

Exciting news!

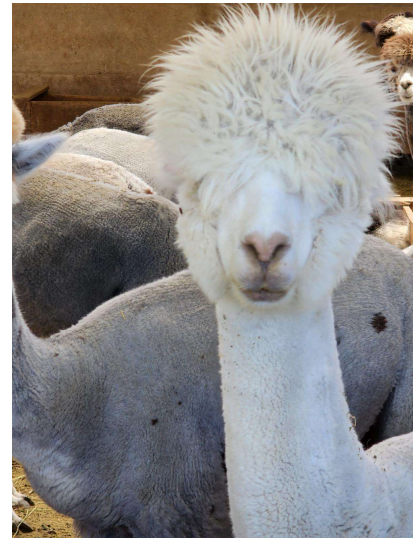
We are launching a new web page! This is a soft launch.

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



March 14, 2025

The thing about feeding alpacas alfalfa is that whenever my nose got close to my shirt (not to be graphic, but things like that happen when you pee in small enclosed places like airplane bathrooms) you smell alpacas. And I naturally wondered if everybody near me could smell what I thought was a barn yard smell. I finally figured out I was smelling the alfalfa that I had held to feed the alpacas. That put a better spin on the smell.



Our last yarn stop was at Quintessence Alpacas. Quintessence exports both fibers and yarns and alpacas all over the world. They have about 1400 (I think) alpacas on their farm and they breed for both color and micron fiber content—always striving for the finest fleeces possible. Alpacas come in more than 20-30 colors, and Quintessence specializes in trying to breed unusual colors like mauve, lavender and spotted or various colors on one alpaca.

We got to visit the farm, play with the youngsters (yearlings, basically), eat a marvelous meal, tour the factory to watch how the fleece gets turned into yarn, and then, finally, shop! It was a wonderful end to our trip.

We also visited Lanas Chucao, a local co-op of fiber artists, located in Puerto Montt. They've been in business for 17 years and they dye and spin their own wool yarns, and teach fiber crafts, like dying, spinning and weaving to kids and adults. We got to participate in the dying, spinning and weaving, and since we weren't 8 years old, some of those skills were challenging—like weaving and spinning. I tried spinning and I think I kept spinning the drop spindle in the wrong direction. My helper was patient, retrieving the spindle and the roving yarn I had split, to set me up to fail again.

I was better at the weaving. Somewhat. The workers at Lanas Chucao I think had fun watching us fumble finger our way through these various crafts. It was a delightful afternoon and was a great lesson in the skills involved in our art of knitting. I bought enough yarn to make a brightly colored “Patagonia” styled hat, complete with ear flaps and bobbles, butterflies, and yarn tufts adorning my hat.

Last, but not least, I need to tell you about the icebergs. And penguins. And Antarctica. And it's hard to describe.

If you are cruising to Antarctica, it's not your first cruise. No one says to themselves, I think I'd like to try cruising, why not go to Antarctica.

But you should.

Cruising, and traveling in general, is about destination. My dad always decided where he wanted to go and which ports or places he wanted to visit. Then he chose the

cruise line or tour company. Sitka, San Blas Islands, Panama Canal, Cartagena, Loreli Rock. He was a traveler, not a tourist.

In Antarctica, we were led by a captain who is a traveler. We cruised around and in and out of the Antarctic Peninsula, moving from place to place depending on visibility and other weather related complications. We moved slowly. We stayed in the channels at night, rather than going out to sea, by finding a drifting iceberg, falling in behind, and matching its speed. He found Wager Island, the subject of a best selling book & soon to be movie about a failed British expedition of tragic proportions: starvation, drowning, hypothermia, scurry, cannibalism, and other assorted traumas. Can't wait. Wager Island was not on the regular sightseeing stops, but the captain was asked that since we were traveling near it, could we go see it. So the captain figured out a way to take a short side tour over to Wager Island. Like I said, he is a traveler not a tourist.

