AUGUST EDITION

THE BRYN MAWR COURTYARD

Every quilt tells a story.
Every quilter builds a memory.



FROM MICHAEL'S SEWING ROOM

Hello, friends!

August has always felt like one of those beautiful in-between months. Summer is still very much with us, but the sunlight begins to soften, the evenings arrive a little earlier, and we start thinking about the projects we would like to finish—or begin—as the seasons slowly prepare to change.

Here at Bryn Mawr Quilts™, August is filled with creativity, travel, teaching, and plenty of time spent at the sewing machine. I'll be visiting the Southport Quilters Guild for my Curved Square Workshop, sharing my quilts and stories with the Sarah's Grove Quilt Circle, and spending a wonderful day at Roberts Sewing Center teaching my Tippy Tippy Toe quilt.

In this month's edition of The Bryn Mawr Courtyard, we'll share what has been happening in the studio, look ahead at the exciting things on the calendar, and spend a little time discussing one of quilting's most debated ideas: the mysterious scant quarter-inch seam.

As we enjoy these final golden weeks of summer, I hope you find a little extra time to slow down, pull out a project you love, and enjoy the simple pleasure of making something with your own two hands.

Thank you for continuing to support Bryn Mawr Quilts™ and for being such an important part of this growing community. I'm so glad you're here.

With gratitude,

Michael F. Nardi Jr.
Bryn Mawr Quilts™

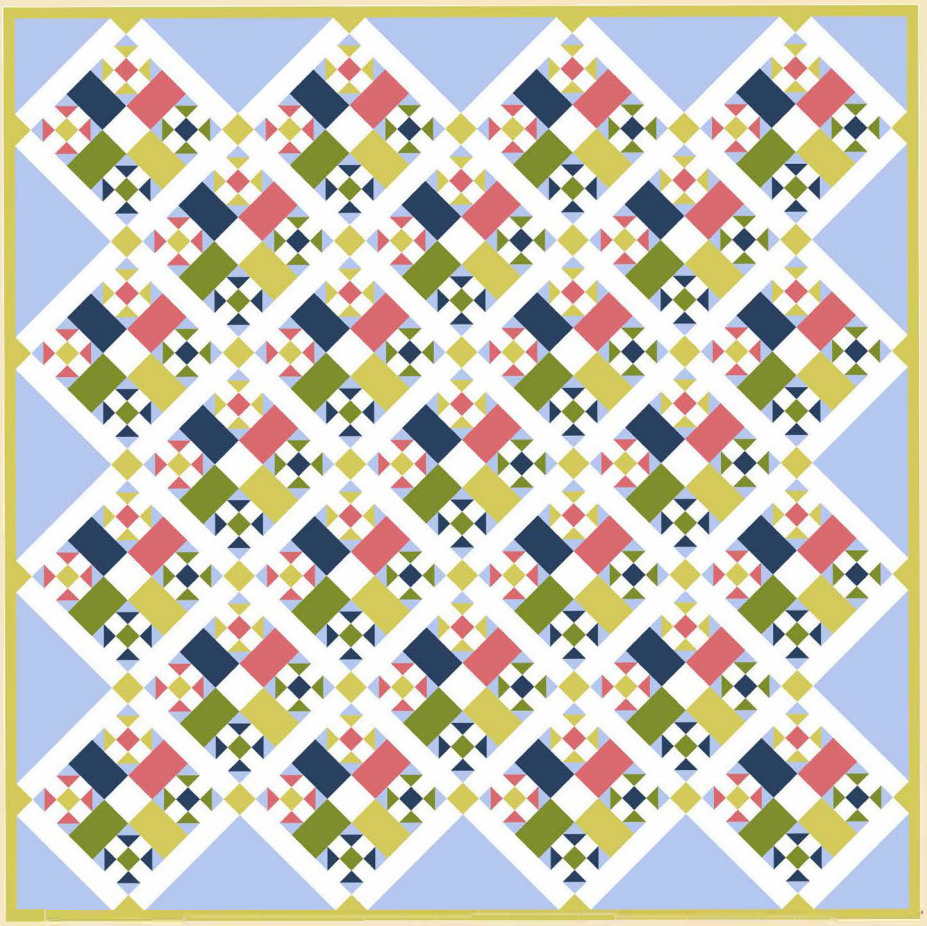
THIS MONTH: *the scant quarter-inch seam, studio updates, and August happenings.*

★ *The Bryn Mawr Courtyard* ★

COMING SOON

at Bryn Mawr Quilts™

December 2026 will bring the release of two very different Bryn Mawr Quilts™ patterns—one bright, playful, and contemporary, and the other filled with warmth and holiday nostalgia.



