



Around the Block
QUILT SHOP

January 20, 2017

So the conversation went a little like this:

Becca, you snore at night.

No. I don't. Yes, you do. No. I don't. Yes, you do. No. I don't. Yes....

You can't win an argument with a mini Australian Shepherd. But, I still try.

...you do. No. It was the cat.

She had a point.

Living with pets can be challenging sometimes, but can also be the source of much amusement.

Which brings me to today's topic: Humor.

A friend of mine came in this week and told me that her New Year's Resolution was to laugh every day. I think that's a great idea and I think we all should give it a try. And not the sarcastic kind of laughing.

No, this has to be more of the bowl full of jelly kind of laughter. Now, this kind of laughter doesn't come around every day. Count yourself lucky if you can get the falling down on the floor, laughing till you cry kind of laughter even once a week.

Now, if you have young kids or pets like Becca, you're more likely to find that kind of funny every day, but you often have to keep it in because your kids may not understand why you think they are so funny. I know this because Becca gets annoyed when I laugh at her.

Art Linkletter's "Kids Say the Darndest Things" was great fun because you never knew what the kid might reply to a fairly straight forward question. For example, Art asked a kid, "What is the first thing a fireman does when the fire alarm bell rings?" "He pulls up his pants." Or "What is the first thing you'd do if you were president?" "I'd keep my mouth shut."

And that will suffice for comments on the inaugural, except-I can't help myself, and this is a bit of sarcasm: You know a speaker needs better writers, when he thanks a choir by saying, "They practice a couple blocks from my house at least twice a week, so they were easy to find." Now, that's how I, as a choir member, want to be selected for the privilege of singing at the inauguration of a president: I was easy to find.

Another kind of laughter is more gentle and subtle. It produces chuckles. Like the beheading of my mailbox.

Still more kinds of humor include paraprosdokians, or a figure of speech in which the end of the sentence is unexpected and usually humorous. For example: Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool, so I gave him a glass of water. Or, Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were. Or He who laughs last thinks slowest.

Which reminds me of a joke - okay I don't remember the joke, but I remember what happened 2 minutes after the joke was told. My girlfriend & I were walking behind my parents and another couple. Julie and I were 12 and in New Mexico on vacation. Ben, my dad's friend, told a joke, and Julie laughed 2 minutes later. I fell apart. Her delay was funnier than the joke was.

And then there are the blonde jokes. I like these jokes, not because they target blondes, but because they are just silly. Like: Two blondes were going to Disneyland. They were driving on the Interstate when they saw the sign that said Disneyland LEFT. They started crying and turned around

and went home.

Or, and this is one of my favorites: There's this blonde out for a walk. She comes to a river and sees another blonde on the opposite bank. 'Yoo-hoo!' she shouts, 'How can I get to the other side?' The second blonde looks up the river then down the river and shouts back, 'You ARE on the other side.'

Or (you see, I can't help myself): A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting! Realizing that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, 'PULL OVER!' 'NO!' the blonde yelled back, 'IT'S A SCARF!'

Another source of fun are newspaper headlines. Like "Americans Are Dying Faster. Millennials, Too." What this means, I think, is not that we die faster, as in dying faster. It means we aren't living as long. Or, "Total Lunar Eclipse will be Broadcast Live on Northwoods Public Radio." I think what's funny, though, is not so much the headline but the underlying concept of the whole story. Or, "Man Accused of Killing Lawyer, Receives New Lawyer." Actually, I would have loved to be the editor who wrote that headline.

Sports events are another great source of humor. Every now & then football or baseball announcers get on a roll & they just can't think & talk at the same time. For example, this was said during the World Series: "He made the wrong mistake." I had to pull out my tablet and write it down.

And finally, my main source of humor often comes from my brother, who sent me this:

This a conversation between a man and his girlfriend. Please note that she asks five or six questions which he answers quite simply.

Woman: Do you drink beer?

Man: Yes

Woman: How many beers a day?

Man: Usually about three.

Woman: How much do you pay per beer?

Man: \$5.00 which includes a tip (this is where it gets scary!)

Woman: And how long have you been drinking?

Man: About 20 years, I suppose

Woman: So a beer costs \$5 and you have three beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5400 - correct?

Man: Correct.

Woman: If in 1 year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000 correct?

Man: Correct

Woman: Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought an airplane?

Man: Do you drink beer?

Woman: No.

Man: Where is your airplane?

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: 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.