He also found Iceberg A23a, which is a long, 19? mile iceberg that calved off an iceshelf in 1986. It was stuck to the sea bed until 2020, when it started drifting. Our captain told us they could find it on the radar, but it was foggy so...they couldn't see it. Until the fog lifted and there it was. George Martin's Ice Wall. The largest iceberg in the world.

In December 2023, a polar research ship found A23a, traveling at 10 knots. It took several hours for the ship to sail around the iceberg. We traveled from one end to the other (but not back down the other side) taking 30 minutes+? Weeks later A23a ran aground at South Georgia island, where it will eventually break up, melt, disrupt habitats, and create new habitats.

We traveled in and around the Antarctic Peninsula, which is on the west side of Antarctica. We visited Hope Bay (research station and jumping off point for all things Antarctic, a zodiac boat came out to the ship to get care packages from our ship, it also has the southern most boy scout troop), Deception Island (research center, volcano reasonably active and a tourist destination of sorts, plus 140,000 penguins), Elephant Island (research center, thousands upon thousands of penguins and the desolate refuge of the British explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew who got stuck there in 1916), Charlotte Bay, Palmer Station (US research station), finally coming

within about 65 miles of the Arctic Circle. Our ship was not rated for the Arctic Ocean, so we stayed in the Subarctic region of Antarctica.

We saw penguins, hundreds of thousands of them. Icebergs, just floating there because they could. Crabeater seals, leopard seals, humpback whales, penguins, hundreds of thousands of them, albatrosses, right whales, orcas, icebergs, and did I mention penguins? While I think Ernest Shackleton (major explorer of the area) was nuts, I can honestly see his obsession with coming back again and again. The beauty of the continent and its enormity—we were on the Peninsula side, and the north pole was still 4,000 miles away—was overwhelming.

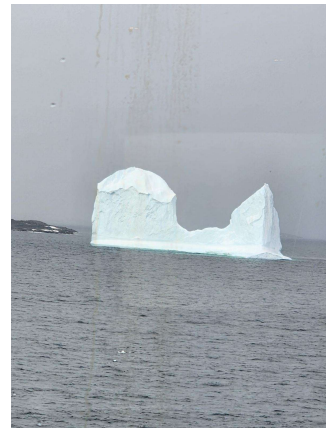
And the area is fragile. I have heard about the Paris Accord 2% agreement: to keep the Earth from warming more than 2% above pre industrial levels. The treaty also states that the preferred limit is 1.5%. I'll be honest, I didn't understand what rising above that 2% would do. Now I do. Essentially, Antarctica, especially the Peninsula, would melt. Irretrievably melt. And the melt is not limited to the southern hemisphere. Greenland, Iceland, Arctic Circle and other points north will also irretrievably melt and disappear. You hit the 2% and there is no going back.

I walked away from that presentation realizing that it's probably going to happen because enough countries, including our own, don't care. I walked away realizing that it will happen in my lifetime. And I realized that meant I couldn't care about Florida, New York, long stretches of California, Holland, San Blas Islands, and all the other low lying areas of the world because they would all be gone, under water, because of rising seas and changes in climate. If I cared, I'd never sleep again. The risks of going above that 2% level are tremendous.

In 2024 we were at 1.5%, the hottest year ever recorded.

And I'm glad I went to see Antarctica.

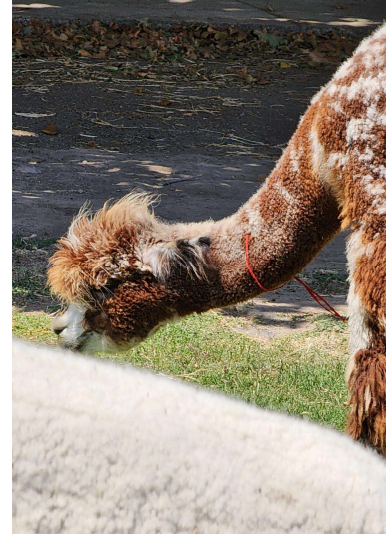
A23a below



Penguins--lots of them

Below, the end of A23a





Happy National Quilt Day!

