



May 11, 2018

I'm going to offer some advice. I don't usually do this, but I thought you might appreciate what I'm going through and maybe my insight will help you avoid this confusion.

Never read 2 books at the same time, unless the story lines are radically different. I know, you were thinking I was going to provide some life changing, momentous kind of insight. I leave that kind of thinking to Becca, my mini Aussie. She's good at that kind of stuff.

No, I'm talking about reading 2 different American history books at the same time: *Freedom*, by William Safire, and *1776* by David McCullough. Now, one takes place during the civil war-if you can't figure out which one it is, I'll give you a hint. It's not *1776*.

Freedom is set shortly after Lincoln becomes president. It is more than 900 pages and I don't know how it ends. I mean, I have the general idea, but I still have about 300 pages to go. When I started this book, I figured if I read 10 pages a night it would take me about 3 months. I'm pushing 4 months. I can finally see progress, though, because there are more pages on the left side of the book than the right.

Now I thought I wouldn't have any trouble keeping the stories apart. One has Washington & the other Lincoln. One is a novel, one is nonfiction. But that's about where the distinctions end. Both books have a lot of the same players, same battles, same issues. Now, don't send letters. I know there was a good 80 years or so between these two wars. People who fought in the first weren't around for the second: but their relatives were. And that's part of the problem. There are Grants, Lees, Hamiltons, Georges, Scotss, Washingtons, Shermans, Daviss, Benjamins all over the place-you get the picture. I can't

keep the players straight. Plus I read one late at night and listen to the other while driving. It gets hard to concentrate, sometimes.

The battles were also in the same places, on the same rivers, in the same towns. Right now in 1776, Washington is retreating from New York and Howe (British admiral) is advancing into New York. In Freedom, Lee (south general) is moving north of D.C., threatening New York and McClellan (north general) isn't doing anything. I'm beginning to lose track of who's who, who's marching on whom and who's on which side.

Even the issues surrounding the wars are similar: Free the slaves or don't free them; arm the freed slaves or not; 1776 revolutionaries were Americans, 1863 revolutionaries were Americans, they just lived in the southern states; soldiers didn't have enough to eat, clothes to wear, or guns to tote in both wars; generals didn't know what they were doing, in both wars. That's the part I've found amazing. No one really knew what the other side was up to or where they were or how many soldiers each side had for any given skirmish. Officers weren't trained, for the most part, soldiers weren't trained for the most part, soldiers ran away regularly, soldiers left for home when they wanted, and conscriptions (many of the soldiers were hired) ran out in the middle of battles.

I have just started 1776 and I am listening to it in the car. I'm not sure where this one will end, but I only have 3 more cds to listen to, so I will reach the end of this saga way before I reach the end of the civil war. Also, the book's title is 1776 and that war didn't end until 1783. So I think it's going to be a cliff hanger.

And speaking of cliff hangers (that's called a segue, not a good one but a transition none the less), I am tired of year end show cliff hangers. I won't remember what happened at a season finale that airs in April by the time next fall rolls around, so don't leave me in suspense. But I can tell you that all of the season finales are "shocking," or have "an unexpected twist you won't see coming," or have characters "whom we are saying goodbye to."

Some shows advertise: "you won't see this one coming" or "(insert your favorite character) will be facing grave consequences" or "stay tuned for an unpredictable season finale" or "(insert your favorite characters) will find themselves tested in this riveting season ender" or "brace yourself" or..... The problem is, if you don't watch that show, you don't care. And if you do, you'll watch anyway.

I remember when a tv series just ended for the year, but that was a long time

ago. Then in 1976, Michael Douglas decided to leave Streets of San Francisco and the writers wanted to kill him off, or at least that's what I remember. I don't think a main character had ever been eliminated like that before and the fan base erupted. Consequently, the character was just shot, not killed, and he went on to lead a life as a professor. I think the same thing basically happened on Magnum P.I. The writers killed him off, but he didn't really stay dead. And I think that was the real beginning of cliff hangers and killing off beloved characters.

Regardless, the season finales are under way and most seasons have ended. And that's probably a good thing. Because Hallmark has started advertising it's new Christmas movies. Actually, they started advertising back in April. So it's official: you can now put up your Christmas tree and hang the lights because it's only 229 days until Christmas.

