



September's calendar is at the bottom of the email. I will send out the full Sept-Dec calendar in a separate email.

August 18, 2017

The artists of Spain:

You know Spain has weird artists when even Picasso (1881-1973) looks normal. After being exposed to Dali and Gaudi, when you see a Picasso painting that has an ear where an eye should be and a nose sticking out of the top of a head, you think, "Oh, that's nice." Picasso is just not as weird as it gets in Spain.

For that, you need to experience Salvador Dali (1904-1989), Antoni Gaudi (1852 - 1926) and Ismael Smith (1886-1972). After these guys, Picasso seems a bit tame. And I've seen Guernica at the Reina Sofia museum of modern art in Madrid (different trip) so I know how odd Picasso gets.

Frankly, I think it's the water-In the space of about 100 years, these guys all drank the same cool-aid, so to speak. Let's just call it Spanish water. I'm not sure how else to

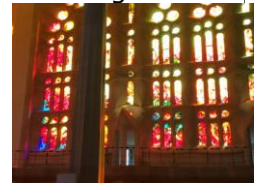
explain it. When we were at the Salvador Dali Museum, one singer came up to me & said, "Do you understand this stuff?" And I said, "No." She said, "Do you think anyone does?" And I said, "No, they just pretend they understand what he must have been feeling when he sculpted that"--pointing to an alligator holding a lightbulb and an ornate golden box. She said, people say the same thing about paintings done by elephants, when they don't know the art wasn't done by a person. But I gotta admit, this "stuff" by Dali is really amazing. More on him in a minute.

Gaudi is the architect in this group and he was the first artist we encountered. He designed and built (until he died) the Sagrada Familia, a stupendous, still under construction, cathedral, recently blessed into a basilica by the pope a couple of years ago. The first thing I said to Heidi when we were close enough to finally see it (it hides in a neighborhood, surrounded by buildings, but when it's done it will be the tallest building in Barcelona): "Is that colored fruit on that tower?" Yup. Gaudi put renditions of fruit on all corners of the cathedral, each tower depicting seasonal fruits.

The cathedral is modernistic, immense, angular, colorful and, as George Orwell put it, the ugliest building he'd ever seen. When done, it will have 18 towers, 4 organs, massive amounts of stained glass, three grand facades and a lot of other things I don't understand.



The inside of the cathedral is expansive, with the east wall built with orange, yellow and red stained glass and the west wall built with green, blue & purple stained glass, to welcome the morning then afternoon sun. There are candelabra things suspended from the ceiling (more like the walls-the ceiling is way too high), stair ways that go no where obvious, tall columns of stone & marble with things carved into stone and set everywhere you look. It was overwhelming. Kinda like the Grand Canyon-stick with me here, this will make sense.



I remember seeing the Grand Canyon about 30 years ago and I walked up to the edge, looked over & said, Yup, that's deep. And left. Standing to look at the Grand Canyon any longer would not have made it any more comprehensible. It's one of those wonders that is hard to drink in all at once with just a look or two or three-Gaudi's cathedral is like that. I imagine it would take long looks, many visits, and perhaps a quiet time in a corner when no one was around in order to fully figure out the beauty and joy of the cathedral. We had about 20 minutes, and it was really hot.

We also visited the Salvador Dali Museum. He designed this museum and the museum itself is a museum piece, if you get my drift. The brochures recommend not to follow any predesigned route through the museum-it's best to just wander & discover. The

museum is often called the largest surrealistic object in the world. Suffice it to say, he put loaves of bread (like tear-away buns) on the sides of the museum and huge eggs for towers on top. He built a "painting" or sculpture of Mae West's face out of furniture and living room draperies. You have to stand in a certain spot to get the full effect. He also did a portrait of Lincoln, done in pixels, or at least that's how you'd describe it today. Dali is also buried here, in a crypt on the lower level.



They actually dug him up while we were in Spain (a day or so before we visited) in order to extract dna for paternity test. If you don't remember Dali, he's the guy with the pencil thin, & long, long mustache. Which was still there when they dug him up.

