

Expansion news

Come see the expansion! We have a few things yet to do, but the space is open! We do not yet have the Nolting quilt head. That is still coming. So classes and demos on the long arm are delayed for right now. I'll keep you updated.



February 16, 2018

Becca told me last week that she was buying snowshoes. You guessed it. She's been watching the Olympics. I made the mistake of asking how many snowshoes she ordered and she said two. I decided not to question her math. Becca, for those of you new to this newsletter, is my 25 pound mini Australian Shepherd.

"So what sport to you plan on doing with snowshoes?" I asked her.

"Haven't you been watching the Games? There is no sport that uses snow shoes."

"Then why do you want.... Never mind. I don't want to know. So what is your favorite Olympic winter sport?" I asked.

"Curling. They bark a lot at each other. I can bark at the stone to make it move faster."

"Becca, that's not how it works. You have to know math & physics, be able to work a stop watch to calculate speed and distance, and be able to glide smoothly on the ice."

"Well, I guess that lets you out," she smirked. Becca's right about that. I might be able to handle the calculating part of it, but I can't force my knees into the positions necessary to throw the stones, and I'm pretty sure that I'd fall flat on my face on the ice even if I had one sticky shoe for control.

Actually, I don't think there is any winter sport I could do. I'm sure you all watch the Olympics with a kind of wishful hope or fantasy dream, that maybe, if you just worked hard enough, you, too, could be an Olympian. I mean, isn't that how all the athletes got there? The Jamaican bobsled (and now luge) team, Eddie the Eagle from Great Britain who chose ski jumping because he thought it might be the easiest sport he could learn to gain access to the Brit's Olympic team, and probably all of the kids who do crazy stunts on boards and skis. They all dreamed big and now they're Olympians.

But I think winter sports are not in my wheel house. Downhill skiing, including slalom, is out of the question. Actually anything on skis or boards is a death wish. And it terrifies me to think about going down an ice tube feet first on a little tiny sled. I'd crash and my knees would be in my throat- and they don't bend that far anymore. Going head first is a little less terrifying, but not by much.

I tried figure skating when I was younger and had healthy knees and feet, but I had no desire to freeze that much in order to adequately learn the sport. And then at this Olympics I heard something about 590 pounds of pressure when you land on one leg after one of those triple jumps that all look alike but all have different names. I don't know what 590 pounds of pressure is, but there is only about 15 pounds in a pressure cooker and that thing scares me whenever I use it because I think I'll blow up the house if I'm not careful. My knees and feet gravitate sympathy pains when I watch the figure skaters.

Speed skating isn't any better. I tend to watch the speed skaters very late at night, which I don't recommend. It's hard to go to sleep afterwards because your heart rate tends to ramp right up as the skaters race to the finish. Actually, anything involving speed (most of the events) and danger (all of the events except curling, probably) are not conducive to lulling you to sleep.

I can't do biathlons because I don't shoot, and even if I learned, the biathlons require skiing in between shooting sessions, so that is out. The sport of skijoring, which is skiing behind horse, might be possible-kinda like water skiing behind a boat, but they haven't had that sport since 1928, and the horses would have to be walking for me to have any chance of staying upright. Becca vetoed dog sledding (1932) on the grounds that she's not about to haul

anybody anywhere over snow.

Actually, there really isn't any winter sport that isn't done on skis, boards or skates any more--except curling. Maybe that's why I find it fascinating. Maybe that's too strong of a word. Whatever the reason, you start watching it and 3 hours later, you're still watching. It kinda sucks you right in. If I competed in that sport, though, I'd have to be in the stand up league--all stones would be pushed with a stick while standing upright, nobody would use brooms to sweep in front, and everyone would stay on one end--no gliding down the ice. You'd just shove the stone down the ice and hope it stops in the right spot. Like Bocce ball, only colder.

"We should petition the Olympic Committee to include snow shoeing as an event next time," Becca said. "Then even old people like you could participate."

