



Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Loose Threads

Wa Shonaji Moves Forward—Online!

As Covid 19 continues to cause public gatherings to be cancelled, Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji will take advantage of our online capabilities, according to Guild President Geneva Lottie. The Board will meet via Zoom on Saturday, June 6, and our August Exhibit will be online. Details will be provided by the Exhibit Committee so members can submit their quilts—both 12x12s and those for the side walls—for the exhibit.

On Saturday, the Board will discuss having Guild meetings on Zoom. “It’s very simple. We’ll let everyone know how to Zoom in,” Geneva said. “We also need to make sure that people who do not have computer access can call into the meetings.”

VP Programs Mary Lassiter said, “Wa Shonaji has not met since our last wonderful workshop on hand-quilting led by Netta Toll. As we reorder our lives, our programming plans must be reordered too. New calendars will be sent to you once we are able to meet again. I truly look forward to seeing you all again.”

The bottom line, pursuant to Board action on June 6: Most gatherings are likely to be postponed for the foreseeable future. If any are held, many people will choose not to attend. So, we’ll adapt! The Board will keep you informed...

Meanwhile, there’s lots to keep you busy, to stay informed, and to keep in touch:

- Wa Shonaji’s blog! Visit our blog on the Wa Shonaji website to keep in touch! See page 7 for how-tos. Some helpful updates are posted.
- Projects:
 - 12.5" x 12.5" for “August” Exhibit. Keep working on it as it will go online. Dates to be confirmed.
 - Round Robin: Work within your group to keep the pieces moving.
 - BOM: See pages 8 and 9 for Block 6!
- The opportunity to keep up with each other via email, phone calls, or our blog. It’s vital during this time of separation. Feel free to send a note or email or pick up the phone...

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Wa Shonaji Members Take Advantage of Safer-at-Home Time

Di Nyce Brooks-Gough works hard to stay busy and is trying new and interesting quilt patterns that she finds online. She made all these tops in about two months.

The House Quilt satisfied a challenge for Calico Cutters Quilt Guild in Pennsylvania. She is also finishing up the Modern Block of the Month for that guild in which she used her favorite black and white fabrics.

Di Nyce again used black and white in an online pattern. She brightened it with red circles to

make it hers. It was intended to be hand appliqued, but she finished it by machine.

She also found the pinwheels quilt pattern online; she had never tried the 3D effect before.

The Portuguese tile quilt is also worked in black and white with solids, another favorite combo.

The dark gray quilt with the square in a square design was made from the HSTs left over from the tile quilt. "I do love a freebie," Di Nyce said.




Sewing Love

Chris Jacques: I've been working on, what else? Masks! I've tried three patterns, looking for a good fit and ease of making. The quicker I can make masks, the sooner they can start working! Next I plan to turn to masks for hearing-impaired wearers in the general population and for the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation. Also, I'm an admin on a Facebook group for Boulder Mask Makers. I've also signed up to make five blocks for the Violet Protest.

Connie Turner: Healthy —I am; happy—well, let me say I'm blessed. I'm working really hard to stay the course and follow the guidelines, knowing that it is for the best. I hope you are happy and healthy as well.



I have downloaded several quilt patterns, but have yet to move forward with fabric and thread—SOON! I did finish my block of the month quilt from last year—MASKS (thanks for your encouragement, Artie).

Edith Shelton: I have no announcements, except: "In life, it's important to know when to stop arguing with people and simply let them be wrong." A friend sent that to me (with other sayings) and that one caught my attention. It was my belly laugh of that day.

I am back to making masks—this time for the Indian reservation. I was also working on a small quilt for the side wall of the B/C exhibit (whenever it happens) but it is in too many pieces to take a picture.

Stay safe.



De Lois, Pat, and Edith: What a great day for social distancing and gathering together. Stay safe.



Joanne Walton has made a Patriotic Banner for the Holidays and, of course, more masks!



Linda Hernandez: I can't believe another month has gone by. This has been the most unbelievable spring I can remember.

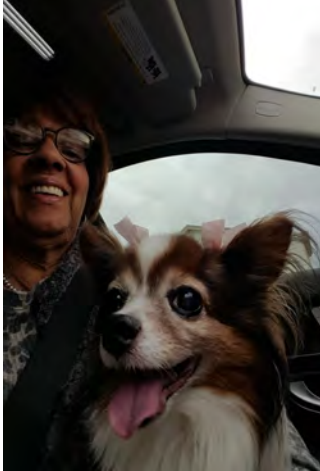
I'm finally getting house repairs and updating done. In the process, I have been able to set up a sewing nook in my bedroom. My machine is set up by a window so I get lots of light. I look out the window and see my yellow cottage roses.

I'm working on the BOM squares and, as with every guild project, I'm learning new skills and blocks. I'm also working on face masks for members of the Pine Ridge Reservation. These are the people who fought the oil pipe going through their reservation. They have lived with adversity and done it with courage and faith. A special "thank you" to DeLois and Joanne for getting some elastic to me. You are the best!

I've found a sewing supply company online: WAWAK, America's #1 sewing source for over 100 years (www.wawak.com). They have a large variety of sewing supplies at reasonable prices and they deliver fast. They don't have fabric but they have a lot of merchandise.

