



April 28, 2023

Let's get READY TO.....

No, the next word isn't RUMBLE. It's DIE!

Okay, okay, don't get all in a dither here. And I know I'm talking to an older generation, mostly people not in their 20s. When we're 20 we view life differently than when we're 70. When we're 70, death is more around the corner than around the block.

And I'll admit, this is a bit of a pet peeve of mine: As we get older, we have a tendency to start the dying process long before we have to.

For example, in our youth, we acquired stuff. You needed furniture, knickknacks to sit around and look pretty, lots of clothes and shoes, and in general, just lots of stuff. And we cart this stuff from place to place when we move, sometimes never getting around to taking the stuff out of the packing boxes. You never know when it might be useful. Like elastic during the pandemic.

When we traveled we brought home stuff to put in our homes, stuff to wear, stuff to give as presents, stuff to show where we went and what we did. I remember the oversized wooden fork and spoon that friends of my parents brought back as a gift from some exotic trip. My mom hung them on the wall—they were about 3 feet long. I was fascinated by them because they came from somewhere not in Omaha. An exotic island. Fiji, maybe. I don't remember.

When I started traveling, I brought home souvenirs from my adventures: a metal dragon from Hong Kong, a small tapestry from Puerto Rico, dolls

from Liechtenstein, a cuckoo clock from Germany, a deerstalker hat from England, a wooden horse from Roatan.....and many other things that now decorate my house. I like looking at my stuff because it reminds me of the places I've been, the people I know, the things I've done. It's a nice feeling. The stuff isn't useful, except for the Ulu knife from Alaska that I use to slice my pizzas.

Which gets me to the point of this article: The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning. There's even a new tv show about this. The idea is you are supposed to go through your stuff and throw out all the junk, so your loved ones don't have to deal with your stuff when you die.

Ella Engström, an organizer; Johan Svenson, a designer; and Katarina Blöm, a psychologist, operate out of Kansas City and they help people tidy up their lives. "It's a very deeply rooted way of handling your life in Sweden to not burden other people and also not live excessively," Svenson says.

Now I heartily applaud the idea of keeping clutter to a minimum and a yearly (or every few years) tackling of the old and broken suitcases, the 40 year old towels that aren't even fit for the dogs, the clothes you will never fit in again, the burnt pots that can never heat up food, and the cords, oh the cords, that were out of date 10 years ago and that will never have a new purpose. I hate the fact that we are a throw away culture, but some of the stuff in your house is not fit for anything other than the dump. It's okay to throw it away.

But some people take the "let's clean out the house in anticipation of our death some 20 or 30 years from now" to extremes. They get rid of almost everything so as not to burden their surviving loved ones in some distant future, and then they live in sparse conditions, waiting for the inevitable. For some, there's almost a feeling of martyrdom about them.

Sometimes the grown up children put pressure on their parents, telling them, you don't need all that stuff. Might as well get rid of it now, because we certainly don't want it when you're gone. I've had these conversations with women in the store. There's no martyrdom feeling emanating from them. It's more of an "I'm just waiting for the inevitable" feeling.

They talk about deciding to down size their life, but none of them do it with a “yeah! I’m throwing out all the mementos of my life because they don’t really serve any purpose!” kind of attitude. They are doing it because ... I don’t really know. Because they think they have to? It’s what you do when you reach a certain age? Get ready to die? I can tell you no one who talks about this does it with any amount of enthusiasm, and it’s not because they dread doing it. I think they are dreading what happens after they’ve done it.

The theory behind all of this is to tidy up your life, to live in the present, to only have the things that serve you right now, to not burden other people, to not live excessively.

Horse puckies. If you like your stuff and you don’t have to down size because you’re moving into a smaller place, then keep it, I say. Don’t be a hoarder. But just because you may never read that book again is no reason to throw it away. Fabric? So what if you’re participating in the contest of she who dies with the most fabric wins. Knick Knacks? Does looking at that tapestry wall hanging remind you of your journey to an island paradise? Well, keep it. Your life is a journey and that journey involves the past, not just the present.

So I’m here to tell you it’s okay to hang onto your stuff. And I know things like the Gentle Art of Death Cleaning isn’t specifically about living a minimalist life because you’re just hanging around until you die. But it sure seems to get interpreted that way. I see it in some of the women who come into the store, who appear to take the spring cleaning aspects of decluttering the house to whole new levels of needing to get rid of stuff because they’re older and will die one of these days—like in 20 or 30 years.

So I want to beat back against the concepts of death organizing your life. Honestly, I hear too many conversations about how I need to get rid of all this stuff in my house, and my thought is, and then what, you just sit around and wait to die? Seriously.