Don't Feed the Animals

Featuring Century Solids from Andover Fabrics

Bold color, playful geometry, and unexpected movement come together in *Don't Feed the Animals*, an 81¼" × 81¼" quilt created using Century Solids from Andover Fabrics.

The repeating blocks are set on point, creating a woven lattice effect that carries the eye across the design. Navy, coral, olive green, golden yellow, soft blue, and crisp white give the quilt a cheerful, modern personality while still feeling familiar and approachable.

Century Solids gave this design exactly what it needed. The rich, dependable colors allow every shape and secondary pattern to remain clear, while the variety of shades adds depth without overwhelming the composition.

The complete *Don't Feed the Animals* pattern will be available for purchase in December 2026. This quilt will also have a special place in our upcoming *Inspired! By Color* journey, with more details to come.

Fabric featured: Contury Solids from Andover Fabrics



Paper Poinsettias

Featuring Cottage Cloth by Renee Nanneman of Need'l Love for Andover Fabrics

After many requests, the pattern for *Paper Poinsettias*, measuring 73" × 94", will finally be available in December 2026.

This warm and welcoming quilt reimagines the traditional poinsettia as a beautifully pieced geometric bloom. The woven centers and layered points give each flower dimension, while the changing shades make the quilt feel timeless, collected, and full of character.

The quilt was created using *Cottage Cloth*, designed by my dear friend Renee Nanneman of Need'l Love for Andover Fabrics. *Cottage Cloth* brings a softly aged richness to the project, giving the colors the appearance of fabrics that have been lovingly gathered over time.

The deep red background creates a dramatic setting for poinsettias in creamy white, olive green, soft gray, and muted gold. A charming red-and-cream pieced border finishes the quilt with just the right touch of vintage holiday nostalgia.

Fabric featured: Cottage Cloth by Renee Nanneman of Need'l Love for Andover Fabrics

Both patterns arrive in December 2026.

Two distinctive quilts. Two beautiful Andover fabric stories.
Two new projects to add to your winter sewing list.

