



Let's Play!

5th  
Annual  
Community  
Quilting  
Bee

# *Let's Play (2023)*

*Let's Play!* explores the importance of joy, play and being in the present moment. For inspiration we pulled the Sun and the Fool tarot cards, inviting us to bask in the warm glow of life and a view of all things anew.

We prompted folks to stitch together anything and everything that provokes play: games, friends, clowns, playgrounds, gardens, kink, pretend, vacation, walks through the woods, archades, music, days off, forts, climbing trees, stuffed animals, toys, and the inner child.

## *Message from the Organizers*

We successfully made it to our fifth annual year of the Community Quilting Bee! What an incredible journey of trust, dedication and followthrough. This quilt is always quite the undertaking and yet, year after year we have managed to take a pause from our individual lives to find eachother and make another quilt magically appear.

We are filled with inspiration and gratitude for each and every person who takes the time to voluntarily submit a square. Many artists have become repeat contributors, fostering a true sense of community. This year we have the most participants ever, a true testament to how quilting can bring people together.

*- Laub & Rachel*



# 5th Annual Community Quilting Bee Artists



Dav Bell & Ante Bodolivic

Martha Laub

GK Bigler

Maira McDermott

Priscilla Carrion

Alejandra Lindstrom Peralta

Yennie Choo

Julia Schwartz

Jo Connor

Sierra

Quinn Corey

R. Dawn Silver

Ian Cozzens

Kassie Simons

Laura DeVeter

Irene Georgia Tsatsos

Louise Hatchard

Jovi Vidal

Prairie Hatchard-McGill

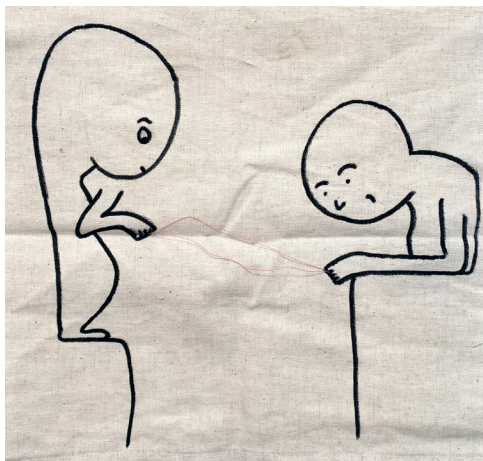
Lia Walker

Laub

Joan Wyand

# Dav Bell & Ante Bodolovic

@manzanitachange



The older we get, the fewer chances, or less time we allow ourselves, to play with each other. "Staying in touch" takes the place of creating new memories.

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**Dav Bell** is an artist and independent arts organizer interested in collaborating with kind people to cultivate tangible and creative connections. Through encounter, relationship building, and humor, he sees art as a possibility for truth and reconciliation. He participates in gift-giving and is interested in how storytelling, lyricism, and craft can flourish in gift economies. He is committed to finding more ways we, as humans and other sentient beings, can thrive together. Prior to making a life in the arts, he worked as a firefighter for the US Forest Service and as a park ranger at the Upper Tampa Bay State Park in Florida. He studied visual art at *Metáfora School of Contemporary Art* in Barcelona, Spain, holds a BFA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an MFA in Environmental Art and Social Practice from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He was the founder and director of the Los Angeles Artists' Project Visitor Welcome Center and is co-founder and director of *The Greenhouse Project*, located in Santa Cruz, California.

**Anthony Bodolović** is a Los Angeles-based performance artist, educator, and practicing art therapist. His work is a hybrid of personal therapy and ethnography, focusing on metaphysics, myth, and mystery cults. He obtained his doctoral degree in Culture and Performance Studies from UCLA and is currently an Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University in the Department of Marital and Family Therapy with Specialized Training in Clinical Art Therapy.

# GK Bigler

@quilt\_milk



One of my favorite things to do as a quilter is to play around with my scraps, so this year's theme was the perfect invitation to do that! As I was making this wonky log cabin piece, I was thinking about how important the invitation to play itself really is.

The Barbie movie made me remember all the times I was asked to come over and play at neighborhood friends' houses growing up. (I didn't have any of my own Barbie stuff, but my friend Julia sure had all that crazy fun shit! The wetsuit Barbie with the rubbery Orca whale? A wedding gown with little pieces of crunchy leaves stuck in the tulle? I can still smell the Dreamhouse plastic toasting in the sun.) How lucky I was to have such generous kids around me who liked to share and play with me! Making this block helped me feel into the gratitude I have for all the moments of active inclusion that were extended to me by my friends and their families growing up.

