

Exciting news!

We are launching a new web page! This is a soft launch.

<https://sites.google.com/view/aroundtheblockquiltshop/home>



February 28, 2025

Never underestimate that gray haired, little old lady, sitting off by herself, calmly knitting. We learned that long ago from Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, who would knit through jury trials and murder investigations, and yet in the end be the only person smart enough to solve the case. But we tend to forget that when we see a knitter or a quilter. Someone picks up a pair of needles and her IQ begins to drop.

So I didn't quite know what to expect on my Craft Cruises Knitting tour to Antarctica. Miss Marples or sweet gray-haired grandmothers. I figured most of the knitters would have been knitting longer than I have, and for the most part that was true. But I wasn't expecting lawyers, accountants, professors, teachers, medical professionals, psychologists....an incredible array of talent and skills, all packaged into outgoing, infectious, secure and engaging women. We did have a few husbands along on the trip, who were as delightful as their counterparts.

I was on a Holland America ship called the Oosterdam. The ship can house 1964 guests plus crew. Our group consisted of 28 knitters, all women, some old, some not,

some gray haired, some not, some little, some not. And I can tell you I have never met a more delightful, educated, talented, well traveled and caring group of women in my life. Okay, that's a bit of an exaggeration, because I meet talented women, and men, all the time through the quilt store. But I was surprised, and in reality, I should not have been.

But all of us who participate in fiber arts activities experience that IQ point drop when we tell people we quilt or when we whip out our knitting needles. One woman on board the ship, who saw us knitting on the Lido deck, was delighted to see us knitting and confessed that she had brought some knitting along, but her friends were rather aghast that she might dare bring out her needles in public. We told her to join us anytime she wanted, because as we all know, there is safety in numbers.

Our tour leader was Dr. Kim Sullivan, a recently retired biology professor at Utah State University. She taught us about the wildlife we saw, from birds to whales to sea lions to....PENQUINS! Because, of course, one of the main purposes of this trip was to see PENQUINS! And we saw lots of them. Thousands. Hundreds of thousands. Seriously.

Our knitting teacher was Alissa Barton, the Knitting Fairy. On days at seas, we attended knitting classes, and in the afternoon and evenings we gathered to just sit and knit and watch the world, or ocean, go by. Our repair class was heart attack city, when we dropped all of our stitches just to learn how to pick them back up, and when we cut into our cables to slip an errant front cable to the rear. We learned new cast on and bind off techniques, got measurements for sweaters to adapt the sweater to our body and not the other way around. We practiced stitching parts back together, tried helix knitting, and learned why brioche isn't as hard as it really is. Although I'm still not convinced. Alissa was patient, easy to follow, and talented, oh my talented. She was inclusive to all of us and made sure no one was left out or left behind.

For the next several newsletters, I will tell you tales of Antarctica. I will also learn how to spell it (I leave the first c out when I type. Sigh.)

But first...any trip begins and ends a bit chaotically. My shuttle transport to the Denver airport changed my pick up time three times in 2 hours, the night before departure, going from 8 a.m. (original) to 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. (which meant I would miss my plane) to 4 a.m. My coming home trip got waylaid by a medical emergency that took us back to Chile 4 hours into our flight. To say that LATAM airline mishandled the resulting chaos and confusion that results in such an event doesn't even begin to describe the incompetence we faced. And then, finally getting home at 1:30 a.m., I found my mailbox head sitting on the ground next to its post. Turns out, somebody shot it. I'll admit that the head was barely staying on the post, but that was no reason to kill it. But that wasn't the final issue that greeted me. In the morning, heading to teach my quilt class, I discovered my car battery had died. Like my brother told me, "Don't you just love vacations!"

But despite the getting there and getting back woes, I'd do it again just to see Antarctica.

