

Year End Sale!

40% off!

Thursday and Friday will be our Customer Appreciation Sale. Toad Toters can come on Thursday (you must bring your bag) and everyone else on Friday. Everything that is on the floor is 40% off. This includes fabric, patterns, books, thread, batting, notions. Some things are not included in the sale, including the Sew Steady products and the long arms machines. Fabric for the Northcott Illusions will also not be on the floor.

Thursday's sale starts at 10 and goes until 5. If you do not have a Toad Toter bag and want to come on Thursday, you can. But you have to buy a bag to get the discount. Bags are \$35.

Friday's sale starts at 10 and runs until 3. You can come at any time and you don't need a bag.

I strongly suggest that you plan ahead, if you are deciding to buy fabric for a particular quilt. Because the shop will be busy, staff won't have as much free time to help you choose your fabrics or calculate how much you may need. During these kind of sales, if you ask how much fabric you need to put borders on a twin size quilt, we won't ask for precise measurements, we'll just tell you 3 yards (hint, that is at least 1 yard too much). And besides, it's 40% off. It's a good time to stash build!

Warning: Some things will sell quickly: thread, batting, and backing (meaning yardage for large quilts, 5-10 yards). If there is something you need and are afraid it will sell quickly, buy before the sale or get here at 10 on Thursday and grab what you need.

Also, please be patient. Quilters always are, which I really appreciate. We will cut as quickly as possible and get you through the check out line as quickly as possible as well.

I am not restricting how many people can come into the store. Unlike last year, we have vaccines now, which will give us the greatest protection against covid. So I am not as worried about numbers of people in the store. Instead, I will pass that responsibility on to you -- if the store looks too crowded, please feel free to come back later or wait outside until someone comes out.

I will still require masks, however.

The shop will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas. We will be open on Monday. Be sure to come in to scope out the store. We promise we won't move things around too much.



December 23, 2021

“What are you moping around for, Becca? Did one of the kittens smack you in the face or something?” Becca, for those of you new to this post, is my mini Australian Shepherd. She tends to run the house, or at least think she does.

“Santa doesn’t bring gifts to dogs,” she said, and I’ll swear that if she could cry she would have been dripping tears. I couldn’t tell if she was trying for sympathy or truly upset. “Santa brings gifts to good little girls and boys. No where does it say ‘and good little dogs and cats,’” she said.

“Becca, that’s not true. Santa brings gifts to animals. It’s just not Christmas yet.”

“Well, you haven’t even put gifts under the tree for me. I’ve looked at the packages under the tree and none of them are for us,” she said. Us, meaning, her, my other regular sized Australian Shepherd Cassidy, and the two cats Mags and Padfoot. My house is getting way too crowded.

“How do you know..... Never mind, I think I know,” I said. I wouldn’t put it past her to read the package cards, although most don’t have cards on them.

“If I put your gifts under the tree now, they’d be gone long before Christmas,” I told her. “You’d sniff them out, rip off the paper and eat whatever is inside. I remember when I was a kid, our toy poodle Topaz ripped into a wrapped bag of

mini snickers and ate most of it before we caught her.” Becca looked up hopefully.

“Is that a hint?” she said.

“Go outside and play,” I told her. “I used to go into the basement, put on Christmas records and swing on the swing my dad had installed there. I concentrated on being good because Santa knows who’s been naughty or nice. So why don’t you go out with Cassidy, snuggle up to her to keep her warm, bark at the joggers to protect the backyard, and soon Christmas will be here.” In a better mood, Becca trotted outside.

Sigh. I guess my Christmas shopping isn’t over. I was thinking of getting Cassidy a heated dog pad that she could use outside. And the cats could use a couple of toys. It’s hard to buy for Becca because she just orders what she wants from Amazon. Don’t ask. Even I don’t know how she does it.

Christmas always sneaks up on us. And as adults we celebrate the season very differently from when we were kids, and we often complain that the magic has gone out of the season and it’s just too hard to get into the spirit of Christmas. It feels a little too much like work. But I think part of the reason is because we approach the holiday as adults and not as children.

How old were you when you first became aware (and remembered) Christmas? I’m not sure how old I was, although I know my brother remembers. He’s older and it was his and my other brother’s fault that we got caught. I’m sure of it. I remember sneaking down the stairs from the rooms up in the attic. We spent the holiday at the Lake House – a house my dad had bought that was right on Carter Lake in Omaha. I remember the stairs, my brothers, a light and That’s it. We were sneaking down to either catch Santa Claus or get a jump on the presents. I think my brothers and I had different agendas.

Other Christmases run together a bit, but it was always the traditions that created the excitement and anticipation of the day. Baking cookies – mom had notebooks and a schedule of what to bake & when. I was never much help. I’d ride the bus downtown to shop along the 4-5 block area in Omaha, hunting towels and ties for gifts. Christmas plays at church and school, singing carols in the morning in the gym in grade school, spending time with family friends, putting up the tree and lights. Again, I was never much help. Wrapping packages, making Christmas trees out of old Reader’s Digest magazines and spraying them with gold paint. Reading Christmas stories, playing games and cards with the family, putting together puzzles. And swinging on that swing in the basement and playing Christmas carols.

Those are my fondest Christmas memories. And it’s not something you can

replicate. And you probably shouldn't.

But if you're having trouble getting into the spirit of Christmas this year, think back on the good Christmas memories from when you were a kid. Remember what that you felt like and let that help you rejoice in the season.

So when your family gathers for food & celebration, and it feels like all you're doing is cooking and cleaning, go swing on the swing and sing a carol or two. When the relatives get a little too much and it feels like you're in the middle of a Christmas Vacation movie, go to the basement and make a Reader's Digest Christmas tree and spray paint it gold.

And if all else fails, make sure your stock of wine won't run out. There's a reason the adults in your life, when you were a kid, were drinking egg nog and Tom & Jerry's.

"So is it Christmas yet?" Becca asked, running in from outside, panting eagerly. "I told Cassidy Santa was coming and she got all excited and started barking at the joggers," she said.

"Patience, Becca," I told her. "Tomorrow you can open your gifts. It will be Christmas Eve. In our family, we opened presents on the Eve and then Santa came that night at left Christmas morning gifts. Why don't you and Cassidy go outside and bark Jingle Bells." She galloped back outside.

Merry Christmas from my family to yours.

New Hours for winter. During Standard Time (Nov. 7 thru March 13), I will have new closing hours. M-S 10-5. Sundays will be closed unless I have a class scheduled. Hours for those Sundays are 1-5. Check the schedule to see if a class is being held.

Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 1-5
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)
New Hours for Standard Time (starting Nov 7-March 13)
Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-
5. Check the schedule.

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer
Around the Block
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