

Favorite quotes from Downton Abbey:

MARY

When does Grandmamma arrive?

CORA

She gets into Liverpool on the fifteenth, so she'll be here the day before the wedding.

VIOLET

I'm so looking forward to seeing your mother again. When I'm with her, I'm reminded of the virtues of the English.

MATTHEW

Isn't she American?

VIOLET

Exactly.



### **March 13, 2015**

Well, it's Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Becca, btw, isn't worried about it. Becca, if you are not familiar with my dogs, is my mini Australian Shepherd. She worries about a lot of things. Worrying occupies most of her waking hours. But she's not worried about Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Mainly because she can't count that high.

The superstition began either in the Middle Ages or sometime later or maybe earlier. I'll get to that in a minute. For those you who need a history lesson (and who doesn't) the Middle Ages began in the year 476. Not 477 or 475, but 476. Apparently a guy named Bruni wrote a book, *A History of the Florentine People*, and in the book he declared the Middle Ages started in 476. So there you go.

Anyway, one theory is that the superstition had its start with the story of Jesus and the last supper, which involved 13 people and was not a very lucky day for Jesus. Another unlucky group was the Knights Templar. On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1307, hundreds of Knights were arrested by King Philip IV, leading to the downfall of the Knights Templar, and marking the beginning of all of the legends about the treasures left behind by the Knights. This would be a good night to watch *National Treasure* or curl up with a Dan Brown book.

And that's what I mean by maybe the superstition started before 476 or after 476. And just so you know, apparently it was on a Friday that Noah noticed it had started to

rain. But I don't know if that is according to the Gregorian Calendar or the Julian Calendar, which was created by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, but that doesn't help much because Noah lived a way way long time before Caesar. Who knows what calendar he was using.

Lots of famous people died on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> like Gioachino Rossini. Yeah, I had to look him up too. He was Italian and composed The Barber of Seville. I'm sure there are more. Famous people, I mean. I know Rossini composed lots of other stuff. Famous people were born on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, like Fidel Castro. Okay, maybe not the best example. How about this? A kid in England got struck by lightning while watching an air show at 13.13 hour, or 1:13 in the afternoon. The kid was 13 years old. Spooky, isn't it.

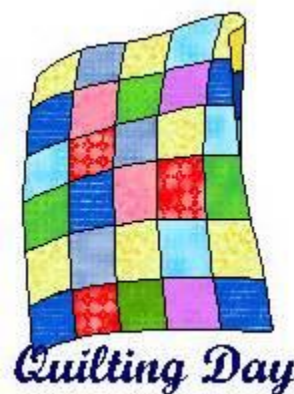
People who are afraid of the number 13 suffer from triskaidekaphobia, and fear of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is paraskevidekatriphobia, which are both a lot harder to say than pantophobia, which is, as we all know from growing up with Charlie Brown, the fear of everything.

But not all countries and cultures have a Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> superstition. Greeks and Hispanics aren't particularly fond of Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Italians don't like Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

But we embrace the Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> superstition-never build a building with a 13<sup>th</sup> floor, never invite 13 guests to dinner, never travel on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. And there is even an American Proverb says it is bad luck to fall out of the 13<sup>th</sup> story window on Friday. Go figure.

So my advice for this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>: Do what Becca is doing: Play in the front yard, bark at strangers, and then come in for dinner and a nap before bed.

# National Quilting Day! March 21



We have lots of fun things planned.

First--Make a Panel Quilt Challenge!

Rules: Buy a panel from the store (we have lots), make it into a quilt by adding borders or blocks (top is okay). Bring the quilt top back to the store by May 1 (you can do it) to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate! Quilt top must be at least 45" X 60", but it can be bigger. We will hang the quilts in the classroom for 2 weeks, during which everyone can vote on their favorite quilt. The winner will receive a fat quarter bundle. You must buy the panel on National Quilt Day. (we'll keep a list of everyone who bought a panel.)

Second: SALE! Buy a pattern or book PLUS at least one yard of fabric (can be 4 fat quarters, for example) and get 20% off entire sale.

