

Gorge Quilters Guild 2016-2017

## NEW BLOCK OF THE QUARTER - "Charmed, I'm Sure!"

Starting in August, we'll be exchanging 5" charm squares of batik fabrics at our quarterly meetings. Each month we will swap bags of one dark, one medium and one light color/valued batik fabric. For example, in August, we swapped bags of light, medium and dark valued blue batiks.

Each quarter, there will be three different color options for swapping. You may choose to exchange one, two, or all three. For each color, you will need 1/2 yard of batik fabric. Fabrics may be purchased, or may come from your stash - not all charm squares of a particular color do not have to be from the same fabric. After washing as discussed below, remove selvages, and then cut 24 charm squares 5" x 5". Please cut accurately. Place the charm squares in a sandwich bag (using a separate bag for each color), and write your name on the outside of the bag. Mark your bag light, medium or dark.

Drop off your bag(s) with Tomme Fent when you enter the meeting. During the meeting, the charm squares will be sorted, and when you pick up your bag(s) at the end of the meeting, each bag will contain 24 assorted charm squares. Then in the afternoon following our May 2017 meeting, we'll present a series of mini-lectures and demonstrations to give you ideas for using your charm squares, including samples of different types of projects, and handouts with block ideas and even some patterns!

Please wash all batiks before cutting to ensure no one has problems with fabrics bleeding, or different amounts of shrinkage. You can test your batiks to see if they will bleed by dipping a corner in hot water until the fabric is thoroughly soaked, and then placing it between two white paper towels. (If the fabric bleeds, you also might see the dye in the water.) High-quality batiks, like those from Majestic Batiks, often don't bleed at all. (One way to identify a lower-quality batiks is how the fabric feels. If it feels rough or gritty, don't buy it!) If your batik doesn't bleed, then you can simply wash it as usual without any special product. If it bleeds, then you must use a color fixative to "set" the color and prevent further bleeding.

**Colors for November are brown, gold, cream/beige - you should have one bag of brown (any shade) for your dark, one of gold (any shade) as your medium and one of cream/beige for your light. You do not have to swap all three, but you will have more fun in May 2017 if you have more charms!**

**Colors for May are Light Green, Medium/Dark Green and Multi-Colored.**