And last, but not least, on the artistic tour, is Ismael Smith. I know, you're all scratching your heads & saying, who? He is a national treasure, who I think went quietly nuts (he was institutionalized the last years of his life). His art is mainly pen & ink drawings and he got a lot of fame by doing drawings for magazines, end papers for books and small cartoons--think of the drawings you see in the New Yorker. That's Smith. But his drawings tended toward the grotesque and horrific and during his lifetime he was mainly scorned & ridiculed. What I liked about his drawings were the facial expressions he captured on his people. He could tell a whole story with just one expressive face. His art could entertain me for a long time.

We also saw a lot of religious paintings, done mainly on wood & stone from the medieval time periods in Spain. One painting depicted Jesus, and his apostles, looking a little like hippies from Haight-Ashbury during the 60s--a little too stoned for their own good.

So to commemorate my Spain trip --beyond the singing, of course--I knitted a Salvador Dali felted messenger bag. I put in bits of bright colors of blue, yellow, green & red using yarns that wouldn't felt, added wisps of glitter & sequins, and surrounded it all with grays, blacks, reds & oranges of various weights--skinny to fat. It is wonderfully colorful and lopsided, fuzzy and decorative and I feel like maybe I have also drunk the funky Spanish water. Cheers to Spain!

## THE PONY EXPRESS COLLECTION

Northcott has collaborated with the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph Missouri to create a fabric collection that honors this unique part of American history! The collection includes authentic replicas of artwork from the museum.

There is also a Pony Express pin with coordinating charms for each of the 8 states along the Pony Express route. Pins and charms are available now.

### **THE PONY EXPRESS BLOCK PARTY** **Runs September 9th-24th, 2017**

Exclusive to the States on the Pony Express Trail:

Missouri, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, California, Nebraska and Kansas

**How it works:**

Participating shops will offer a free block pattern that have been designed with the Pony Express Collection. Visit participating shops, get a sticker on your Block Party Postcard (we have those) and get your pattern. Once you have collected 12 different shop stickers you must be the first to present your fully stickered postcard at the 12th shop to be redeemed for a \$75 fabric prize. Each shop has one first entry \$75 fabric prize to distribute. If that shop has already handed out their first entry \$75 fabric prize, there are 5 runner-up charm prizes.

Go to the Northcott web site to see a listing of all the shops that are participating.

<http://www.northcott.com>

**PONY EXPRESS QUILT CHALLENGE**

Put your blocks to use and create a quilt with a minimum of 6 blocks from 6 different shops from the Pony Express Block Party. Take a picture and submit it to [submissions@northcott.com](mailto:submissions@northcott.com) by November 4th, 2017 for a chance to win one of three prizes from Northcott.

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## WHAT'S NEW!!

From Robert Kaufman:





From In the Beginning:



Olde America Antiques:

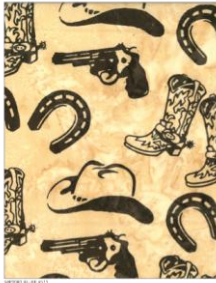
We have Cowgirl Western postcards in, 2 different sizes--4 X 6 & 5 X 8.



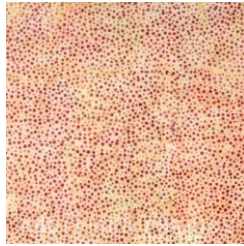
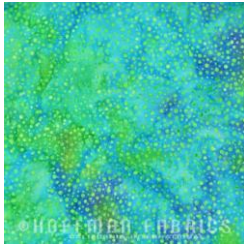


From Hoffman:  
New wildlife batiks:

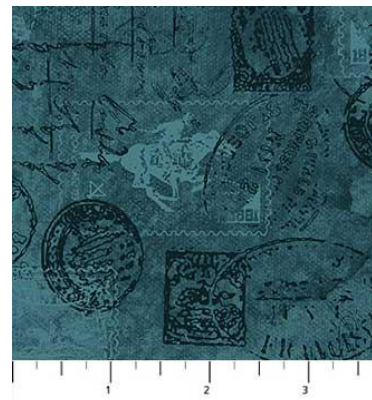
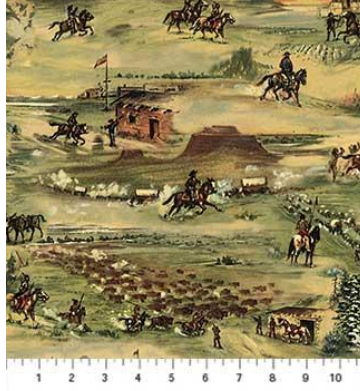




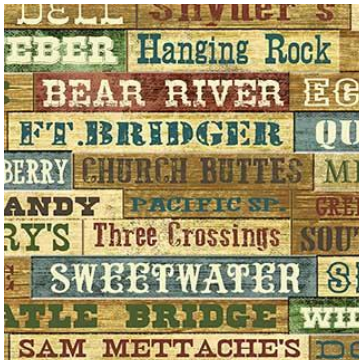
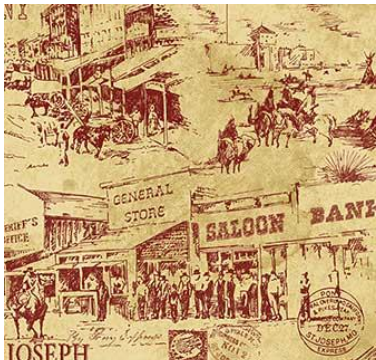
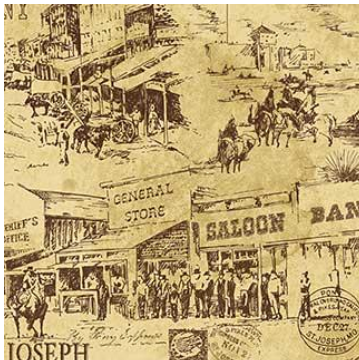
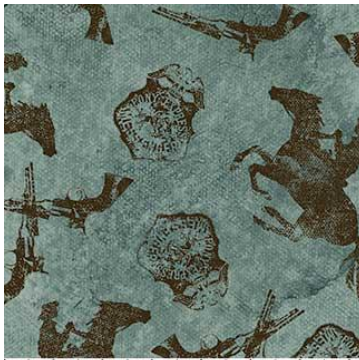
12 Bali Chops. the ones with the dots of various colors:



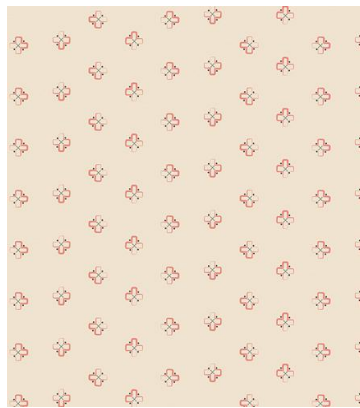
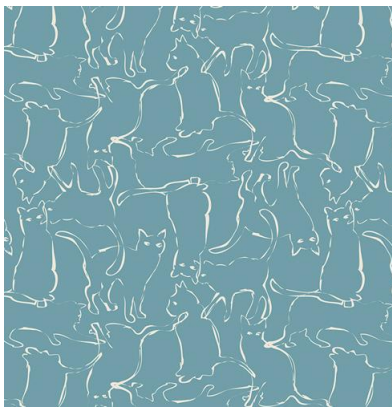
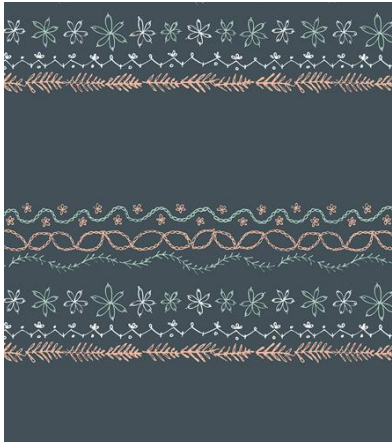
From Northcott: Pony Express:



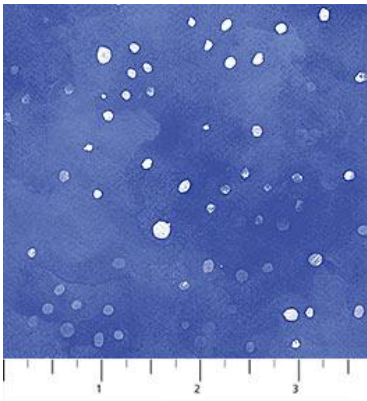
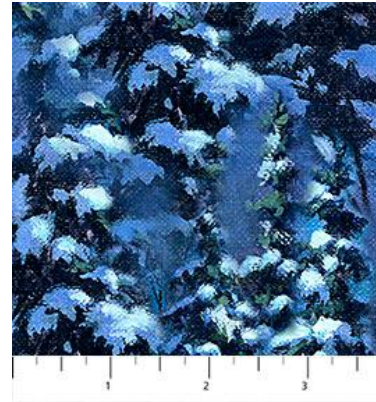


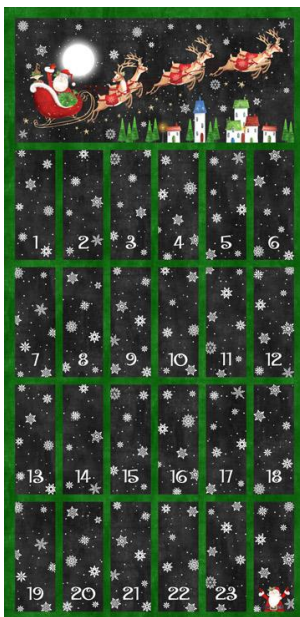


From Art Gallery:

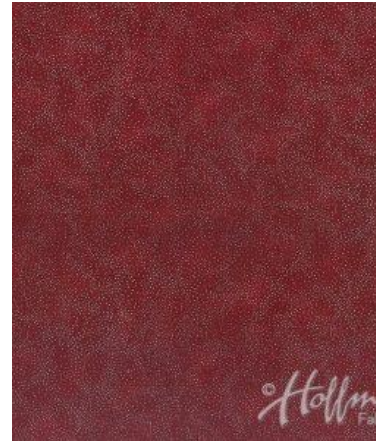


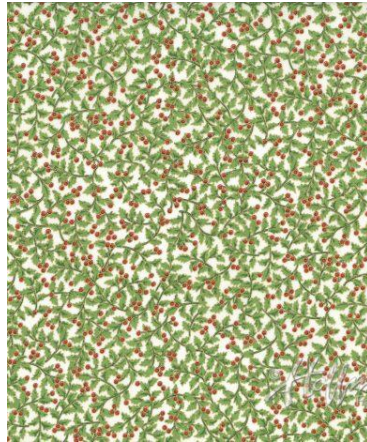
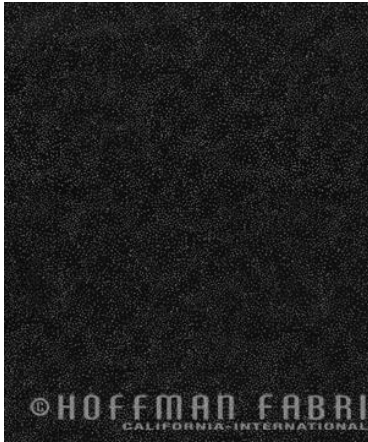
From Northcott: We also got twinkle light for the panels & we'll show you how they work, after we've figured it out.