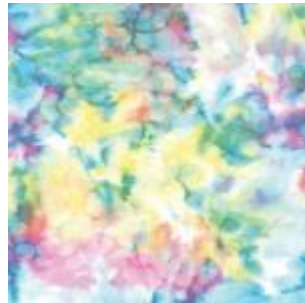
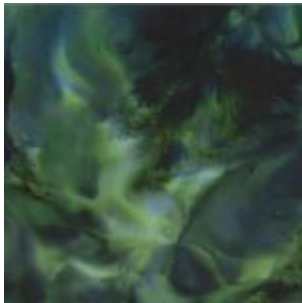
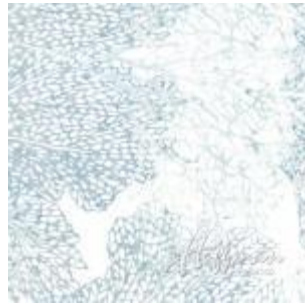
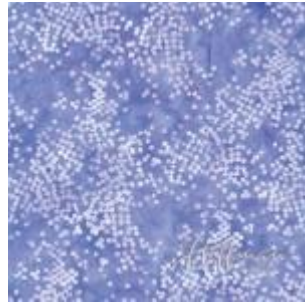
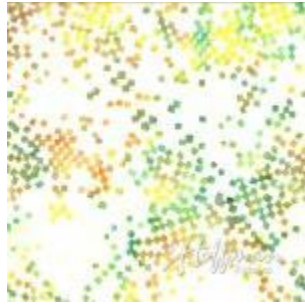
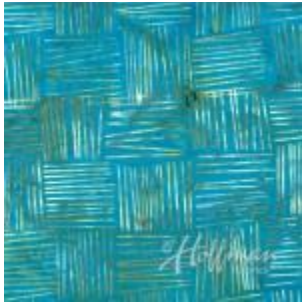
And in case you haven't noticed, Spring is officially here! Red blooming trees are red, white ones are white, willows are yellow and others are barely green. Dandelions are out in force and !!!!my tulips and purple hyacinths are blooming. Christmas can take its time.

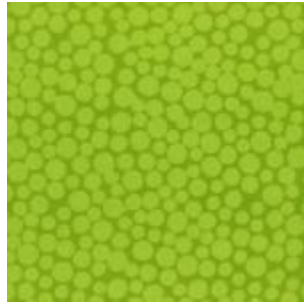
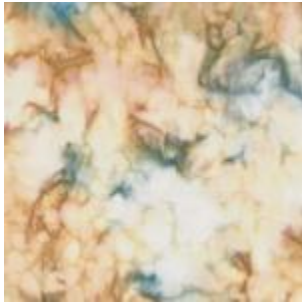
WHAT'S NEW!!

Also, we just got a shipment from RJR & I'll get those fabrics in next week.

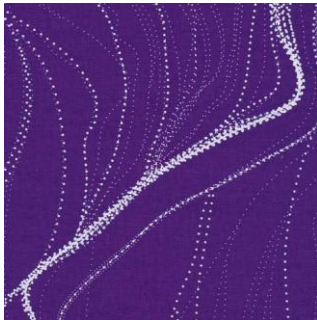
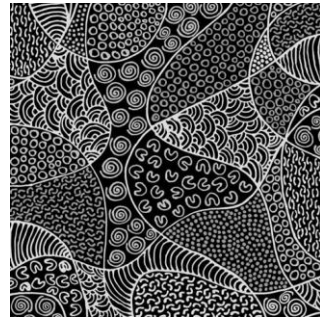
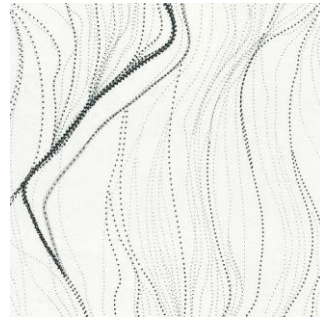
From Hoffman: And there may be others. We got dumped on today. Lots of fabric in.