If you want a new spatula because the old one is raggedy around the edges and someone, like a kid, says, well how often are you going to cook any more, you tell that kid that you are planning on taking cooking lessons next year.

If someone asks you, don't you have enough quilts? You tell them that creating a quilt keeps your mind alive and that while you can only sleep under one quilt at a time, you need quilts for the chairs, couches, walls, extra beds, friends, grand kids, family – and they need at least 12 different ones for the bed alone, one for each month. That will keep you making quilts for years.

And how many sweaters does one person need to make? One in every color and style out there. Same with hats. And knitted items, more so than quilts, wear out so they need to be replaced faster. The solution? Buy more yarn.

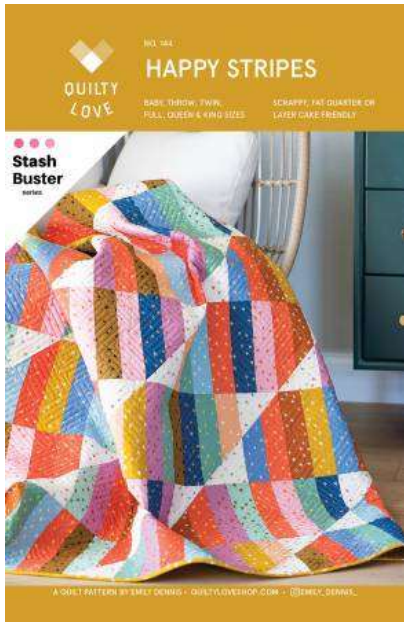
And how many books can one person own? My second library (third if you count my Little Library outside of the shop) is the back end of my car. Okay, to be fair, those books are mainly to feed the Little Library. But do I need all of those books? Well of course not. But they are friends. They give me comfort just being on the shelves.

So I say, get rid of the junk in the house that no longer works or fits, but don't toss just because some internet all-the-rage sensation tells you this is the thing to do these days. Enjoy your stuff. Let it keep your memories alive of adventures, places you've been and people you've known. That has value.

And to my niece, if you're reading this, you're getting everything in the house, cleaned out or not. Feel free to sell the house as is, which is how my brothers and I handled the sale of my parents' house when my dad died. We sold it to the neighbor on the condition that they take it as is, all the stuff we didn't want to haul to our respective homes. You can sell a house like that. I don't care what the real estate agent tells you. It's very liberating.

And in case you're wondering, I plan to keep living for a long time. With all the stuff around me that I want. Even if no one else wants it when I'm gone.

What's New

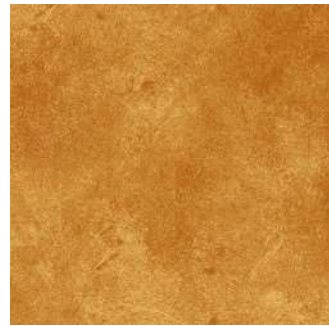
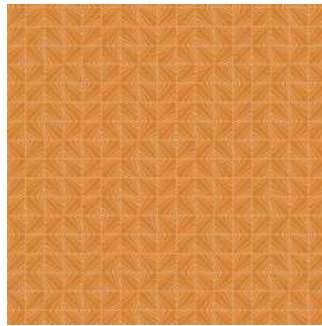


Happy Stripes



From Riley Blake

A —And here in the east, That stand in RAPHAEL.	O for Oil-cloth, bright as new, Made so by RAPHAEL, too.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To Tobacco To be The 3 To
B steps wide for Buffalo, What steps are? RAPHAEL.	P for the best dressed the best, RAPHAEL the best dressed the best.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
C is for Canada, Canada, Canada, RAPHAEL the best dressed the best.	Q for Quakers all around— Quakers can't RAPHAEL be found?	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
D for Dixie, so wide now, Dixie RAPHAEL made the best.	R for the best, which all may know Who use RAPHAEL with and RAPHAEL.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
E for Easy—work is so If you use RAPHAEL.	S for the best, which all may know Who use RAPHAEL with and RAPHAEL.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
F for Fun, which they enjoy Who use RAPHAEL's old company.	T for the best, which all may know Who use RAPHAEL with and RAPHAEL.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
G for Girls—good ones think RAPHAEL makes the best.	U for the best, which all may know Who use RAPHAEL with and RAPHAEL.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
H for Home, where all is bright If RAPHAEL's used right.	V for the best, which all may know Who use RAPHAEL with and RAPHAEL.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
I for the—plenty so— Sweet and RAPHAEL!	W for the best, which all may know Who use RAPHAEL with and RAPHAEL.	T Tobacco To be The 3 To
J for the—plenty so— Sweet and RAPHAEL!		T Tobacco To be The 3 To
K for the—plenty so— Sweet and RAPHAEL!		T Tobacco To be The 3 To





From P&B



From Clothworks



Prism: From In the Beginning
We have a couple of extra kits
available. Patterns are subtle in the
fabrics.

