

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

"Why does everyday involve a fight with an American?"



February 7, 2014

I love the scene in Jurassic park where Tim, the kid, is stuck in a car up a tree. And he doesn't like trees. Never had a tree house. Alan, the dinosaur man, gets Tim to climb out of the car and onto a tree branch. Tim no sooner gets out of the car when the car starts falling from the tree. He and Alan then scramble down the tree ahead of the falling car. They get to the ground just in time for the car to fall on top of them. Tim says, "Well... we're back... in the car again." And Alan replies, "Well, at least you're out of the tree."

It's kinda like that right now. It's no longer windy, and that's a good thing. But now it's 15 below.

Or 18 below. Or 24 below. Pick a day. Any day this past week. And of course, my head lamps went out. Not at the same time. I lost one about a week ago. I decided to wait until I got pulled over for bad lights or until the other one went out. They both tend to go out at the same time because they both get changed about the same time because they both go out at the same time because You get my drift.

Anyway, I was driving home from choir practice and it looked like a spotlight had suddenly blinked out. But because I was under street lights, I wasn't positive that what I saw was my head lamp burning out. It wasn't until I got on the interstate that it was pretty clear I only had running lights working. And did you know you can have fog when it's 14 below zero. Who knew? I gotta admit, it was a little difficult to see, even with the brights on.

So after I got home a friend suggests that maybe I had blown a fuse. That was a cool idea. Simple fix. But it was too cold to go back out to the car to check. It was 14 below, remember. The next day wasn't any better-meaning any warmer-but I am thinking a little more clearly. All of the other lights work, so it can't be a fuse. So my friend comes and checks my lights, and yup, bad bulbs. So he goes & gets replacements and puts them in. Did I mention it was 14 below? Maybe a little warmer, since it was daytime. So like 8 below. Friends like that come around once in a lifetime.

When you live in places with extreme climate conditions you talk a lot about the weather and it irritates you a lot, but it doesn't keep you from doing things. Like the guy a couple of weeks ago spreading manure in the wind. You just do it. Even if it's not the most intelligent thing to do.

And in case you are wondering, I know you are, Lander Lil, Lander's famous weather forecasting prairie dog, saw her shadow. So did Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania. So that's actually a good thing.

Only 6 more weeks of winter. That puts spring about March 15. Any bets?

Cotton Rainbow Kits Are In!!

Kits for the March Monday Morning Quilt, the Rainbow quilt hanging in the window, are

in! We have 10, so supplies are limited.

DOWNTON ABBEY RETREAT! MARCH 21-23 NAGEL WARREN MANSION



We are set for Friday March 21 through Sunday March 23. You will be able to check in mid afternoon on Friday and we will plan to leave Sunday mid afternoon. We have 8 king bed rooms reserved. Cost is based upon double occupancy. If you prefer a single room, you will need to let me know very quickly so I can look into booking a different room. Reservations will be made through me and you can secure your spot with a down payment of half the cost. The rest will be due by March 15.

If you need to cancel, I will need to know 30 days in advance. But if something comes up, please talk to me because we might be able to work something out.

We will be sewing in the conference rooms in the basement. There are 3 rooms that can accommodate about 16 sewers. We will be cozy, but I think it will work. I will set up separate tables for cutting and will plan on having 2 irons/boards. If you just want to come to sew, and go home at night to your own bed, I might be able to accommodate that. However, I don't want to get more than 16 sewers. If you are interested in this option, let me know and I'll see what I can work out.

At the retreat, you may sew on any project that you like -- it does not have to be a Downton Abbey Quilt. For those of you sewing your Downton Abbey quilts, though, I will provide instruction for the horizontal quilt (quilt blocks are the ones already on line) plus you will get a set of patterns for the second quilt (the on point quilt with the green alternate blocks).

During the retreat, we will play some games, win some door prizes, watch some episodes of Downton Abbey, take High Tea on Saturday, and sew our socks off!

Included in the cost:

2 nights (2 per room) at the Nagel Warren Mansion (such a treat!)
Sat & Sun breakfast
High tea on Saturday
Set of patterns for second quilt
Door prizes
Lots of Fun !!!

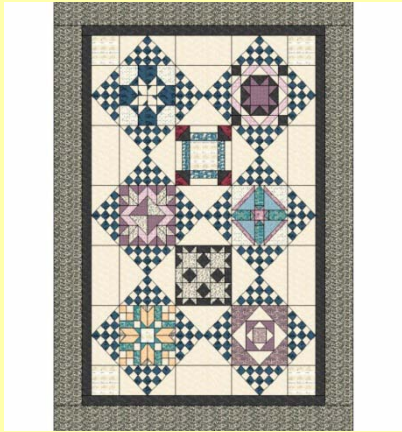
Lunch and dinners are on our own. There are plenty of fun restaurants downtown. You can also check out what is playing at the Lincoln Center and go to a movie.

Cost per person = \$175. A \$90 deposit will secure your room.

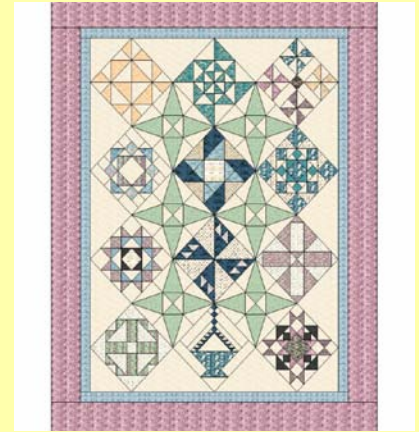
Blocks for the first quilt are posted on line at www.aroundtheblockquilts.com Three blocks are currently posted. I will get 3 more out as soon as I can.