It will be a good day to celebrate National Quilt Day. I think it will be snowing. So it's a good day to remember WE NEED MORE QUILTS!

To help in this effort, Around the Block is having a sale and we'll be conducting various demonstrations.

Sale: For every \$100 you can get a \$30 scrap bag! Plus any fabric with cats and dogs on it is 20% off. And remember, the color of the month is green, so that's 20% off as well. Also, if you watch any of the demos and buy a ruler, pattern or book, you'll get 20% off that purchase as well.

Demos:

11 a.m. Curvy Log Cabin: Jean Korber will show you how to use the curvy log cabin ruler. These rulers help you cut and trim log cabin blocks that form gently curved pieces. New rulers are always fun and the patterns are designed for making quick table runners and wall hangings – but that doesn't mean you can't expand the pattern to make a full sized quilt.

Noon: Rainbow Drunkard's Path rulers: Crazy curves, via drunkard's path, are made simple with these easy to use rulers. The Rainbow Template rulers give you a choice as to what style Drunkard's Path blocks you want to make. We also have the traditional Drunkard's Path templates.

1 p.m. English Paper Piecing: I will demo the preparation for piecing and the stitch used to sew the pieces back together. English Paper Piecing is a slow stitching craft, one that you easily can take anywhere. You can make small projects or large quilts. You can work with precut fabrics, from strips to squares. These are relaxing projects that will eat away your stress.

2 p.m. Mitered borders: I am ready to put my border on my dragon quilt. I will show you how to pin, mark and sew a mitered border on a big quilt. There are some tricks (or hints) that make this process easy and successful each time you do it.



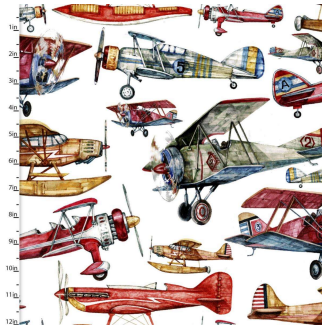
BINGO!

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](#)



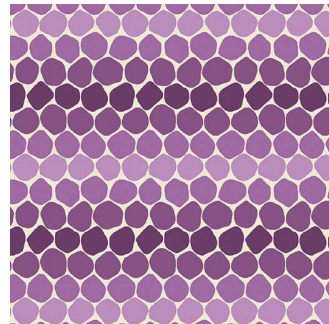
New Fabric



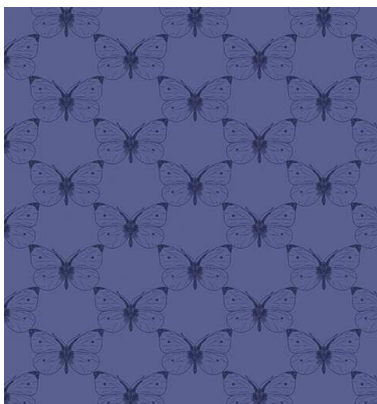
From 3 Wishes

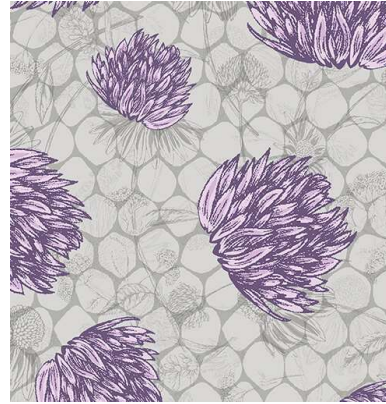


PANEL MEASURES APPROX. 24" X 44"