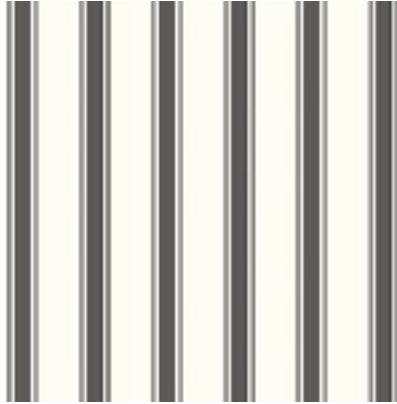
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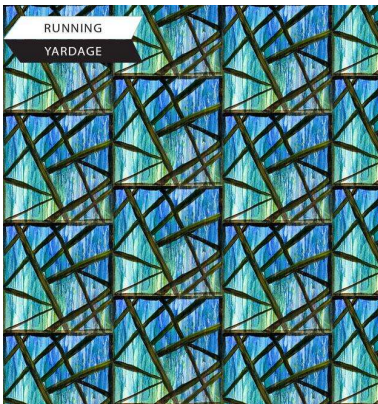
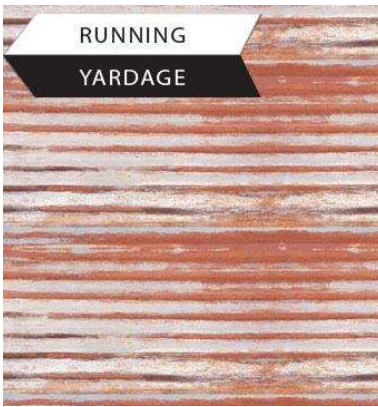
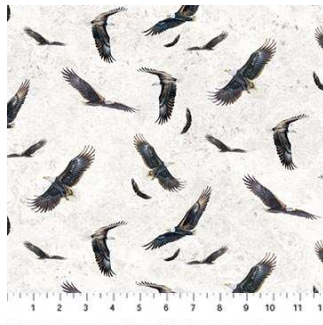
From Michael Miller

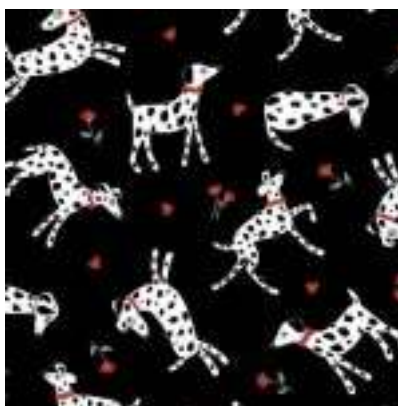


From Windham

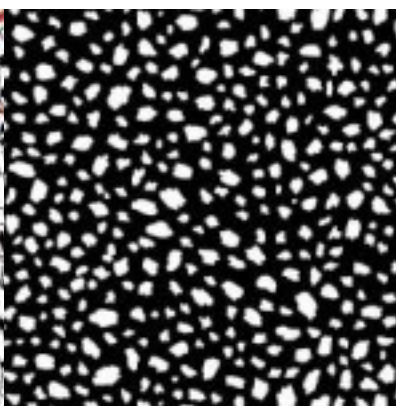


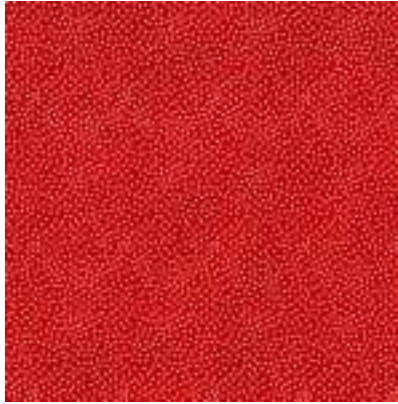
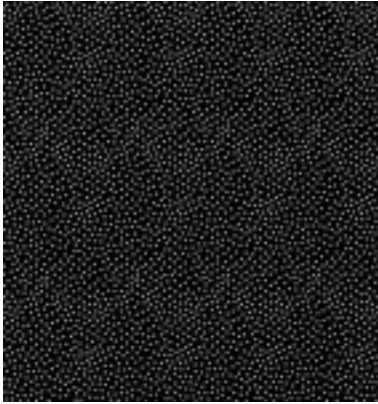
From Northcott





From Michael Miller





From Kennard & Kennard



PANEL SIZE APPROX 24" x 44"



Spring Newsletter



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Class Pictures of some of the quilts: Storm at Sea (High Tide); Shakespeare in the park; Two Scoops, Prism; Happy Stripes (Striper); San Marcos, English paper piecing bag (one of several options); Exploding Hearts.