For too many of us, adulthood becomes synonymous with alienation, feeling left out, challenges with connecting and making friends. For those who view it, I hope this block sparks a felt memory of being invited to do something fun, innocent, mischievous, creative, colorful, cute, and playful! And a reminder to ask your friends to hang out and play!

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**Grace K. Bigler** is a textile artist, maker, and quilter in Portland, OR. Through sewing, they work earnestly to create joy and to honor meaning in every project, big and small. Dynamic patterns meet keen color schemes in a mix of traditional and modern piecing, made deliberately with intention and care. With a background in education and youth development work, Grace is a quilter and artist interested in both teaching and learning from others in creative community.

Priscilla Carrion

@achachaiiii  
priscillacarrion.com



Inspired by the theme of play I decided to make a sun for my block. Using scraps from my favorite "small scraps bin" in quilting, I chose colors and shapes that would remind me of summer days and have a carnival clown-esque color palette. I choose to embroider the center with a plant blooming with seeds. And printed the flower too. Just soaking in that sun energy and chilling and thriving.

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**Priscilla Carrion** is a visual and textile artist based in Providence, RI. Her practice right now involves going as slowly as possible. Lately, she's been painting and walking around daydreaming about new futures. Walking with or gently stalking neighborhood animals has helped Priscilla a whole lot these past 4+ wild years of heaviness. They were supportive for her mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. What a world. What a time. In her quilts she practices rituals of remembrance, recycling and shedding.

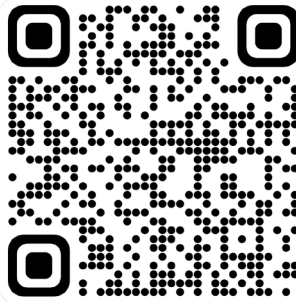


Jo Connor

www.connorcollection.co.nz  
www.creativematakana.co.nz



When I heard the theme was Play I thought of playing music on an old gramophone. The piece is brought up to the 21st century with these old tunes accessed by the QR code:



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Jo Connor lives and works in Auckland New Zealand. She is interested in doing craft activities but she has never tried quilting before.

Jo enjoys putting programs together for Creative Matakana, a festival offering artistic workshops for a week in May. She also likes making games featuring New Zealand artists.



Quinn Corey

@Quinntronix  
Quinncorey.com



My square is about play. The meaning of the word play implies a certain care free state of mind, a freedom of responsibility, a state of freedom.

The notion of incorporating play into everyday life is an inherently political action. The act of play eschews the commodification of time that legitimizes human existence in capitalist society.

In my square the universe is manifesting playfulness through a faceless agent, reaching through to time and space to make a connection.

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**Quinn Corey** creates images inspired by the graphic language of spectacular culture, that convey the feeling of the world we live in while proposing a Counter-Spectacle to the grim news reel reality of everyday life; a visual world defined by the karmic magic of the universe and not the finite limitations of reality, a spectacle based on the ideas of culturally revolutionary activity, fun, imagination and inspiration. His images intrude on one another in a visual mega-mix of popular culture symbols and ideas, clashing in a way that places them in a new more appropriate context.

Ian Cozzens

@secretdoorprojects  
secretdoorprojects.org




Lemoyne Star (and any quilt block with "set-in seams", as where three corners meet here) is a block that's easier to piece by hand than by machine. I learned how to make this block early on in my quilting life, then realized how labor-intensive it is! But its geometry is really satisfying, & all the different stuff you can do with colors within its constraints. It's kind of shocking (and possibly un-structural) to slice up a hand-pieced quilt square. But the theme of "play" challenged me to do something beyond just making a precision quilt block... & at least I pieced it myself so I wasn't cutting up someone else's block!

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Ian Cozzens lives, bikes, & works on projects in Providence, RI. He is a resident artist mentor in printmaking at New Urban Arts, an afterschool art studio for high schoolers. He likes geometry, cats, old objects & tools, and most things that bear the marks of human hands. He used to work extremely long hours on meticulous art projects before realizing that art won't make people love you! and also realizing that sailing is more fun than obsessively hunching over a desk drawing lines with a Rapidograph. Ian has five small boats under 23 feet long, all made before 1970, two of which are fully functional... hopefully one more will be in the water by the time this quilt is on display. If you want to learn how to sail, he can teach you.

Laura DeVeber

@rumblestrip



I created an imaginary world on my quilt square using applique. Creating a world of make believe allows us pleasure of escaping the real world and the joy of exploring new spaces, but this world of play also gives us a safe space to process our emotions and trauma.