From Benartex





From 3 Wishes



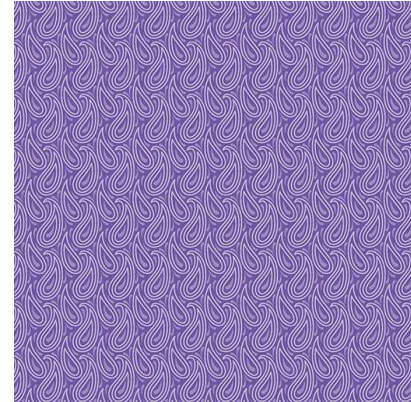
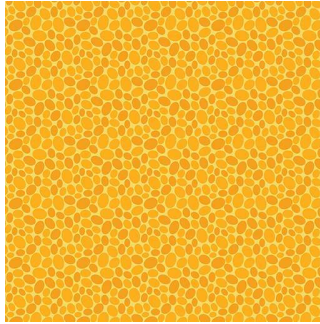


From Michael Miller



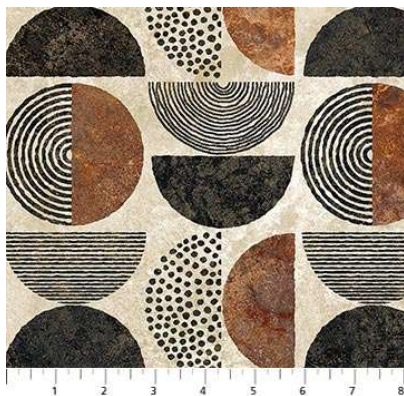
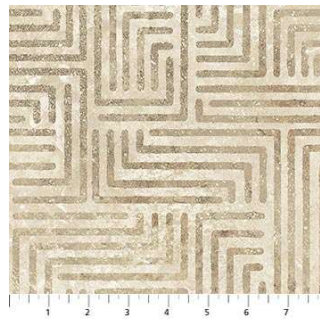
From Clothworks





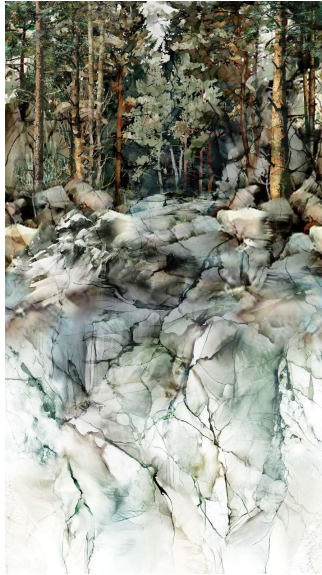
From Benartex, the first
image are 10" squares, 42
pieces

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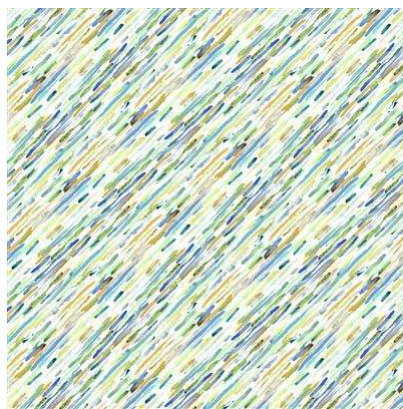
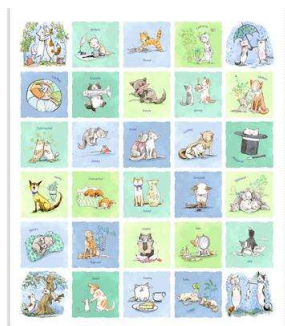


Northcott





From Northcott (second image is also in wideback)

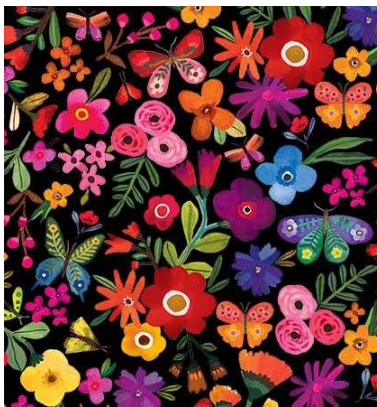


From Clothworks

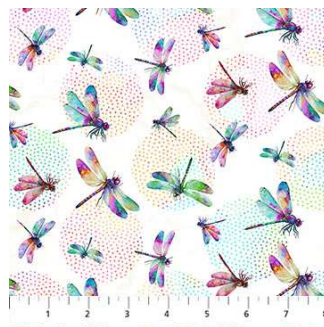
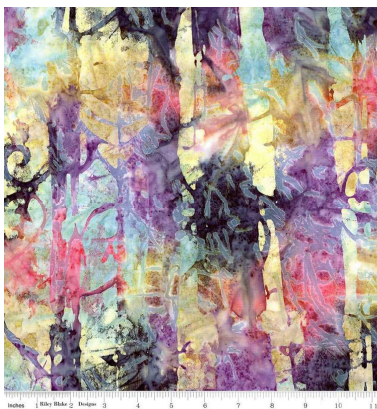


