



Around the  Block
QUILT SHOP

February 17, 2017

Good news for everyone living in Washington, D.C. You can rest easier tonight.

No, it's not about Trump and all of the recent White House debacles. He's still there and so are all of the debacles.

No, this "you can rest easier tonight" bit of news is about the National Zoo's bobcats: Ollie, the only female bobcat, escaped Thursday (actually, it was a couple of weeks ago, but I just found the story, so I've "adjusted" the facts for my story-it's a trendy D.C. thing to do these days) .

Anyway, she's one of three bobcats at the zoo, and she escaped through a 5" X 5" hole that even Becca wouldn't be able to get through. And they weigh about the same: 25 pounds. This is an animal (Ollie, not Becca) that feeds on small animals - like pet dogs & cats - and low flying birds. Becca thinks about eating the cat, but she knows I'd wonder where Lydia went and she's not sure about all that fur. She can run faster than you can drive around town (the bobcat, not Becca. Her legs are way too short). A zoo official did say that "she's not a threat unless you become a threat to her." Which, actually, pretty much sums up what's happening in D.C.

But zoo officials were confident that she would want to come back-though they didn't specify why. Frankly, if I were her, I'd want to escape D.C., too. I think that's why Trump leaves town on the weekends. But zoo officials were right, and she was soon caught on the zoo property. Which is a little scary, I think. Toddlers and zoos go hand in hand and toddlers are small pet sized. But nothing happened, Ollie is caged, and everything is back to normal at the zoo. Which is more than you can say about the White House.

In other zoo news, Zoo Atlanta and the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI, had a super bowl bet: The losing zoo had to name a baby animal after the winning team's quarterback. Clearly the Providence zoo was rooting for Brady and the Atlanta zoo was not.

And clearly, Zoo Atlanta was not planning on naming some cute & cuddly Koala or tiger or bear or even penguin baby after Brady. Nope. They chose a baby Madagascar hissing cockroach, now delightfully called Tom Brady. The baby cockroach is about 6 weeks old and zoo officials don't know if it is male or female, yet. And, yes, they hiss when threatened. And it has 6 legs. And eats dead plant stuff. Actually, that's probably a pretty good description of the real Tom Brady.

I had a friend who had a hissing cockroach. She also had rabbits. And I think she had a tortoise. I got to feed & care for her pets when she went out of town. The rabbits were pretty easy, except when I had to catch them after their routine "run around the apartment for exercise." I could keep up with the tortoise. The cockroach was a little strange. I never saw it; I just kept feeding it romaine lettuce. It didn't get to roam around the apartment, thank heaven.

In more animal news. And no we're not back to Trump, scientists are about 2 years away from bringing back the woolly mammoth. You know, that huge creature that stars in Ice Age and talks like Ray Romano? Scientists have been doing a "Jurassic Park" number on genes from long dead mammals combining them with genes from elephants. Sounds a little like what John Hammond was doing in Jurassic Park: finding old dino DNA inside old insects trapped in tree sap and combining it with DNA from frogs.

The gene editing technique is called CRISPR, which stands for bring giants back to life. Actually it means: Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats. I think it should stand for:

create really insane scary prehistoric monsters. But that's just me. I've watched the movies. I know what happens to the lawyer.

We're going to need Melissa McCarthy to help promote this genesplicing/cloning project. She's the actor in the commercials for an eco car that tries to save the whales, forests, rhinos and other endangered things. Well, the plan for this woolly mammoth is to release it in the tundras of Siberia. The mammoths punch holes in the tundra to eat, thus allowing cold air to seep into the ground, keeping the tundra from thawing. That keeps the ice from melting and the greenhouse gases from escaping into the atmosphere. I'm not making this up.

But if successful, this does mean we will have to stay on good terms with Russia. "Cause last I looked, that's where Siberia is.



A Challenge! Featuring 12 Bella Solids #modabellachallenge

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of Moda's Bella Solids Moda is hosting a challenge inspired by Moda's leader, Mark Dunn's, passion for textiles and love of color!

Entries should have a contemporary feel and must include **only 12 Bella Solids and a piece of each must be used.** Any type of piecing, quilting, embroidery, etc. may be used to create your masterpiece. We have all of the solids, but 3, which are on back order.

Anyone can enter. Rules:

- Quilt must contain only the 12 Bella Solids and a piece of each must be used. Any type of piecing, quilting, embroidery, etc. can be used to create a masterpiece.
- Quilt(s) must measure 72 x 90.
- Quilt(s) must be an original design.
- Quilt must be quilted. No quilt tops will be accepted.
- Quilt must be labeled with Maker's and Quilter's name, city and contact information.
- Top 3 National winning quilt(s) will become the property of Moda Fabrics.