I want my Sister Quilters who have lost family members to know that they are in my prayers. We are Sister Quilters and Sisters in Christ.

Iris Hawkins: I have not touched my sewing machine. I'm feeling guilty about that. But I've been productive in other ways. I am working on an article for my Writing Group entitled "My Hometown," which happens to be the City of New York. I have tried to have some order to my days. Five days a week since mid-March, I have participated in a daily Zoom event from Senior Planet Colorado. The sessions have been interesting, informative, or fun, depending on the subject. I plan my day around



Nann with her much-loved Danser Minuet Locke enjoying a ride in mamma's car.

[Editor's Note: This should have been included with Nann's moving story about her dear friend in the May newsletter. I apologize.]

this. My genealogy group has been holding meetings on Zoom since April, as well as other organizations. Working on finding my great-grandmother.

Stephanie Hobson: I've been working on home projects, helping with family chores and just plain working. I have not done much sewing. I repaired a few things

but have only done a few more masks. I have done a lot of yard work.

Pennie Estrada: I finally finished my last year of the Catholic Biblical School. It was awesome, and I feel so blessed that I get to audit for life at no cost. There is so much information, I had to re-review.

Adrienne Bryant: My plate is full: working from home (the third week of May was the last week of school) and gardening. In March, I was diagnosed with spinal stenosis. So I am learning to manage pain. I love you all and miss you so much!

*"Even when it's not pretty or perfect. Even when it's more real than you want it to be. Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own."
—Michelle Obama in *Becoming**

My Dear Quilt Family,

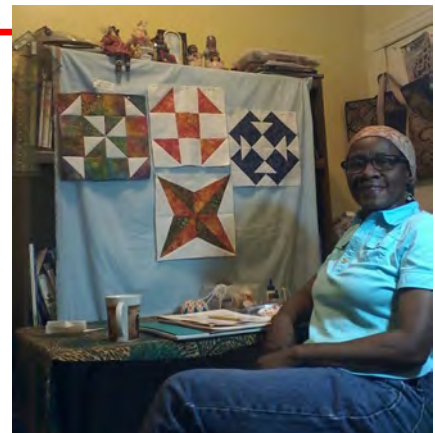
These months have been lonely without you. I miss your smiling faces and warm embrace. I miss the sound of the pounding gavel to get our attention, so our meeting can commence. We'd chatter on, trying to get in one last word over a cup of coffee and a shared snack. Ahh, wait a minute, this kinda sounds like a love letter. Sorry, I just got carried away. (Can you tell I've been locked up too long?) What is true, is that I sure do miss you all!

What have I been doing? I have been playing my flute a lot more and practicing guitar. Who knows when this is all over, I might end up a rock star! (Not!) Like many of you I have made masks, but just for family and friends. I also carry masks with me to the grocery store and offer one to anyone I see without a mask. No, no one has cursed me out yet. They just politely say, "No thank you." Too bad.

I have finished my BOM for April and May. Yea! And am studying the instructions for June's Birthday Cake block. We are so blessed to have hobbies and talents in times like this. And a roof over our heads, also. This is a time when I really appreciate the simpler things I can do.

One day, I picked up lunch and drove to the main Library on Broadway, parked a little distance away, and

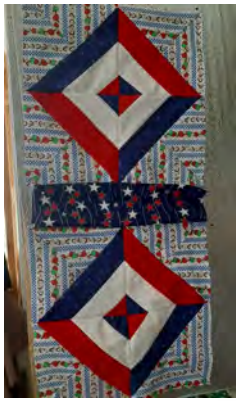
Nanci Vaughn is using her stay-at-home time to catch up on her Blocks of the Month.



began to look it over. Light bulb moment! Though challenging, the architectural design of that library will be my 12½ by 12½ block. Sounds like I'll have plenty of time to develop it. Ann W., our engineer, would be proud of me. It took some time, but I was able to draw it to scale.

Well, I could go on and on about developing my little vegetable garden, and planting my lovely flowers in pots, and catching up on reading, and my AARP magazines and newsletters, but I'll stop now. Just know I too, am staying busy and prayerful in this tough time. So now I'm taking a fresh cup of coffee, going to sit on my back porch, and left a cup to you all.

Be blessed, Nanci



Susan Morrison: I've been working on my August pieces. That's part of my "We the People" at left. Also making hedgehog liners, a few masks and trying some patterns. I'm getting ready to work elections at the state primary June 15 to June 30. Maybe Rockies games starting July 4. No quilt groups, no Eastern Star.

Reniese Johnson: I'm continuing to make cards for the Cards for Kindness project. The second shipment should go out next week. I used some fabric embellishments on one of the cards.



I watched *Saturday Night Live* recently, and they did a hilarious skit on Zooming (the do's and the don'ts). They hit the nail on the head as I could relate to my last Zoom meeting with our Blacks in Government Regional meeting. From facial expressions to, people moving around, to people not knowing which buttons to push.

Karen von Phul: 15 day mystery quilt and masks!



Artie Johnson: This is my Bible Quilt that I have completed as a tribute to Harriet Powers.