"Thanks for the vote of confidence." Becca ignored me.

"When my snow shoes come in, we can have a race," she went on. She's knows I have a pair in the garage. "When I win, I can stand on a podium and you can raise a flag on my flagpole. I'll be famous."

"So how many snow shoes did you order?" I asked again.

"A pair."

"You know a pair of snow shoes is only 2 snow shoes. What are you going to put on your other 2 feet?" Becca looked from side to side at her feet, doing the math.

I smiled. It's not often I get the drop on Becca.

Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop!

April 20-21

The Ranch, First National Bank Building, Loveland, CO

Our theme for this year's quilt show is Modern Quilts and we are asking for your participation. Design your own modern quilt or use a commercial pattern that embraces the modern quilting movement. To participate, fill out an entry form and bring it to the shop with your quilt by April 2. Forms are available here, just ask me for one. Quilts will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 20 & 21. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$400 1st, \$300 2nd, and \$200 3rd, selected by Viewer's Choice. Quilts and prizes can be collected from me after the show.

A few rules: Quilts must be made by entrant and made within the last 6 months.

Our challenge this year is cats & dogs! Big ones, little ones, funny ones, short ones, tall ones. Design your own project or use a commercial pattern. To participate, fill out an entry form (get from me) and bring it to the shop with your project by April 2. Wallhangings, totes or other interpretations of cats and dogs no larger than 60" X 60" will be accepted. Last year Tracy Wilson won! Can we take home the prize again this year?!!!!

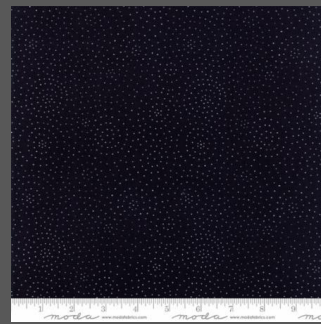
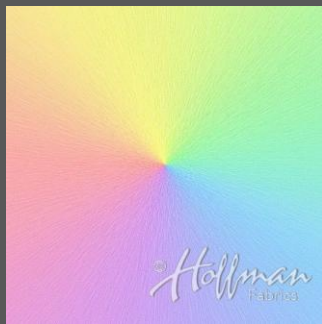
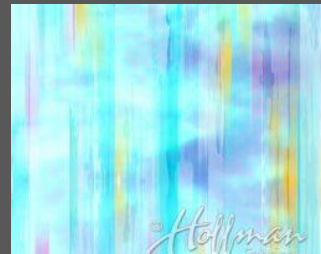
Projects will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 20 & 21. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$150 1st, \$100 2nd, \$50 3rd, selected by Viewer's Choice. Projects and prizes can be collected from me after the show.

A few rules: Projects must be made by entrant and made within the last 6 months.

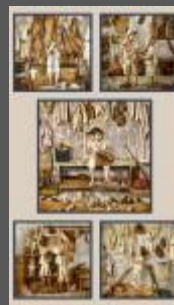
WHAT'S NEW!!

From Hoffman:



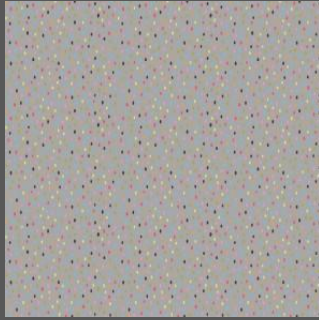


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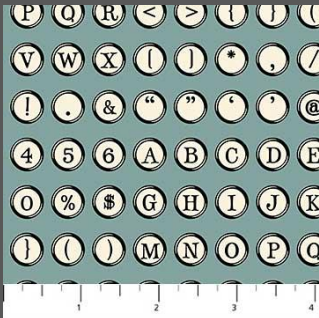
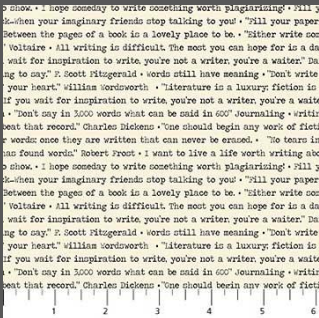


