



## 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.**



August 4, 2017

This is a story about making beautiful music in Spain and waiting in lines, although not necessarily in that order. But the story begins in Nebraska.

It's hard to buy gas in Nebraska. I tried, 4 times. My first attempt was in Ogallala. The touchscreen at the pump didn't respond, although it keep telling me to press enter. I pressed every tab on the touchscreen & nothing. Then I glanced further down & spotted a button pad & discovered I had to actually press a button that had no relationship to the touchpad. By then I didn't know which flavor gas I was buying so I tried to cancel the whole thing & start over. Once again I'm pushing buttons--I think I even tried the touchscreen again--but nothing happened. Oh did I mention it was 99+ degrees? I'm kidding. It was only 95 with about that much humidity. My sense of humor regarding this particular pump was waning. So I went into the store, bought a .99 cent bag of

peanuts and told the guy to cancel the sale because I couldn't figure out how to operate the pump. I drove on to Northplatte.

And here's where the "lines" part of the story begins. The first station I tried had signs that said something about regular on lanes - I thought it said the odd numbered lanes. So I drove up and down (there were 12 lanes) until I reread the sign: Regular was on lanes 8-12. Where, of course, everyone was backed up 3 deep in lines. So I went next door, where it was probably more expensive, but no lines. But the card reader didn't like my card & said to see the cashier-which I did because I was afraid the guy at the last stop had not deleted my card and had, in the 30 minute drive to Northplatte, wiped me clean of money. The clerk just said that sometimes the swiper didn't work & did I want to pay inside. Nope.

So I crossed over the interstate to the next station and everything worked just fine - until I tried to actually dispense the gas. The handle thingy wouldn't work. I felt moderately silly trying over & over to get the pump handle to engage. Nope. So down the road I went, and at the 4th station everything worked-which meant the card was still good & I still had money in the bank.

To be fair, on my drive home, I didn't have any of these issues, even in Ogallala-but I did go to a different station there.

The next set of lines I encountered was at dinner the next night in Omaha. I met up with Heidi and we went to her house to practice our music. In case you are late to this story, Heidi and I, plus Jerry, went to Barcelona, Spain, to sing Verdi's Requiem as part of the Jonathan Griffith Singers, under the direction of, of course, Jonathan Griffith. So we ran through the score, singing together. It wasn't pretty but it was good to sing against another part: I'm second alto, Heidi second soprano.

After singing we went to the Surfside bar & grill down by the river. They serve fried catfish and fried chicken. And the line was long, filled with old people, young people, babies, bikers, tattooed to the hilt kids, drunks, locals, out of towners, basically every kind of person imaginable. I decided then that I was in the wrong business. Everyone needs to eat every day and if you keep the menu simple, provide live music, and keep the accoutrements to their very basic (picnic tables on the deck by the river), you'll have a successful business. Although I wouldn't want to be cooking fried stuff in a hot kitchen on a hot Omaha day.

But you probably don't want to hear about hot weather, gas kerfuffles, and long lines. I suspect you want to hear about Barcelona. I'll cut to the chase: I have never sung anything as powerful and moving as the Verdi Requiem. We had a 128 voiced international choir, accompanied by the European Symphony Orchestra & under the direction of Jonathan Griffith. It was a performance of a life time, and, as Jonathan said afterward, it can never be repeated. The combination of singers, musicians, soloists and venue created a unique moment in time that I will remember forever.

Now, I must admit that Verdi's Requiem was not high on my list of favorite things to

sing. I didn't particularly like it at first. And, I also have to admit, that I didn't start listening to a CD version until right before the trip. It's one of those pieces that it is hard to hear your part, especially when the chorus is singing softly behind soloists and orchestra. So I used an on line program that played my part prominently, with the other parts played more softly behind. And I thought I was doing okay until I listened to Sanctus, which is, a rapid fire moving fugue, (think Row Row Row Your Boat in 8 part harmony going faster than you can spit out words). I wrote to Heidi & said, I'm not singing the fugue. At that point in time, though, I had not listened to the end piece, Libera Me, which is also a fugue and goes even faster.

