



(Snow is moved now. This was Wednesday)



March 19, 2021

We need a few laughs after what we've been through this week. Although, you know, we kinda asked for what happened.

If you watched any of the news shows, especially on Saturday, when the storm of the century hadn't yet arrived and everyone was angry because we weren't getting snow.....do you remember feeling like that on Saturday? And then waking up on Sunday and realizing you had left your shovel in the garage and there was no way that the broom was going to work clearing

snow and you only had one (maybe) door that you could even get open and then the power went out. For two days? Still angry that we didn't get any snow? (Just so you know, I didn't lose power, but I know others who did.)

But that's not the only storm going on in the country right now....but before we get to that, here are the headline laughs of the day:

"U.S. Will Loan Millions of AstraZeneca Doses to Mexico, Canada."

Yup. We're going to loan the doses to Mexico and Canada. Begs the question of when we'll get the doses back.

"If You Dream of Watching TV in Bed With No Neck Strain, Here's How to Make It a Reality" Okay, maybe not that funny, but does the headline mean you want to watch tv in bed, not while you're dreaming, but while you're awake? Or do you want to just dream about watching tv. I think they could have found better words....

"Do You Actually Need an Air Fryer?" This headline comes a little too late. I now own two. I don't want to know whether I need one or not. I'm more worried about figuring out how to work them.

And then there's this cat
from Istanbul. I've had the
same thoughts.

But the storm I'm talking about is the cicadas about to descend on the east coast in May and June. These aren't your usual annual crawl out of the dirt cicadas. These ones are called Brood X and have been underground for 17 years (or so). Almost sounds like an episode of the X-Files. And they're here to mate, then bury themselves for another 17 years.

The Brood X cicadas aren't like the annual ones, which are green and, well, come out annually. The Brood X cicadas are black with orange eyes, like something out of a Stephen King novel. The males attract the females by screaming at them (I think there are a lot of tv shows based on this premise).

And there are scientists who track them: In 2004, when they last came out, scientists traveled around, listening to the screaming, figuring out where they were and where they'd go, and many of these same scientists are on the edge of their seats, waiting from Brood X to appear.

Martin Edwards, chair of Muhlenberg College's biology department, says it's a "magical experience" to hear the cicadas singing like a synchronized chorus, comparing it to seeing thousands of snow geese or a herd of wildebeest. I don't think I'd go that far. "Nature is this amazing, powerful force," he said. "And people come from all over the world to see this."

Michael J. Raupp, emeritus professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, told Newsweek this cicada event "is a wonderful opportunity for millions of people to witness and enjoy a remarkable biological phenomenon in their own backyard." Again, I'm not so sure about that.

So I don't think I'm going to book a trip to D.C. just for this show. Something at the Kennedy Center, maybe, but not bugs with bulging orange eyes. But I applaud the enthusiasm.

And finally, an updated book list. For those you who didn't read early posts, we're doing a book reading challenge based on various weird genres. Now the list doesn't tell you what book to read, although I've added some suggestions. Instead, it is just a list of areas, genres, and silly things. But it may get you to read something out of your norm; it may get you to hunt for just the right book to fit the category; and it's a list. Who doesn't like lists. If you don't know the meaning of a word or acronym, I will leave it up to you to research it.

1. An epistolary novel
2. **A book set on a different planet (Skyward, by Brandon Sanderson)**
3. A book about mythology (Circe, by Madeline Miller)
4. A historical fiction that takes place after 1900 and is not set in WWI or WWII.
5. **A Latinx author (Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia)**
6. **A book by a non-American author (Any of the Miss Fisher books)**

by Kerry Greenwood)

7. **A book that passes the Bechdel test (The Alice Network, by Kate Quinn)**

8. **A young adult novel (The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater - also a non-American author)**

9. A book set in a city that has hosted the Olympics (Louise Penny books for Montreal; Dickens for London; Kerry Greenwood for Melbourne; The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles)

10. **A book with a map (A Darker Shade of Magic by V.E. Schwab)**

11. **A book with a yellow cover (On Facism by On Fascism: 12 Lessons from American History by Matthew C. MacWilliams; The Chicken Sisters by KJ Dell'Antonia; Don't Believe a Word: The Surprising Truth about Language, by David Shariatmadari)**

