

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

MARTHA LEVINSON

So, how did you enjoy the south of France?

MARY

It was lovely. But almost too hot even now.

MARTHA LEVINSON

I think it's such a shame they close things up during the summer. I love the sun.

VIOLET, DOWAGER COUNTESS OF GRANTHAM

So we can see.



December 5, 2014

So last week we were talking about Christmas movies. I won't mention the Alaskan-set movie, that has lots of snow piled all around and green, fully leafed deciduous trees sprouting through the snow. I rewound to double check. I also think the daylight, or lack thereof, wasn't an issue. But the show was probably shot in Hollywood. So I guess it's all right.

But I don't want to talk about the Christmas movies. No, I want to talk about the ads in between the movies. We got rid of the politicians just in time for the Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and all the ridiculous product ads that play during the sappy Christmas movies, that of course I watch-the movies, not always the ads. But I swear I'm not going to watch the Valentine romance movies that are scheduled to start in January. I've already seen them. They're called the Christmas movies.

Anyway, the Black Friday ads made me want to go out, stand in line and purchase a new 54" television for \$200. I don't know what it was about those ads, but I was eager to get out there and spend some bucks on stuff I didn't need.

I even thought about going to Walmart between 6 & 7 p.m. to get the latest whatever it was for \$30. I was actually more curious about how the sale actually worked. I mean, imagine: Everyone in town, some 60,000 folks (Cheyenne, remember) all find a parking spot or come in massive shuttle busses, line up in front of Walmart-actually take up all the space from Powderhouse to College (about 6 miles, I think)-and wait for their rain check coupon. I looked at the ad and couldn't find restrictions. So long as you were there-not through the door just there--you got the coupon. Maybe I missed something, but I wasn't that curious to go check it out. I might have wound up buying something.

But the Black Friday ads aren't the ones I want to talk about. No, it's the ads that only show up around Christmas to sell weird new toys for the amazing price of \$29.99, plus free shipping and if you buy now we'll throw in a live puppy, plus food and bedding for just \$2 more. I'm kidding about the puppy. UPS doesn't ship live pets. I don't think....

Anyway, the first of the strange ads is for the My Fun Fish Tank. According to the ad, every child's wish is have their very own pet fish (and yes, the script rhymes). This new tank system-actually, I want to stop right now & explain that we aren't really talking about a tank. We're talking about a large glass, maybe 4 inches in diameter. The "tank" can house about 1 fish. Anyway, this tank miraculously cleans itself-you pour water in the top and the dirty water, which is only at the bottom of the tank, gets pushed up through a small tube-kinda like siphoning gas. In and out and you have a clean tank.

Those of you who have watched Finding Nemo know that it's not that simple. Fish poop doesn't always conveniently collect on the bottom. But the ad proclaims the system "cleans like magic so you can have more fun with your fish" which is all important, of course.

Which brings me to the next point: What fun do you actually have with your fish. The ad suggests that you can captivate your whole family's imagination with an underwater world of discovery. Now I've been scuba diving, a true underwater world of discovery. Watching a goldfish swim around in a small glass of water with a fake green fern is not my idea of an underwater world of discovery.

Now, I like fish tanks. And I find it calming to watch odd sorts of fish swim around, in and out of little porcelain houses, wrecked ships and draw bridges. In fact one of the most interesting tanks I saw was a floor to ceiling (approximately that tall) salt water tank. Different fish lived at different levels. I found that fascinating.

But the whole family clustered around a glass of water holding a goldfish - I don't think so. It ranks right up there with the fake pet parakeet that talks & sings. Remember Perfect Polly, the world's perfect pet (newsletter Aug. 2, 2013). This goldfish bowl thing is a lot like that-accept with a real fish, I guess.

I guess if you're a parent, starved for ideas about what to get the kids, a magically cleaning fish bowl, or is that a fish bowl that cleans magically--anyway, if you're out of ideas for the perfect present for your kid, may be you'd buy this thing.

I'd like to talk about the new Joe Boxer ad and the Stuffies ad, one of those other perfect kind of gifts. That might be next week. I'm sure there will be more idiotic ads that will catch my attention.

CHRISTMAS MYSTERY CLASS!

Time & Date: Sat. Dec. 13, noon-6 (give or take)

Project: TBA (but I can tell you it is a table runner & you will learn a new technique!)

Cost: \$50. Includes pattern, fabric & tool.