Camilla Edwards: I made a block for Sophie's high school graduation quilt (daughter of eQuilter's Luana Rubin). I was late sending it so I hope it will be used. Basically I've been working on face masks when I should have been working on quilts. I've sent face masks to my grandkids, sons, siblings, sick and shut-in members of my church, and more. Since the last newsletter was published I've given 15 adult face masks to De Lois Powell for the Navajo Indi-



an reservation project, and I have 15 more that are ready for her to pick up. In the meantime, I'll make a few more face masks for my own personal stash. You never know if you'll need more in the future.

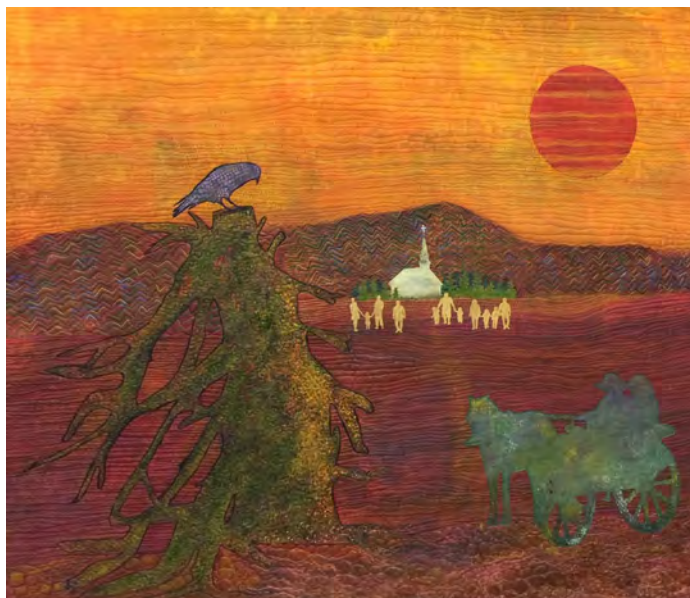
It's mind boggling how your energy level becomes lower than normal when you have an obligation to fulfil as in sewing and/or quilting. For me, that obligation is to the August exhibit and the May block of the month. I know I will complete my projects on time, but when is the \$64,000 question. Maybe the Quilt fairy will come along and give me a push in the right direction.

Valerie White: Greetings to all! I'm still waiting to hear from the National Quilt Museum regarding a new date for the exhibit. Must admit I was disappointed about the postponement, but in the scheme of things it's all good.

In the meantime I continue to work. The new work now includes people, continuing my interest in developing universal themes of hope and gratitude, still with the church as refuge. My technique is mono-printing using textile paint rather than the MX dyes. I ordered a huge rubber mat online to use as a substrate. I'm having a ball, and the day goes by quickly.

I took two courses, Photoshop Elements Essentials 1 & 2. I'm proof you can teach an old dog new tricks. They were very helpful as I learned how to resize images for submissions to exhibits. Of course it covered more than that. For a great class with a good takeaway, visit the website Pixeladies.com.

Here is an image of what I just finished. The title is "First Sunday" (26" x 35"). Almost all of the images are cut using the silhouette Cameo 4 cutting machine and Evolon. The Evolon is a mix of polyester and pa-



per. It responds like fabric and takes dye and paint beautifully. Once cut the Evolon has clean edges and doesn't fray.

Sending Peace, Love, and Safety
Valerie C. White

Proposed updates, approved by the Executive Board, for the Guild's Bylaws have been emailed to members (and mailed to those without email). Please review carefully and make notes! Who knows when we will meet again, but you want to be ready to vote on these. If you didn't receive them, lost them already, or have any questions, call Julie at 720-465-9468.



Even the American Gothic couple is self-quarantining!

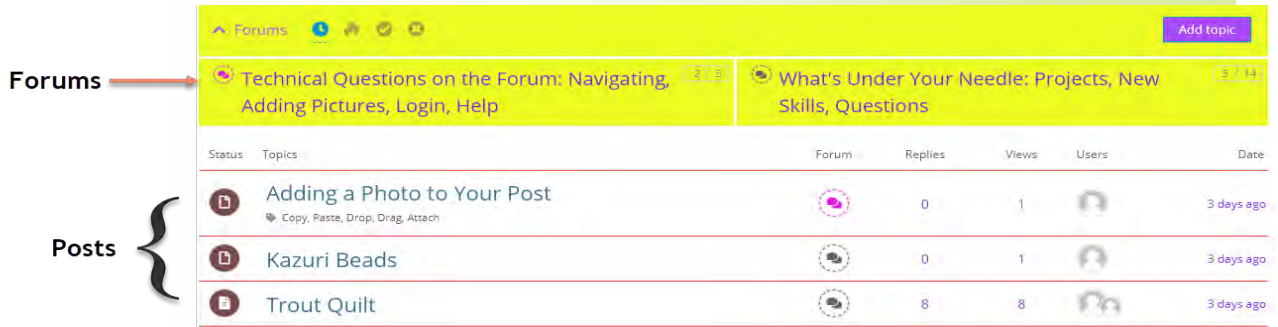


This is me getting extra done up to go grocery shopping because that's the only time I go out anymore...

Take Advantage of the Wa Shonaji Blog to Keep in Touch

Go to washonaji.org.
 Log in and go to Members' Area/Forum.
 Want to read what someone else has written?
 Just click on one of the posts. Feel free to Reply.

You can post photos of your current project or finished accomplishment, add a recipe for Safer-at-Home Dinners, ask a question, show us a photo of your cute, cute grandchild or pooch...



