

THE

BRYN MAWR *Courtyard*

◆ SEPTEMBER ISSUE ◆

HELLO FRIENDS, *One Last Beautiful Stretch of Summer*

September is that beautiful moment suspended between seasons. The sunshine is still warm, the gardens are full, and there are still a few more afternoons meant for being outside—but autumn is just around the corner.

Before we fill our homes with pumpkins, settle into longer evenings at our sewing machines, and welcome all the wonderful magic of spooky season, I hope we take a little time to enjoy these final pockets of summer.

This year has already brought so many incredible opportunities, new adventures, and beautiful connections into my life—and I am so grateful for each of you.

Thank you for supporting my work, celebrating these milestones with me, and continuing to believe in everything we are building together. There is so much more waiting just around the corner, but for now, let's linger here for a moment longer—grateful for the season behind us, excited for the season ahead, and enjoying every last golden bit of summer while it is still ours.

With gratitude,
Michael ♥

IN THIS ISSUE...



BIRTHDAY BASH IS ALMOST HERE!

We're counting down to the 18th Birthday Bash at Missouri Star Quilt Company! Can't wait to celebrate, share, and see you there!



SPARROW FALLS IS IN SHOPS!

My first fabric line for Andover Fabrics is here! Sparrow Falls is now in quilt shops and ready to inspire your next project.



WINDING THE BOBBIN

This month's article: "The Science Between Left Brain and Right Brain Quilters"—a fascinating look inside how we create.

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



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COMING SOON

Nine Patch Windmill

A timeless quilt design full of movement, charm, and old-world inspiration.

COMING SPRING 2027

There is something so wonderfully timeless about a quilt that can take familiar, traditional shapes and make them feel completely new again—and Nine Patch Windmill does exactly that.

Designed using Cottage Cloth by Renée Nanneman, this quilt was inspired by the graceful silhouettes of old Dutch windmills turning across the countryside. The alternating angles create a beautiful sense of movement across the surface, almost as though the windmill sails are slowly spinning from block to block.

Nestled within that movement are charming little nine patches that add just the right touch of detail and contrast. They give the eye a place to rest before the windmills carry it onward again, creating a rhythm that feels both lively and beautifully balanced.

The soft, slightly weathered palette of Cottage Cloth gives the design an old-world warmth, while the strong geometry keeps it crisp, classic, and fresh. Nine Patch Windmill is traditional, elegant, and full of motion—the kind of quilt that seems to come alive the longer you admire it.

I cannot wait to share this one with you.

Designed using
Cottage Cloth
by Renée Nanneman



Releasing
SPRING 2027



A quilt in motion tells a story all its own.

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ON THE DESIGN WALL

Lynn's Market Day Tote

Five Colorways. One Beautiful Bag.

Some projects are simply more fun when they are created with a friend, and Lynn's Market Day Tote is one of those special collaborations.

I partnered with my dear friend Lynn Ray, using her wonderful Lynn's Market Day Tote pattern and my Sparrow Falls fabric collection for Andover Fabrics, to put together a collection of beautiful bag kits that are just as practical as they are pretty.

At approximately 20" x 20" finished, this is a roomy everyday tote with plenty of space for quilting supplies, fabric finds, or a trip to the market.

Because choosing just one combination was nearly impossible, we created the tote in five distinct Sparrow Falls colorways: Prussian Blue, Teapot Blue, Flax, Cinnamon, and Moss.

Each one has its own personality, and all five kits are available now on the Bryn Mawr Quilts website.

Featuring
Sparrow Falls
by Michael Nardi
for Andover Fabrics

Pattern by
Lynn Ray



Prussian Blue



Teapot Blue



Flax



Cinnamon



Moss



Available now
on the
Bryn Mawr Quilts
website

Finished size:
20" x 20"



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Where in the World Is Michael?

September & October 2026



Fall is shaping up to be a wonderfully busy season, and I'm excited to share where I'll be teaching, visiting, and going live over the next two months. I hope to see you along the way!



1

September 1-2

Ottumwa Quilters Guild

Ottumwa, Iowa

Trunk Show + Hope Floats Workshop



2

September 16-19

Missouri Star Quilt Company

Birthday Bash

Hamilton, Missouri



3

September 26

Roberts Sewing Center

Crest Hill, Illinois

Stardance Harvest Workshop



4

October 10 • 9:00 AM Central Time

LIVE from the Studio

Official Launch of MoonLight

Facebook Live



5

October 31 • 9:00 AM Central Time

Halloween LIVE from the Studio

Spooky Meet & Greet

Raw-Edge Appliqué



Mark your calendars—and come sew with me!



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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.

You are INVITED!

JOIN ME LIVE FOR
THE 2027 PREVIEW PARTY!



Friday,
NOVEMBER 27, 2026
→ 9:00 AM CST ←



MILKY WAY JUNCTION™
BLOCK OF THE MONTH
Exciting episode
for every month!



INSPIRED BY COLOR™
THOUGHT THE SEASONS
BLOCK OF THE MONTH
Officially opening
for registration
Get ahead and save with
early bird pricing!



GIVEAWAYS
Throughout the live!
Fun quilting goodies
up for grabs!



LIVE Q&A
Bring your questions
about quilting, patterns,
fabric, and more!



ON THE EIGHTH'S™
GOLIATH RULER
Pre-order is open
Beginning on early
December 2026.



FIRST LOOK
AT BRAND-NEW
QUILTY PATTERNS
Coming in 2027!