Limit: 10 students

Particulars: Select your fabric pack now (I have several different fabric choices). Tool and pattern will be provided in class. (Some secrets must be kept)

Additions: Everyone bring one munchie to share. It can be as simple as a plate of cookies, a bag of carrots, a carton of milk. Okay, that's what you set out for Santa. Or bring jello wigglers, Chex mix, popcorn. Something simple. Easy finger food. Something to munch on.

At the end of the day, your table topper will be sewn!

Come to my Concert! It's FREE!

We're singing songs like (or exactly like):

Ave Maria, Ding Dong Merrily on High, The First Noel, Lo How a Rose, O Holy Night, Carol of the Bells and lots more!

Bring the Christmas Season in right with a Yuletide Concert!

Cheyenne Capital Chorale
YULETIDE TAPESTRY

Sunday, December 7, 2014
7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral
2107 Capitol Avenue

Our Winter concert "Yuletide Tapestry" will include a wide range of Christmas literature to celebrate the beauty of the season.

Free Admission.
Seating is limited.
Donations accepted.

For more information visit:
cheyennecapitalchorale.org

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The Cheyenne Capital Chorale is a non-profit organization supported by its members, the generous contributions of its corporate and individual sponsors, and in part by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, through funding from the Wyoming State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

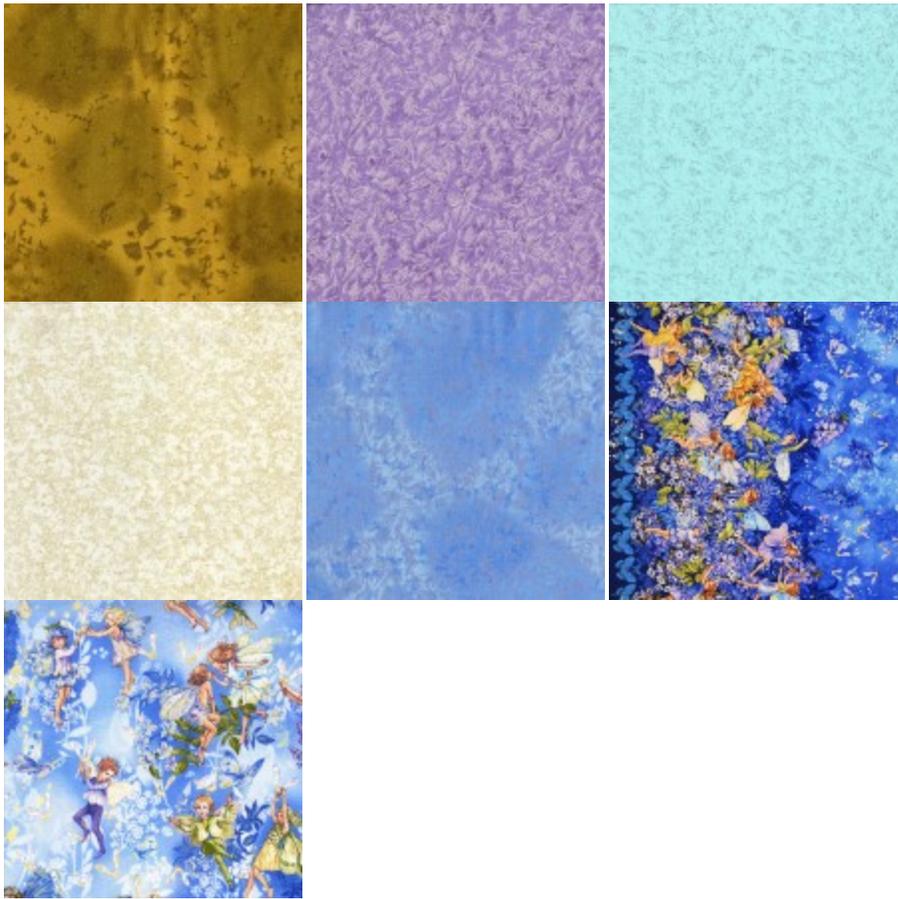
WHAT'S NEW!!

New notions (wonder clips, rulers, glue pens, hexi papers, pin cushions, needle threaders, new floss, wool, hand needles of various types & sizes, safety pins, Roxanne chalk markers, thread, and cutters).

