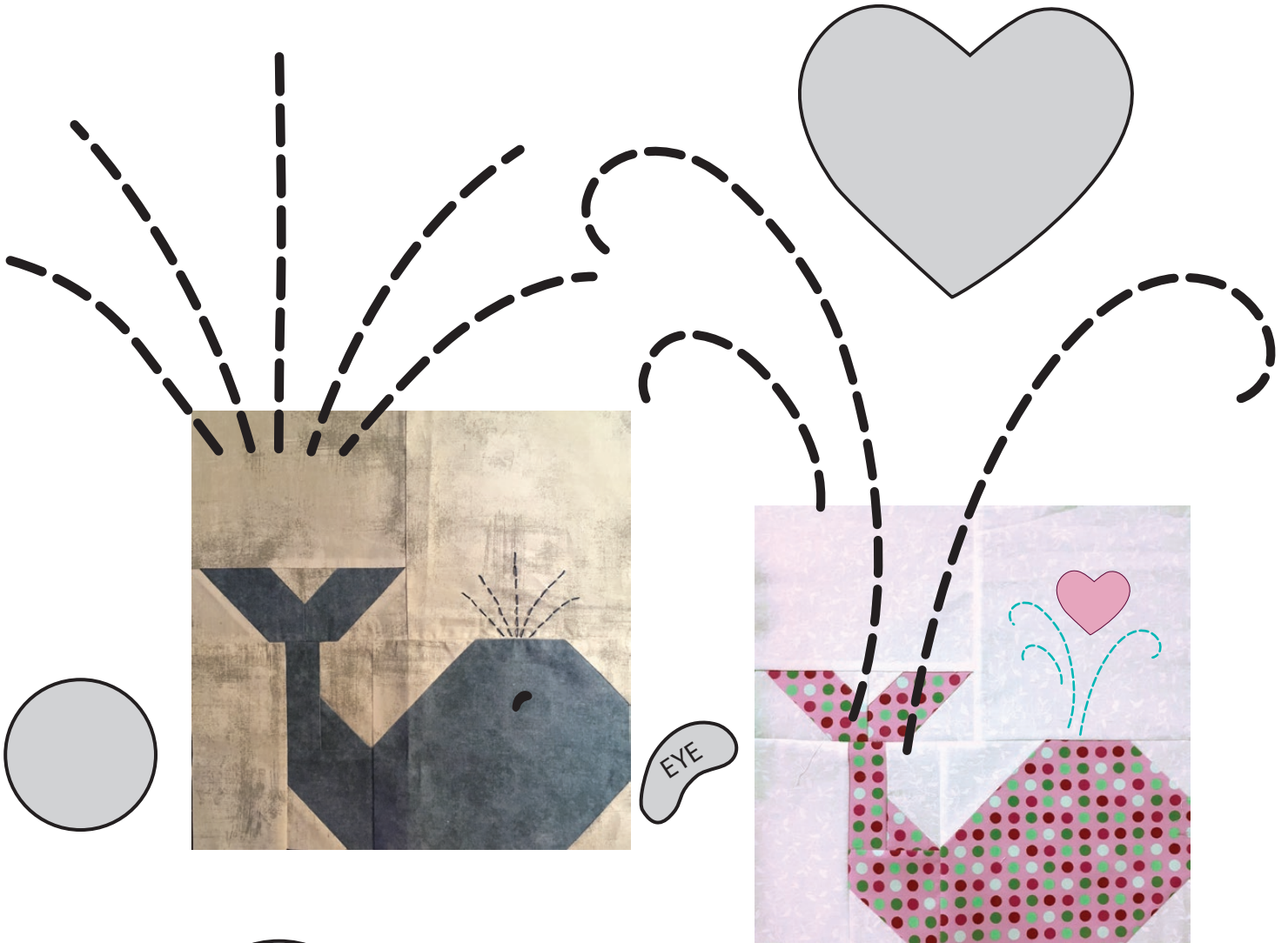
JANUARY 2021 BOM

WALLY WHALE

second of two pages

TEMPLATES

Embellish the top half of the **WALLY WHALE** or **WANDA WHALE** block using the templates below or create your own look. Use embroidery, applique, fabric paints or a combination of techniques to finish your block.



Post your block to our Facebook page!

Join our **BQG Block of the Month Group** (<https://tinyurl.com/y99wbfgy>) where you can share your block and enter the on-line lottery to win this month's collection of blocks!



To enter the drawing, post your completed BOM by 10 am before our Guild Meeting, the third Saturday of the month. Each completed block gives you a chance to win. A name will be pulled live during the meeting. Everyone will privately mail their block/s to the winner.

Please post your block even if you wish to keep it! Just note that it is not for the contest.

Not on Facebook? You can still participate! Email margaret.marcy@gmail.com for details.