ON MY DESIGN WALL

at Bryn Mawr Quilts™

AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN

A new Bryn Mawr Quilts™ design arriving in 2027

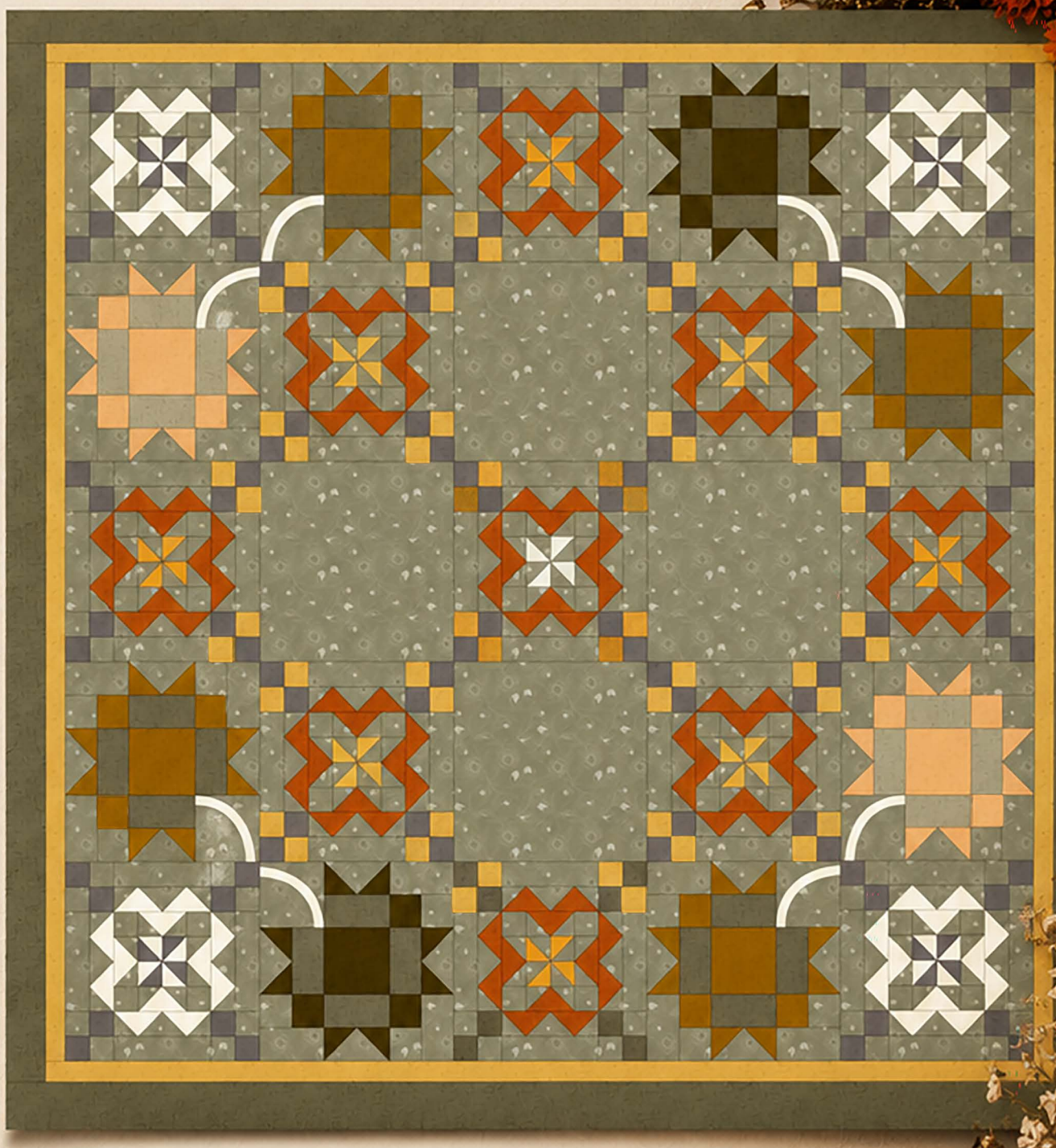
There is a special kind of beauty found in the garden as summer begins to fade.

Warm orange, muted gold, weathered green, creamy white, and soft gray come together in *Autumn in the Garden*, a new 68½" × 68½" quilt currently growing on my design wall.

This quilt features *Cottage Cloth by Renee Nanneman* of *Need'l Love* for Andover Fabrics, paired with *Color Me Whisper by Stephanie Organes* for Andover Fabrics.

The softly textured fabrics give the quilt depth and warmth, while allowing the autumnal palette to feel aged, collected, and comfortably familiar.

The pattern for *Autumn in the Garden* will not be available until 2027, but I wanted to give you an early look at a project that is quickly becoming one of my favorites.



Currently on the design wall:

AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN

68½" × 68½"

PATTERN COMING IN 2027

BETWEEN THE SELVAGES

Stories, colors, and inspiration from Bryn Mawr Quilts for Andover

AUGUST EDITION

SPARROW FALLS HAS ARRIVED!

I am thrilled to share that *Sparrow Falls*, my very first fabric collection for Andover Fabrics, is officially arriving in quilt shops this August!

Sparrow Falls was inspired by summers I spent with my grandmother—her lush garden, the cheerful birds that sang from the trees, and the simple pleasure of tea and coffee shared on the porch. It captures the nostalgic spirit of the 1940s and 1950s with a fresh, heartfelt look.

You'll find sweet songbirds, colorful garden flowers, charming teapots, classic plaids, and coordinating prints woven together in a palette of coral pinks, golden yellows, soft greens, warm creams, and rich blues.

More than just a collection, *Sparrow Falls* is a collection of memories—transformed into fabric. I can't wait to see how it becomes part of your stories, stitched into quilts, pillows, and treasured keepsakes for years to come.

Thank you for being part of this joyful journey!







QUILTS FROM BRYN MAWR QUILTS™

These are a few of the Bryn Mawr Quilts™ patterns I've created with *Sparrow Falls*.