You can find the blocks under the "What's New" tab. Fabric requirements for the quilt are also given. These blocks will stay posted for a limited time and we'll have them in the store. Price to buy in store is \$1 for one page or \$2 for 2 pages -- to help me cover the costs of the ink.

First Quilt/horizontal



Second quilt/on point



WHAT'S NEW!!

From Moda:





From Timeless:



Marcus Brothers





Snow Bud patterns: (we also have these laser cut--let me know if you are interested in the laser cut patterns)





February Classes & Special Events

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. Feb. 8, 10-11:30 FREE

(Club normally meets the 2nd Sat. of each month from 10-noon)

This year we're stitching "penny squares" using simple drawings that we create! During class we will draw various designs and stitch them on 5" squares. Each month we will learn new stitches and trade designs and ideas. Then these 5" squares can be made into sampler quilts, or stitched into a "book" of stitches. You will also make your own notebooks so you can keep your squares, ideas, floss, needles & scissors in one place. You can join anytime.

Rag Quilt-Cabin in the Woods Sat. Feb. 8, 1-5

Jo Sunderman \$20

This class is great for beginners. Jo will guide you through the steps of putting the blocks together. She's used a Cabin in the Woods panel as a specialty block for her sample, but you can choose any fabric you want. We have some beautiful flannels that will make a great cozy winter rag quilt. This is a quilt-as-you-go quilt, so when your blocks are finished, so is your quilt!

Learn to Twist & Knit -- Cowls Mon. Feb 10 1:30-3:30 or 6-8:30 \$20 Carol Moler

Learn to knit a Cowl, using bulky yarn. This Cowl requires knitting in the round, and twisting your work to create a special drape.

Beyond the Basics: Bias Half Square Triangles Thurs. Feb. 13, 1-3, \$20 Barb Boyer

Learn the basics of making half square triangles from bias strips. This is my favorite way to make half square triangles, when I have lots to make.

Knit Pickin' Club Thur. Feb. 13, 6-8:30

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. You can start simply by making a dishcloth. Carol will teach you the essentials to get you started. For those of you who already know how to knit, you can still join the club--it's time for you to simply sit & knit & share ideas.

Ruffles & Ruffles Quilt Sat. Feb. 15, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

Just think cute! Sew ruffle upon ruffle upon ruffle until you have a cute girl's quilt, all in pink, white & black - or any colors you choose. The sample quilt features volleyball, softball, basketball and softball fabrics.

Jelly Roll Race Mon. Feb. 17 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

Ready, Set, Stitch! Well, you don't have to race if you don't want to. This is a quick & easy quilt made from 2 ½" strips - you can either purchase ready cut strips or cut your own. And that's all you use, just strips (unless you want to add a few accent pieces). If you haven't made a Jelly Roll Race quilt, they are lots of fun and we have lots of fun 2½" strip precuts just waiting to be used.

Beyond the Basics: Inset Seams-Attic Windows

Thurs. Feb. 20, 1-3, \$20 Barb Boyer

From attic windows, to mitered borders to lone star quilts, inset seams are a must to master. Learn the basics of inseting seams, the "Y" seam construction, while making a small attic window block.

Hand Applique Club

Thursday Feb. 20 6-8:30 free

Every 3rd Thursday, we're getting together to practice our hand applique skills. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and sew. More and more patterns are showing applique work, and while sometimes you can just fuse it down, learning how to hand applique is a wonderful skill that can be carried anywhere you go.

Design Challenge Sat. Feb. 22, 10:30-5 \$25 Barb Boyer

What would happen if I did this??? Working with just one block, you will discover all the various ways to turn & twist the block to create exciting quilt designs. You can either work from graph paper or experiment with the E-Quilt software. If you have a laptop and the E-Quilt software, I will help you design your quilt on your computer. I will also demonstrate how to design using the software on my computer. After your quilt is designed, then you will choose your fabric and start cutting & stitching. Once your quilts are done we will display the finished quilts in the classroom (probably sometime this summer). If you've ever wanted to design your own quilts, this is a perfect way to begin!

Beyond the Basics: Flying Geese

Thurs. Feb. 27, 1-3, \$20 Barb Boyer

Using the Flying Geese Ruler, learn to make 4 flying geese at the same time. If you've ever wanted to put a flying geese border on a quilt, but thought it was too much work, learn to use this ruler and it will make flying geese constructions a snap!

Friday Nighters Fri. Feb. 28, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2014 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30-11:30 Make it Do 1-2 Monthly Minis 4-6
2 Closed	3 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2	4	5 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	6 Beyond Basics: Paper Piecing 1-3 Back Basting 6-8:30	7 Open Sew1-4	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Cabin in the Woods Rag Quilt 1-5
9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Learn to Twist- Knit a Cowl 1:30-3:30 OR 6- 8:30	11	12 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	13 Beyond Basics: Bias Half Square Triangles 1-3 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14 Valentine's Day FullMoon	15 Ruffle Quilt 10:30-5
16 Beginning Quilt 1-4	17 Jelly Roll Race 10:30-5 Presidents' Day	18	19 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	20 Beyond Basics: Inset Seams 1- 3 Hand Applique Club 6- 8:30	21 Open Sew1-4	22 Design Challenge 10:30- 5
23 Beginning Quilt 1-4	24	25	26 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	27 Beyond Basics: Flying Geese 1-3	28 Friday Nights 5:30 -?	