12. A book with the same title as a movie or TV show but is unrelated to it (Bull by David Elliot)

13. A book by an author with flora or fauna in his/her name

14. A nonfiction title about any historic event that interests you (The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larsen)

15. **A finalist for the 2019 or 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction (Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell (winner 2020; Pat Barker, The Silence of the Girls; Oyinkan Braithwaite; My Sister, the Serial Killer)**

16. A book on a subject you know nothing about (Cosmic Questions by Neil DeGrasse Tyson)

17. A book with a pun in the title (Piers Anthony and his Xanth series for example)

18. A book with "gold" "silver" or "bronze" in the title

19. A book by a WOC

20. A book with a bird on the cover

The book categories highlighted are books I've read, or are in the process of reading (at least half or more of them and I hope to finish them). The categories without books listed are ones that I haven't found yet.

Happy findings and reading.

Celebrating Your Compassion

Last week, Compassionate Cheyenne presented awards to Around the Block and young Eagle Scout Lucas Sutphin for their work in donating masks last March-June to the health care community in Cheyenne. Scott donated more than 1000 masks as part of his community service project for his Eagle Scout. He's 15.

Do you remember March 2020, that far back? We started making kits on March 20, 2020. I watched a broadcast the night before on the Rachael Maddow show about local sewers/quilters making masks for the health care community which was in desperate need of PPE and figured we could do this. We are quilters, after all. Sewing a mask is simple. On Friday I started cutting and by Saturday, you had picked up 120 masks - all I had cut at that point.

By June we had cut and delivered more than 6200 masks to the health care community and others, more than 4,000 alone to the hospital. During this time we had shortages of many things (not fabric, of course) and you responded to my call for elastic and cloth ties. You also donated your own fabric for this project and your time, of course.

The masks that you donated to the store doesn't count all the other masks that you made and donated individually to friends, family, health care workers, veterinary clinics, first responders, the VA, school kids, teachers and countless other individuals who could not get masks, mainly because none were available.

Your response to the need of our community was incredible and inspiring. So much so that Scott Fox and Perry Phillips of the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center nominated us for the Compassion-In-Action Award, which reads:

With deep appreciation for your quick, well-organized response to the Covid-19 pandemic by making and donating over 4000 homemade masks to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and other organizations across Cheyenne. Barb's generosity and leadership truly set the example with her donation of fabric and materials for others to make masks. She along with countless others who made and donated masks, played a vital role in Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's ability to provide community healthcare safely, without pause, through an exceptional challenging time.

Compassionate Cheyenne is a local chapter of The Charter of Compassion, launched in 2008 and created from thousands of voices from all over the world, all different backgrounds and all different faiths. Their vision is to strive to make our world a more compassionate place in which to live.

As part of its mission, Compassionate Cheyenne works with schools, businesses, health care providers, faith groups, non-for-profits and others to encourage, promote, champion and nurture compassionate growth in our community.

So while the award was presented to me, Around the Block, the award truly goes to all of you who responded to the need in the community. You are the caring and compassionate souls of Cheyenne.

Looking Way Ahead to 2022 Block of the Month, in batiks

I'm looking for expressions of interest for this Block of the Month quilt. Here's how it will work: Each month, beginning in January, you will receive a kit for certain blocks in this quilt. Each month thereafter, you will receive the next installment until you have all the blocks and fabric.



First I need to know if I have enough interest. Then, if I do, I will order all the fabric (I must have my order in by June), and I will be taking down payments for the quilt, which will guarantee that you will receive a kit each month.

I think each kit will cost app. \$25-\$30, and I am hoping it will be in the \$25 (possibly less) range. That's app. \$300 (or less) to make the quilt top, which is 88" X 112".

If you are not familiar with how this kind of BOM works, I will keep your credit card on file and I'll charge the card each month. You can also prepay up front, and I'll give you a 10% discount if you do.