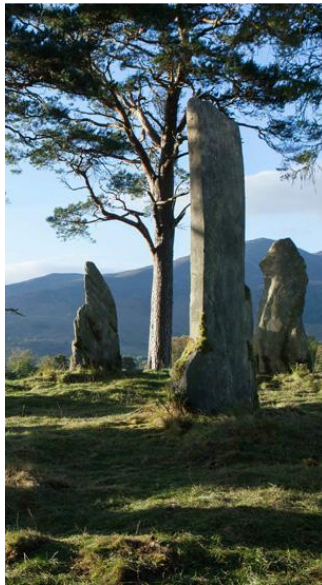
My job, after the contest, will be to put together all blocks into a quilt. This quilt will then be given to the favorite charity as a raffle/fund raiser.

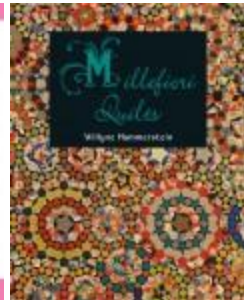
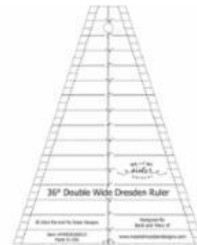
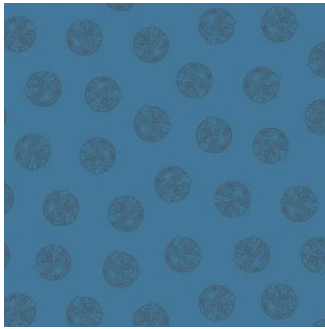
Make sense? All clear? It's Friday the 13th and all sorts of odd things have been happening, so I'm sure I left out some important detail. If you have questions, just ask.

WHAT'S NEW!!

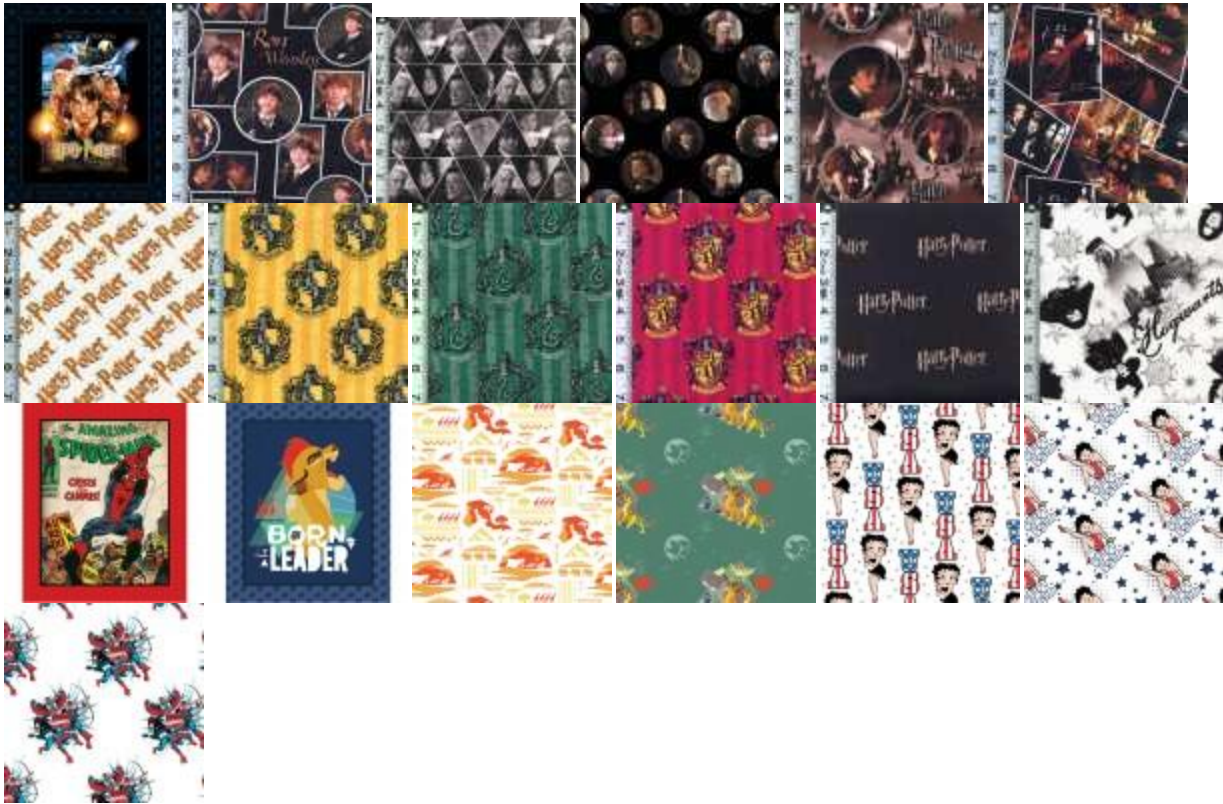
I have most everything posted. We have some more new books, a few other patterns, and I know I left a couple of bolts out.