Third: We have free demos scheduled all day!

10:30-11:30 Jean Korber will demonstrate how to use the Quick Curve Ruler

11:30-12:30 Jean Korber will demonstrate how to put machine applied, corded binding on a quilt. She has tips & tricks to show how to make perfect all machine applied binding on a quilt. Even judges can't say no to this binding it is so beautiful. If you need to get a quilt done quickly and don't have the time to hand stitch, or if your fingers just aren't as nimble as they once were, come watch and learn this wonderful method of applying binding.

2-3 Sue Frerich will demonstrate a machine applique technique using applique fiber. Her quilt, Chloe, has the look of hand applique, but is done entirely by machine in a fraction of the time! Furthermore, because of the materials used, it has the look of trapunto after it has been quilted.

3-4 Sandra Freeburg will demonstrate spoon quilting. That's right, hand quilting using a spoon. It is a wonderful tool that helps you get your stitches just right.

We will have cookies and punch in the classroom. The weather report is for sunny skies and 50-60 degree temperatures. Get out & enjoy the spring weather and drop by the shop to say hi!

## **Bucking Horse and Rider fans!**

I am taking prepaid orders for Bucking Horse & Rider fabric. I am bringing in Bison, Saddle, Denim, and the 2 new colors: Cappuccino and Dijon.

If you are interested in getting more BH&R fabric, please let me know what colors and how much you want to buy. All orders must be prepaid. When the fabric comes in, all prepaid orders will be cut and held for you. Any remaining fabric will be put on the floor for sale. If you remember the last time we got the fabric, it sold out very quickly.

I do have a list of individuals who indicated an interest in this next round of fabrics. To secure your order, please call back and pre pay. I will also try to call you in the next few weeks to remind you.

This fabric will be available in May 2015.

Colors: Cappuccino (new), Dijon (new), Saddle, Bison, Moss, Buckskin, Denim, Palomino.



## **DOWNTON ABBEY RETREAT!**

**The dates are set for March 20-22, Nagel Warren Mansion. Special Attraction: Downton Abbey Trunk**

## Show!

We are set for Friday March 20 through Sunday March 22. 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 (cost of retreat will need to be adjusted). Reservations will be made through me and you can secure your spot with a down payment of half the cost by Feb. 15. 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. 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 this year's quilt (quilt blocks will be online prior to the retreat).

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 quilt  
Door prizes  
Lots of Fun !!!

### **Downton Abbey Trunk Show (quilts provided by Andover from the new line)**

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 (for a buck or two).

**Cost per person = \$250. A \$120 deposit will secure your room.** Single Room supplement is \$75. We need a minimum of 10 quilters for the retreat.

Blocks will be posted on line at [www.aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com) You can find the blocks under the "What's New" tab (once I get them posted). 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.

## I now have the forms for the contest.



They face adversity and endure hardships; yet all too often their troubles go unnoticed. We also honor those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who must miss holidays, birthdays, and family moments in far-away distant lands. It is for the family members who keep the house running while their husband, wife, son or daughter is away. It is for the children who dearly miss their deployed parent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt. We say thank you to the men and women who have volunteered to serve our country and preserve our freedom.

See previous posts for more info on submitting a quilt for the challenge.