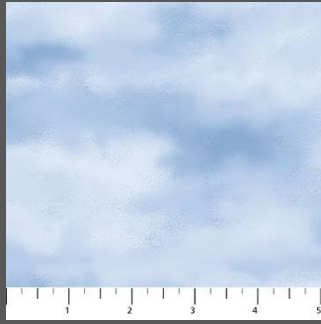
From Stoff:



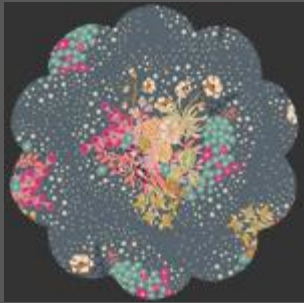
The music notes are white on white

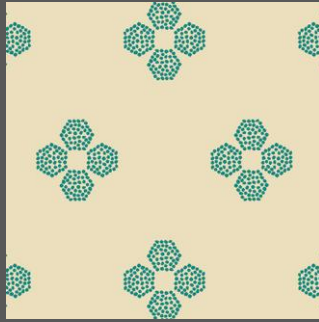
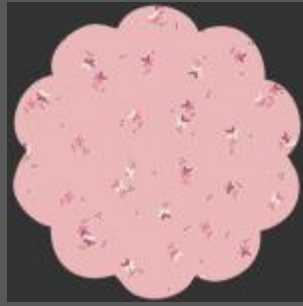
From Northcott:





From AGF:





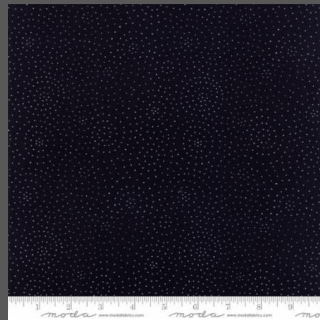
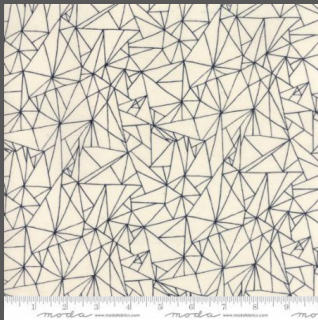
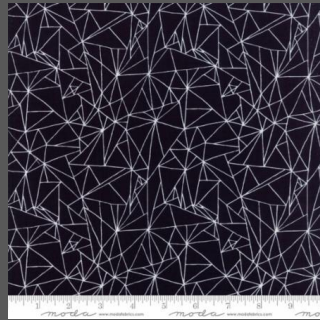
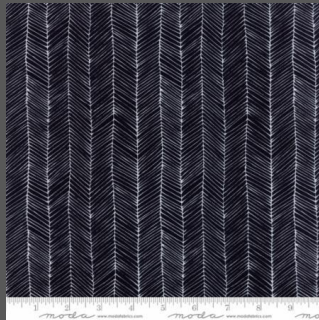
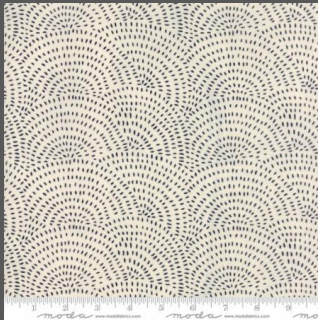
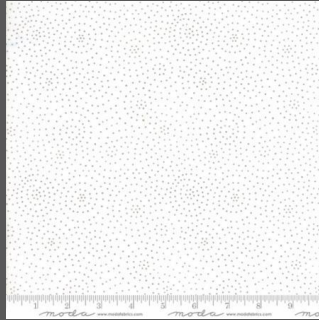
From RJR & Cotton & Steel:

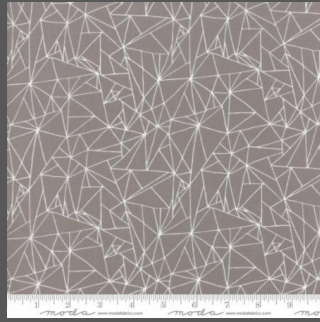
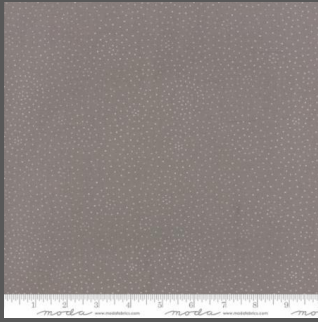




Plus a box of basics fat quarters, from Cotton & Steel

From Moda:

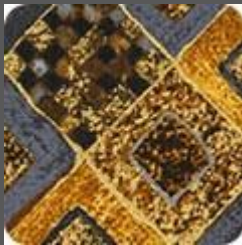


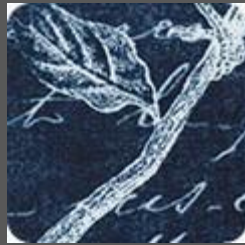


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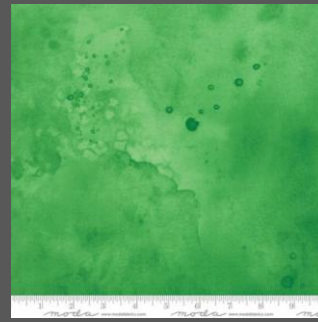
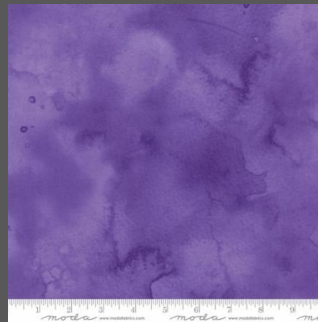
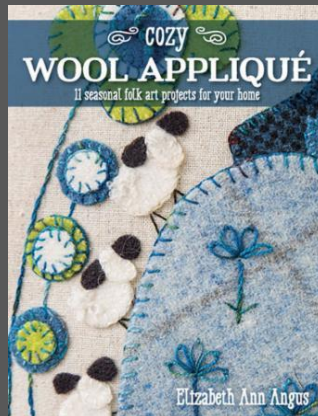
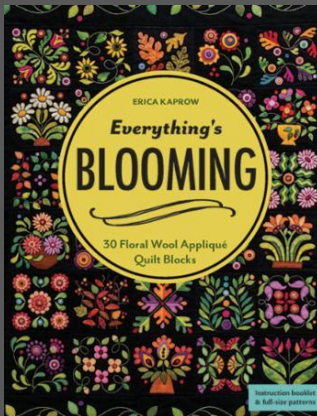


