

# Around the Block

## QUILT SHOP

### Springtime in the Rockies Winner!

Our own--okay we don't own her but she's part of the Cheyenne quilting community--Tracy Wilson won first place in the tote bag contest. Check it out and congrats!



April 14, 2017

I came home last night & found Becca making an outline of a square on the floor, using duct tape. Actually, she had just finished and was pulling used bits of duct tape off her fur. I did what any responsible pet parent does: I didn't ask where she got the duct tape.

Instead I said conversationally, "So watcha doing there, Becca?"

"Whatdoesit lklke," she mumbled back, her mouth now slightly stuck together because of the tape.

"I don't know-sticking duct tape on the floor in the shape of a square?"

Becca finished pulling the last of the duct tape off. "Yup. I'm going to catch the cat."

"Her name is Lydia, and how is duct tape on the floor going to catch her?"

"Well, I saw on tv this morning a report about how pet owners use tape to make a square on the floor. The cat comes over, sniffs, then curls up inside the fake box. It's hilarious," she added. "Cats are so stupid."

"Becca, that's not nice."

"Shh. Here she comes."

Lydia walked over to me, sidled up next to my legs to be patted, then proceeded to the couch, where she jumped up, circled a couple of times, and cozied into a quilt.

"Well, that worked, Becca. You can clean up the floor anytime."

Becca sighed and began pulling the duct tape off the floor with her teeth. I figured that would occupy her for an hour or so.

Just so you know, the taped square/box on the floor is a real thing. Some cats seem intrigued by it and wind up sitting neatly inside the box. Check it out on YouTube, and other self video sites. And the next time you have to take the cat to the vet, you might want to try it. Although it may only work the one time, if the cat figures out that sitting in the non existent box means being put into a real cage in order to go to the vet.

I figure it's my job to keep you informed on the important stuff like this, mainly

because you may miss it, given what's going on with Washington, Afghanistan, Syria and United Airlines. Everyone else is all over that and you can't escape that news no matter how hard you try. Although if you do get pulled off an airline, be sure to milk it for all its worth, or at least for as much as the public will stand for.

Anyway, we do have more gator news to talk about. Have you seen the wild horse vs gator battle? The gator comes out to sun himself and the nearby wild horse takes offense. The horse stomps on the gator, the gator chomps on the horse's leg, and the horse stomps again. The gator decides to find another place to sun himself and he slithers away. Truly impressive encounter.

And April is still pregnant. But now people are getting upset at the zoo for coming up with a way to notify you immediately when April starts to deliver--for \$4.95 you will get a real time text alert. And people are writing all sorts of negative comments on April's official Facebook Page about this injustice. Pssst: Don't tell Becca the giraffe has a Facebook page. You know what will happen next.

Anyway, people are starting to complain about a lot of things related to April and her web page: The GoFundMe page for the zoo, the \$4.95 charge to get real time alerts, the fact that April hasn't yet given birth, the Toys R' Us sponsorship, the April the Giraffe gear site (again, don't tell Becca), and the people that are complaining. For example, one person said, "I feel a bit cheated. I've been watching since Feb and now it feels rather unkind that you want us to pay to know gender. I get that you are raising funds, but does loyalty mean nothing?"

Just to be clear, she's talking about being a daily watching web cam fan. I don't know how that falls under the category of loyal, and others felt the same way: "Can't wait to see what's next to complain and feel entitled about," and "You aren't owed a thing just because you can't afford \$5.00, or a text plan or a mobile device, or whatever." And the Zoo is not taking any of the negativity lying down. A Zoo official pointed out that the birth and the gender will be reported immediately anyway in all the news outlets, and "...from day one, to view the cam and be a part of the journey, has not cost a thing. The additional options are participated in by choice and ultimately support the park, our giraffes, and giraffe conservation."

The world has had fun watching April and, can I say it, it has drawn our nation together. Okay, a bit too much. But I say we should all pay the Zoo \$5 to get a real time text, and that money will go to help support giraffe conservation, zoos and all other good things associated with helping preserve our world animals. I just paid. How about you? And then you don't have watch a nonmoving giraffe for hours on end (for months for some people apparently). You can get in on just the fun part, even if it is at 2:30 in the morning.