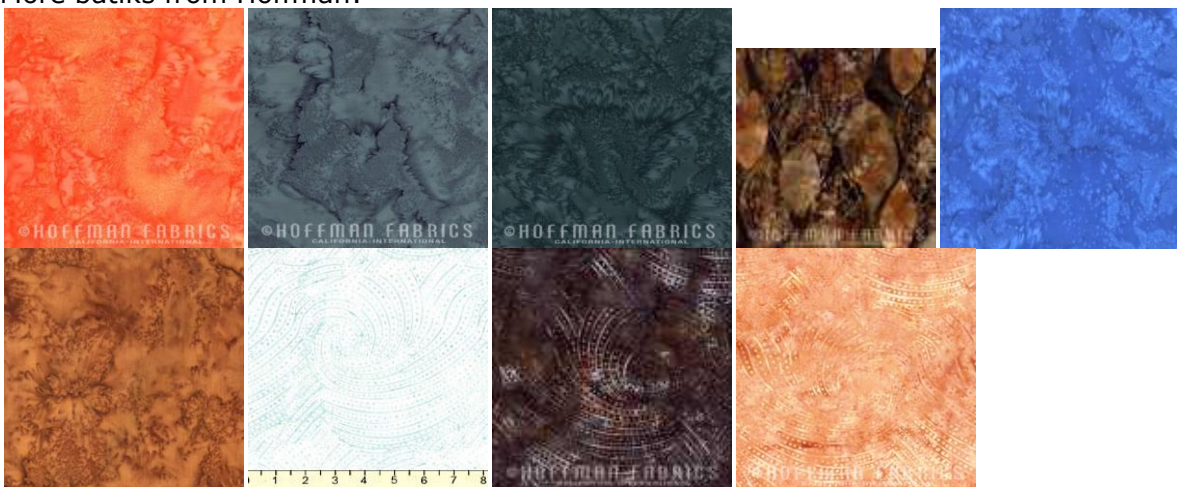
## WHAT'S NEW!!

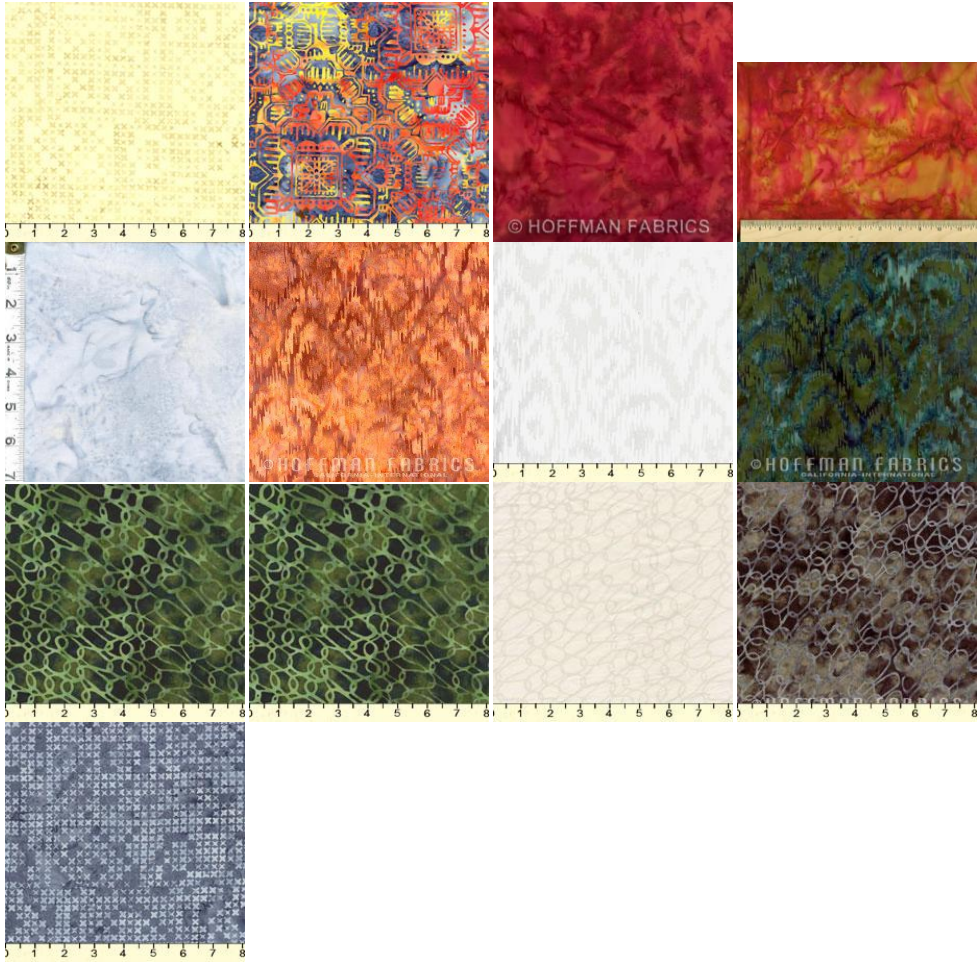
Working the West from Maywood:



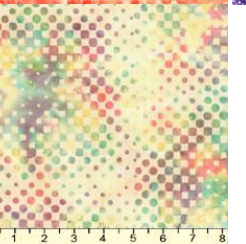
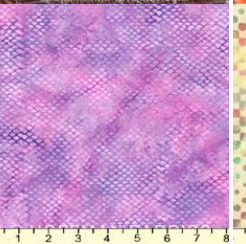
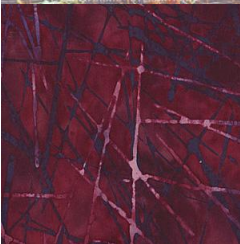
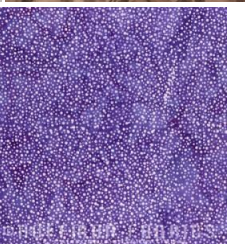
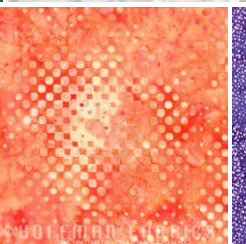
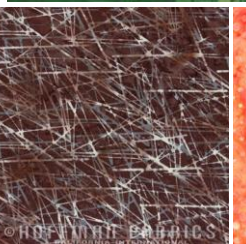
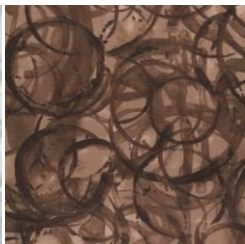


More batiks from Hoffman:









## March Classes & Special Events

### **Hand Embroidery Club** Sat. March 14, 10-11:30 FREE

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

This year we're doing birds-state birds. We will have between 40-50 birds (some states use the same bird) for you to stitch. Various setting for turning the birds into a quilt will be provided. Color suggestions for the birds will also be offered. As a bonus, you will get the state outlines, state flowers, and other patterns to compliment the birds. You can join anytime.

### **Table Runner of the Month: Leaves**

Sat. Mar 14 1-6 \$20 or free if you buy the kit Jo Sunderman

We will be making different table runners each month. This table runner includes appliqued (fused) leaves and simple piecing. It's easy to extend the length to fit the size of your table.

### **Sew Simple Hexie Flowers** Mon. Mar. 16, 1-3

English paper piecing dates back to the early 1800s. It is a hand sewing method that uses paper templates to help sew complex angles together, like hexagons. Instead of traditional hexagon shapes, we will make "hexi flowers" using the shape called bishop's mitre, or jewel. We will make a bouquet of different flowers that will be appliqued onto a background, to make a small wall hanging. This class is for both beginners and experienced paper piecers.

### **Hand Quilting** Thurs. Mar. 19, 1-3 \$25 Sandra Freeburg

Hand quilting is an art that should not be lost. By the end of Sandra's class you will be hand quilting with confidence. Everyone has at least one special quilt that calls out for hand quilting. And there is nothing better than the feel of a hand quilted quilt. Do yourself a favor and learn this art that connects us to our past -- our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

## **DOWNTON ABBEY RETREAT! AND DOWNTON ABBEY TRUNK SHOW! WARREN NAGEL MANSION MARCH 20-22**

See Dec. 12 Newsletter for more details (on web at [aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://aroundtheblockquilts.com))

### **Beginning Machine Quilting** Wed. Mar 22, 1:30-4 OR 6-8:30 \$25 Sue Frerich

Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt

your name!

### **Hand Applique Club**

Thursday Mar. 26 1:30-4 free

The last Thursday of each month, 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.

### **Bertie's Year** last Friday of the month, 1-4

Bertie's Year is a small wall hanging, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel). Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments.

### **Friday Nighters** Fri. Mar. 27, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- 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.