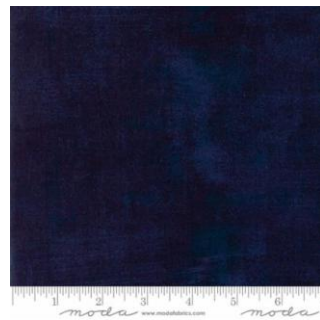


From M&S Textiles:

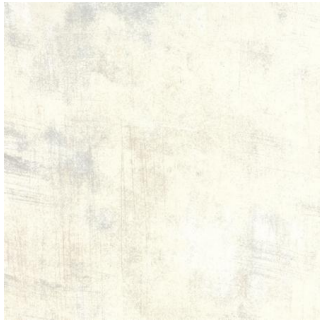


Plus 2 or 3 others-- couldn't quickly locate the pictures. Also we have 2 1/2" strip sets of Dreamtime, and 10" squares of the Dreamtime collection

Wide back from Moda:

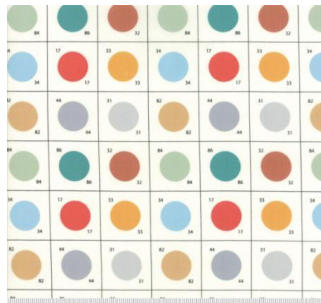


grunge

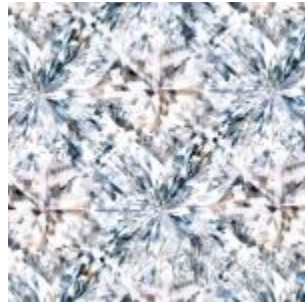


grunge

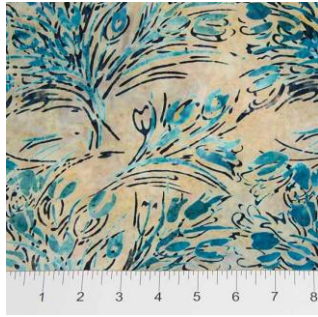
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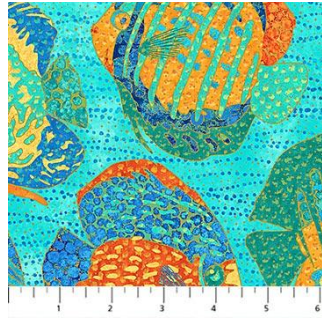
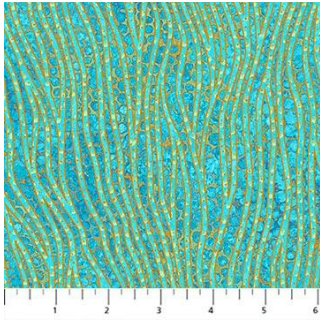


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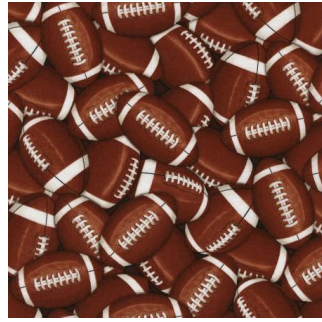
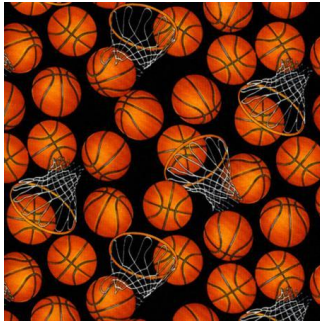
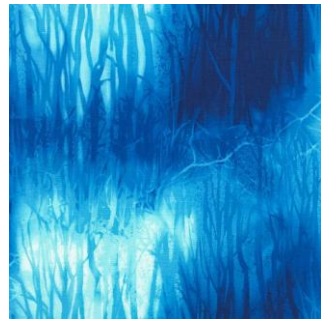
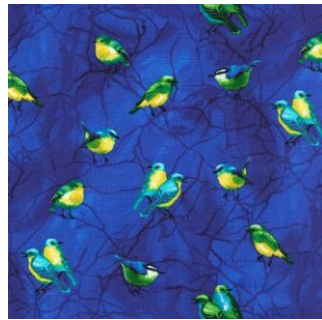


From Northcott:





From Timeless Treasures:



From Henry Glass:



wool



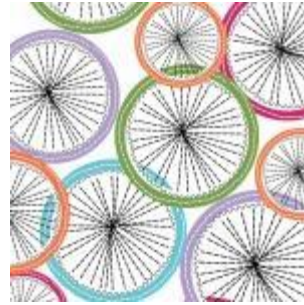
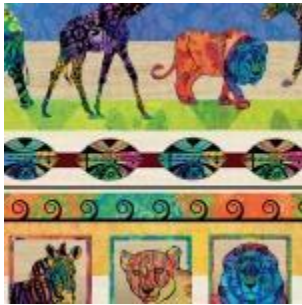
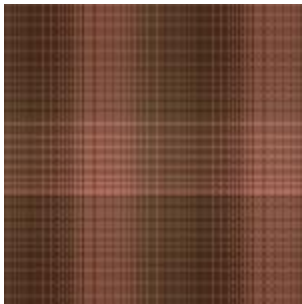
wool