No limit to number of entries. International entries will be accepted.

Dates: February 1, 2017 - September 12, 2017

1. Digital image of quilt must be received no later than Tuesday, September 12. All the entries will be judged. Six finalists will be chosen.
2. Finalist quilts must be mailed at owner's expense to Moda home office in Dallas for final judging.
3. Moda will contact the 3 final winners on October 20th. The quilts will be on display in the Moda Fabrics booth during Fall Quilt Market, 2017.
4. The prize money will be considered the purchased price of the three winning quilts. They will become the property of Moda Fabrics.

The best for last:

***First Place - \$5,000**

***Second Place - \$3,000**

***Third Place - \$2,000**

* Purchase Awards - Quilts become the property of Moda Fabrics.

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: March 15.

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!!

Camden Bag parts are in!

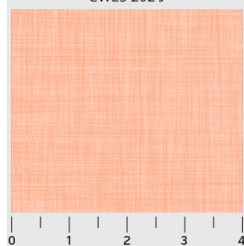
New threads from Presencia, 50/3 (50 weight, 3 ply) on small spools. Plus some green wool blend for embroidery.

From AGF:

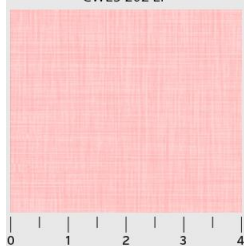


From P & B:

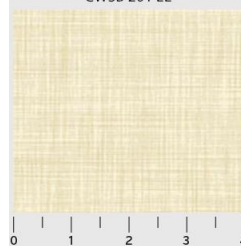
CWE3 202 J



CWE3 202 LP



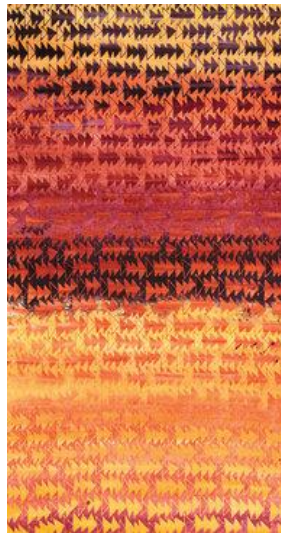
CWSB 201 EE



Stof:



Anthology.

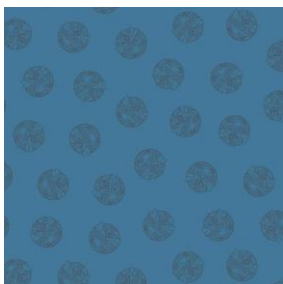
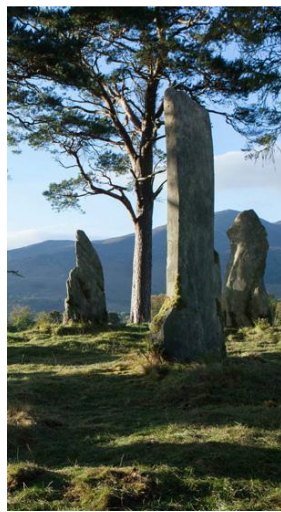




Wilmington:



Andover, the Outlander tv show fabric:



February Classes & Special Events

Beginning Quilting ongoing, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (6-9) OR 12, 19, 26 (1-4)

Camden Bag Thur. Feb 2, 16, (1-4) OR & Sat Feb. 11, 25 1-4 \$25 Sue Frerich
Zigzag together fabric-covered fusible-batting strips for the sides of this charming oval-bottom handmade bag. The pattern has two sizes to choose from: Large 18" wide x 16" tall x 12" deep
Small 13" wide x 9" tall x 9" deep. Sue will walk you through the steps to make this great bag!



All Things Christmas! 2nd 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! First project is a small wall hanging using a panel featuring trucks & trees. Red of course. We will have limited kits available for sale, but any fabrics can be used.



Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE (but see below) Kathy Sconce

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

Starting this fall we are doing barns. If you want to participate, there will be a COST. The patterns is \$20 + \$12 for printing. Each month, I will print the barn on Transfer Ez for you. Bring your fabric and supplies (floss, hoop, scissors, etc), and we will sit & stitch on the blocks during class. Fabric requirements will be provided in the first class.

Back Basting Wed. Feb. 15, 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!



Lone Star Sat. Feb 18, Mar 18 1:30-4 ongoing

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.