And we do have more golf news that doesn't involve gators: 37-year-old Sergio Garcia won his first Masters tournament. The news, though, is that it took him decades, according to broadcasters, to get to his first major win: They said, "He's been around for decades" and he's finally won. Decades. Hmmm. I had to rewind the dvr to see if I had heard that correctly. I thought maybe they had transposed the numbers and meant 73 not 37. Nope. The man is 37 years old, and his first impressive P.G.A. tournament was in 1999, when he was 19 and he came in second to Tiger Woods. That was 18 years ago, give or take, so I guess an 18 year gap counts as decades. But I'm not convinced. Kinda like April being due any minute now.

And under the category of studying strange things, scientists have figured out why shoe laces come untied. Are you ready for this? 1) People don't tie them very securely. Okay, I could comment, but, seriously, why. (Becca's chuckling in the background.) 2) The pounding the laces take during walking or running, loosens the ties, allowing them to come apart. This also falls under the "duh" category. And 3), some ties stay tied better. It took three mechanical engineers at UC Berkeley to figure this out.

And last, but not least, the new movie about King Arthur is showing trailers on tv. In one of the trailers someone says to Arthur, "You've grown up in the gutters...." Or

something like that. And I thought, they didn't have gutters or that saying in King Arthur's time. So I looked it up and am happy to report that the first usage of the word "gutter" was sometime in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The real Arthur lived in in the 500s, or about 1,000 years earlier, give or take a decade. Also, apparently, castles weren't invented until about 500 years after Arthur lived, give or take another couple of decades. Now I can live with the disappointing news about castles. But I struggle more with verbal anachronisms. On the other hand, Arthur never really spoke "English." One of the first known "English" or "Old English" writings is Beowulf, written around 1,000 A.D., give or take century. And it goes something like this:

Hwæt. We Gardena in geardagum,  
þeodcyninga, þrym gefrunon,  
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.  
Oft Scyld Scefing sceaþena þreatum,  
monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,  
egsode eorlas.

Maybe I can live with the word "gutter," after all.

## What Wind? Contest

If we have to put up with the wind, might as well have a little fun.

Contest Rules: 1) Design a "What Wind?" 12" finished block. Blocks can be pieced, appliqued, embroidered--your choice. It must finish at 12" (which means, unfinished it will be 12 1/2"). Block must be provided.

2) Provide a written pattern.

3) Deadline: April 15 because we've had so much wind. It blew the deadline away.

4) Blocks will be displayed in the shop and customers can vote for their favorite.

Now here's the fun part (if designing a block wasn't fun enough :))

Everyone who enters will be able to get the patterns from all the other entrants. Each entrant will also select a charity of her choice, to be written on a slip of paper & put into a bowl. On March 18, National Quilt Day, several things will happen: A Viewer's Choice Award of \$25 gift certificate will be awarded, patterns of all the blocks will be given to entrants, and we'll draw for the favorite charity.

My job, after the contest, will be to put together all blocks into a quilt. This quilt will then be given to the favorite charity as a raffle/fund raiser.

Make sense? All clear? It's Friday the 13th and all sorts of odd things have been happening, so I'm sure I left out some important detail. If you have questions, just ask.

## WHAT'S NEW!!

More from Moda: just precuts right now. Bolts should arrive later.



fabric to come



we have layer cakes, charms & jelly rolls now.



fabric to come, goes with the animals

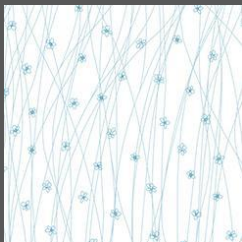
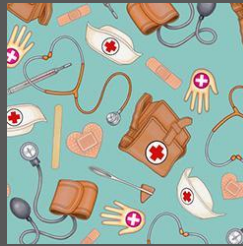
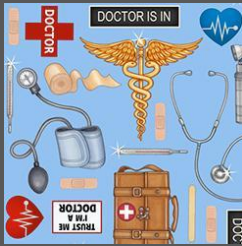


Fabric to come. We have jelly rolls, layer cakes & charms now.



This is a kit

New cool stuff from Red Rooster, but you've got to come to Shop Hop to see it.  
From Quilting Treasures:

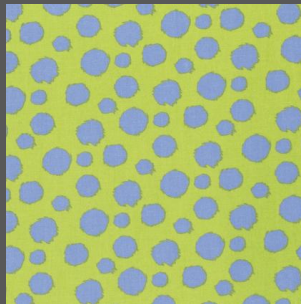


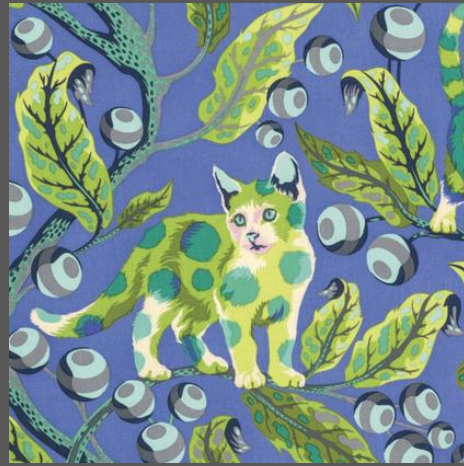


Robert Kaufman:

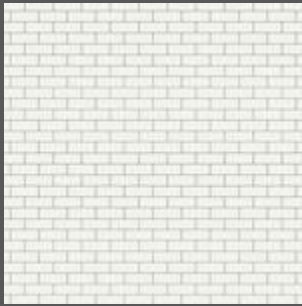


Tula Pink:

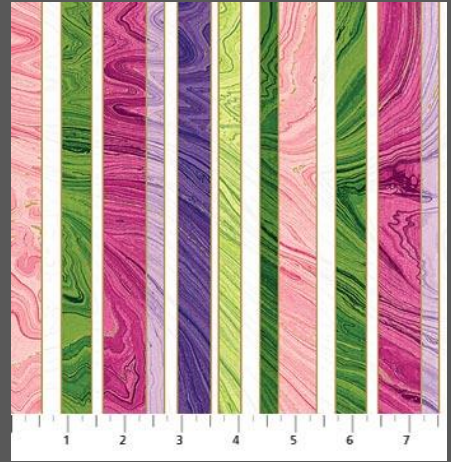
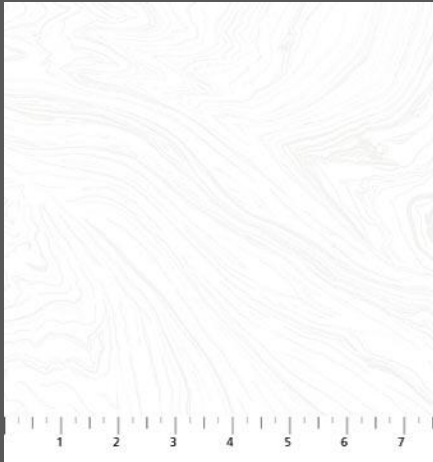


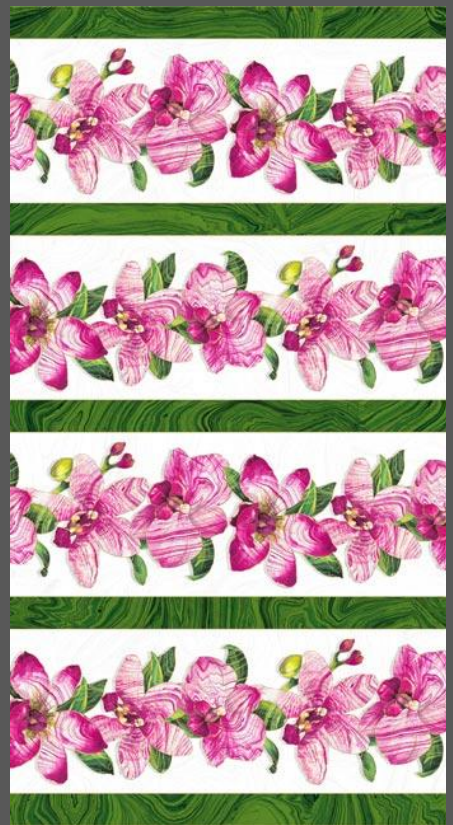
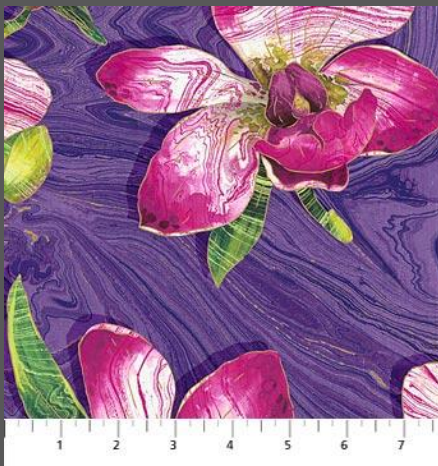


Stof:

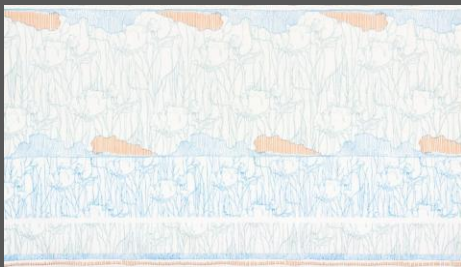
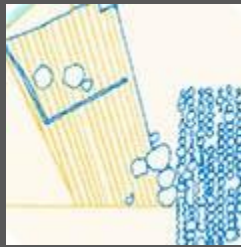


Northcott:



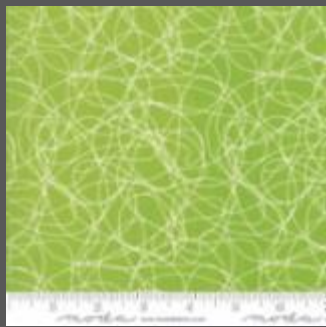
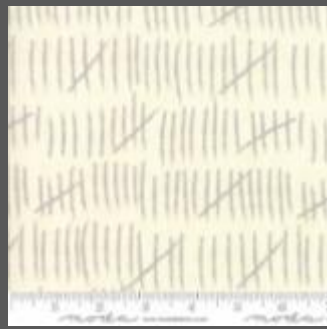
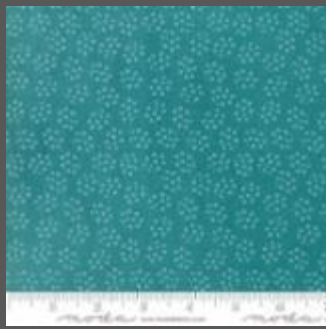


Robert Kaufman:

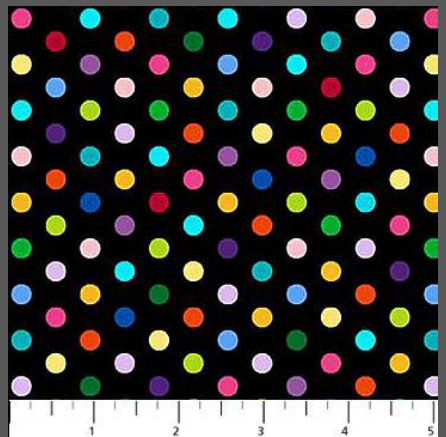
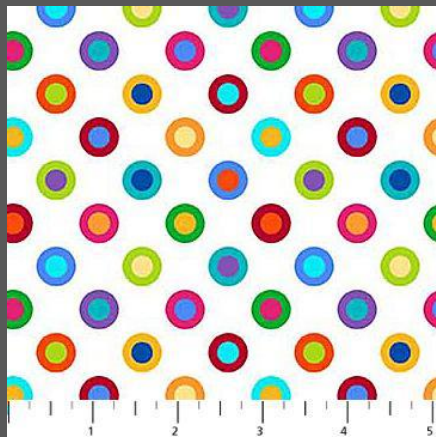
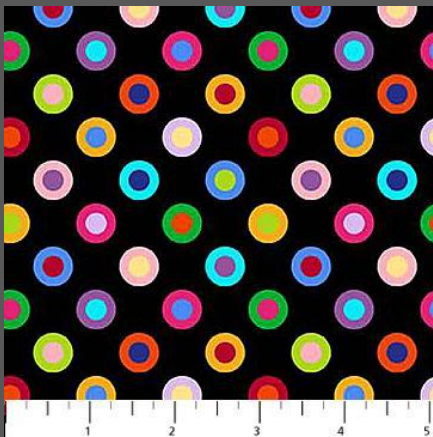


From Moda--River Journey by Holly Taylor and Mixed Bag:

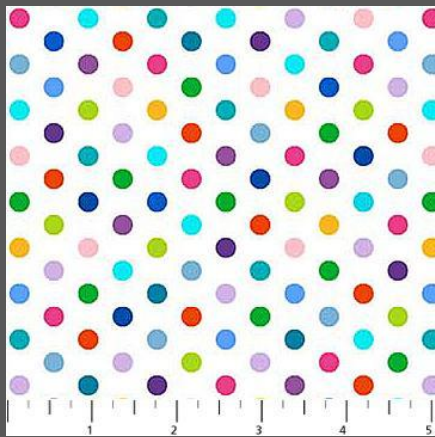




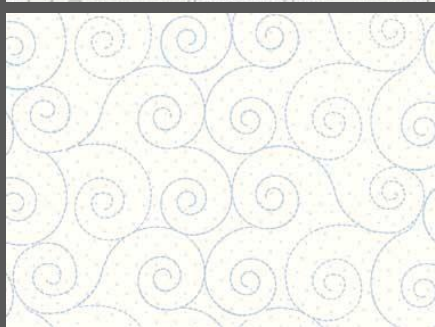
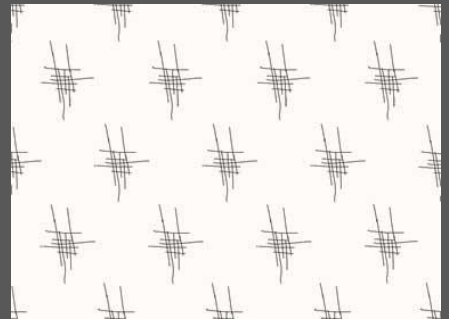
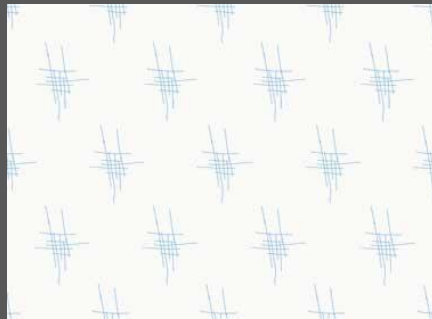
From Northcott:





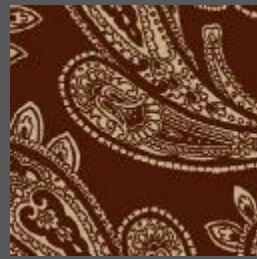


From Red Rooster:

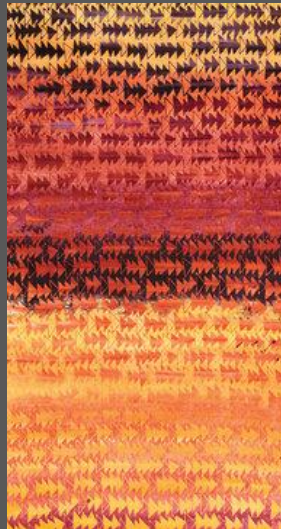




From Stof:  
From Windham:



Anthology.





## April Classes and Special Events

**All Things Christmas!** 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays every other month. 1-4 \$20/per class Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich

We will do 6 Christmas projects this year, including a full sized quilt, a table runner, an ornament, and other fun projects. You can pick and choose which projects you would like to do or sign up for all of them and get 1 class for free! Second project will be ornaments from Happy Hollow Designs. Kits will be available, but you must sign up early (a month ahead would be helpful) so I know how many kits to get.

**Back Basting** Wed. April 19, 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!

**One Block Wonder Panel Quilt** Thurs April 20 & May 4 & 18; OR Sat April 20, May 15 & 29. 1-4 \$25 Sue Frerich

You don't want to miss this class. The technique is called One Block Wonder and you need 7 panels for the quilt. Sue used a beautiful eagle print (keep your fingers crossed, we may be able to get 1 bolt). But we have lots of interesting panels that would make a

fantastic One Block Wonder Panel Quilt. (I'm looking at the Star Wars panels....). The technique used is similar to a Stack & Whack quilt, but the difference is in how it is sewn together. This is truly a stunning quilt. You don't want to miss this class-and we're offering it twice!

**Pillow Case Party** Sun. April 23 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!

**English Paper Piecing 4<sup>th</sup> (or last) Mondays** 2-4 Barb Boyer \$20 (fee per year)

**Wild Orchid Raven Quilt** last Friday of the month ongoing, 2-4 \$20

This block of the month will feature a different raven block, from the Raven book by Blackbird Designs. You can hand applique the blocks, but class will show you how to trace the pieces, fuse them in place and applique around by machine.

**Friday Nighters, last Friday of the month** 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

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.

## April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Yellow						1BOM 10:30-11:30 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
2 CLOSED	3 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4	4	5	6	7 Shop Hop	8Shop Hop Embroidery Club 10-noon
9	10	11 Full Moon	12 Level 2 Machine Quilting 1-4 OR 6-9	13 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14 All Things Christmas 1-4  <a href="#">Good Friday</a>	15 One Block Wonder 10-5
16 CLOSED  <a href="#">Easter Sunday</a>	17	18	19 Back Basting 1-3	20 One Block Wonder 10-5	21 Open Sew1-4	22
23 Pillow Case Party 1-4	24 English Paper Piecing 2-4	25	26	27	28 Friday Nights 5:30 -?	29 One Block Wonder 10-4
30						

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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: Jan 12, Feb 10, March 12, April 11, May 10.

#### 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, May neutrals/beiges/whites.

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)