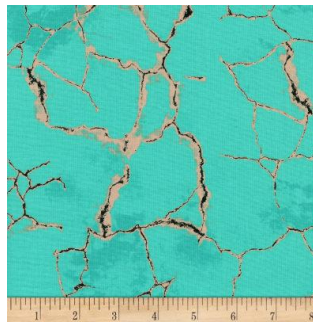
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wool

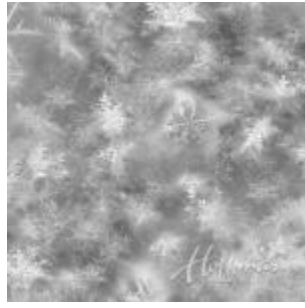


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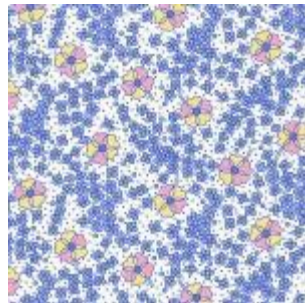
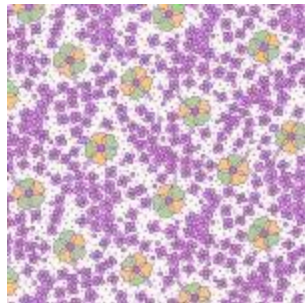
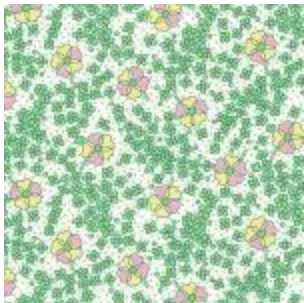
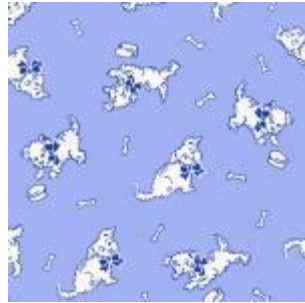
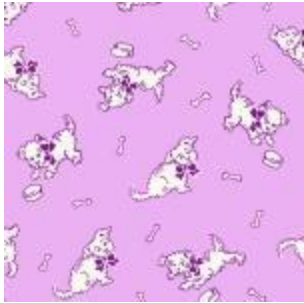


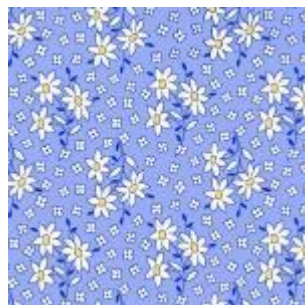
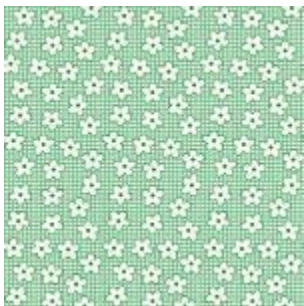
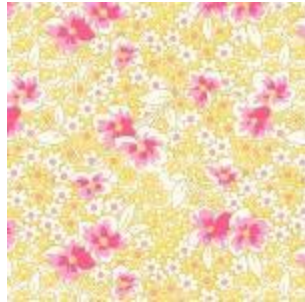
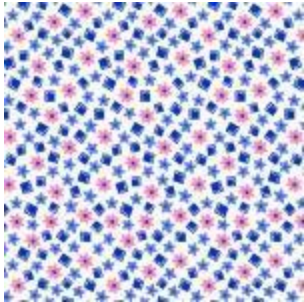
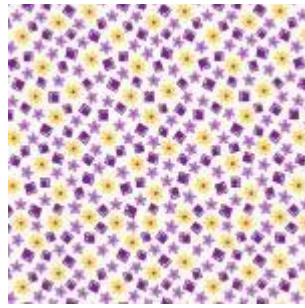
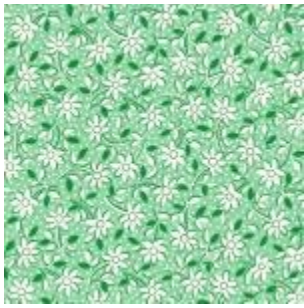
From Hoffman:



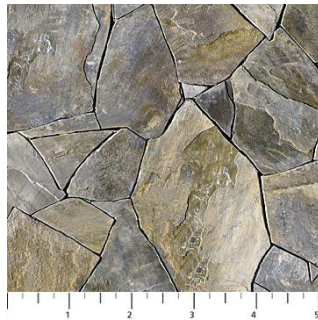
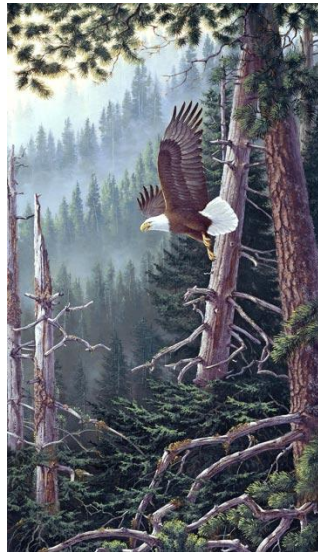


From Henry Glass, the Nana Mae 30s collection:





From Northcott:



SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!

Classes are on Wednesdays and Saturdays in April: 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30, or 6-8:30. Check the calendar for April dates. Only 4 to a class.

Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Tuesdays and Fridays, and a couple of Sunday rentals only for right now. Check the April calendar for rentals on Sunday. 2 rentals times per day: 10:30-2

and 2:30-6. \$25/hr or \$85 for 3 1/2 hours. \$50 minimum. Plus \$5/bobbin for thread. Most quilts (double and smaller), even for beginners, will take about 2 1/2-3 hours. We will discuss what you plan to do on your quilt and will help you estimate how long it will take.

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

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Long arm rental day	2 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	3	4 Long arm rental day	5 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
6 CLOSED	7	8 Long arm rental day	9 Long Arm Quilt class; 2:30-5:50 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	10	11 Long arm rental day	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon One Block Wonder Panel 1-6
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Long arm rental day	23 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30	24	25 Long arm rental day	26 One Block Wonder Panel 10:30-4
27	28	29	30	31		

Long arm rental day		FULL MOON	Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9			Color of the month: Neutrals: beige/white

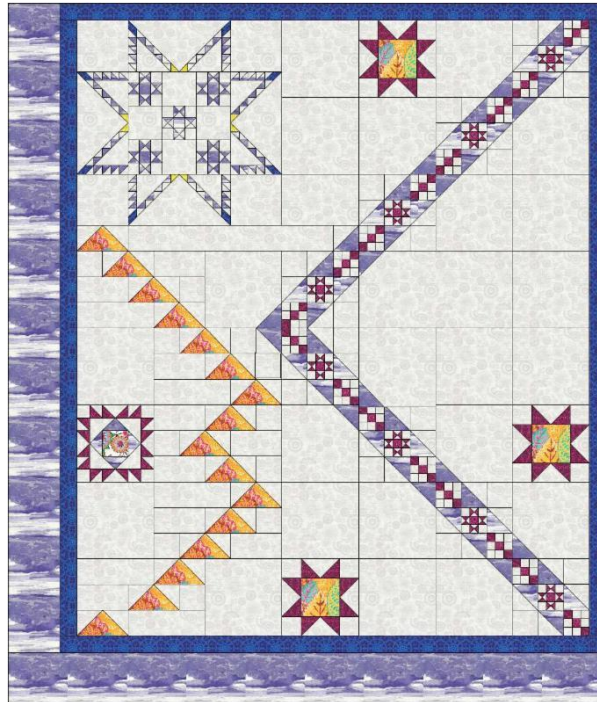
June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6 Long arm rental day 1-6
3 CLOSED	4	5 Long arm rental day	6 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	7 Beginning Quilt 1-4	8 Long arm rental day	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4
10 Beginning Quilt 1-4	11 Summer School Sessions, 1, 2, 3 & 4	12 Long arm rental day	13 Long Arm Quilt classe 10:30-1:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15 Long arm rental day	16 Hunter Star 10:30-5

17 Beginning Quilt 1-4	18	19 Long arm rental day	20 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30- 1:30; OR 2:30- 5:30	21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22 Long arm rental day	23
24 Beginning Quilt 1-4	25	26 Long arm rental day	27 Long Arm Quilt classes 10:30- 1:30; 2:30-5:30; OR 6-9	28 Beginning Quilt 1-4	29 Long arm rental day	30 Zig Zag 10:30-5

**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.



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.

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 in June 16 10:30-5 Barb Boyer \$20

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 April & May from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 or 6-9 and 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.

**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!



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).

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, April 29, May 29

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: whites & beiges

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

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