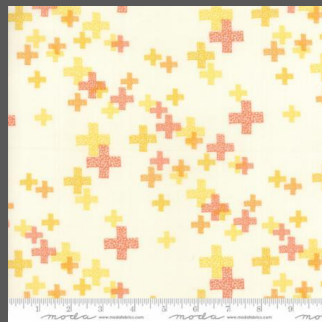
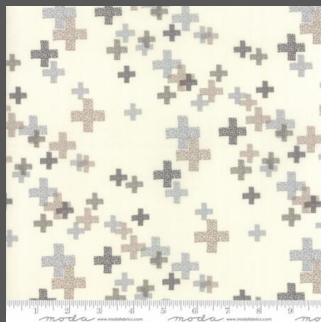
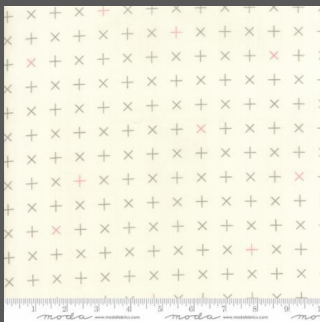
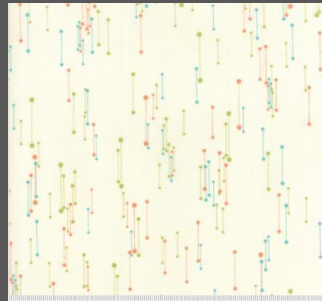
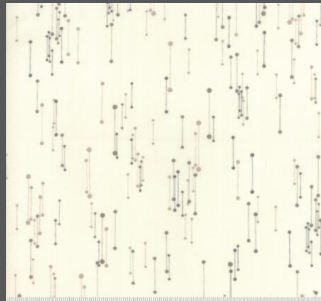
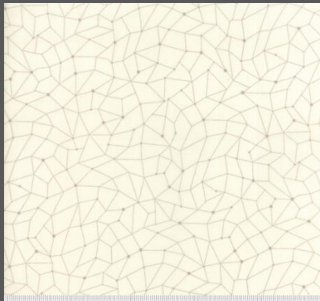
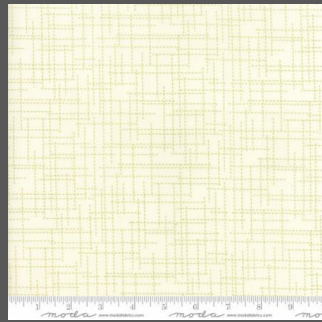
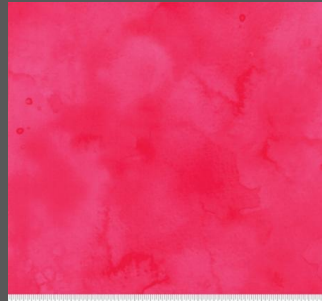
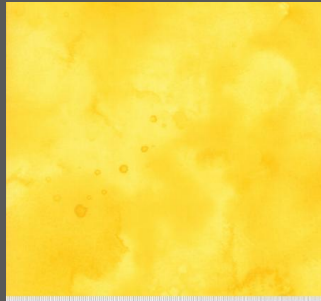
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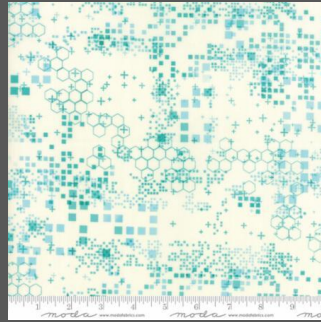
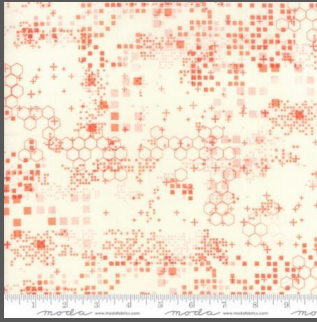




From Moda:







Class descriptions follow the calendar, so keep scrolling. Classes are listed alphabetically.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Beginning Quilt 6-9	2	3 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
4 CLOSED	5	6	7 Spoon Quilting 10-noon	8 Beginning Quilt 6-9	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Baltimore Woods 1-4
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Beginning Quilt 1-4			Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	Beginning Quilt 6-9		Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30 & 3-6 Rainstick quilt 10:30-4
18 Beginning Quilt 1-4	19 Take 5 10:30-5	20	21	22 Beginning Quilt 6-9	23	24 Strippy Quilt 10:30-4
25 Beginning Quilt 1-4	26 English Paper Piecing 1-4	27	28 Long Arm Quilt demo 10:30- 1:30			Color of the month: Red