Andover, the Outlander tv show fabric:

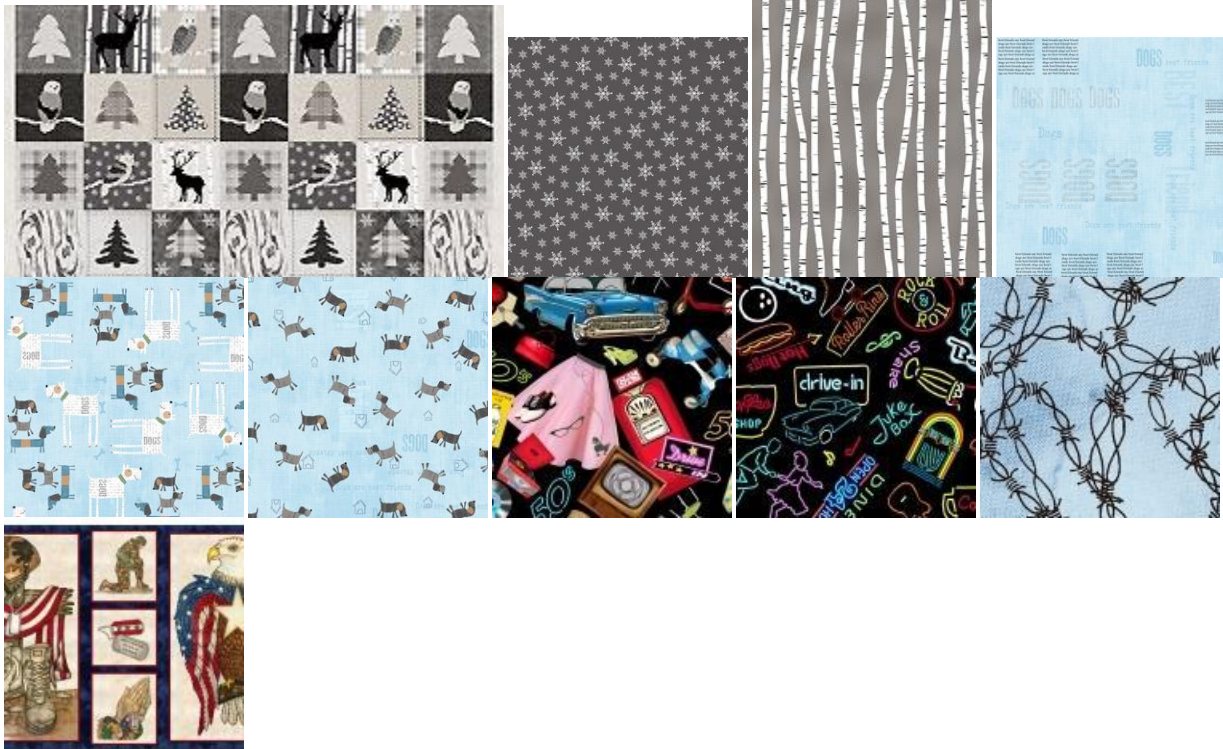




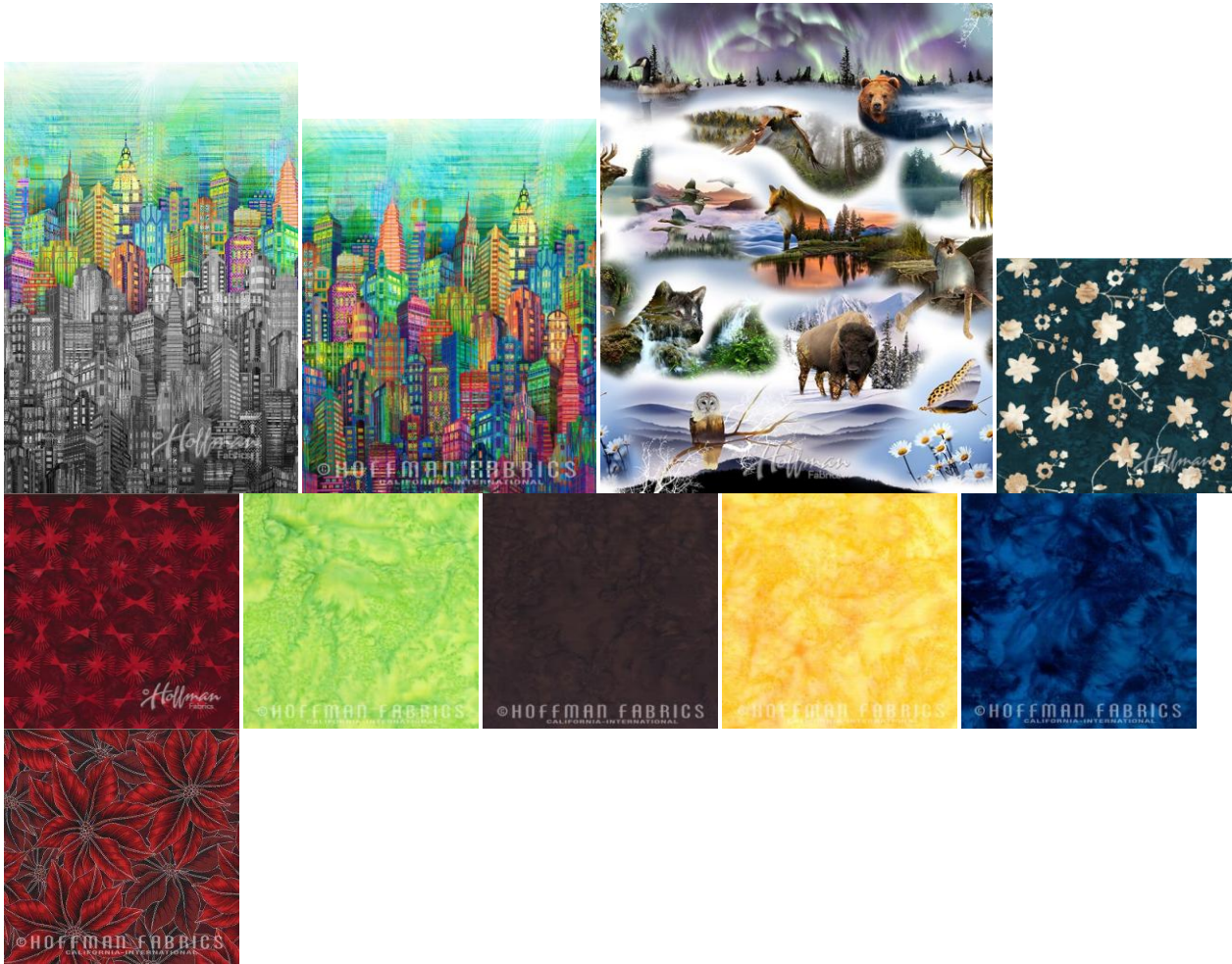
From Camelot Cottons: Harry Potter, Marvel Comics, a couple more Star Wars & Star Trek:



From Blank & Stof:



From Hoffman:



From Robert Kaufman:



(plus about 9 more pinks from

Kona Cottons)

From Alexander Henry:



January Classes & Special Events

Fat Quarter Fun Sat. Jan. Mon Jan 23 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. First quilt: Hearts! Just in time for Valentines Day.



Beginning Quilting Sun. starting Jan 15 1-4 OR Wed Jan 18 6-9 **8 weeks** \$65 Barb Boyer

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Wild Orchid Raven Quilt Fri. Jan 30, 2-4 \$20 (ongoing, but you can join anytime)

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.

Lone Star Sat. Jan. 28, , Feb 18, Mar 18 1:30-4 \$25 Barb Boyer

We are highlighting Bucket List Quilts this year and next. Our Bucket List quilts are those that are 1) traditional, 2) employ a unique sewing technique or skill, 4) quirky (Stack & Whack, Buggy Barn), and 3) everyone talks about wanting to make sometime in their life. Last year we did 4 Bucket List quilts: Log Cabin, Bear's Paw, Double Nine Patch, Stack & Whack and a Paper Piecing quilt (Misty Pond). This year we will make a Lone Star, a Grandmother's Flower Garden (English Paper Piecing style), Tennessee Waltz and a One Block Wonder. And that's just for Spring! The Lone Star quilt uses a Le Moyne Star construction, or Y-Seam. It is also a perfect quilt for hand quilting!



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

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.



February Classes & Special Events

Hand Quilting Wed. Feb. 1, 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.

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!



Block of the Month Sat. Feb. 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 Thurs. of each month, 6-8:30 Carol Moler

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.

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 applique. 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.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED New Year's day	2	3	4	5	6 Open Sew1-4	7 BOM 10:30-11:30 Row By Row
8	9	10	11	12 Full Moon Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	13 All Things Halloween 1-4	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Fat Quarter Fun 1-6
15 Beginning Quilt 1-4	16 Stripped Flannel 10:30-4 M L King Day	17	18 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	19 Misty Pond 1-4	20 Open Sew1-4	21 Eleanor Burns El's Garden Sampler 1-6
22 Beginning Quilt 1-4	23 Fat Quarter Fun 1-6	24	25 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	26	27 Wild Orchid Raven Quilt 2-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	28 Lone Star 10:30-4
29 Beginning Quilt 1-4	30 English Paper Piecing 2-4	31				Color of the month: Purple

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	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 Christmas 1-4 Full Moon	11 Embroidery 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

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