



June 30, 2023

It's a good thing we have a long weekend to celebrate July 4th.

"Why?" asked Becca running in from outside. "Are we going somewhere?"

"Becca, nice of you to join the party," I said. Becca, for those of you who don't know, is my mini red Australian Shepherd. She travels a lot, I think, although I don't know how. She can't drive because her legs don't reach the pedals and she doesn't like cars, so Uber is out.

"We're having a party?" she asked, her tongue hanging out in anticipation. She's also not as smart as she thinks she is.

"No, Becca. We're not having a party. Although," I continued, seeing her beginning to pout, "you'll probably get bacon grease on your food on the 4th." She perked up, sat down politely and gave me her full attention. Which is suspicious.....

"Anyway, as I was saying, it's good that the 4th of July is celebrated over several days this year because we actually declared our independence on July 2 through the Lee Resolution."

"Then why don't we celebrate the 4th of July on the 2nd?" Becca asked.

"That's a good question, Becca," I told her. "The Lee Resolution was proposed by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia and it had three parts. In addition to the declaring independence part, it established a plan for foreign relations and it set out a plan of confederacy for the states."

"A what?" Becca asked.

"A way for the states to work together following independence. The Articles of Confederation were not finished until 1777 and not adopted and ratified by all the states until 1781."

"So what did we need a Declaration for if we had already resolved to declare independence?" Becca asked. Aside: Notice how Becca is a nice foil for getting from one place to another. It's called a segue.

"The Declaration was written by a committee of five men, but mainly by Thomas Jefferson. The purpose of the Declaration was, to use his words from the musical 1776, 'To place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent.'"

"So the Declaration begins: 'When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a

decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

“You call that simple language? That’s all one sentence,” Becca asked. “Who talks like that?”

“Well, language arts were a little different back then from now. But that is not the language that we usually remember about the Declaration. John Adams, who is credited with writing the Preamble [the second sentence of the Declaration] wanted to demonstrate to the colonists that King George needed to be overthrown because he had refused to listen to the colonists’ demands and because he had hired foreign mercenaries to use against the states. He said at the time, ‘It is necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said crown should be totally suppressed.’

“So the most famous line of the Declaration, the one we remember the most, states: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.’ The very things that King George was denying us. The Declaration continues with a list of 27 grievances against the King, showing him to be no less than a monster, and ends with us declaring that because King George has denied us all of our rights it is necessary for us to be ‘Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,’ and to establish new governance by becoming independent states.

“To be fair, King George had a lot on his plate at that time. He was losing a valuable revenue source (us), other colonies around the world were being disruptive, and dictator/despots who are used to having their own way all the time will go to almost any length to keep control of what they think is theirs. Jefferson called him a tyrant in the Declaration: ‘In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.’

“And so the states declared their independence and the delegates from each state signed the Declaration. Not everyone signed on July 4th, but most did. In 1811, Benjamin Rush wrote to John Adams recalling that day, describing the signing as a scene of ‘pensive and awful silence.’ The men knew that what they were doing was called treason, in the event they weren’t successful. An apocryphal story emerged several years later, which is institutionalized in the movie 1776, when John Hancock states, after everyone had signed the Declaration, that they must ‘all hang together’ to which Benjamin Franklin says, ‘Yes, we must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.’”

“Okay, okay,” Becca interrupted. “Let’s get back to July 2nd and the long weekend. Why did you bring that up in the first place?” If nothing else, she is good at bringing the conversation back to the point.

“Well, the Weather Channel people had safety tips on traveling this weekend,” I said.

“Like what?” Becca politely asked.

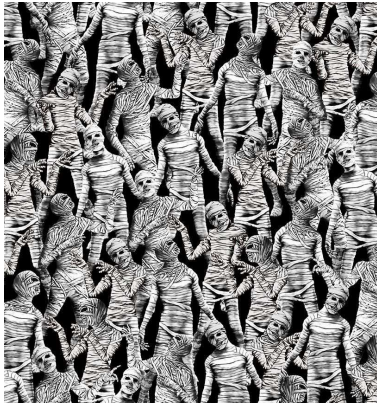
“First, leave early. Like right now.”

“Seriously?”

“Yeah, and it gets better. People going to popular destination places should leave now and people leaving popular destination places should leave now.”

“Good lord,” Becca said. “Anything other important tips?”

“Well, a couple of good tips about making sure your car is in good working order, that the wipers work in case of rain and that the air works in case of heat. Air pressure is good to check because you don’t want flat tires.”