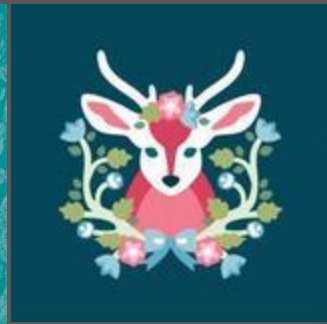
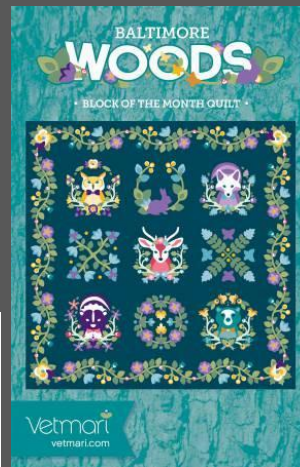
March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3

				Beginning Quilt 6-8:30 FULL MOON		BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
4 CLOSED	5	6	7 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30 OR 6-9	8 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon
11 Beginning Quilt 1-4	12	13	14 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6- 8:30	15	16	17 French Braid10:30- 5
18 Beginning Quilt 1-4	19	20	21 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30 OR 6-9	22 Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4 and 6- 9	23	24 Spider Web Quilt 10:30-4
25 Beginning Quilt 1-4	26 English Paper Piecing 1-4	27	28 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30 OR 6-9	29 Beginning Machine Applique 1-4 and 6- 9	30	31 French Braid10:30- 5 FULL MOON BLUE MOON
Color of the month: Green						

Baltimore Woods Block of the Month 2nd Saturday of the month through April 1-4 \$25 Sue Frerich.

This Baltimore album inspired quilt features adorable woodland creatures including an owl, fox, deer, skunk and bear along with a modern takes on some traditional Baltimore blocks. These blocks are fused and machine applied in place.



Beginning Machine Applique Thurs Mar 29, 1-4 AND 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.

Beginning Machine Quilting Thurs Mar 22, 1-4 AND 6-9 \$25 Sue Frerich

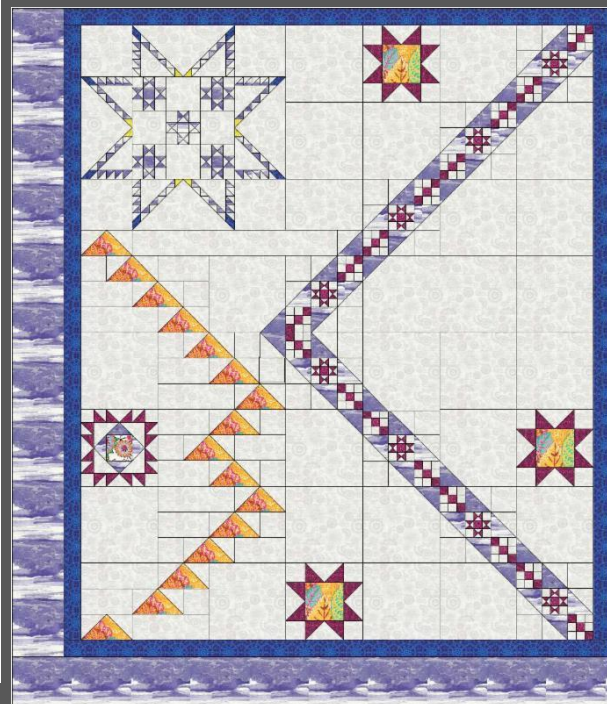
Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt your name!

Beginning Quilting Thurs. starting Jan 18 6-9 OR Sun Jan 21 1-4 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.

Block of the Month First Sat of month 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 "modern" quilt. Something new, something different. I will provide some other options as we explore the modern quilt world.



Cardinal Waltz Sat January 20, 1-6 2-4 Barb Boyer \$20

This quilt features the classic 54-40 or Fight block paired with a Snowball block. The combination is often called Tennessee Waltz. Pattern will be provided and a special ruler will be required. While this quilt is made in Christmas colors of red and green, the cardinal fabric that used is timeless and can be displayed any time during the year.