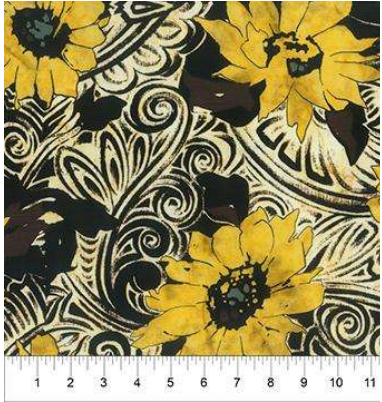
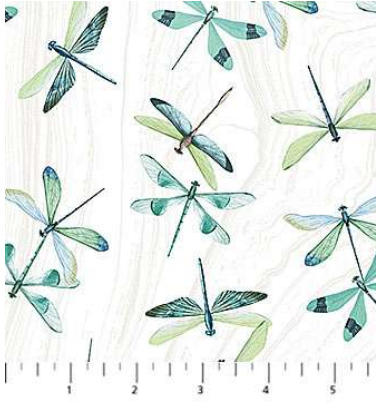
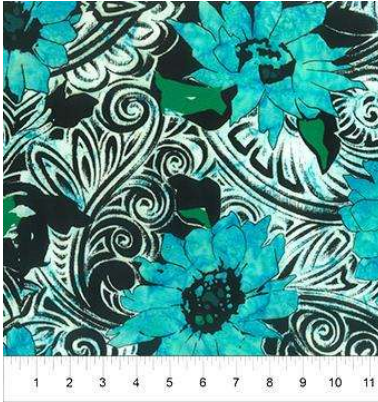


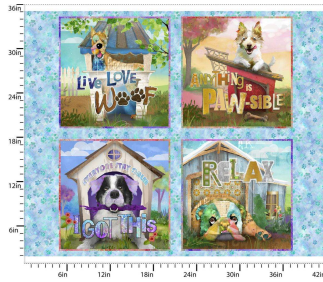
From Michael Miller



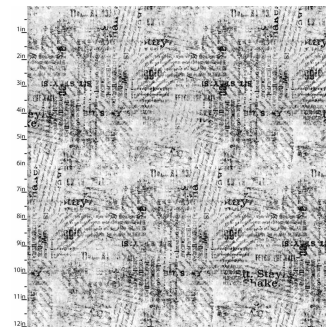
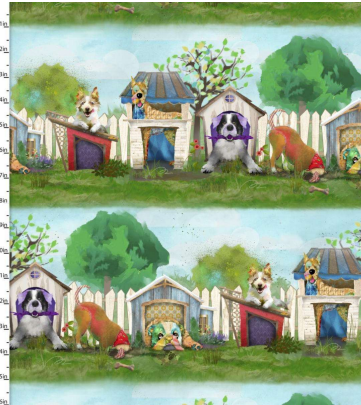
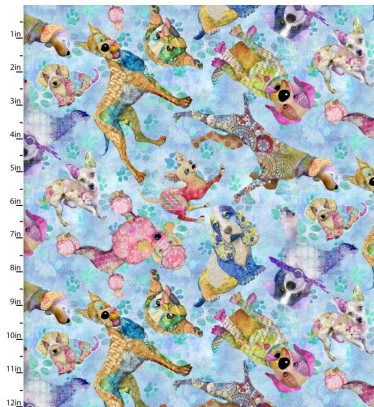
From Northcott







From 3 wishes



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.

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