And then a week before we leave comes word that we need to memorize the Sanctus. I asked Jerry a couple of days later if he had it memorized yet, and he said, yes and belted out "Sanctus!" which is the first word sung. That was it. That's all he had.

But we practiced on the plane, in the room at night, during rehearsals, and on the bus rides until it stuck. And, finally, I came to not only appreciate what Verdi had written (thanks in part to Jonathan's tutoring in all things Verdi) but to love the Sanctus (holy) and the Libera Me (deliver me) sung at breakneck speed. I could hear, understand and sing the sotto voce of the Requiem. I could sing in a demanding voice or a pleading voice the Salve Me (save me) sections. And when the bass drum comes in on the Dies Irae (day of wrath), it just makes your heart stop.

We performed the Requiem twice, the first time at a Gothic basilica of Santa Maria de la Seu in Manresa, first built in 890, but essentially destroyed and reconstructed

beginning in 1322. Our dressing room was in the oldest part of the church, probably dating to the 11th century. The interior of the church, where we sang, consisted of large columns and high arches, all stone or marble, which created the phenomenal reverb & echo. There were many times during the performance that we had to wait for the sound to stop bouncing around before we could begin the next section. During rehearsal, a thunderstorm moved through, thundering twice, sounding like cannon fire. The clap of thunder was

amplified by the arching structure of the basilica. Scared the living daylights out of all of us.

Our second concert was at the Palau de la Musica Catalana. The Palau has been designated as a world heritage site by UNESCO and was built between 1905 and 1908. The Concert Auditorium, where we sang, is one of the most distinctive in the world, and has been for more than hundred years the privileged setting for the musical life, both national and international, of the city of Barcelona. On one of our sightseeing tours, our guide proudly pointed out the Palau, and said only the



world's finest musicians play there, and our bus (filled, obviously with the world's finest musicians) tittered slightly.

While the choir may not be have been world famous, our orchestra was second to none, our solosits and our concert master of the Distinguished Concert Orchestra at Carnegie, Jorge Avila, are famous, as is, of course, our director, Jonathan Griffith who is the Principal Conductor at Carnegie Hall and co-founder and Artistic Director of

Distinguished Concerts (DCINY), which has musicians and choral venues across the internationally. The woke up this morning slightly disturbing chair singing to



International New York brought together thousands of singers in concert at prestigious United States, and Requiem is still in my head. I singing Dies Irae, which was because I was sitting in an easy relatives I didn't recognize.

I met many new friends on this trip, all engaging musicians and singers, and other who came along for the ride. Some of them have joined my Newsletter list, so I welcome them to my musings for as long as they like.

I will have more travels to Spain & back in upcoming posts. Waiting in lines & more lines; artists who drank from the same batch of Cool Aid (I swear they were all nuts); topless beaches and the origin of underwire bras; and how to redesign the hotel room and why we hung our underwear in the windows. Stay tuned.

## 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. We do have the pins, but they won't be available until 1) either I get back, so August 1, or 2) not until September when the Pony Express Event actually starts. I think I can sell the charms as soon as I get them, but I will keep you posted. There are a lot of rules.....

### 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.

I'll have more information in the next couple of weeks. If you are curious, ask us to show you the press package from Northcott on the collection. And you can also go to [northcott.com](http://northcott.com) and see all of the rules, prizes, and challenges.

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## Spanish Castles Quilt Challenge

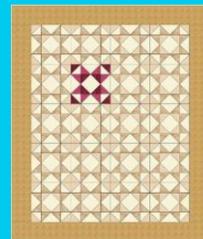
In July, I traveled to Barcelona, Spain, to sing Verdi's Requiem. To help me kick off my adventure, I've organized a quilt challenge where we will make a quilt to be donated next year to the fund raising event for the Cheyenne Youth Symphony.