English Paper Piecing Club 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 STILL doing this year. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and the Downton Abbey free pattern.

Floral Menagerie 1st Saturday of Month thru June, 1-4 Barb Boyer free with purchase of kit

This adorable, bright & sparkling quilt is a snap to do. The quilt is kitted and the class works as follows: Buy the first installment for \$123, which contains all of the background fabric, the pattern and the first 2 blocks. Then every month, for \$16 you will get the fabric for the next 2 blocks. During class, you will have time to cut and piece your blocks-you may even get them done! I will also teach how to do the machine applique on the animals. We have 5 kits left-these kits will not be on the Customer Appreciation Sale.



French Braid March 17 & 31 10:30-5 Sue Frerich \$25

Are you looking for a little challenge & new technique to learn? That results in a spectacular quilt? Then come learn how to do the French Braid quilt. Casca

ding colors make this a very striking quilt-and it really is easier

than it looks. Techniques learn include how to handle bias, color placement to create a great cascading effect, and, of course, how to French Braid!

Hand Applique/Back Basting Wed Jan 17, 10-noon 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!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

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. You can work on your own projects or you can join the project we are doing. This year we are following a purchased pattern called My Crazy Life. It is wool appliques on flannel backgrounds. Then we will explore a variety of embroidery stitches to embellish each block-4 six inch blocks per month (or whatever you choose to do), for a total of 48 blocks. 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. We will also discuss wool, felted wool, wool felt, various threads for embroidery, various techniques for the wool applique and setting options for the quilt.

Hand Quilting Wed Jan 31, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$25

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.

Hunter Star, the easy way May 19 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$20 (Watch this date, it may have to change)

The Hunter looks complicated, but with the fast & easy tool, it's a snap. We are getting beautiful collections that I bought specifically for this class. If you are looking to learn a new technique, this is a great quilt for that.



Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Wed 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. This year we are doing a knit along project involving 6" squares. Each month we will learn a different pattern (or 2), make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project-afghan, scarf, bag, etc. Join us & learn some new stitches!

Long Arm Quilting Classes Wednesdays in February, March & April from 10:30-1:30 or 6-8:30 and Saturday Feb. 17, 10:30-1:30 & 3-6, Barb Boyer \$30 (check calendar for times & dates)

In this class you will learn all about the Nolting long arm quilting machines: loading, threading, quilting. I'll demonstrate how to load and thread, set stitch length, change tension, wind and load bobbins. Then I will load a practice quilt onto the machine and show how to do hand guided quilting. Each student will be given at least 15-20 minutes of practice time. (Each class is limited to 4 students). You will be able to do free hand quilting plus you can practice following a pantograph. Any quilter who wants to rent to machines must take this class first, regardless of whether you have experience on a long arm machine. This class is not designed to teach you everything there is to know about long arm quilting-it's just a start.

Long Arm Quilt Demonstrations Wednesdays in January from 1-3 Barb Boyer FREE!

Come watch long arm quilting in action! I will have a quilt loaded onto our Nolting long arm machine and I'll demonstrate various quilting patterns and basically show how the machine works. Come & watch, stay as long as you like. I have the classes scheduled to begin on the 10th, assuming our new space is up & running.



Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Feb-Dec. 4-6 FREE

This year we are going to do the Great Pumpkin Quilt, a purchased pattern. It will start in February because we are still finishing last year's Holiday Houses in January. Starting in February we will work on the Great Pumpkin quilt. We will plan to do 2 blocks a month, and do the top banner section over two months. In class we will discuss use of color in the backgrounds and pumpkins. We will also discuss and learn various machine applique techniques to use on the blocks.

**One Block Wonder Panel Quilt Sat April 28
& May 12 & 26 see calendar for times
\$30 Sue Frerich**

For all of you who missed the class before, you don't want to miss this class-we won't have it on the schedule again for awhile. 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!