To add that new post:

- Click on the forum called “What's Under Your Needle: Projects, New Skills, Questions”
- Click “Add Topic” (top right corner)
- Add your Topic Title.
- Begin typing your text.

You may also:

- Drag & drop in a picture if you want to show everyone your latest project.
- Add a Topic Tag like Christmas, Snow.
- Check the box “Subscribe to this topic” to be notified when someone comments on your post.

- Click “Add Topic” at the bottom to save your post.
- See something you'd like to change? You have five minutes to correct any typos so your new post is perfect.
- Just click around the site to see what you can find.

Questions? Alan is happy to help in any way he can. Feel free to call him at 720-446-1912 or email twowhites@gmail.com. Thank you, Alan!

The screenshot shows the 'Add Topic' form. It has a yellow background. At the top, there's a 'Topic Title *' field with a placeholder 'Enter title here'. Below that is a rich text editor with various formatting options. There are two checkboxes: 'Set Topic Sticky' and 'Private Topic'. Below that is an 'Attach Files' section with a placeholder 'Attach Files or drag and drop it here. Max file size 32MB'. There's a 'Topic Tags' section with a placeholder 'Start typing tags here (maximum 5 tags are allowed)...'. At the bottom, there's a 'Subscribe to this topic' checkbox and an 'Add topic' button.

25th Anniversary Remembrance with Historical Blocks of the Month



The sixth Block of the Month, “Sister’s Choice,” is presented by Pennie Estrada. With this presentation, the Pandemic has brought us halfway through our series—unbelievable. Next month will bring us the “Railroad Crossing” by Ann Worsen-croft.

Til we meet again... laugh a lot, stay safe and all this will be over soon.

—AJ

Left, last month’s block, Birthday

Historical Block 6, Sister’s Choice, Due July 11*

Pennie Estrada presents this month’s BOM. Make an unfinished 12.5" x 12.5" block, due at what would be the Guild’s July 11 meeting (or so).

Sister’s Choice was named by the Ladies’ Art Company, a St. Louis pattern house, about 1890. The block in different shadings and with different seam lines has many names, but Sister’s Choice seems perfect for remembering Cassandra Austen.

Cassandra was British author Jane Austen’s older sister, her life-long companion. Affection between the sisters made a pleasant state of what is too often slighted as spinsterhood. Because neither married nor pursued separate lives, they remained happily in the same home throughout their lives. Their relationship as the only girls in a houseful of brothers and boarders matured into the warm center of a fond, extended family.

Cassandra’s own love story is a classic tragedy of the kind we don’t find in her sister’s plots. As a girl Cass fell in love with a boarder at her father’s school. Her fiancé Tom Fowle died young, and her heart never seems to have sought a replacement. He willed his small legacy to Cass, which might have made her a dowry had she chosen to marry. Instead, interest on Tom’s gift provided a yearly allowance, enough to buy a few luxuries for her sister and herself.

Cassandra’s reasons for spinsterhood remain unknown. The romantic among us believe she mourned Tom too deeply to ever love again; the practical reader might believe she chose a satisfactory life as a single woman with a little money and a large, loving family.

Cass outlived most of her siblings, notably Jane, who died when Cass was in her mid-forties. The sister who lost “the sun of my life, the gilder of every pleasure, the soother of every sorrow,”



continued her life in their house at Chawton, southwest of London, with their widowed mother and housemate Martha Lloyd.

We know Cass through Jane’s many letters to her and a few of Cassandra’s. Cass’s eulogy in a letter to their niece: “I had not a thought concealed from her, and it is as if I had lost a part of myself.” But they were different—as different as chalk and cheese, as the British say. According to Jane, Cass had “starched notions,” and we can see she lacked Jane’s sharp sense of irony, although she provided an excellent audience for Jane’s jokes.

Cassandra and her mother (also named Cassandra) are buried at St. Nicholas’ Church near their home.

With a multitude of quilt block patterns available, the decision was an easy one for sisters Kathy Brookes and Carol Koenig, pictured above, owners of Sisters’ Corner since 2007. Their research led them to the naming of the Sister’s Choice block by

the Ladies' Art Company in St. Louis about 1890, in honor of Jane and Cassandra. Kathy and Carol knew that the Sister's Choice block was an ideal reflection of their lifelong love of reading, needlework, and floral design.

Cutting Instructions For Sister's Choice

For a 12" finished block. Technically the patches should be 2.4" square; the measurements below are a little generous so you should have no trouble making a 12.5" x 12.5" block.

- Cut four 3" x 3" squares of Fabric A (background)
- Cut four 3-3/8" x 3-3/8" squares of Fabric A (background and HSTs)
- Cut four 3" x 3" squares of Fabric B
- Cut four 3" x 3" squares of Fabric C
- Cut four 3" x 3" squares of Fabric D
- Cut one 3" x 3" square of Fabric E (center)
- Cut four 3-3/8" x 3-3/8" squares of Fabric E (for HSTs)

Make the half square triangles (HSTs). Arrange the HSTs and squares as shown in Pennie's photo and sew each row together, then sew together the rows to make the block.



What Will You Do First When You Can Leave the House?

It's got to end, right? We *will* be able to leave our homes and hug our quilting sisters and go to quilt shops....