New books & patterns:



From Michael Miller:

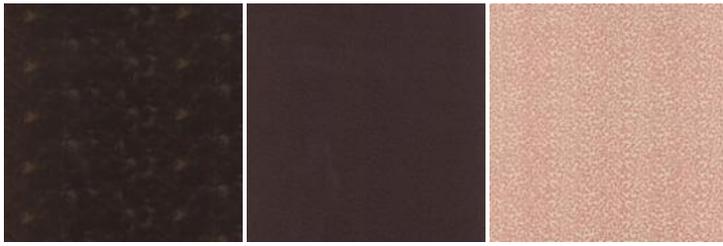


From Blank:

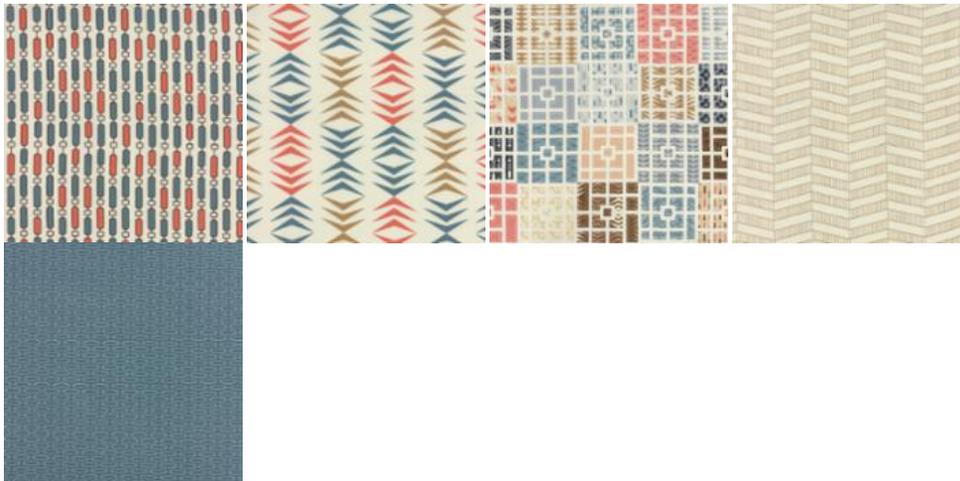


From Moda, Rambling Rose:





Modern Urban from Moda:

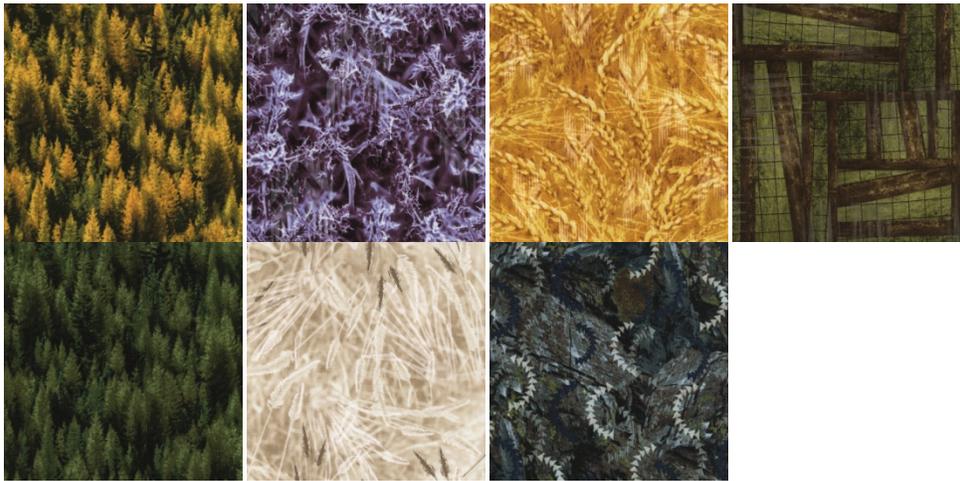


Barns:

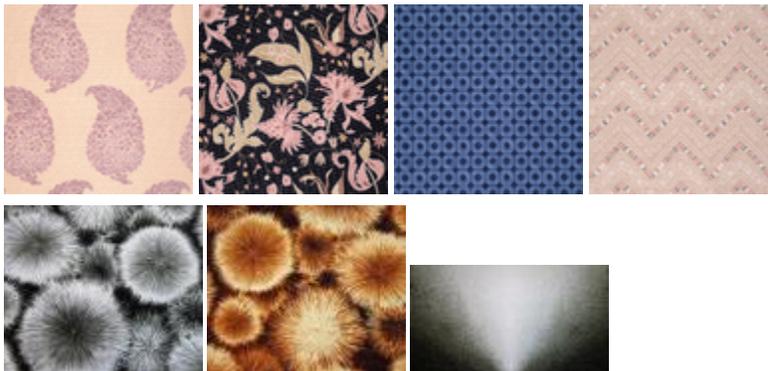


From Timeless Treasures, Reclaiming the West:





And more:



December Classes & Special Events

Finish Your Quilt Sale Dec 6

Bring your finished quilt top to the store, and we'll help you find the perfect back and binding. Plus, we'll give you 20% off your backing, binding and/or batting. It's time to finish your quilts!