### **Machine Servicing** Mon Mar 30, 10-6

Chris Blakeman from Blackman Vacuum and Sewing will come to the shop to service machines! We are hoping to be able to handle up to 20 machines, but I'll keep you posted. For now, I will start a list, first come first served, of everyone who wants a sewing machine serviced. Pricing will depend upon machine, but more details will follow. Machines can be dropped off at the shop on Sunday between 4-5 (please don't bring them earlier because there is a class) and on Monday after 10. Machines will need to be picked up no later than noon on Tuesday, unless other arrangements are made (we don't have the room to store machines). Let me know if you are interested!

## **April Classes & Special Events**

### **Beginning Machine Applique**

Wed. April 1, 1:00-4 or 6-9 \$25 Barb Boyer

So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

### **Back Basting Applique** Thur. April 2, 1-3 Sandra Freeburg \$25

Back basting is a template free method of needle turn applique. No slippery freezer paper or chalked lines on top that never seem to get turned under quite right. This method is especially great for traveling, because your pieces will be basted onto your background -- no need for pins to get in the way. This class is great for beginners and all levels of appliquers. Don't let hand applique frustrate you. It's really easy and relaxing!

**Block of the Month** Sat. April 4, 10:30-11:15 FREE

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year we're making a neutrally colored quilt (tans, taupes, greys, etc.)-come to class in January to see an example.

**ABCs of Binding** Sat. April 4, noon-1 \$20 Jo Sunderman

Learn the ins and outs of selecting binding, cutting binding and applying binding. It's easier than you think. If you have a project you are working on, be sure to bring it to class for some hands on advice.

**Monthly Minis** First Saturday of the Month, Jan-Dec. 4-6 Barb Boyer \$20 ongoing

**Monday Morning Quilts** April 6 10-2

Free, if you buy that month's kit

Each month we will feature quilts from the Quilter's World magazine or other fun quilts. We will choose one of the quilts from the magazine and make limited kits. In class, we will show you how to put the quilt together and you will have time to get started. Quilts will be big or small or in between. Quilt TBA.

**Downton Abbey Sampler Quilt** Thurs. April 9, 1-4 ongoing

**Knit Pickers' Club** Thur. April 9, 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. If you are in the Monday knitting classes, you can work on your project and get help, if you need it.

**Hand Embroidery Club** Sat. April 11, 10-11:30 FREE

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

This year we're doing birds-state birds. We will have between 40-50 birds (some states use the same bird) for you to stitch. Various setting for turning the birds into a quilt will be provided. Color suggestions for the birds will also be offered. As a bonus, you will get the state outlines, state flowers, and other patterns to compliment the birds. You can join anytime.

**Table Runner of the Month:**

**Triangle Frenzy Hexagon Table Topper** Sat. April 11 1-6 \$20

or free if you buy the kit Barb Boyer

We will be making different table runners each month. This table runner uses the 12" 60 degree triangle and a large (10"-11") border stripe . Kit will include fabric and the ruler (if you already have a ruler, ruler price will be deducted from kit price).

**Knitting: Back to Basics.** Mon. April 13 6-8:30 \$20 Carol Moler

Each month we will offer a selection of projects for the beginner and more advanced knitter. In April we learn how to join in the round. Beginning project will either be a hat

or a cowl. For more experienced knitters, the project will be a longer twisted cowl or a bag suitable for felting at a later date.

## Shop Hop At the Ranch April 17 & 18

### Bertie's Year last Friday of the month, 1-4

Bertie's Year is a small wall hanging, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel). Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments.

### Friday Nighters Fri. April 24, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- 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.

### Woodland Fairies Quilt Sat. April 25 20:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

The perfect quilt for a little girl or anyone who likes purple. The quilt takes about 20 fat quarters plus borders. Michael Miller's fairies are popular, and these fairies glisten & sparkle. Kits will be available.

### Pillow Case Party Sun. April 26 1-4 FREE

If you've never made a pillow case, or just want some time to sew a pillow case, this class is for you. This is a great mother/daughter styled class and pillow cases make great presents!