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WINDING THE BOBBIN

The Science Between Left-Brain and Right-Brain Quilters

What happens when the careful planner and the intuitive improviser meet at the cutting table?

A QUESTION AT THE CUTTING TABLE

I recently read a Cambridge discussion about learning styles and the way we sometimes divide people into neat little categories. It immediately made me think about quilting. We often describe someone as analytical or creative, a careful planner or a free spirit—the so-called left-brain and right-brain ways of thinking.

Naturally, I began to wonder: Does the way our minds work influence the way we make a quilt?

WHAT THE SCIENCE ACTUALLY SAYS

The popular explanation says the left side of the brain handles logic, order, numbers, and precision, while the right side handles imagination, emotion, color, and creativity. It is a wonderfully simple picture, but the real science is more interesting. Certain functions may lean more heavily toward one hemisphere, yet the two sides are always communicating. We do not calculate with one half and create with the other. Quilting asks the whole brain to join the conversation.



DID YOU KNOW?

Creativity and logic are not housed in separate halves of the brain. Planning a quilt, choosing color, solving construction problems, and improvising all depend on networks working together.

"The planner needs imagination—and the improviser needs structure."

THE ANALYTICAL QUILTER

Order is part of the pleasure.

Reads the pattern from beginning to end before cutting a single piece. Every unit is labeled, every measurement checked, points carefully matched, and seam allowances kept consistent. This quilter finds comfort in knowing where the quilt is going—and loves watching order emerge one carefully constructed block at a time.

THE INTUITIVE QUILTER

Curiosity is part of the pattern.

May begin with a color, a single fabric, or the tiniest spark of an idea. The pattern can become a friendly suggestion. Pieces move around the design wall until something suddenly feels right. A border may disappear, a new fabric may join halfway through, and the finished quilt may look nothing like the one first imagined.

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WINDING THE BOBBIN • CONTINUED

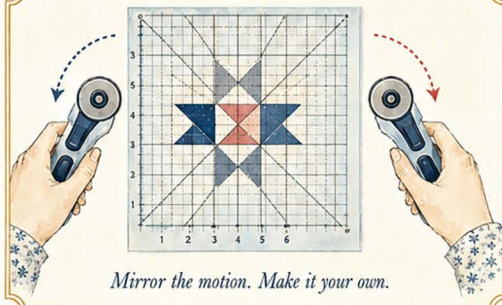
When Handedness Enters the Sewing Room

The hand we favor changes the mechanics of learning—not the limits of our creativity.

THE PHYSICAL SIDE OF LEARNING

Then there is the question of being left-handed or right-handed. Hand dominance can shape the physical experience of quilting: how we hold a ruler, guide a rotary cutter, follow a demonstration, or arrange the space around our machine.

Because so many tools and instructions have traditionally been designed around right-handed use, left-handed makers often become expert translators. We watch, mirror, adapt, and find the motion that feels natural in our own hands. But handedness does not determine whether someone is more artistic, more mathematical, more adventurous, or more precise. It shapes mechanics—not imagination.



Mirror the motion. Make it your own.



MICHAEL'S TEACHING TIP

A note for my left-handed quilters

As a left-handed quilter myself, I have noticed something over years of teaching: many of us let the rotary cutter drift slightly to the right. Even a small change in blade angle can affect accuracy over a long strip. Keep the cutter as vertical as possible, slow down just a beat, and check that your wrist is not rolling outward. It is not a flaw—just a mechanical habit worth noticing.



LEARNING ACROSS THE TABLE

When the demonstration is reversed

Right-handed quilters can feel just as disoriented when following a left-handed demonstration. Our brains become efficient at familiar movements, so learning across handedness asks us to mirror the action on the fly. Change your viewing angle, watch the motion again, and give yourself permission to translate it. Learning is not about copying every gesture perfectly; it is about finding the version that works in your own hands.



THE WHOLE MIND AT WORK

Perhaps that is the real science behind quilting: every quilt asks us to use our whole mind. We measure and imagine, calculate and create, solve problems while telling stories. Some of us begin with a checklist; some begin with a spark of color. Most of us live somewhere in between.

There is no single correct way to think or create. Every quilt is a conversation between your hands, your experience, and your imagination. So whether you plan every seam before the first cut or let curiosity lead the way, trust that your brain is doing something remarkable—and that is worth celebrating.



Every quilt teaches us something—not just about fabric, but about ourselves.

Savoring the Last Days of Summer

As summer softens into fall, the season ahead is full of warmth, wonder, and inspiration.

There is always something a little bittersweet about this time of year. Summer still lingers in the sunshine and the garden, but just beyond it we can feel the gentle turn of the season.

Before long, we will trade warm late-summer days for crisp autumn evenings, welcome the beauty of fall, step into spooky season, and then—almost before we know it—find ourselves surrounded by the glow and magic of the holidays.

For quilters and makers, it is such a special stretch of the year. New colors begin to call to us, cozy projects start taking shape, and inspiration seems to arrive with every season that unfolds.

I would love to hear what you are working on. Are you finishing one last summer project, diving into autumn stitching, sewing for Halloween, or already dreaming about handmade holiday gifts?

Please share what is on your sewing table and what is inspiring you right now. One of the greatest joys of this community is seeing the beautiful things you create and celebrating the seasons together.

Until next time, enjoy these last golden days of summer—and happy stitching into all that lies ahead.



SHARE WITH US

What's on your sewing table right now? Fall makes, spooky stitches, holiday gifts, or one last summer finish—we'd love to see what you're creating.



*With gratitude,
Michael* ♥

Every season brings a new story to stitch.