Pillow Case Party Sun. April 29 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 great presents! This styled class and pillow cases make

Rain Stick Quilt, Saturday

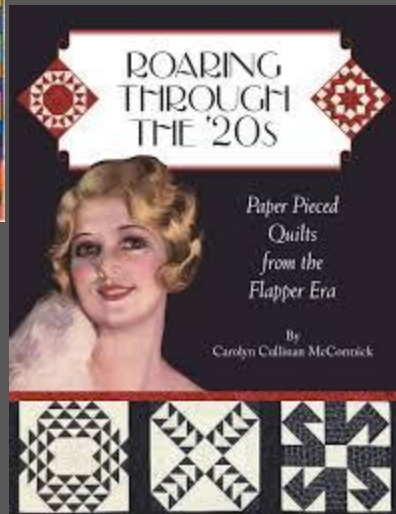
This is a brightly colored, It's a cascade of color in strips the sound a rain stick makes. in cascading colors for your



Feb 17 10:30-4 Sue Frerich \$25 almost color wheel flavored quilt. and squares, imitating the visually We will have precut strips available convenience.

**Roaring through the 20s, Foundation Paper Piecing Thursdays
Feb 1 & 15; Mar 1 & 15, April 5 & 26. 2-4 Sue Frerich \$30**

The blocks are classic, but you can put a modern spin on the blocks through your fabric selection. Learn to do a variety of paper pieced blocks-2 blocks per class and class every other week (for the most part) to keep you going. This is a great dorm quilt for your new grad, a mom's day quilt, a wedding quilt-just think of the May gifts you may be needing and make this quilt as one of your gifts. It's a



perfect way to learn paper piecing.

Spider Web Quilt Saturday March 24. 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$20

Everyone who has the 60 degree triangle for making the Triangle Frenzy table runner-here is a quilt that you can do using this same ruler! It's a strip pieced quilt (strip size of your choosing). Turn your strips into triangles and turn your triangles into rows, creating "spider webs." Great for scraps or precuts.



Spoon Quilting Wed Feb 7, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$25

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).

Strippy Quilt Feb. 24, 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$20

This is a great plaid quilt-but one where you don't have to worry about keeping anything straight. It has strips, squares, and diagonal stripped blocks, very geometric. Perfect for scraps, flannels, brushed cottons, solids, and I can envision a stunning version all from batiks.

Take 5 Quilt, Monday February 19 10:30-54 Barb Boyer \$20

In 5 minutes you can find 5 fabrics and in 5 hours you will have a quilt. You can do it, but most people take a little longer. This is a quick & easy quilt. It's great for a kid's quilt, a dorm quilt, or just a quilt to showcase big and bold prints. Come sew all and see how far you get!



Nolting Longarm Machines

Nolting has 5 main machines, each with different reaches: from 17" to 30" depending on the machine. They are sold with or without a frame, but after I saw & helped set up one of the steel frames this week, I recommend buying the frame. All machines, except for the Standard--the most economical machine-- have a stitch regulator. I recommend a stitch

regulator. All machines can be equipped with a computer and there are a couple of different ones to choose from. In addition, you can get an extended table base so that you can use rulers, you can get larger bobbins on some of the models and on the frames you can get hydraulic lifts to raise and lower the tables. In the coming weeks, I will print out more information on each model.

The best entry level machine is the Fun Quilter. It comes in 17", 20" & 23" reach. It comes with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The Pro Machine has the Intellistitch Turbo stitch regulator, single stitch option, standard speed control, needle up/down and customizable handles in the front & rear. The Pro Machine comes in 20", 24" and 30" reach with 10-12" of inside height. There are easy dials on the front to set stitch length and other options. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The NV Machine is the newest in the fleet of Nolting machines. This machine has a touch screen with programmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



Nolting also has a commercial machine with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

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 use printed patterns and some vintage free patterns that you can embroider, embellish and color. Depending on the projects, 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 1, Jan 31, March 1, March 31

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

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