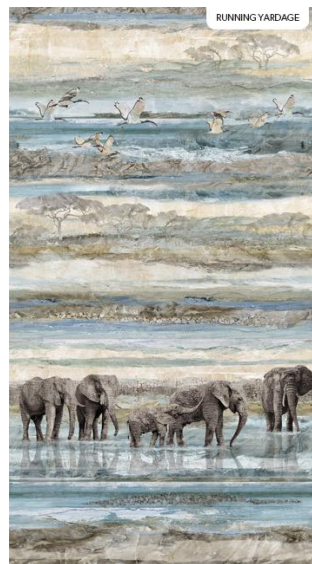
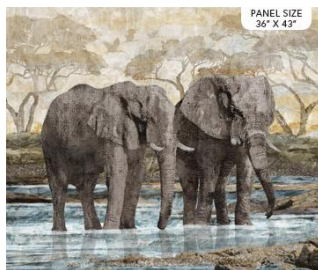
I am also going to start charging for the kits starting in October. That means by January, you will have paid for 4 blocks of the quilt and you will receive your first four blocks at once.

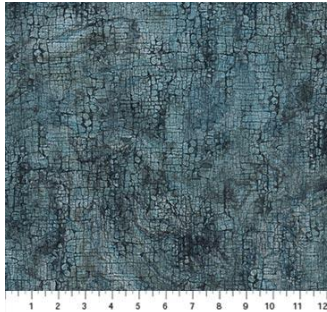
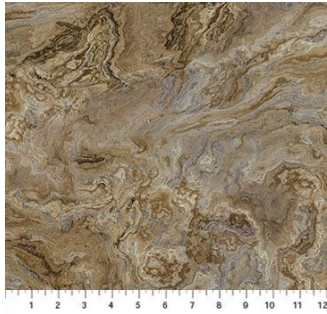
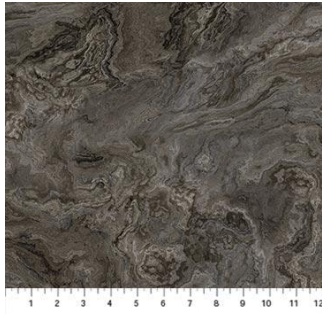
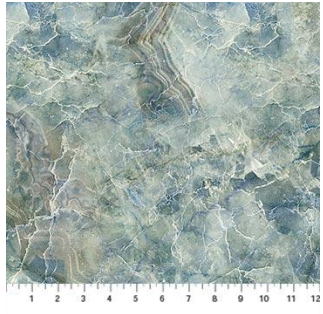
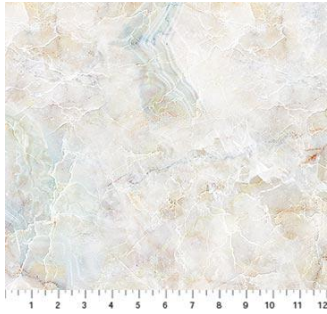
We don't usually do these kind of quilts, mainly because of the logistics involved. But it is a cool quilt, unusual design, not like many of the block of the months that are offered from the various companies.

So if you're interested, first just let me know. Once I know how many are interested, I will do the final math and let you know the cost of the quilt and how much the down payment will be.

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Northcott:

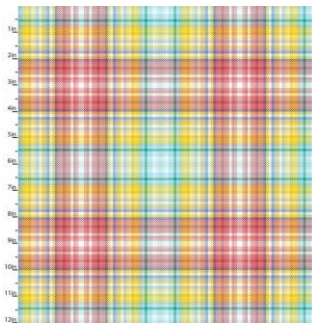
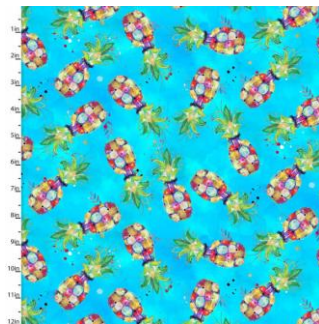


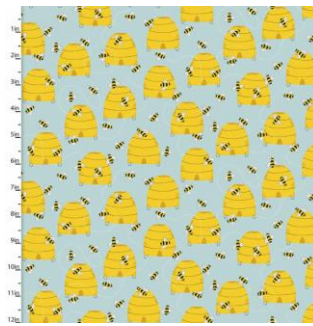
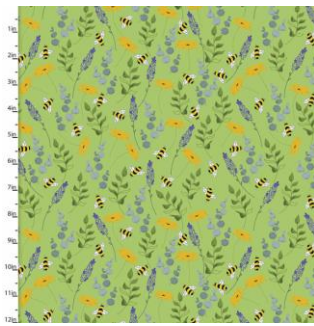
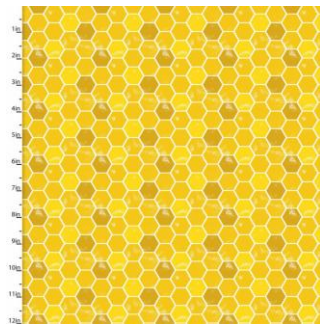