From Red Rooster:  
From Hoffman:

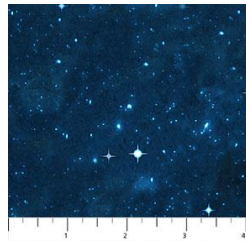


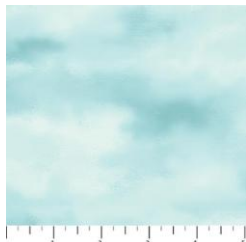
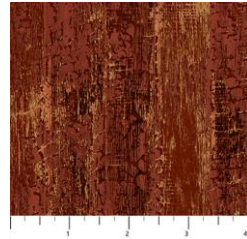


From Hoffman:

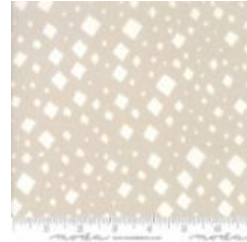
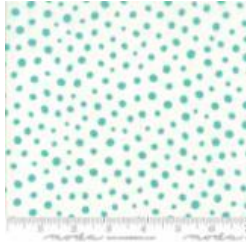


From Northcott:





From Moda:



## ROW BY ROW!

Here is our Row! It's called, "Who Let the Horses Out ..... of the Barn."  
The block with the horses is an elongated Hole in the Barn Door block.



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## August Classes and Special Events (Check calendar below for dates & times)

1. Solar Eclipse Extravaganza! Aug 19, Disappearing Triangle quilt, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer. precut squares and yardage. The second quilt is called the Disappearing 9-patch, on Wed. Aug 23 (NEW TIME). \$20 Barb Boyer. This quilt uses charm packs & yardage. CHANGE IN PLANS FOR CASPER. I PLAN TO GO UP SUNDAY, LEAVING AROUND 4. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING ME, PLEASE CONTACT ME QUICKLY.
2. Counterpoint, Aug 26 10:30-5. Barb Boyer. \$20. This cool quilt typically uses taupes, beige & muted colors for the quilt. Jean did it in bright colors and it transforms the entire quilt into a spectacular wash of color. Part of the secret of the quilt?: In class I will show you how to keep the rows even and straight.
3. English paper piecing on Aug 28 2-4. Come learn how to hand stitch using the English paper piecing method. It's an ongoing class, and class fee is \$20 for the year.
4. See the schedule for other classes: Friday Nighters, Knitting, Embroidery Club, Block of the Month, Monthly Minis, and Open sews.

### August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
y	y	y		y	y	



		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Beginning Quilt 1-4	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Open Sew1-4	<b>5</b> BOM 10:30-11:30 Cora 1-3  Monthly Mini 4-6
<b>6</b> Beginning Quilt 1-4	<b>7</b> Full Moon	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Beginning Quilt 1-4	<b>10</b> Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	<b>11</b> All Things Christmas 1-4	<b>12</b> Embroidery Club 10-noon  Cora 1-6
<b>13</b> Beginning Quilt 1-4	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Open Sew1-4	<b>19</b> Solar Eclipse extravaganza : Day 1: Disappearing Sun quilt 10:30-5
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Solar Eclipse extravaganza : Day 1: Disappearing Sun quilt 10:30-5	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	<b>26</b> Counterpoint 10:30-5
<b>27</b> Pillowcase party 1-4	<b>28</b> English Paper Piecing 2-4	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>Color of the month: Black</b>

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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: August 7.

**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**

July: blue; August: black.

## September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Color of the month: Orange					1	2 10 A C 4 M M
3 CLOSED	4 Fat Quarter Fun 1-6  <a href="#">Labor Day</a>	5	6 Full Moon	7	8 All Things Halloween 1-4	9 Ch Fa 1-6 Po Ki al
10 Beginning Quilt 1-4	11 Pony Express Quilt 10:30-5	12	13 Trip Around the World 10:30-4 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14 Beginning Quilt 6-9	15 Open Sew 1-4	16 Ni 10
17 Beginning Quilt 1-4	18 Pony Express Messenger	19	20 Hand Quilting 10-noon	21 Beginning Quilt 6-9	22	23 BI W

	<b>Bag 10:30-5</b>			<b>Cora 1-6</b>	
<b>24 Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	<b>25 Pony Express Messenger Bag 10:30-5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27 Hand Applique 10-noon Trip Around the World 1-6</b>	<b>28 Cora 1-6 Beginning Quilt 6-9</b>	<b>29 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?</b>

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)

Around the Block, 453 Vandehie Suite 120, Cheyenne, WY 82009