- ★ Fancy Free
- ★ Criss Cross
- ★ Nifty Nostalgia
- ★ Stars of San Tropez
- ★ Tippy Tippy Toe

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

One of the most meaningful parts of releasing *Sparrow Falls* has been seeing other talented designers interpret the collection through their own creative voices. A very special thank-you goes to:

- ★ Marie of The Darling Darling Quilt Company
- ★ Cheryl Brickey of Meadow Mist Designs
- ★ Matthew Pridemore of The Whimsical Workshop
- ★ Janet Houts
- ★ Mandy Fleig of Sewing Partyy
- ★ Wendy Sheppard

Seeing these designers create with *Sparrow Falls* has been an extraordinary honor.

Sparrow Falls

by Michael Nardi for Andover Fabrics

OFFICIALLY ON SHELVES IN QUILT SHOPS THIS AUGUST

The Bryn Mawr Courtyard

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I'm looking forward to seeing so many of you over the next few months!

AUGUST 1

SOUTHPORT QUILTERS GUILD

KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

CURVED SQUARE WORKSHOP

AUGUST 4

SARAH'S GROVE QUILT CIRCLE

SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS

TRUNK SHOW

AUGUST 22

ROBERTS SEWING CENTER

CREST HILL, ILLINOIS

TIPPY TIPPY TOE WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 1-2

OTTUMWA QUILTERS GUILD

OTTUMWA, IOWA

HOPE FLOATS WORKSHOP

TRUNK SHOW

SEPTEMBER 16-19

MISSOURI STAR BIRTHDAY BASH

HAMILTON, MISSOURI

Visit me inside the Andover Fabrics booth as we officially unveil *Sparrow Falls*, enjoy meet-and-greets, and attend several exciting presentations throughout the event.



I'll also be participating in the
FUTURE DESIGNERS TRUNK SHOW.

And yes...

INSPIRED CONVERSATIONS
RETURNS THIS SEPTEMBER!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Connection, conversation, and exciting things ahead

1. STEPPING FORWARD TO SERVE

Northern Lake County Quilters Guild

I'm excited to share that I am running for president of the Northern Lake County Quilt Guild. Being part of a quilt guild is about so much more than attending meetings. Guilds preserve our traditions, encourage education, support charitable work, and create lasting friendships between people who may never have met without quilting bringing them together.

The Northern Lake County Quilt Guild has been an important part of my own quilting community, and I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve its members in a new way. I hope to help create an environment where every quilter feels welcomed, encouraged, and inspired—whether they have been quilting for decades or are just taking their first stitches.



2. LET'S CATCH UP LIVE!

Saturday, September 26, 2026

One-Hour Facebook Live Q&A

I'll be hosting a special one-hour Facebook Live Q&A as an informal opportunity for us to catch up, talk about what everyone has been working on, and answer any questions you may have for me.

We can talk about quilting, patterns, fabric, upcoming projects, teaching, designing—or anything else you've been curious about.

Bring your questions, your latest project, and something comfortable to drink. I'm looking forward to spending the hour with you!



3. SAVE THE DATE: BLACK FRIDAY LIVE

Friday, November 27, 2026

9:00 a.m. Central Time on Facebook

Join me live as I unveil what Bryn Mawr Quilts™ has planned for 2027.

During the event, I'll share both new block-of-the-month experiences, new Bryn Mawr Quilts™ rulers, upcoming fabric collections, new patterns and projects, important dates and purchasing information, and a few surprises saved especially for the live event.

I want it to feel like a celebration of everything we have created together and an exciting first look at where we are headed next.



Our community continues to grow—one guild meeting, one conversation, and one stitch at a time.

THE SCANT QUARTER INCH

A Quilter's Guide to a Fake Measurement



For generations, quilters have debated the mysterious scant quarter-inch seam. How scant should it be? Is it one thread narrower than a quarter inch? One needle click? The width of a pencil line?

Here is my honest opinion: the scant quarter inch is not a real, quantifiable unit of measurement.

You cannot find a scant quarter inch marked on a ruler. It is not a consistent fraction that measures the same for every quilter. What we call a scant quarter inch is actually a technique used to help our finished patchwork come out at the correct size.

The need for that adjustment comes from a simple fact: not every quarter-inch seam is created equal.

Your sewing machine, presser foot, needle position, thread weight, fabric thickness, cutting accuracy, and pressing method can all affect the finished measurement of a block. Even the tiny fold created when a seam is pressed takes up a small amount of fabric.

That means two quilters can both sew directly along a quarter-inch quide and still end up with slightly different results.