This is a four part quilt challenge. Part One: Starting July 1, enter the challenge by selecting 3 neutral fat quarters from our basket of neutrals (\$9). Your buy-in gets you the Spanish Castle Quilt Pattern. Part Two: You have 2 months (I changed it) to make your block. Return your completed block by September 1. You may make more than 1 from the 3 fats.

Part Three: Everyone who has entered the challenge & completed the block

gets to participate in the "mosaic" portion of the quilt. I will put the quilt top together and then draw a musical image (like a treble clef) on the top of the quilt. Everyone who has completed Part One & Two will have an opportunity to fuse a square of colorful fabric onto the quilt. Make sense? We will "color in" in the treble clef with colorful squares. I will then quilt the quilt and it will be donated the Cheyenne Youth Symphony for an auction at their fund raiser next year. (Quilt shown doesn't have the mosaic applique on it, yet.)



So what about Part Four? Everyone who enters the challenge, is eligible for Part Four. To enter Part Four, you need to buy 2 fat quarters of colorful fabrics from

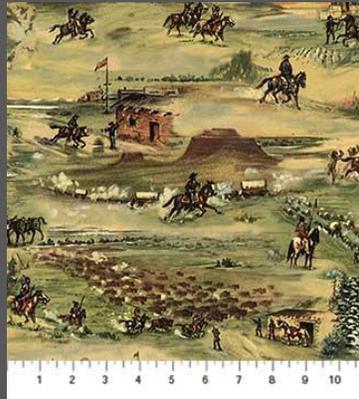
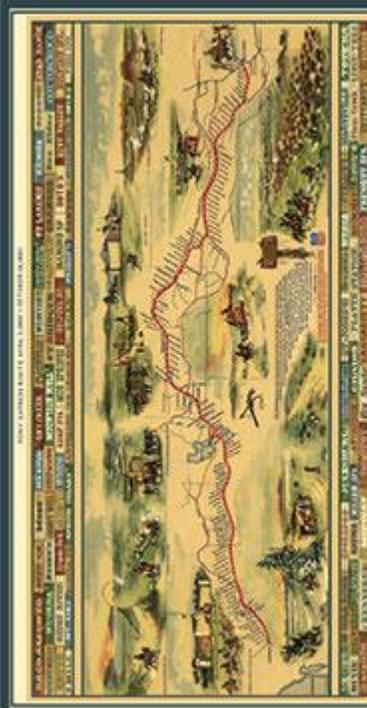
our basket of colorful fats and one neutral fat quarter. With those fats construct up to two Spanish Castle blocks. Turn in your completed colorful block(s) and you will be entered into a drawing to win a selection of the blocks made by other quilters --each block turned in gets you one entry. Make sense? Make up two colorful Spanish Blocks with the 3 fat quarters. Each block gets you one entry into the drawing. You may enter as many times as you like, but for every 2 blocks, you have to buy three fat quarters from the colorful basket. Winners will win up to 6 blocks (all depending on how many blocks get turned in). Multiple winners are possible. Timing is the same for this challenge: July 1-September 1.

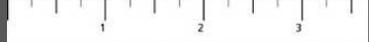
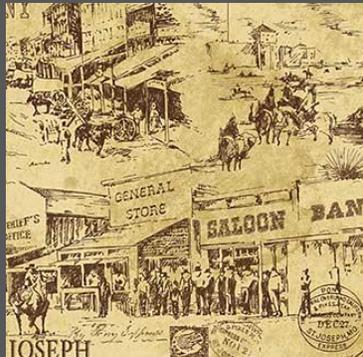
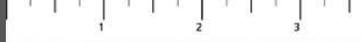
It sounds like a lot of rules, but it's pretty simple. Make a neutral block, with fats purchased from the store, and help participate in making a quilt to be donated to the Cheyenne Youth Symphony. In addition, make a colorful block and put your name in for a drawing to win up to 6 blocks to make your own Spanish Castle quilt. Don't worry--we will color coordinate the blocks that are turned in.