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

Ongoing Classes & Clubs

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 the challenge will be Starry Skies. Challenge #1 is to use at least 25 different fabrics in the quilt – should be easy. Challenge #2 is to choose backgrounds for the blocks that aren't the typical cream/white neutrals that we generally use. Instead, we will mix it up a bit, using both traditional backgrounds for some blocks, and then choosing "colors" in both light and dark fabrics for other blocks.

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, which is Garden Belles. Each block features a lady in vintage costume, in the garden, or similar outdoor setting. These are old fashioned ladies in dresses, which offer all sorts of stitchery creativity.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler
Come join our Knit Pickers= Club. We knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, from 2-5. The Club is open to all skill levels and, despite the name, includes crocheters as well. 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. We can even help you get started—teach you the basics.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-5
This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch.

Third Monday (usually) Open Sews 10-4 \$10

The classroom is now open on the third (usually, check calendar) each month for open sewing. There is a charge for the use of the space, but you will have access to the flannel boards, all the cutting tables, AccuCutter, fabric (of course) and help, if you need it. I chose the 3rd Monday because in January & February, that day is a holiday. If I get enough interest, we can look at having other open sew days.

April Classes

Quilt #4, CHANGE: TIC-TAC-TOE: Fat Quarter Favorite Quilts Sat April 29 10:30-4 Jean Korber & Barb Boyer \$35 (or \$120 for all 6 quilts)

The **FOURTH quilt is called Tic-Tac-Toe**. We're making our sample from kitty paw fabrics for the background, and then 16 theme related fat quarters in brights. This quilt uses two-at-a-time half square triangles, and modified flying geese constructions for the blocks. Borders are pieced, so the lesson to be learned is how to keep an accurate quarter inch seam allowance in order to get the borders to fit. Don't worry, we'll show you how to "fudge" if something goes wrong.

May Classes

One Block Wonder Saturdays May 6 noon-5 & 20 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

If you haven't tried making a one block wonder quilt from panels, you are missing out on a spectacular quilt. This quilt uses 7 panels; 6 are cut into triangles and the remaining panel is incorporated intact into the quilt. You will learn how to accurately stack your 6 panels, cut them apart into strips, which are then cut into 6 identical triangles. After piecing your half hexagon units, you will design your own quilt. Jean has great tips and suggestions on how to make this quilt, how to incorporate additional fabrics into your quilt, and how to evaluate what panels make the best One Block Wonder quilts.

Shakespeare in the Park Sat May 13 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt is made up of stars and Snail's Trail blocks. The pattern is an old time favorite from the legendary Judy Martin. It is a classic quilt, one of those on the bucket list of "to do" quilts.

Quilt #5, CHANGE: SSEARCHLIGHT: Fat Quarter Favorite Quilts Sat May 27 10:30-4 Jean Korber & Barb Boyer \$35 (or \$120 for all 6 quilts)

The **fifth quilt is called Searchlight**. This quilt takes 15 fat quarters plus background. You'll learn the "square in a square" technique plus a unique way to make pieced corner triangles. It's a speedy version that doesn't involve cutting triangles!

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 2-5, 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).

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 6; February 4 (observed); March 7; April 6; May 5

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

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 Domestic Machine Quilting \$40 1-4
2 CLOSED	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day Full moon	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Prism strip Quilt 1-5 \$35
9 CLOSED	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2- 5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Storm at Sea 10:30- 4 \$40

16 CLOSED	17 Open Sew 10-4 \$10	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21 San Marco 10:30-4 \$40	22
23 CLOSED	24 Hand work Club 2-5	25 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	26 Long Arm Rental Day	27	28 6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #4 10:30-4 \$35	29
30 CLOSED					Color of the month: yellow	

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day	Full moon	BOM 10:30 One Block Wonder noon-5 \$45
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Embroidery Club 10-noon Shakespeare in the Park 1-5 \$35
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CLOSED Mom's Day		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		One Block Wonder 10:30-4

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day	6 fat quarter quilts: Quilt #5 10:30-4 \$35	
28	29	30	31			
Shop Is now open 1-5!	Open Sew 10-4 \$10	Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30		Color of the month: whites	



Nolting Quilting Machines



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.

Normal Shop Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10-6
Sunday 1-5

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 7-May 22)

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
307-433-9555

www.aroundtheblockquilts.com