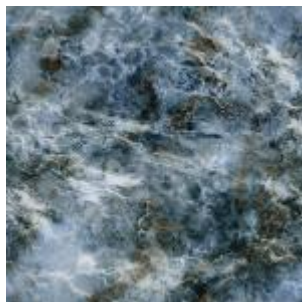
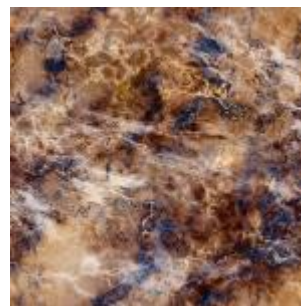
wide back

From 3 Wishes:





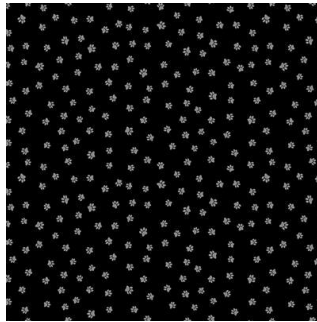
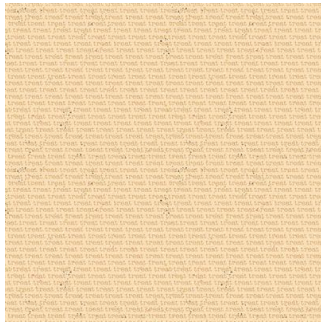
Hoffman:



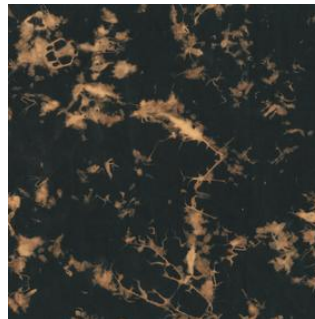
Clothworks:



Snarky Cats



Anthology:



Moda:



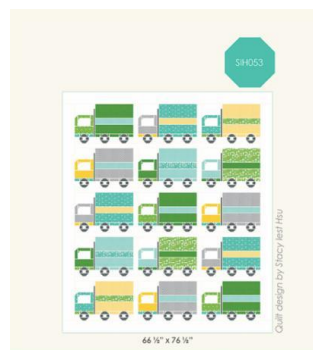
jelly rolls, charms,
layer cakes



kit



pattern

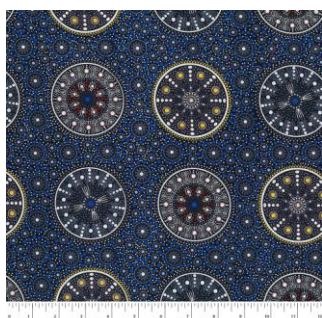
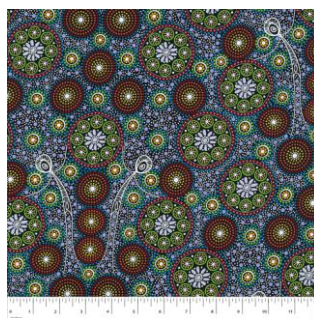
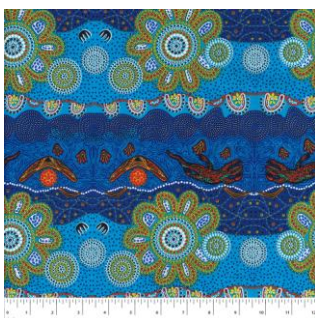