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

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. Any number of different designs can be made, including **Grandmother's Flower Garden-this is the pattern I am doing this year**. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and

the Downton Abbey free pattern.

March Classes and Special Events

Spoon Quilting Wed. Mar 1 1-3 \$25 Sandra Freeburg

No more sore fingers! Learn to Spoon Quilt, with a special spoon quilting tool. This tool helps you keep your stitches tiny and even without pricking your finger. Need to have basic quilting skills (rocking motion quilting).

Beginning Quilting ongoing, Mar 1,8 (6-9) OR 12, 19 (1-4)

Block of the Month Sat. Mar. 3 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

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 basket quilt. Each block will be a different basket. The challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to use plaids!

Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1st Sat of the month, OR 1st Mon of each month

Feb - July 1-4 \$25

Eleanor Burns has designed 12 quilt blocks, plus various pieced borders to go with each block, that celebrate 12 famous women, including Martha Washington, Harriot Tubman and Eleanor Roosevelt. Come learn their stories and piece their blocks, using traditional fabrics or make it modern and celebrate today's rising stars from designers like Tula Pink and Kathy Dougherty.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Feb-Dec. 4-6 \$10 for the year (plus patterns or kits)

This year we are doing Holiday House, pre laser cut. Each kit will be app. \$40. These blocks can be made into a quilt, or kept separate as individual wall hangings.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Thur. of the month, 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.

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

We will do 5 Halloween 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 is a wall hanging called "Witches Night Out."** We will have limited kits available for sale.



Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE (but see below) Kathy Sconce

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

Starting this fall we are doing barns. If you want to participate, there will be a COST. The patterns is \$20 + \$12 for printing. Each month, I will print the barn on Transfer Ez for you. Bring your fabric and supplies (floss, hoop, scissors, etc), and we will sit & stitch on the blocks during class. Fabric requirements will be provided in the first class.

Fat Quarter Fun Sat. Mar. 11, OR Mon Mar 13 1-6 \$20 Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich

Every other month we will make a quilt using fat quarters (plus additional fabrics for borders). Three of the quilts will be from the same book, and the last 3 quilts will come from another book, maybe 2 books. Each quilt will employ a new cutting or sewing technique, just to keep it interesting! We will have limited kits of each quilt. We will offer these classes twice-pick your day, Saturday or Monday. **March's quilt is a fun log cabin/partial seam construction block.** Books shows it done in pastels, while Sue's quilt is bright batiks.

Hand Quilting Wed. Mar. 15, 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.

**NATIONAL QUILT DAY
WE'LL HAVE SPECIALS AND DEMOS ALL DAY LONG**

Lone Star Sat. Mar 18 1:30-4 ongoing

Beginning Machine Quilting Wed. Mar 22, 1-4 or 6-9 \$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!

Tennessee Waltz quilt Sat. Mar 25, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

This cute quilt uses 2 blocks, a snowball block and 54-40 or Fight block. The combination makes it look like you've pieced circles. The "circles" provide graceful movement throughout the quilt, just like a Tennessee Waltz. And by using a special ruler combination, the blocks go together quickly and easily.



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

Beginning Machine Applique Wed. Mar 29, 1-4 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.

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

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February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hand quilting 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	2 Camden Bag1-4	3 Open Sew1-4	4BOM 10:30-11:30 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
5 CLOSED	6 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4	7	8 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	9 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	10 All Things Christmas 1-4 Full Moon	11Embroidery Club 10-noon Camden Bag1-4
12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Back Basting 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	16 Camden Bag1-4	17 Open Sew1-4	18 Lone Star 10:30-4
19 Beginning Quilt 1-4	20 Presidents' Day	21	22 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	23	24 Wild Orchid Raven Quilt 2-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	25 Camden Bag1-4
26 Beginning Quilt 1-4	27 English Paper Piecing 2-4	28				Color of the month: Red

March 2017

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			1 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	2	3 Open Sew 1-4	4 BOM 10:30-11:30 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
5 CLOSED	6 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4	7	8 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	9 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	10 All Things Halloween-Witches Night Out 1-4	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Fat Quarter Fun 1-6
12 Beginning Quilt 1-4 Full Moon	13 Fat Quarter Fun 1-6	14	15	16	17 Open Sew 1-4	18 Lone Star 10:30-4
19 Beginning Quilt 1-4	20	21	22 Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4 OR 6-9	23	24	25 Tennessee Waltz 10:30-5
26	27 English Paper Piecing 2-4	28	29 Beginning Machine Applique 1-4 OR 6-9	30	31 Wild Orchid Raven Quilt 2-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	Color of the month: Green

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.

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