Reniese: One of the first things I'll do when this stay at home order and all this COVID craziness is over, is hug and kiss my parents. We are so close but so far because of this pandemic. But I'd rather them be safe.

Chris Jacques: One of the first things I will do when I end my stay-at-home is a July 4 trip down the Colorado River, in Ruby Horsethief Canyon, near Grand Junction. I'll be rowing my pontoon boat, Darling Husband will row the dory, and our friends Bob and Dianne will be on their raft. Sing it with me: "Row, row, row your boat..."

Valerie: I can't wait to get back to the Montclair pool. Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 9:00. I'm there doing water aerobics. It's a good form of exercise and I have met some really nice people. Lots of old ladies in very long bathing suits. Gotta keep it covered.

Connie Turner: When the stay at home is lifted, I want to get in my car and ride off into the wild blue yonder. I will pick a highway and drive and drive and drive. Along the way I will stick my head out the window and yell "FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST!" I will never again take it for granted being able to Come and Go as I please.

Iris: What will I do after we are able to move around with less fear? Hug my daughter.

Edith: I wish I knew what I will do when all the restrictions are lifted. I think I will go to a good restaurant, for seafood and a lovely cocktail. After that, who knows? No big plans are surfacing.

Karen: I was telling my husband, I wish I was ordered to stay home, then maybe some housework would have been done! Lol! Had to work the whole time, but I can't wait to go shoe shopping!

Camilla Edwards: The first thing I'll do when my stay-at-home prison sentence has ended is to visit a fabric store without rushing to beat the lines and the corona virus restrictions.

Joanne Walton and Julie Marsh: We long to shop hop with our Bee Buddies!



Colorado Buildings and Bridges—Celebrating Colorado Architecture

Members' 12 x 12s for the "August" Exhibit will be featured in the newsletter over the next several months with their thumbnail histories. Enjoy!



Karen von Phul

Red Rocks Amphitheatre is an open-air amphitheater built into a rock structure near Morrison, 10 miles west of Denver. There is a large, tilted, disc-shaped rock behind the stage, a huge vertical rock angled outward from stage right (this is the one I chose to depict), several large outcrops angled outward from stage left, and a seating area for up to 9,525.

In 1927, the City of Denver purchased the Red Rocks area, and the amphitheater opened to the public in June 1941. Since then, many notable performances and recordings have taken place there. The elevation of the amphitheater's top row is approximately 6,450 feet above sea level, and the surrounding Red Rocks Park covers 1.4 sq. mi.

To create my 12.5" block, I used fabric for the background, Tyvek for the red rock, and wire for the seating area. I quilted the block before adding the Tyvek and wires.

Karen von Phul

Turntable Studios, erected in 1967, is a 13-story cast-in-place concrete structure that stands out because of its unique design. The original VQ Hotel next to Sports Authority Stadium is shaped like a silo, with central elevators and 16 hotel rooms per floor spoking out from the circular hallway. It was changed to 179 apartments in 2014. The window blind roller shades were selected in three different colors, randomly placed, to add an ever-changing playful color pattern to the neutral building exterior.

I chose this iconic building because of the colors and the shape of the building. The 12.5" block is constructed with appliqué, and the letters were shaped with copper wiring. The records are a shiny knit fabric accented with white acrylic paint.



Artie Johnson

The US Air Force Academy Chapel, which soars 150 feet toward the Colorado sky, is an all-faiths house of worship designed to meet the spiritual needs of cadets and staff. It's Colorado's #1 man-made tourist attraction, and worship services are open to the public. It contains a separate chapel for Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Buddhist faiths, and two all-faiths' worship rooms.

Being an AF family, we feel connected to this landmark and have visited a number of times. Roy and I have also attended classes and conferences at the Academy.



Joanne Walton

The Barney Ford House Museum, in downtown Breckenridge, honors an escaped slave who became a wealthy businessman and civil rights pioneer. Ford (1822–1902) is a member of the Colorado Black Hall of Fame and the Colorado Business Hall of Fame, and has a stained-glass portrait in the State Capitol.

In 1851, on the way to California for gold, Ford and his wife instead stayed in Nicaragua where he opened a hotel and restaurant, later destroyed in a civil war. In 1860, he again sought gold, this time in Colorado. However, as an African American he was not allowed to stake a claim so he opened a barber-shop, restaurant, and several hotels in Denver and Cheyenne. The building that housed his People’s Restaurant stands at 1514 Blake Street and is now called the Barney L. Ford Building.

The Rocky Mountain Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild was privileged to install a quilt exhibit at the Barney Ford Museum in 2008.

Pat Moore

I am not sure if a **tree house** is really a building but that is what I chose for my block. It is a building of sorts; it encloses a space where people and pets can gather and take part in life. Tree houses take on all sorts of shapes and sizes from very basic to quite extravagant. Have you ever watched the TV program, *Tree House Masters*? They really go out on a limb to create very elegant buildings.

My tree house is pretty simple: a platform attached to a tree trunk and branches, a simple roof, and a railing around it. Some sort of a ladder to get up there with. Maybe you just go up there to get away from everything, read a book, or relax, or maybe to fantasize about your life. Who knows! It’s your getaway where you can do whatever you please.