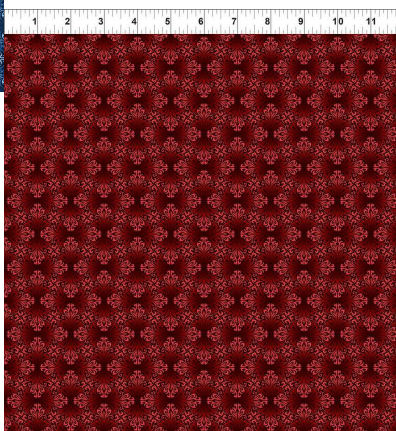
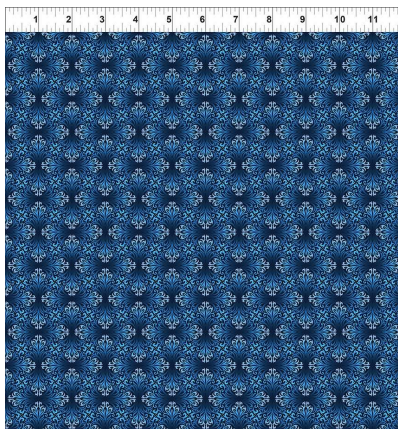
From Timeless Treasures

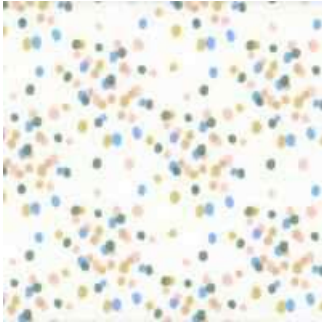


From Riley Blake. BIG FOOT is here!



From In the Beginning

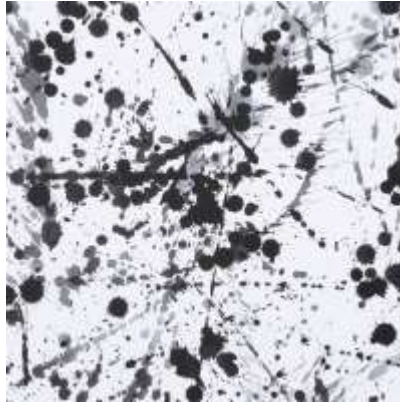




From Dear Stella (NOTE The Hedgehogs) & Oasis (the horses)

Plus we got whites in from P & B. I won't put thumbnails in, because they will just look white.





Alexander Henry



From Riley Blake

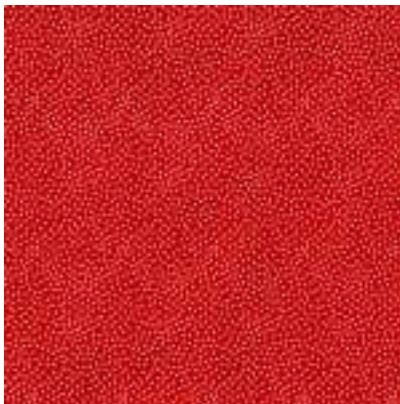
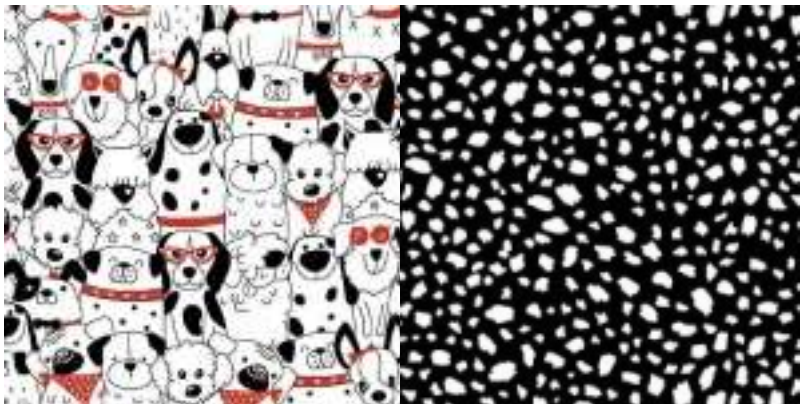




From Riley Blake



From Michael Miller





From Kennard & Kennard



PANEL SIZE APPROX 24" x 44"



Spring Newsletter

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 chose 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.