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Laura DeVeber's mom taught her how to sew when she was a kid, a skill that sparked an interest in textile art, particularly knitting. She is a scenic carpenter by trade and her primary art form is actually music, performing mostly in punk/hardcore bands.

Louise Hatchard

@louise.hatchard




Two days turnaround. My favourite way to work. Cutting to the chase and digging deep.

Inspired by Paul Klee's childlike and seemingly simplistic drawings that indicate movement and joy, they translated well to the medium of the little linen fabric samples and stem stitched cotton thread.

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House Hatchard is a maker, a creative and a textile junkie. She is a stylist and an illustrator. sometimes she is the factory and always, she is a mom.

# Prairie Hatchard-McGill

 @prairies.locket



For my quilt square, I decided to make something that could itself be played with. Yo-yos, or Suffolk puffs, have become a tool for me to play around with textiles and colour combinations; essentially little sketches for larger projects. I chose a selection of my favourite puffs and attached domes to them, so that whoever handles the quilt can play with my square, and create any layout that pleasing them. I enjoy making work that is interesting on a sensory level, appealing to anyone who enjoys the click of a dome, the feel of different fabrics, and the satisfaction of a good layout.

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Prairie Hatchard-McGill is an artist based in Auckland, New Zealand, working across sculpture, performance, and the culinary arts. She is obsessed with glamour, humour, music, hippies, and lesbians, all of which inform what she makes and dreams about.

A new donut shop opened in my neighborhood called Sidecar Donuts. Their donuts are delicious and fresh, flavors such as Passionfruit Pavlova, Malasada, and Salted Malted Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough. I've



been enjoying getting a few to share with friends, and every time the box opens, we look inside at all the mesmerizing donuts and everyone giggles with glee. For my 'square' I made a half a dozen donuts out of tiny scraps of fabric that I once cut up a long time ago between projects. The scraps look like sprinkles to me. The donuts are hanging throughout the quilt like little ornaments of joy.

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**Laub** lives and works as an artist in Los Angeles, California. His most recent solo show, *Let Me Touch You* (2023) at Sebastian Gladstone Gallery in Hollywood CA was inspired by Laub's endeavors to become a massage therapist. The show included a series of wheel thrown pots glazed in primary colors and carved with images of the systems of the body, large quilts, titled *Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Body*, including smaller hand embroidered quilts depicting images of reflexology for the hand and foot, and a series of hot sculpted mirrored glass sculptures that hang on the wall, which Laub refers to as *Spirit*. He has shown at Visitor Welcome Center and Commonwealth and Council, both located in Los Angeles, CA.

He is passionate about making, and has spent his life developing skills in glass blowing, ceramics, textiles, various stringed instruments and now massage. Laub is also a teacher, believing that sharing the knowledge he has gained throughout the years of materiality and touch are vital to the continuum of humanity into the future and beyond. Laub, along with friend and collaborator R. Dawn Silver, co-founded Community Quilting Bee in 2018.

Martha Laub  
laubcatlover@gmail.com



When I think of play - I think of small children. They are free, colorful, uninhibited, self-propelled, self-fulfilled, spontaneous, hopefully not worried about being watched, not product oriented, joy filled, not competitive, boundary-less.

Then we all grow up and the play is often grown out of us. We become competitive, comparative, goal and product oriented, fearful, time constrained and full of boundaries.

I picked these photos as they represent CHILD play. The pure, innocent, spontaneous JOY!

Have a SMILE or two on me!

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**Martha Laub** is a wife, mother, grammy, cat lover, pianist, lover of God and her church. She enjoys making people happy with food, volunteering and caregiving. Martha enjoys light and glass and color. She is a survivor and no longer a victim. She is an organizer, more introvert, and nature lover, especially the mountains around her and Branch Lake in Maine. She is never bored and likes to be busy.

Alejandra Lindstrom Peralta

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The first thing I think of when I hear the word PLAY is playing with my children. The second is my childhood and the the abundance of play I experienced. Play is something that comes naturally, an instinct, an integral part of childhood. Yet it is also a privilege, and one not all children grow up with. My children and I have had more opportunities to play than my mother did, than my grandmother, than my great grandmother.

When my first child was born, I was fixated by thoughts of these women and the infinite mothers before them who conceived, birthed, and kept us alive, leading to my existence and that of my children. How had they, and all of humanity managed, when it felt like hell to me? The days continue to be difficult, but are now also filled with times of play and joy. I hope these times continue to expand in the generations that follow us.