Our trip started in Buenos Aires, and because our rooms were not ready when we got to the hotel, we went exploring. A group of us headed to El Ateneo Grand Splendid, a famous bookstore that was formerly the Teatro Grand Splendid theater, dating back to 1919. In 2019, it was named the "world's most beautiful bookstore" by National Geographic. The stage had been turned into a café, and at the top of the hour, digital displays played out on the backdrop of the stage.

The next day we took a tour of the city. I saw lots of cultural highlights, got drenched in a rain storm, because of course my rain poncho and hat were still packed, saw lots of green Monk parrots, and strolled around the Recoleta cemetery where Eva Peron is buried. This is not a cemetery of headstones. It is a maze of more than 6,400 statues, sarcophagi, coffins and crypts. There are no street signs, no "you are here" diagrams, although you can get a map at the entrance. The description on the website says, "Lose yourself for hours in this labyrinthine city of the dead."

Our hotel was also hosting a famous local football (soccer) team. I only know this because there were all these kids in soccer uniforms standing behind a roped off section in the hotel. I figured they were waiting to get rooms. Nope. Just as I ducked under the ropes to head to the elevators, the elevators opened and young men piled

out, dressed as soccer players. Camera phones started clicking. I walked right through the players, thinking they were part of the group of kids. Nope. My picture is probably on some soccer fan web page somewhere, a clueless tourist photobombing famous players.

We also went to yarn shops. But that will be next week's story. As always when I come back from a trip, I write about my travels, in part to remind me what I did, in part to write for my fellow travelers, and in part to include you in my adventures. So stay tuned.





Delta Kappa Gamma

International Society of Women in Education

Used Book Sale

March 1&2 and 8&9

Sat 1st 8am to 5pm **Sun 2nd** 9am to 4pm

Sat 8th 8am to 5pm **Sun 9th** 9am to 2pm

Snow dates: March 15-16

In the former Big Lots in Cheyenne Plaza
3501 East Lincolnway
(Next to Trampoline Park)

Please donate used books:

January 27 through February 23

Collection locations:

Sale site (preferred option) hours are:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9am-1pm

Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday 9am-4pm

Or drop books at

***Safeway Both Albertson's
Gold's Gym YMCA Sprouts***

If very large donation (within 10-mile radius),
or unable to get to a collection location
call **630-3682** or **421-1755** for appointment.
(Leave a message.)

Books must be boxed and on porch or in garage.

BINGO!

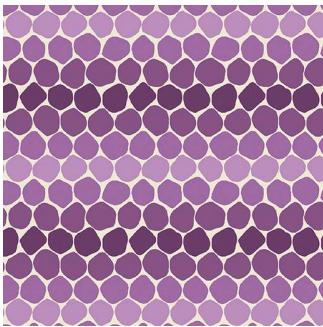
We're starting another game. The bingo challenge is to encourage you to finish projects, learn new things, take classes and buy a little product from ATB.

I have also provided a link to the information. [Bingo Game](#)

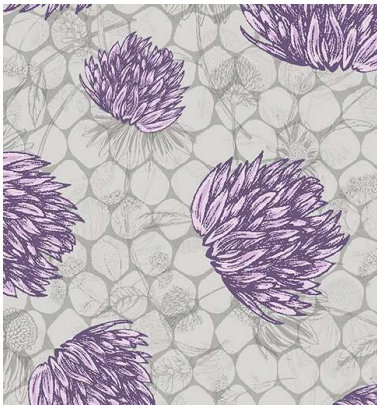
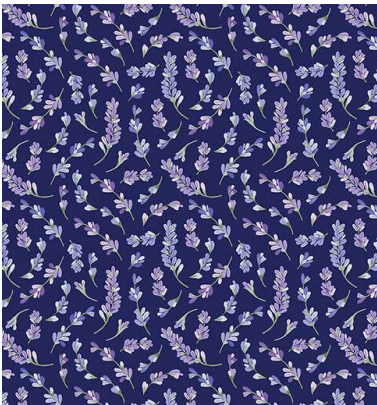
New Fabric