### Mastering Curves & Free Motion Quilting

Thursday April 30 1:00-4 OR 6-9 \$50 Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich

This is a 4 part class, offered on consecutive Thursdays through May 21. We will work on a whole cloth project, each week adding new designs. Class #1: straight lines (with darning/hopping foot), grasses, zig zags, trees. Class #2: flowers & leaves. Class #3: stippling & fill stitches. Class #4: free hand shapes, from clouds to birds, to animals. In class students will practice the designs and then start adding the designs on the whole cloth quilt.

### Hand Applique Club

Thursday April 30 1:30-4 free

The last Thursday of each month, 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.

## March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2 <b>Monday Morning Quilts 10-2</b>	3	4 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4 Or 6-8:30</b>	5 Full Moon	6 <b>Open Sew1-4</b>	7 <b>BOM 10:30-11:30 Monthly Minis 4-6</b>
8 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	9 <b>Knitting: Back to Basics: Ribbing &amp; Bind offs 6-8:30</b>	10	11 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4 Or 6-8:30</b>	12 <b>Downton Abbey Sampler 1-4 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30</b>	13	14 <b>Embroidery Club 10-noon Leaves Table Runner 1-5</b>
15 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	16 <b>Sew Simple Hexi Flowers 1-5</b>	17	18	19 <b>Hand Quilting 1-3</b>	20 <b>Open Sew 1-4 Downton Abbey Retreat</b>	21 <b>National Quilt Day Downton Abbey Retreat</b>
22 Downton Abbey Retreat	23	24	25 <b>Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4 or 6-9</b>	26 <b>Hand Applique Club 1:30-4</b>	27 <b>Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?</b>	28
29	30	31				

<b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	<b>Machine Service</b>					
Color of the Month: Green						

## April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Beginning Machine Applique 1-4 or 6-9</b>	2 <b>Back Basting 1:00-3:00</b>	3 <b>Open Sew1-4</b>	4 <b>BOM 10:30-11:30 Binding demo noon-1 Monthly Minis 4-6 Full Moon</b>
5 <b>CLOSED</b>	6 <b>Monday Morning Quilts 10-2</b>	7	8	9 <b>Downton Abbey Sampler 1-4 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30</b>	10	11 <b>Embroidery Club 10-noon Hexagon Table Runner 1-5</b>
12	13 <b>Knitting: Back to Basics: Knitting in the Round 6-8:30</b>	14	15	16	17 <b>Shop Hop</b>	18 <b>Shop Hop</b>

19	20	21	22	23	24 <b>Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?</b>	25 <b>Fairies Quilt 10:30-5</b>
26 <b>Pillowcase Party 1-4</b>	27	28	29 <b>Mastering Curves &amp; Free Motion Quilting 1-4</b>	30 <b>Hand Applique Club 1:30-4</b>		
Color of the Month: Yellow						

### **HAND APPLIQUE CLUB**

This is a get-together & stitch class. Many of us are trying hand applique these days-- patterns are calling for a lot more applique. The club is designed for quilters who already do some hand applique, but beginners are welcome as well. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, talk about threads and, in general, just stitch. A little quiet time away from the distractions of home is what we need to get our projects done.

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### **HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB**

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. We provide free vintage patterns, and this year we will have free patterns of girls with hats, that you can embroider, embellish and color. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

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### **Knit Pickin' Club**

This is another get-together class to sit & knit, work on our projects, share information and get some help. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, but mainly we'll sit & knit (or pick).

### **Toad Toters**

On full moon days (as noted in the calendar) you will get 20% off all purchases (not otherwise discounted) that you can fit in your bag. You must bring your bag to participate.

Full Moon Days: January 5 (observed), February 3, March 5, April 4.



Discount Policy

We will honor only one discount -- whichever is largest. You can't combine a 10% with a 25% discount to get a 35% discount. On this we can't be bribed.

**Color of the Month**

January purple, February red, March green, April yellow

\*\*\*\*\*  
Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely,

Barbara Boyer  
Around the Block  
307-433-9555  
[www.aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)

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