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Alejandra was born to a mother from Guatemala and a Swedish/German/English father from Chicago. She grew up in a home filled with folk art from Guatemala and Mexico and summers were spent in Guatemala,



exploring outdoor markets filled with bright, patterned textiles and handicrafts. The backyard of the house in Guatemala was a magical forest filled with iguanas, mango trees, an ancient Tamarind tree, and countless other tropical fruit trees and exotic flowers planted and cared for by her grandparents, great grandparents, and great great grandparents.

Coming from a family of gardeners and guardians of plants, it was inevitable that Alejandra developed a devotion to them. This has taken the form of working on numerous farms, having dozens of indoor plants as roommates, keeping a garden at home, and closely observing, sketching, and photographing the plant life wherever she finds herself.

Alejandra lives in Providence, RI with her husband, son, and three cats. She works as a high school art teacher, trying out all sorts of mixed media projects with students in the hopes that everyone will find a form of creating that they love.

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Maira McDermott

longarmstapler.com  
@lngrmstplr



It was hard to think of anything joyful at first, but then my friend reminded me that I get great pleasure from karaoke! So I made the Sunfly Karaoke mascot.

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Maira McDermott is an amateur quilter and general arts & crafts enthusiast!

# Nooworks

nooworks.com  
@nooworks



The Community Quilting Bee extends a special thank you to Nooworks for their generous donation of vibrant fabric scraps. We are very impressed by their commitment to sustainability! The donated fabric was used to create patchwork for the front of our quilt.

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**Nooworks** is a small women-owned and operated clothing brand based in sunny California. The clothes Nooworks produces are wildly fun, quirky, cute, and sometimes totally over the top, and they love it! The company started out in Jennifer D'Angelo's San Francisco apartment back in 2005, where she silk screened her artwork onto t-shirts. Nooworks grew organically over the years as Jen began to work with different artist friends and expand her offerings of printed clothing. Today, Noowork's textiles are printed at one of the few industrial rotary printing facilities in Los Angeles. Each year they collaborate with a new variety of awesome, independent artists to produce an exciting assortment of limited edition, serotonin boosting textiles. All of their clothing patterns are thoughtfully designed and cut to compliment as many bodies as possible.

# Julia Schwartz

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This started with paint pours on raw linen. I cut some smaller pieces to save for separate projects. I also like to draw freely with sharpie markers without limits. For this quilt, I added the white dotted lines so that the figure can be resting in the grass or floating in the stars, whichever you prefer.

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**Julia Schwartz** (b. 1957, Pomona, California) lives and works in El Cerrito, CA. She has exhibited nationally and internationally since 2005. Recent solo and group exhibitions include *If Everything is an Outrage* with The Binder of Women at Track 16 (Los Angeles), tenderly cradled and lavishly flung at Visitor Welcome Center (Los Angeles), and *BODY HIGH* at LABspace (Hudson, New York). Curatorial projects include *States of Being* at the Torrance Art Museum (Torrance, CA) and *Black Mirror* at Charlie James Gallery (Los Angeles). Schwartz received the Foundation Prize for Painting from Peripheral Vision Arts in 2016. Her work has been featured in numerous publications, including *New American Paintings*, *Fabrik*, *Huffington Post*, and *The New York Times*. In addition to her art practice Schwartz also writes and lectures about art; she was the original Arts Editor for *Figure/Ground*.

“Art depicts my situation—the geographic, the emotional, the existential, the state of the world- and how I make sense of it. These days that means trying to make sense of the senselessness of the everyday world and its outsized “seismic disasters” including personal loss and grief as well as profound political and cultural fragmentation.

I have always liked Keats’ idea of “negative capability;” this is quite compatible with being essentially self-taught, although my colleagues remind me that all of us are always learning on the job. Still, without benefit or burden of formal “technique” in art-making, I am comfortable with doubt, uncertainty, the freedom to explore materials and methods, and an infinite freedom to fail.”

Sierra

@eddieworld6



This year playing meant doubling down on my athletic commitments to myself, which also meant doing weird experiments w gas station pre workout bodily sensations. Also I like to stress out Lauk he says im going to become a car from drinking weird energy drinks haha which is goals except tch i dont drink C4 anymore. I'm so healthy i swear <3

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Sierra is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Portland, OR. They make paintings, sculptures, performances, and writing focusing on a hybridization of humor/grief, pleasure/pain, and magic/ordinary.

R. Dawn Silver

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communityquilt.art



This colorful butterfly is made from a child's tutu I found free on a walk, and a cheap kite I impulse bought in Chinatown LA. I wore the tutu around my neck as a frilly collar and affectionately dubbed it "the party collar." At one party my very tired friend was not feeling the party spirit so I placed the party collar on her and declared that it was her time to shine. I only half believed it when I said it, but wouldn't you know it did the dang thing!