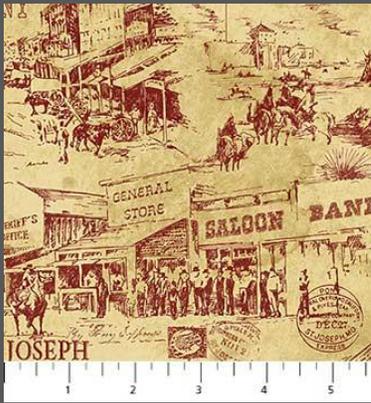


## WHAT'S NEW!!

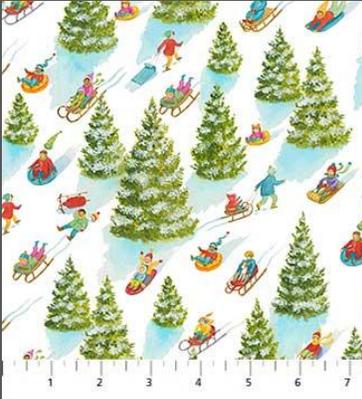
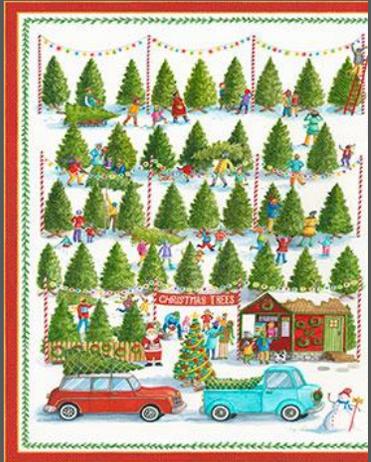
From Northcott: Pony Express: More panels of the map are coming next week.

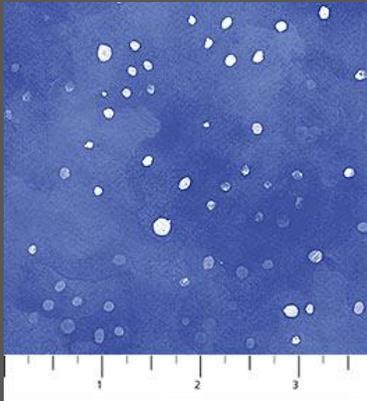






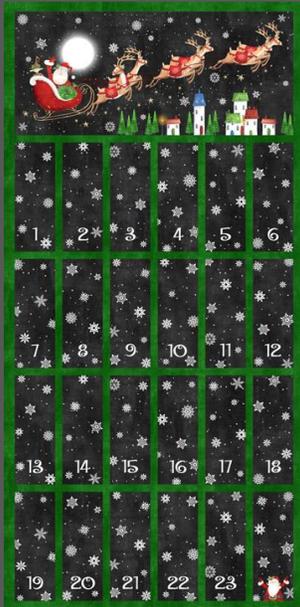
From Northcott: Note, some of this fabric will come next week: Up on a Roof top & Santa Claus is Coming come next week:





Next ones are coming:

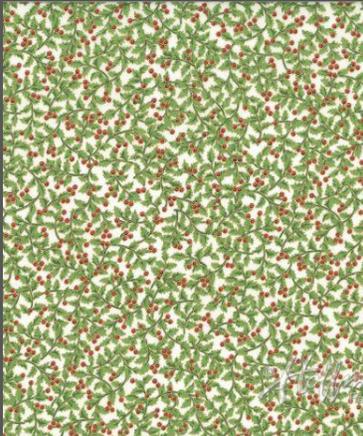
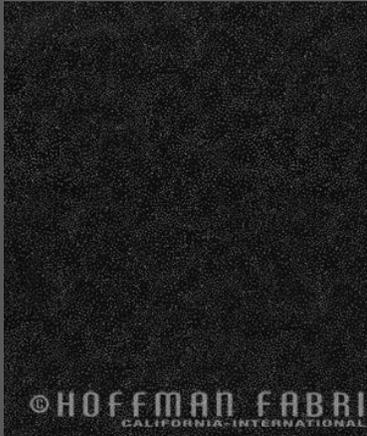
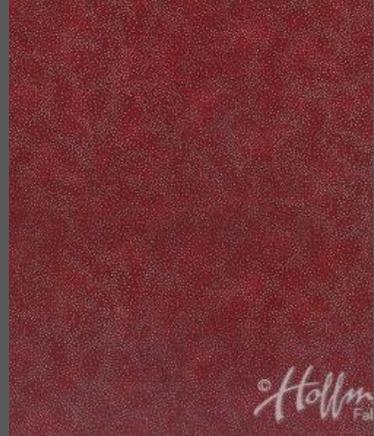
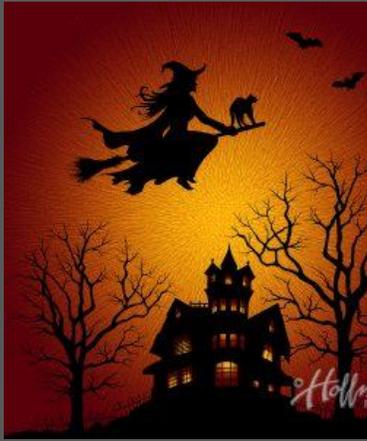




From Red Rooster:



From Hoffman:

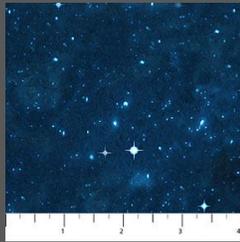


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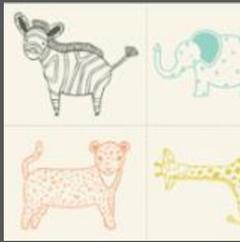
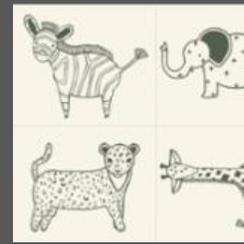
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CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL



From Northcott:



From Moda:



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

1. Cora the Owl: Aug. 5 1-3(for discussion of fabric, cutting, etc); and Aug 12 1-6 (for how to put it together, quilting, etc). \$25 Sue Frerich is back!
2. All Things Christmas, Aug 11 1-4: Santa & Reindeer on Skates. Very cute from Happy Hollow Designs. \$20. Barb Boyer
3. Beginning Machine Quilting: Aug. 16, 1-4. Sue Frerich Learn the basics of machine quilting on you home machine.
4. 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 Sun. Aug 20. \$20 Barb Boyer. This quilt uses charm packs & yardage. Then on Aug 21, we will go to Casper to view the solar eclipse. We have a place to be. We may go up the night before. If you are interested in going, please let me know. If we stay overnight, there will be a charge for the accommodations. We will also use our own cars to drive up to Casper. I hope to have glasses for everyone.

5. Counterpoint, Aug 26 10:30-5. Barb Boyer. \$20. This cool quilt typically uses taupes, beiges & 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.

6. 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.

7. 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
		1	2 Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Open Sew 1-4	5 BOM 10:30-11:30 Cora 1-3  Monthly Mini 4-6
6 Beginning Quilt 1-4	7 Full Moon	8	9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	11 All Things Christmas 1-4	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon  Cora 1-6
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14	15	16 Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	17	18 Open Sew 1-4	19 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 1: Disappearing Sun quilt 10:30-5
20 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 2: Reappearing Sun quilt 1-6	21 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 3: Solar Eclipse quilt &	22	23	24	25 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	26 Counterpoint 10:30-5

	road trip 8-5					
27	28 English Paper Piecing 2-4	29	30	31		Color of the month: Black

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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.

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