Linda White

The Denver Art Museum’s Hamilton Building is inspired by the “craggy cliffs of the Rockies.” By using titanium panels, architect Daniel Libeskind fulfilled his desire to create “a building that is luminous,” complementing the reflective design of the North Building. Completed in 2006, the 9,000 titanium panels glow in different shades of gray or gold or rose with the changing light. The building appealed to me for its nighttime radiance combined with its sleek geometry.



*Have you met Sister Stitcher? She is a mythical quilter whose quarter inch never wavers, whose bobbin never runs out, and who finishes her projects on time. She lives in a house that never needs cleaning, with a spouse who cooks and holds up quilts as requested. Her studio space measures 100x100, with lots of natural light. Oddly enough, it never needs cleaning either.
Sister Stitcher is longing for the familiar.*

Sister Stitcher, I'm trying to make some blocks for the [Violet Protest](#). Honestly, it's taxing my creativity. It's not a lack of fabric: I have beautiful blues and an intense red set aside just for this project. Looking at the Violet Protest's [Instagram](#) is giving me some ideas. But Sister, I'm tired. I'm home 24/7, I'm not seeing my peeps, and the news makes me want to bang my head against a wall.

*The familiar feels better to me right now, Sister. An Ohio Star is the best I can manage. I feel bad for not pushing myself to be Ms. Amazing. You feel me?
—Weary Blues*

Dear Weary,

Oh, girl. To say that your life was “disrupted” is an understatement. One moment you were making a quick run to Joann’s; now you’re waiting for your turn to enter that same Joann’s, wearing a mask, in the hot sun. You were shushing your friends at a

guild meeting; now the silence in your own home is deafening. To say nothing of the soul-crushing news. Sister so feels you.

What’s your goal with the Violet Protest? They’re not demanding fancy stitches; they want you to speak your piece in fabric. Keeping it simple means that your message can be easily understood, in blue and red.

In times of crisis, we want comfort. That means the foods Mama used to make, the patterns we first learned to sew, the half square triangles that make Ohio Star.

Make the block you want to make now. When you feel anger or sorrow that comes out in blue and red, you can make that block for Violet Protest too. They’re accepting blocks until November 15.

Go easy on yourself. Ms. Amazing is taking a break. She will return.

Have you ever come into contact with glitter? Like hugged or shaken hands with someone who was wearing or using it? And how for the next two weeks it hangs around and ends up on surfaces you can't recall touching, and places you can't imagine it flying to, and seems to still be there even after showering and washing?

Think of COVID-19 as glitter!

Eightieth day of self-isolation and it's like Vegas in my house. We're losing money by the minute, cocktails are acceptable at any hour, and nobody knows what time it is.

My new social distancing outfit just arrived from amazon



In case you've lost track of the days, today is March 87th!

Join the Violet Protest by Making Red/Blue Blocks

The Violet Protest is a public effort to send 50 hand-made textile squares to each member of Congress in support of core American Values: Civility and Respect, Citizenship, Compromise, Country over party and corporate influence, Courage, Candor, Compassion, and Creativity.

Wa Shonaji Quilt Guild and the eQuilter Charity Sew Project are cooperating in this project. eQuilter's Luana Rubin has provided red and blue fabrics to members.

All squares will be made using equal parts of red and blue, which will create an overall presentation of *violet* in the final display.

On behalf of this RMWSQG/eQuilter Project, Christine Jacques and De Lois Powell are collecting these beautiful blocks (8½" x 8½"; for a finished block of 8" x 8") so they can be sent, along with your special label, for receipt by the artist (annmortonaz.com) on or before the extended November 15 due date.

Visit the website (www.violetprotest.com/) to volunteer (Click on the "volunteer now!!!" button.) and complete the form. This project will represent a virtual, artistic gesture of *friendly protest* when the blocks are presented to members of the 117th US Congress.

For more information contact Project leads De Lois Powell and Christine Jacques.



Pasta with Asparagus, Pancetta, and Pine Nuts



(from *Cooking Light*, March 2010, via Linda White)

Yield: 4 servings

- 3 Tablespoons pine nuts
- 2 ounces diced pancetta (I used Boar's Head from King Soopers.)
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black

- pepper
- 8 ounces uncooked cavatappi pasta (I found this at King Soopers, their store brand.) During the quarantine, I substituted penne.
- 1-pound asparagus, trimmed and cut diagonally into 1½-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Arrange pine nuts in a single layer on a jelly-roll pan. Bake at 400 for 3 minutes or until golden and fragrant, stirring occasionally. Place in a small bowl.

Increase oven temperature to 475 degrees. Arrange diced pancetta* on jelly-roll pan. Bake at 475 for 6 minutes or until crisp. Place in small bowl.

Combine lemon juice, olive oil, salt, and pepper, stirring with a whisk. Set vinaigrette aside.

Cook pasta per package directions; add asparagus to pan during last 3 minutes of cooking. Drain. Sprinkle pasta mixture with garlic*; return to pan and toss well.

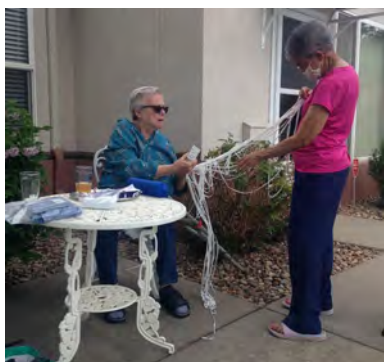
Drizzle vinaigrette over pasta mixture; toss well to coat. Sprinkle with pine nuts, pancetta, and cheese.