With the theme of this year's quilt being "Let's Play" it was time to let the transformative powers of the party collar soar. Party on community quilt.

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R. Dawn Silver is the co-founder and co-organizer alongside Laub. She is the webmaster for *communityquilt.art* because Laub is not a computer guy. She finds natural dyeing a grounding process, that ties her to a specific point in time and location. Outside of her natural dye she spends most of her time studying information security, sewing, and traveling.

Kassie Simons  
kassiefras@hotmail.com  
@kassiefras



I did not have any sort of a plan until I sat down and looked at what fabrics I already had available. Each piece of fabric was hand sewn on only after the piece before it was completely attached. For some smaller pieces of fabric, and the patches, I adhered them using green puffy paint. The fleece squares were fun to play with, with the puffy paint under, because the green color would pop through if the fabric wasn't dense. The jewels were sewn on because I have found so many and I needed to use them for something.

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**Kassie Simons**, is an Otis graduate who studied in painting but truly works in interdisciplinary ways. She tends to paint realistic paintings in any medium but also has worked with clay for years as well as bronze and printmaking. She was raised in Redondo Beach outside of LA and is currently still living there. As of right now, Kassie works at a bakery and is still going to school!

Irene Georgia Tsatzos

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Horses romp in the sand on the beach under the sun's glow. This image is inspired by themes of clarity, repair, recovery, reciprocity, renewal and transformation, along with salt, sand, and the healing properties of the ocean, all in the light of The Sun card of the Marseille tarot, the deck I've learned on.

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"I have always made artwork and identified as an artist, even as a child, yet my public-facing career as an adult has been as a contemporary art curator. I got seduced by this role when I was just out of art school over 30 years ago. By performing as a curator, I could maintain a creative practice that I perceived of as being more socially accepted and less risky. I could protect my vulnerabilities by hiding part of myself behind the work of others, and I would be more loved. This is understandable when considered along with my background from a lineage of people whose survival depended upon careful study of those at the center of power, learning their invisible codes and boundaries, their idiosyncrasies and protocols, as well as if not better than their own dreams and desires.

This survival skill was accompanied by both pride and resentment. Now, I am calming that psychic inflammation. I am finding safety by resisting capitalist and patriarchal notions of productivity that permeate everything around us (including the nonprofit industrial complex, where I've worked for 30+ years) and by recalibrating my relationship to my labor. I am reclaiming balance and unscripted dream space and the healing they bring and I am illuminating the personal practice I protected by suppression all those years ago."

Jovi Vidal

@chaltandr



When I make art, I try and minimize my thought process so that I'm simply receiving a direction from some unknown place within that is then an objective for my hands to execute. The materials I used are what was laying near me at the time which are scraps from altered clothes I've made or fabrics I've collected because they bring me a certain joy: reflective work uniforms, scary happy Jack-o'-lanterns, flowers, pink fuzzy real tree, bright colors, patterns, etc. shout out to the folks who have put this project together.

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Jovi Vidal makes art and runs their art salon *Grand Opening*, in Berkeley, CA.



Lia Walker

@liawlkart



I just wanted to make something with materials I already had and have fun while doing it! I tend to collect old clothes, fabrics, scrap materials and find ways to incorporate them into things. I like weaving because it's super simple and you can really use anything as long as you can make it into a string! The whole square is made from an old pair of jeans, a shirt, and some miscellaneous scraps of fabric I had laying around in my room that I just cut into strips and wove.

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Lia Walker is a recent Otis College graduate. She graduated with a degree in fine arts with an emphasis in painting. Her work recently has been mostly ceramics but she enjoys painting and exploring lots of mediums in her work.

Joan Wyand

@joanwyand



Piggy Flowers is a piece about enjoying nature. Nothing beats taking it easy on the perfect sunny day. Take care of the earth.

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**Joan Wyand** is a human. she is a teacher, performance artist, experienced collaborator, and skilled maker. She sees our collective conditioning that is causing harm, and how we uphold systemic injustice in our everyday actions. She creates purpose to call attention to how we can internally and interpersonally move forward in new ways to care for the earth. Radical change is possible.

# Thank you!



The Community Quilting Bee thanks all our amazing participants past and present, Crisis Club Gallery, the Greenhouse Project, fullerspeedshop., and Nooworks.

Lauri would like to thank his mom, Martha for participating in the Community Quilting Bee throughout the years, as well as all the moms who have sewn their creative visions into this labor of love.

R. Silver thanks the Storefront (including its extended community). She dedicates her work on this year's quilt to the memory of her grandfather, Bernie Silver.