pattern

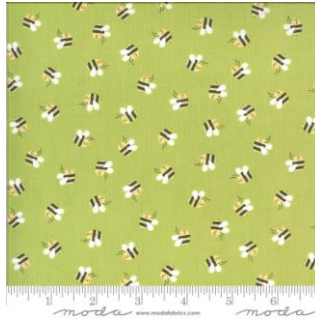
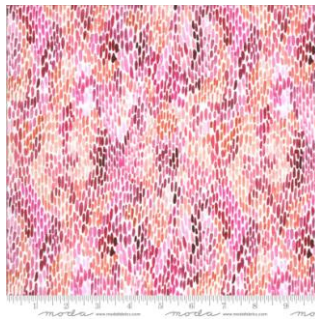
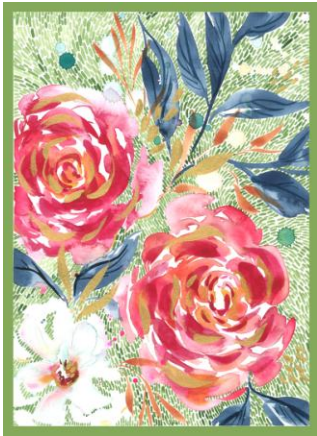
From Robert Kaufman & Windham



From M & S Textiles:



From Moda:



March

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Hand work Club 2- 4	3 Dinosaur with Teeth Quilt 1-4	4 Long Arm Rental Day	5	6 BOM 10:30 Bear Paw 1-4
7 Beginning Quilt 1-4	8	9 Hand work Club 2- 4	10 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	11 Long Arm Rental Day	12	13 Embroidery Club 10- noon Bear Paw 1-4
14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15	16 Hand work Club 2- 4	17	18 Long Arm Rental Day	19	20 Tiger Tiger 1- 4 National Quilt Day
21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22	23 Hand work Club 2- 4	24 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	25 Long Arm Rental Day	26	27 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30 Tiger Tiger 1- 4
28 Beginning Quilt 1-4 Full moon	29	30 Hand work Club 2- 4	31 Designing with panels 1-4	Color of the month: green		

April

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Long Arm Rental Day	2	3 BOM 10:30 snow date for Bear's Paw, 1-4
4 CLOSED Easter	5	6 Hand work Club 2-4	7	8 Long Arm Rental Day	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Fanfare 1-4
11	12	13 Hand work Club 2-4	14 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	15 Long Arm Rental Day	16	17 Attic Window using a Panel 1-4
18 On the Beach 1-5	19	20 Hand work Club 2-4	21	22 Long Arm Rental Day	23	24 Charm meeting 10:00-11:00 Fanfare 11-4:30
25 Machine Quilting 1-4	26 Full moon	27 Hand work Club 2-4	28 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	29 Long Arm Rental Day	30	Color of the month: yellow

May

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 Lone Star 1-4
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand work Club 2- 4	5	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10- noon Lone Star 1-4
9 Moms' Day	10	11 Hand work Club 2- 4	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Lone Star 1-4
16	17	18 Hand work Club 2- 4	19	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21	22
23	24	25 Hand work Club 2- 4	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4 Full moon	27 Long Arm Rental Day	28	29 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30
30	31 Memorial Day	Color of the month: whites				

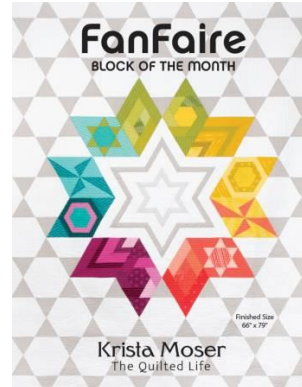
Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

NEW CLASSES

FANFAIRE, APRIL 10 FROM 1-4 AND APRIL 24 FROM 11-4:30

\$35 Jean Korber

Fanfaire is another Krista Mosher quilt, done with a cascade of colors like a color wheel, or choose your own palette to make a Christmas Star. If you already have the diamond rulers then you might as well put them to good use by making another quilt with them. And then stretch yourself with choosing creative fabrics to make your star.



On the Beach, Sunday APRIL 18 FROM 1-5 \$35 Sue Frerich

A delightful easy to piece quilt, using two colors (as shown) or multiple colors. Pattern will be supplied in class. The block is easily adapted to a 2 1/2" strip, so precuts are a possibility. For the size shown in the store, yardage will be required and we'll have the amounts in a supply list soon. This is a bright and cheerful quilt, just what we need to pull us out of winter in April.

Machine Quilting, Sunday APRIL 25 FROM 1-4 \$35 Sue Frerich

We haven't scheduled a machine quilting class in a while, because of covid. But we feel more comfortable offering this class now and -- in case you don't know -- Sue plans on leaving us for the sunny shores of California, and probably sooner than later. This may be your last chance to learn from the master machine quilter, so don't pass up this opportunity. You will learn the ins and outs of machine quilting on your domestic machine. Sue has a lot of knowledge to pass on, so you don't want to miss this class.