Rather than chasing someone else's idea of a scant quarter inch, I believe every quilter should calibrate the seam allowance that works for their own machine and materials.

FIND YOUR ACCURATE SEAM

1. Cut three rectangles measuring 2½" × 5".
2. Sew them together along their 5" edges using your usual quarter-inch seam allowance. Press the seams exactly as you would for your quilt.
3. Your completed unit should measure 7" wide.

- Less than 7" means your seam allowance is slightly too wide.
- More than 7" means your seam allowance is slightly too narrow.
- Exactly 7" means you have found the correct setting for that fabric, thread, and pressing method.

Adjust your needle position one small step at a time and repeat the test until the unit finishes correctly. Once you find the setting, write it down and use it consistently throughout the project.

Your accurate seam may be a true quarter inch. It may be one needle click narrower. It may even change when you switch to heavier thread or thicker fabric.

The goal is not to sew a mythical measurement.
The goal is to make accurate patchwork.

> *"Consistency matters more than what we call the measurement."*

3 RECTANGLES JOINED = 7 INCH UNIT



Your scant quarter inch does not need to match mine.
It only needs to make your quilt come together correctly.

The Sewcial Club & Special Events

Retreats, travel, and unforgettable quilting adventures.

Bryn Mawr Quilts

The Sewcial Club — est. 2026

The Darling Starling Quilt Company

Quilt Retreats

1. The Sewcial Club Quilt Retreat

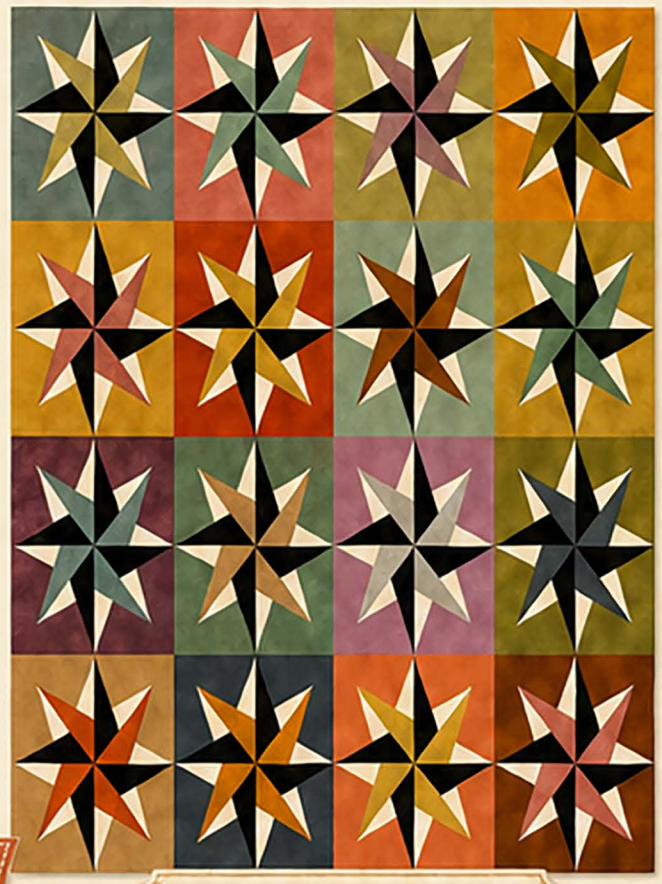
June 13–17, 2027 • Hotel Hamilton • Hamilton, Missouri

I am so excited for our Sewcial Club Quilt Retreat, taking place next June at the beautiful Hotel Hamilton in Hamilton, Missouri. This retreat is designed as a joyful and welcoming getaway filled with quilting, creativity, friendship, and memorable moments.