Block of the Month Dec 6, 10:30-11:15 FREE

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year we're making a Christmas Quilt -shaped like a tree. Each month will feature a different block.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Jan-Dec. 4-6 Barb Boyer \$20 ongoing

Learn to knit Cables! Mon. Dec 8 1:30-3:30 OR 6-8:30 \$20 Carol Moler

We have a quick & easy pattern for a cabled ear warmer. You can use sport weight (with a little modification), worsted weight and even a little bulkier yarn (1 skein, 50 grams app). Needle sizes to fit the yarn you want to use. (It's a very accommodating pattern).

Underground Railroad Quilt -- ongoing

Thurs Dec 11, 18 1-4 Barb Boyer \$25

To celebrate the ending of the Civil War, we will make a sampler quilt featuring 15 different blocks from the Eleanor Burns book, *The Underground Railroad*. We'll explore a little history during class and learn to make the blocks at the same time.

Knit Pickin' Club Thur. Dec 11, 6-8:30

Every second Thursday, we're getting together to practice our knitting. 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. You can start simply by making a dishcloth. Carol will teach you the essentials to get you started. For those of you who already know how to knit, it's time for you to simply sit & knit & share ideas.

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. Dec 13, 10-11:30 FREE

Kathy Sconce

(Club normally meets the 2nd Sat. of each month from 10-noon)

This year we're stitching "penny squares" using simple drawings that we create! During class we will draw various designs and stitch then on 5" squares. Each month we will learn new stitches and trade designs and ideas. Then these 5" squares can be made into a sampler quilts, or stitched into a "book" of stitches. You will also make your own notebooks so you can keep your squares, ideas, floss, needles & scissors in one place. You can join anytime.

Christmas Mystery -- See above

English Paper Piecing

Mon. Dec 15, 1-3 Barb Boyer \$20

English paper piecing dates back to the early 1800s. It is a hand sewing method that uses paper templates to help sew complex angles together, like hexagons. Any number of different designs can be made, including Grandmother's Flower Garden. The new Downton Abbey line is showing a hexie quilt, using the English paper piecing method. We'll get started on a purse using iron on templates, and then move on to larger quilts and learn different methods of paper piecing.

Hand Applique Club

Thursday Dec 18 6-8:30 free

Every 3rd Thursday, we're getting together to practice our hand applique skills. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and sew. More and more patterns are showing applique work, and learning how to hand applique is a wonderful skill that can be carried anywhere you go.

Friday Nighters Fri. Dec 19, 5:30-9 \$10(one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2014 -- or just help you get things done. You give me a list of your "to dos" or unfinished projects you want to finish and then each month I check off what you've completed. Trust me. If you need incentive to stay on track, this is it. You can bring your sewing machine or do hand work.

HAND APPLIQUE CLUB

This is a get-together & stitch class. Many of us are trying hand applique these days-- patterns are calling for a lot more applique. The club is designed for quilters who already do some hand applique, but beginners are welcome as well. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, talk about threads and, in general, just stitch. A little quiet time away from the distractions of home is what we need to get our projects done.

HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB

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. We provide free vintage patterns, and this year we will have free patterns of girls with hats, that you can embroider, embellish and color. Each month Kathy Sconce shows us a new stitch to try, plus, she guides us through thread choices, how to knot, fabrics to use, and tracing techniques.

Knit Pickin' Club

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).

Toad Toters

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: October 8, November 6, December 6.

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

September brown, October orange, November green, December flannels

December 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2 Quilt TBA	2	3 Doodling on Your Quilt 1-3:30 OR 6-8:30	4	5 Open Sew1-4	6 BOM 10:30- 11:30 Monthly Minis 4-6 Finish Your Quilt Sale <u>FullMoon</u>

7 CLOSED	8 Learn to knit TBA 1:30-3:30 or 6-8:30	9	10	11 Underground Railroad Quilt 1-4 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	12	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Christmas Mystery noon-6
14	15 English Paper Piecing 1-3	16	17	18 Underground Railroad Quilt 1-4 Hand Applique Club 6-8:30	19 Open Sew1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	20
21	22	23	24 CLOSED	25 Christmas Day CLOSED	26 sale	27 Sale
28 CLOSED	29	30	31			