Ongoing Classes & Clubs

Block of the Month First Sat of month 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

Note: January class will be held on the second Saturday

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year the challenge will be houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn - as many as I can squeeze in!

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

Note: January class will be held on the third Saturday

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. We will be starting Crabapple Hill's Snow Days. This is an embroidered and pieced block. So we will help you through the piecing, tracing and embroidery.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

We are changing up the Knit Pickers= Club. We=re going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we=ll start earlier in the day at 2 and go to 5. 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. We may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. By summer, we may extend the knitting time into the evening.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-4

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch. During covid, we sit 6 feet apart and wear our masks, but at least we can share our projects, get a little stitching done and just enjoy the companionship.

Other Classes

TBA Our schedule is limited this spring because of the pandemic. Face masks will be required in class and space will be limited. Classes will not run through lunch, so no eating (snacking & water okay, but no lunching). Bathrooms may or may not be available, but there are facilities within walking distance.

Please check the calendar regularly because we will swap out classes as needed and add others as we get back to more normal times. Machine quilting, machine applique, long arm classes, hand quilting and hand applique will also be coming back-I'm hoping by summer!

We may also teach the Elk Quilt, once the fabric comes back in sometime in April. And we're (meaning mainly Jean) are always sewing on new things, so those quilts may also be added to the schedule.

Charm Quilts, last Saturday of each month (discussion, no sewing) Jan 30 10-noon, then on the other class dates from 10:30-11:30 \$20 Barb Boyer

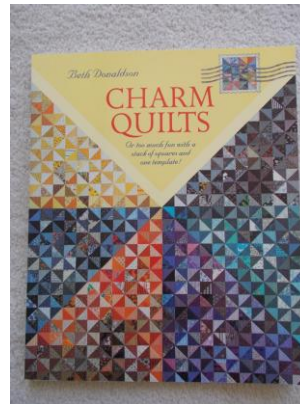
Charm quilts date from the 1880s and 1890s. They tend to be one patch quilts (all squares or all triangles) and they use lots and lots of fabrics-999 to be exact. But the catch is, you can only use one fabric per each patch. We need lots of people to sign up for the class - but don't worry about covid. We will do this very carefully. In order to get to 999 different fabrics, we will be exchanging 5" squares of different fabrics, each month exchanging different colors. We won't exchange 999 different fabrics, but we may exchange up to 300-400!

Class one - discussion and set up. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize into groups for exchanges. We will have 4 different meeting times: 10-10:30, 10:30-11, 11-11:30; 11:30-noon. I know, complicated. If I don't have that many people sign up, I will consolidate the class - remember, it's just a discussion class. I'll talk about charm quilts, explain the rules, and set up what we will be exchanging in the upcoming classes.

Class two - Exchange the first color ways. You will cut Xnumber of squares of the first colors for each person in your group: (example only) red, orange, yellow, blue. 10, 5" squares of each color per each class member. If you have 5 in your group, that's - 50 squares of red, 50 squares of blue, etc.

Now don't panic. I will adjust the number of squares to be exchanged based on how many people sign up. I don't expect you to buy all of the fabric: use your stash. AND the squares you exchange can be different for each person in your group, as long as each person gets 10 different reds, for example.

If you're interested, more info will be given in class, all questions answered, etc. The book we will use is called Charm Quilts by Beth Donaldson. Buy a used copy on Amazon.



March Classes

Bear's Paw Quilt Saturdays March 6 & 13, 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This retro looking quilt is easy to do, but be warned, there are many pieces. This is a perfect scrap quilt - chose a color way, pull from your stash, cut your pieces and sew! I used blue calicos and a background calico that I have carted around since 1978 for the "claws" and assorted "darks" and "mediums" in a variety of colors for the "paws." I am looking at some vintage lines of fabrics to bring in, but they may not be available by the time of class. So just hunt for dark and medium scraps (don't worry about color just darks and mediums) in your stash or buy 30-40 fat quarters (to give yourself a variety).