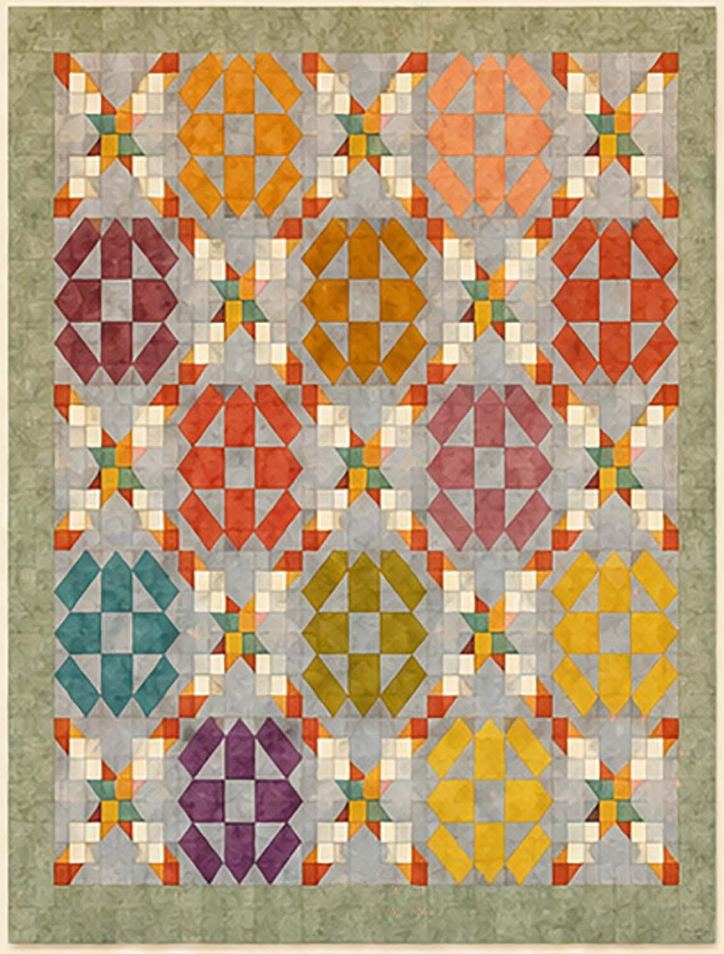
Guests will enjoy two complete class projects—***Carnivale!*** and ***Temperance Lights***—along with a meet-and-greet, attendee swap, High Tea, a festive hat contest, a trunk show, Show & Tell, and all the camaraderie that comes from spending a few wonderful days with fellow quilters.

Both Stay Passes and Commuter Passes are available. If you hope to stay at Hotel Hamilton, please reserve sooner rather than later, as Stay Passes are filling quickly.

Reserve Your Place
square.link/u/IRE47X6E



Carnivale!



Temperance Lights

2. Exploring the Textiles, Traditions, and Treasures of Sicily

April 10–20, 2027 • A Creative Journey with Craftours

I am equally thrilled to be hosting an unforgettable journey to Sicily with Craftours in April 2027. This immersive creative experience will be filled with history, art, culture, beautiful scenery, delicious food, and the rich textile traditions of Sicily. Together, we will explore remarkable artistic heritage, local traditions, and endless inspiration in the colors, architecture, landscapes, and craftsmanship of Sicily.

If you have ever dreamed of combining travel, creativity, friendship, and quilting in one extraordinary adventure, I would be honored to have you join me.

Discover the Sicily Experience
craftours.com/tour/exploring-the-textiles-traditions-and-treasures-of-sicily/



LOOKING AHEAD

A grateful note as summer begins to soften

As August begins to wind down, I always find myself holding a little tighter to the simple beauty of summer. The warm sunlight, the hum of a busy sewing room, a favorite project spread out on the table, and those quiet little moments in between—they all have a way of reminding me just how much there is to be grateful for.

Before long, we'll begin stepping into the fall and winter quilting season, which always brings so much inspiration, creativity, and excitement. There is something so special about this time of year. We start gathering new ideas, pulling fabrics for fresh projects, and looking ahead to all the things waiting just around the corner.

I want to thank you, truly, for your support, your kindness, and for continuing to be part of this wonderful quilting community. Whether you've followed along for years or have only recently joined me, please know how much I appreciate you being here. Your encouragement means more than I can say, and I'm so grateful to share this journey with you.

As new things begin to arrive and so many exciting plans continue to unfold, I hope you'll take time to enjoy the little moments that are still here in this season. Sit outside with your coffee. Take in the flowers. Pull out a project you love. Let yourself slow down just enough to appreciate the beauty around you.

Thank you for supporting Bryn Mawr Quilts™ and for continuing to support me as all these new things come along. I'm so excited for what's ahead, and even more grateful that I get to share it with you.

Wishing you a beautiful close to summer and a joyful beginning to the seasons ahead.

With gratitude,

Michael F. Nardi Jr.

Bryn Mawr Quilts™



Enjoy the little moments of summer—
they become the memories we carry into
every new season.