PANEL MEASURES APPROX. 24" X 44"



From Benartex





From 3 Wishes

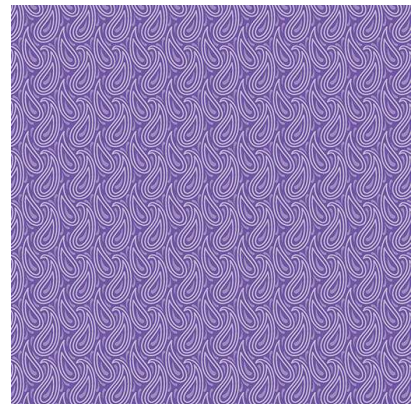
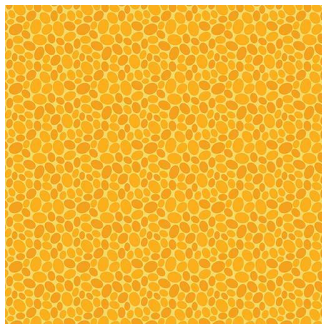


From Michael Miller



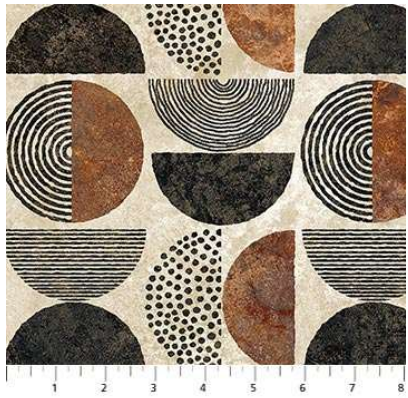
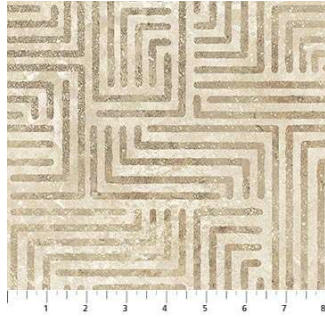


From Clothworks

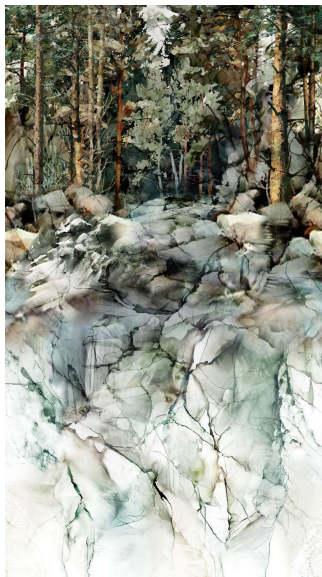


From Benartex, the first
image are 10" squares, 42
pieces

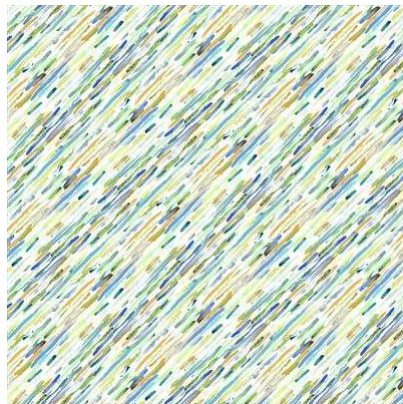
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Northcott



From Northcott (second
image is also in wideback)



From Clothworks

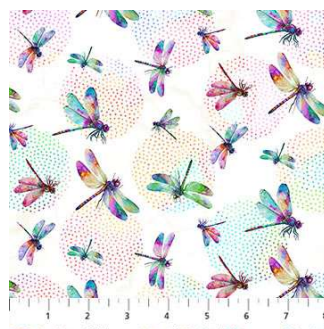
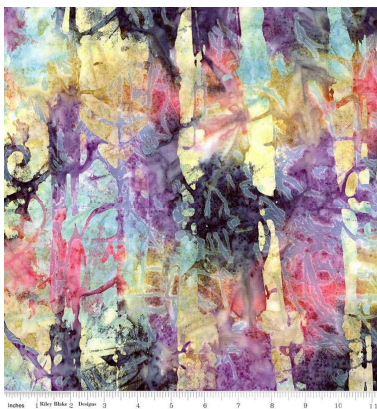