*When I removed the crispy pancetta from the baking sheet, I added the minced garlic to "fry" a bit in the hot grease before adding to the pasta.

Wa Shonaji Members, eQuilter Fill a Need for More Face Masks

Wa Shonaji members are once again stepping up to help. The Pine Ridge Native American Indian Reservation in South Dakota has been hard hit by the novel Coronavirus and is in desperate need of face masks.

Luana Rubin, at eQuilter in Boulder, generously donated fabrics and elastic. Members Joanne Walton, Pat Moore, De Lois Powell, and Edith Shelton met on Edith's patio, practicing social distancing and wearing masks, to begin distribution of supplies. Lois's courier service has delivered packages containing fabrics and/or elastic to members: Brenda Ames, Camilla Edwards, Pennie Estrada, Linda Hernandez, Artie Johnson, Nannette Locke, Geneva Lotie, and Julie Marsh, all of whom agreed to participate in this community service project



participate in this community service project

Dropping off fabric and elastic from eQuilter at Edith's home where De Lois met us for distribution to others. Social distancing and mask were required.

on behalf of the RMWS Quilt Guild. Karen Von Phul, Kathy Kruckenberg, and Ann Worsencroft have also expressed interest and support.

Camilla Edwards, Chris Jacques, Pat, Edith, and Joanne have already begun making masks in support of this effort. Several patterns are available online, so you may use one that works best for you. We are hoping those of you who have already made masks would be willing to make at least 5 to 10 more for this worthy cause. As always, we appreciate your support.

This project is in collaboration with the *Mission of Love*, a group that is highly sanctioned by Luana. Visit their website for more information:

www.missionoflove.org

Here are links to sites describing the making of masks with ties or elastic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kwFaRFHKhY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_-R8Ox3Spw

This pattern, in 4 sizes, goes together quickly:

[https://dhuratadavies.com/blogs/things-i-make-and-do/free-face-mask-pattern-and-tutorial?](https://dhuratadavies.com/blogs/things-i-make-and-do/free-face-mask-pattern-and-tutorial?fbclid=IwAR2Ci8i0Lp0YqRMcRwHQbptqa3DIedHIwMkNufZRe8naV8QhC_MAYa6p5M)

[fbclid=IwAR2Ci8i0Lp0YqRMcRwHQbptqa3DIedHIwMkNufZRe8naV8QhC_MAYa6p5M](https://dhuratadavies.com/blogs/things-i-make-and-do/free-face-mask-pattern-and-tutorial?fbclid=IwAR2Ci8i0Lp0YqRMcRwHQbptqa3DIedHIwMkNufZRe8naV8QhC_MAYa6p5M)

For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanne, Christine, Geneva, or De Lois.

If you bought a fabric face mask or received one for “free,” you should know...

That fabric has a story. It may have been chosen for a quilt that was never made, or perhaps it's remnants of a homemade Easter dress. It could have been passed from owner to owner or even bought with express intent to make a cool mask. Either way, the sewist assessed its “mask worthiness” and thought it'd be perfect.

The sewist who made it is tired. She's been sewing for days; she tires of the monotony. She's pricked her fingers with pins and sliced her knuckles with rotary cutters. Yet she continues to make masks... for you.

It's worth every penny. Whether you bought it for \$5 or \$15, you paid fair market value for someone's materials, time, and talent. If you received it for free, it has already been paid for with the maker's charity and hope.

The sewist made it to help you, but it's helping her too. She's decided the best way to work through this situation is to help others who wear masks to protect all of us.

The maker is being flooded with requests. People who haven't spoken to her in years are calling to chat and “ask for a mask.” She's being offered money to make more than she can handle; sometimes it's enough, more often it's not. If she's got too many to make, she won't turn you down because she really wants to help you.

It will make her smile when she sees you wearing it. She'll remember the fabric, the batch, she may even tell you it was one of her favorites. She'll smile knowing that she did this small thing that's helping you in such a big way. She'll smile knowing that in these most difficult times, she has a skill that so many will value.

It should give you hope for a better world. In a situation where members of our community are struggling, others have risen up, offered their time and talents to provide what they can. It means there's hope for humanity supporting one another and that people truly do care for one another.

—From my friend, fellow quilter, and member of Columbine Quilt Guild, Kathy Mullins

The Best Thing I've Bought Online During the Quarantine...

Chris Jacques: My best online purchase would have been 3 yards of flannel, if Joann's hadn't canceled the order. What the heck?

Connie Turner: My best online purchase was a rototiller. I switch from quilting to gardening this time of year. I have a small garden area and usually turn over the soil from year to year with my pitchfork. I subscribe to more than I should "Best Deals" sites and the rototiller was featured on one of these. Next thing I knew I was pushing the purchase button. It came in record time and I, being the eternal optimist, put it to work. One plot down, two more to go. I envision my new purchase will get plenty of use as long as I'm passionate about gardening. I look forward to sharing tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, squash, greens, and green onions.