July Classes

Fun Ways to Use Your Panels: A strategy and Design Class Sat July 1, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

Bring your panel(s) and some graph paper and we will strategize how to design a quilt around your panel. We will work with my EQilt program for help designing extra blocks, choosing settings, and getting the math right.

Machine Binding Sat July 8 1-5 \$40 Jean Korber

This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10” to 40”, table runner, small wall nagging, place mat, etc) that is quilted and ready for binding. In class Jean will show you how to cut your binding, press it, and stitch it down (DO NOT CUT YOUR BINDING IN ADVANCE), how to stitch it down & miter the corners and then how to apply decorative stitches to the edge. In class you will cut your binding, stitch it to your project, miter your corners and then stitch it down by machine on the other side, using decorative stitches.

Elizabeth Hartman Quilts, your choice Sat July 29 10:30-5 Barb Boyer 10:30-4

E.H. Quilts are made using a 45 degree flip & sew method. The trick is in the organization & keeping track where you are in the piecing. These make great kid quilts, wall hangings, ones with all the animals—bed quilts. You can start by making one animal from the quilt, and build out from there.

August Classes

Rail Fence Sat August 5, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

Rail Fence is an easy quilt to construct. You will design your own pattern, meaning you can choose the size of your strips and how you want to place your blocks: In the chevron style as shown in the sample, or

create your own design. Six colors is all you need. And alternate block fabric, if you choose to add other things into your quilt. And borders, of course.

Patches of Life Sat August 26 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is an Eleanor Burns pattern, which uses 48 precut strips (generally one roll plus a few extra strips) and fabric for the half square triangles and the Triangle in a Square blocks, which create the illusion of curves. Class will be all about how to create the 9-patch blocks, the half square triangles, and, of course, the Triangle in a Square block.

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; June 4

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, June blue

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July 2023

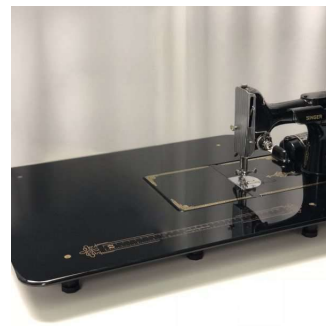
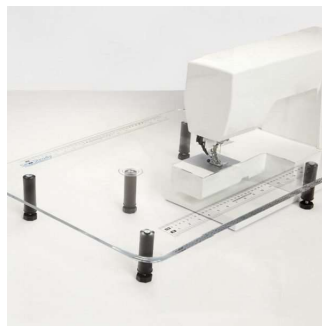
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|--|--------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 BOM 10:30 Fun Ways to use your panels: A strategy & design class 1-5 \$35 |
| 2 Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1- 5! | 3 Full moon | 4 CLOSED | 5 Long Arm class 10:30 | 6 Long Arm Rental Day | 7 | 8 Embroidery Club 10- noon Machine Binding 1-5 \$40 |
| 9 Shop Is now open 1- 5! | 10 | 11 Hand work Club 2-5 | 12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5 | 13 Long Arm Rental Day | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Shop Is now open 1- 5! | 17 | 18 Hand work Club 2-5 | 19 | 20 Long Arm Rental Day | 21 | 22 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----|--|
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Shop Is now open 1- 5! | | Hand work Club 2-5 | Knit Pickers' Club 2-5 | Long Arm Rental Day | | Elizabeth Hartman Quilts: Your choice 10:30-4 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | Color of the month: Christmas |
| Shop Is now open 1- 5! | | | | | | |

August 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------|--|
| | | 1 Hand work Club 2-5 Full Moon | 2 Long Arm class 10:30 | 3 Long Arm Rental | 4 | 5 BOM 10:30 Rail Fence, design your own 1-5 <u>\$35</u> |
| 6 CLOSED | 7 | 8 Hand work Club 2-5 | 9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5 | 10 Long Arm Rental Day | 11 | 12 Embroidery Club 10-noon |
| 13 Shop Is now open 1-5! | 14 | 15 Hand work Club 2-5 | 16 Long Arm class 10:30 | 17 Long Arm Rental Day | 18 | 19 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Shop Is now open 1-5! | | Hand work Club 2-5 | Knit Pickers' Club 2-5 | Long Arm Rental Day | | Patches of Life 10:30-4 \$35 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| Shop Is now open 1-5! | | Hand work Club 2-5 | Long Arm class 10:30 Full BLUE moon | Long Arm Rental Day | | Color of the month: blacks |
| | | | | | | |



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