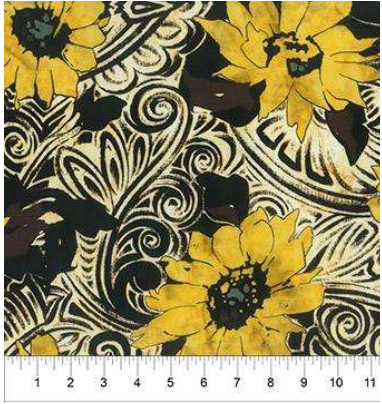
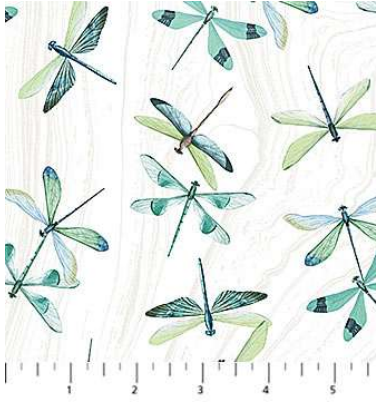
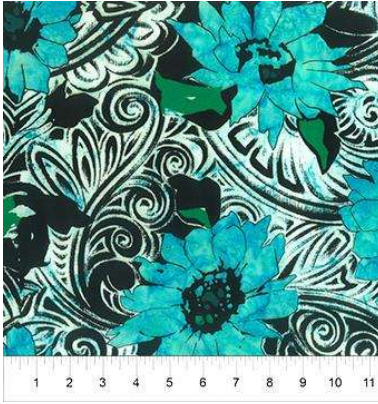


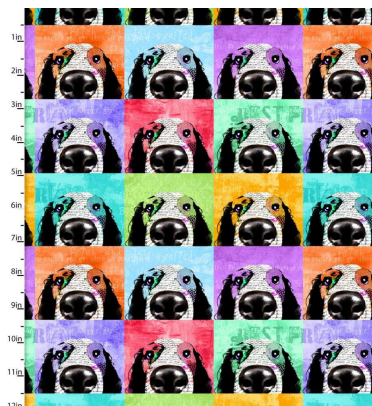
From Michael Miller



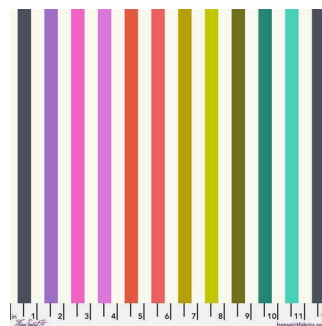
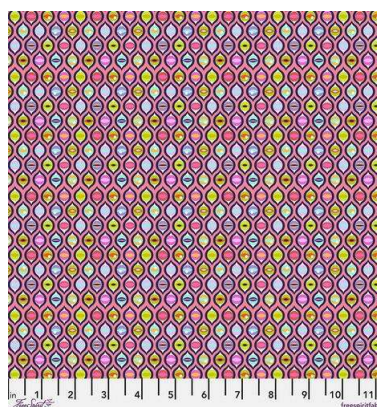
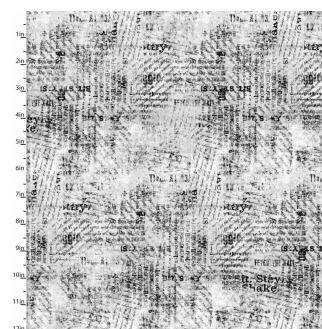
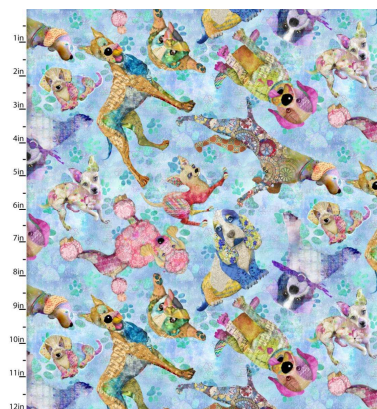
From Northcott