Charm (ongoing) See January

Designing With Panels March 31 (discussion, no sewing) \$30 Barb Boyer

We all have panels, but we don't know what to do with them. I will show you how to turn your panel into a wall hanging or full sized quilt. We will discuss how to add blocks to "border" out the quilt, add lights to a Christmas or Halloween quilt, change patterns to fit your panel, chop up your panel into attic windows or other designs----so bring some of

your panels to class and go home with a plan!

Tiger Tiger Saturdays March 20 & 27 \$35 Sue Frerich

This beautiful tiger wall hanging is paper pieced - the green eyes just glow! From the book Animal Quilts, you can choose to do the tiger or any of the other animals in the book. This is not a class for beginners, however. You must have some experience doing paper piecing to join this class as it will stretch your sewing skills. But what a wonderful way to learn and grow in your quilting!

April Classes

Attic Window Saturday April 17 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer

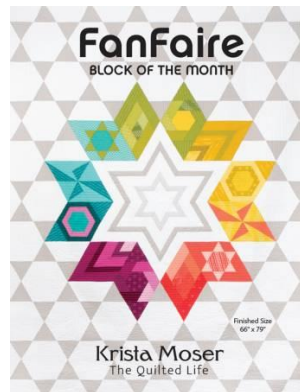
Take a panel (or two, always recommended), cut it apart and turn it into an attic window marvel! Skills learned: y-seams or inset seams. You will have a choice of using a pattern or creating your own design using your panel. All it takes is a panel (or two), and window sill fabric!

NEW CLASS

FANFAIRE, APRIL 10 FROM 1-4 AND APRIL 24 FROM 11-4:30

\$35 Jean Korber

Fanfaire is another Krista Mosher quilt, done with a cascade of colors like a color wheel, or choose your own palette to make a Christmas Star. If you already have the diamond rulers then you might as well put them to good use by making another quilt with them. And then stretch yourself with choosing creative fabrics to make your star.



**POSTPONED UNTIL SUMMER Crazy Pumpkins Saturdays
April 3 & 10 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This quilt is like a stack and slash quilt-with a little more organization. Actually a lot more organization. But I've got it all figured out and sometimes organization is just over rated. Learn this fun way to stack, cut, rearrange and sew to create whimsical looking pumpkins - no two pumpkins are quite alike, which makes this style of sewing so charming. Once you've done one, you'll be itching to do her dogs, cows, barns, santas, flowers.....

POSTPONED UNTIL SUMMER Thanksgiving Quilt April 26 1-5 \$30 Barb Boyer

I used Thanksgiving fabric for my quilt, but the quilt is essentially a pieced nine-patch scrap quilt. This is an easy strip pieced quilt with an old fashioned feel. Choose darks and mediums for the blocks and a neutral background that compliments. Did I mention that the left overs went into the Bear Paw Quilt? Scraps and Scraps, it's fun to use it up.

\$35 Jean Korber

Fanfaire is another Krista Mosher quilt, done with a cascade of colors like a color wheel, or choose your own palette to make a Christmas Star. If you already have the diamond rulers

then you might as well put them to good use by making another quilt with them. And then stretch yourself with choosing creative fabrics to make your star.

May Classes

Lone Star Quilt Saturdays May 1, 8, 15 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is the perfect "next" quilt for everyone who has taken the beginning quilt class. You will build on your skills, like learning how to do inset seams. All you need is 6 fabrics plus a background. It will be helpful if you have your fabrics chosen before class, so just come in and I'll help with that. The class has three sessions and by the third session you will be in-setting your squares and triangles, completing the inside of your quilt.

CLUBS

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB FREE!

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.

Hand Work Club FREE!

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4, join us to just sit & hand stitch, crochet, bind, or knit group. Bring what you're working on, sit up at the table in front by the window and work on your projects for a while. You can get advice & suggestions from your fellow quilters and share your experiences about your projects.

Knit Pickers' Club FREE!

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). We are discussing trying to do a group project meaning everyone does the same pattern. Each month we will learn a different pattern, make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project Afghan, scarf, bag, etc.

Block of the Month Club FREE!

First Saturday of the Month, 10:30-11:15. Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block.

Toad Toters Club

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: January 28, February 27, March 28, April 26 and May 26.

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 whites.

Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-5
Sunday 1-5
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

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 needle up/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.

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.
Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer
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