Valerie White: Best online purchase was upgrading my silhouette Cameo 4 plus cutter. I really have enjoyed the options that the machine provides. I'm painting Evolon and then cutting on the silhouette using images to be include in my work.

Edith Shelton: My best online purchase, so far, are a pair of scrubs like nurses wear. I only got the pants. They are so easy care and comfortable. Also they don't hold onto stray threads and tiny bits of cloth. Amazing!

Karen von Phul: I bought a green fedora, and it is good because I bought it with the money I got for making masks.

Reniese Johnson: Like most crafters "organization is key." The more items we add to our collections

whether quilting, making cards, or scrapbooking, the more we need to know where everything is. I'd have to say my best online purchase lately is the Stamp-n-Die storage units. They help with organizing clear and rubber stamps and metal dies.

Julie Marsh: I was storing my machine needles in a baggie, so of course I never knew what I had—or didn't have. My Dear Husband Doug bought this for me from Home Depot. For about \$9, it's sturdy and some of the interior divisions are removable so it's really flexible. I have many 80/12 needles it turns out, if you're in need.



Camilla Edwards: My best online purchase was elastic to finish some face masks I've been working on. There wasn't any elastic to be found in and around Denver that I know of, so I called on Etsy.

Mary Lassiter: My best online purchase was two panels by Cranston VIP, "Oh you beautiful doll" series. One is Amos and his dog Spot and the other is Rachel and her bunny rabbit. I have been looking for these vintage doll panels for a few years and even put out a request to Groupworks, an online sewing group. Years ago I made a quilt using the panels for a friend and I have been wanting to make one for myself. I kept scouring the internet and last week, Ebay had a set. I ordered them immediately. Have any Wa Shonaji members seen these panels or know where I may purchase them new?



I do want to say "thank you" to all of my fellow quilters who offered condolences on the passing of my 2nd sister a little over two months from the passing of the first. The kindness you've shown to me over the past three months has been phenomenal. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

— Camilla Edwards

Solutions to 2 Common Backing Issues

When it comes to quilts, piecers and quilters focus most of their attention on the quilt top. Some quilters go the extra mile to create a back that is as interesting as the front (sometimes frustrating machine quilters, who must fight quadruple seams, centered designs, or even thread color and tension concerns). But that's for another time.

Today we are focusing on two backing troubles that can derail an otherwise wonderful quilt.

Backing fabric that is too small

It can happen to the best of us ... even when you measure twice and cut once, your backing is too short! When you plan the backing size for your project, allow an extra 4 inches on all sides of the quilt. If you are densely quilting the project or using thick or lofty batting, add *another* 3 inches to the bottom of the backing.

Quilters using domestic sewing machines to quilt begin in the center and work their way out toward the sides. This reduces pleats and puckers in the backing as all the fabric slides out away from the center. However, longarm quilters begin at one end of the quilt and travel down its length or width. The quilted portion accumulates on a "pickup" roller. This can cause the quilt top to shift farther down than the backing fabric, increasing the likelihood of running short on the other end.

Place a colored sheet of paper on top of a stack of white sheets of paper. Roll the stack into a tube with the colored paper inside the tube. Notice what happened when you reached the other end of the stack? The colored paper and all the other layers shifted in comparison to the outermost sheet. That's

what happens to your quilt sandwich on a longarm frame. You need much more backing fabric at the bottom of the quilt than at the top. So if you planned on 4 inches on all sides of your quilt, don't center the quilt on the backing. Instead, leave only an inch or so of the backing at the TOP of the quilt, and allow the extra inches to help you out at the other end.

Backing fabric that is not square

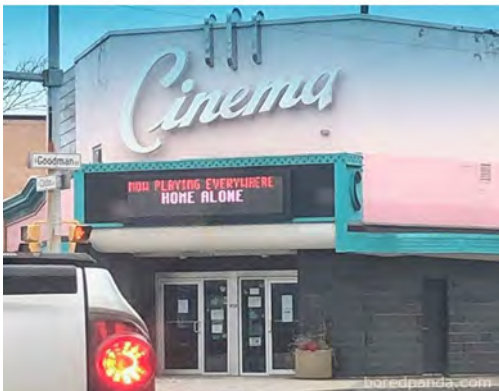
For longarm quilters, backing fabric doesn't really need to be truly "square." But you DO need the two edges that you are attaching to your frame to be straight AND parallel to each other.

To see if your cutting worked, fold your backing in half along the imaginary center line that you will use as a guide for mounting the fabric. Use a few pins to keep one of the edges you will mount to the frame aligned with itself. Now move to your frame and stand at the front side of your frame. Toss the fabric across the frame, keeping the pinned edge toward you. Allow the other end to fall over the pickup roller and onto the other side of the frame.

With this fabric still folded, drag the backing slowly toward you, allowing the pickup roller to smooth out the backing as you go (adjust any bumps or wrinkles on the other side). When the opposite end finally reaches your table top, walk to the rear of your frame and check the "unpinned" edge. Did it stay even with itself or did it shift? You may need to do this more than once to make sure. Re-trim the unpinned side so that it is straight and parallel to the pinned side.

Happy Quilting!

Well played Cinema Theater, well played



Thank you to De Lois Powell for proofreading and keeping me honest!

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To Joanne Walton for all her contributions.

To all of you! I can't do it without your input!

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