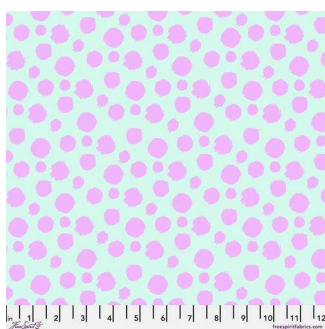






From 3 wishes





From Tula Pink



Full Moon Days: January 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday
NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday) NOTE: These did not get onto
the calendar

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Tennessee Waltz Part 1 1-5
2 Beginning Quilting 1-4	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Merry Snowmen 1-4
9 Beginning Quilting 1-4	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 NATIONAL QUILT DAY
16 Beginning Quilting 1-4	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 Counterpoint Part 2 10:30-4
23 Beginning Quilting 1-4	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	29 Cats in PJs 10:30-4
30 Beginning Quilting 1-4	31					

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 ... come in January and find out!

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 Modern Herbal Block of the Month by Sewn Wyoming.

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.

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 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday)

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 and Book of the Month

January dogs and cats; February red; March green; April blue; May flowers

March Classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Mar 2

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer

This is a classic quilt design that incorporates the 54-40 of Fight block and a snowball block. The result? The quilt will look curvy, but it's all pieced straight. Pattern will be given out in class. You will need the 2 Peaks in Once ruler by Creative Grid. Yardage needed for a 61" X 70" is app. 2-3 yards of the focus fabric for the center squares, 1 ½ for the stars and 1 yard for the 4-patch squares. Border app. 2 yards.

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45

Pattern Merry, Merry Snowmen by Bunny Hill Designs. The applique in the sample quilt is done with wool. We will teach both wool options, traditional needle turn or or finished edge applique, or raw edge applique. Skill level: Confident beginner

NATIONAL QUILT DAY SATURDAY MARCH 15 DEMOS AT NOON

We will have a special sale for National Quilt Day. We will have demos and other activities going on, TBA.

Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber ongoing

Cats in PJs Sat March 29 10:30-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

This is an Elizabeth Hartman Cats in Pajamas pattern. Follow pattern instructions for fabric amounts. And think creatively about fabrics for the cats and for the

PJs. Footballs, stripes, dogs, plaids, ballerinas—anything you can think of for cute PJ fabrics. And the cats can be all different colors, and some may have different tail and ear colors, as well.

April Classes

Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer ongoing

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing

Fanfare Sat April 19, 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Fanfare pattern by Krista Moser required. Follow pattern instructions for fabric requirements. You will also need the Creative Grid 60 degree triangle ruler, 8 1/2" size. Skill level: Intermediate

6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.

The second quilt we will teach is Coming Together.

May Classes

T-Shirt Quilt Sat May 3 & 24 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer

So you've got all these t-shirts and want to turn them into a quilt? It's easy, but you need the right tools. The class is taught in 2 parts: First, preparing your t-shirts, and second, designing your top—which is where I come in, because I can help with all of the math that might be involved.

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing

Drip Drop Sat May 17 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$45

The quilt is in Graphic Quilts book by That Patchwork Place. We have copies. Templates will be provided for the curved pieces. Follow fabric requirements in the book. Skill level: Intermediate



Normal Shop Hours:

Monday-Saturday 10-5:30

Sunday 1-5

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 5-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

