

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

"Everyone goes down the aisle with half the story hidden."



February 21, 2014

I haven't been out to NASA's website for quite a few months, but I am happy to report that we haven't been hit by any meteors during that time, we haven't seen any northern lights around here, and nobody knows why the wind keeps blowing like it is.

I mean, really. I'm tired about talking about it. But you just can't help it. Sunday night, after the wonderful thaw all day long - with wind helping to dry things up -- I drove home through an amazing blizzard. That's right. A blizzard. Then just as I got to my driveway, I saw a very suspicious big, black something crossing the road just to the north of my house. I decided to investigate, of course. That was almost a mistake. You're always told never to cross water, possibly deep water, in a flood.

We had a lake building to the west of the road which was over flowing onto the road to the point of wiping it out. Rapid snow melt from earlier in the day when it was warmer. What was amazing, though, were the white caps in the lake. White curl topped wakes. Wind. And the wind was pushing the water across the road.

When I finally got home, I had to bring in a 40-pound bag of pellets (for the stove) and was glad for the extra weight. With my weight plus 40 pounds of pellets I still got pushed around just trying to get to the house. Then Monday when I let the dogs out around 7:30, everything was nice & calm. What a beautiful day, I thought. In less than an hour, the wind got so strong that I couldn't open the door to the mini mart across the street from the shop.

And then Tuesday, the dogs escaped when I opened the garage door and I had to drive out to the road to scream at them - they couldn't hear me in the wind. Or at least they pretended they couldn't hear me. Becca gave me one of those you're-talking-to-me looks when I screamed at her to get home.

I could go on but it won't make the wind quit. It's Friday and you're still not supposed to drive to Casper because of the wind. I saw a caravan Wednesday heading north, complete with cars with flashing lights, escorting one of those huge modular prefab homes. In this wind, that falls under the "not the smartest decision you've ever made" category.

I'd like to blame NASA, but they just go to the moon. They're not responsible for the wind. Now, calm down, I know NASA does more than go to the moon. Actually they haven't been there for a while. They go to the space station. And they haven't been there for a while either. Actually, I'm not sure just what they do any more. I'm going to have to check out their web site. I'll keep you posted.

Anyway, I didn't really want to talk about the wind this week. I could talk about the guy who did the right thing and pulled off the road to talk on his cell phone. Right at the top of the hill. Seriously? We had a saying in our family for people like that - you can buy 'em

books & buy 'em books.....

At least he pulled off the road, I'll give him that. Not like this chic, maybe a guy, don't know, who is playing this dragon game who was texting the other players, apologizing for not being able to type very well 'cause she was driving. Not texting with known friends or family members. She was saying inane things to strangers on a game site.

Which I'm sure makes you ask, so what were you doing on a game site? Actually, I'm proud to report I'm an overlord now, not just a vassal. And I have no idea how that happened. Which is really what I wanted to talk about, but You'll have to stay tuned until next week.

VALENTINE'S DAY CHALLENGES!

We have 6 entries in our Valentine's Day Challenge. Please come in to vote on your favorite. Quilts will only be up for a little while longer, so make sure you come in to see the quilts!



DOWNTON ABBEY RETREAT! MARCH 21-23 NAGEL WARREN MANSION

We are set for Friday March 21 through Sunday March 23. You will be able to check in mid afternoon on Friday and we will plan to leave Sunday mid afternoon. We have 8 king bed rooms reserved. Cost is based upon double occupancy. If you prefer a single room, you will need to let me know very quickly so I can look into booking a different room. Reservations will be made through me and you can secure your spot with a down payment of half the cost. The rest will be due by March 15.

If you need to cancel, I will need to know 30 days in advance. But if something comes up, please talk to me because we might be able to work something out.

We will be sewing in the conference rooms in the basement. There are 3 rooms that can accommodate about 16 sewers. We will be cozy, but I think it will work. I will set up separate tables for cutting and will plan on having 2 irons/boards. If you just want to come to sew, and go home at night to your own bed, I might be able to accommodate that. However, I don't want to get more than 16 sewers. If you are interested in this option, let me know and I'll see what I can work out.

At the retreat, you may sew on any project that you like -- it does not have to be a Downton Abbey Quilt. For those of you sewing your Downton Abbey quilts, though, I will provide

instruction for the horizontal quilt (quilt blocks are the ones already on line) plus you will get a set of patterns for the second quilt (the on point quilt with the green alternate blocks).

During the retreat, we will play some games, win some door prizes, watch some episodes of Downton Abbey, take High Tea on Saturday, and sew our socks off!

Included in the cost:

2 nights (2 per room) at the Nagel Warren Mansion (such a treat!)

Sat & Sun breakfast

High tea on Saturday

Set of patterns for second quilt

Door prizes

Lots of Fun !!!

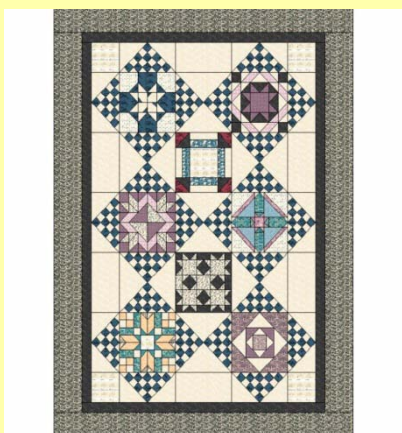
Lunch and dinners are on our own. There are plenty of fun restaurants downtown. You can also check out what is playing at the Lincoln Center and go to a movie.

Cost per person = \$175. A \$90 deposit will secure your room.

Blocks for the first quilt are posted on line at www.aroundtheblockquilts.com Three blocks are currently posted. I will get 3 more out as soon as I can.

You can find the blocks under the "What's New" tab. Fabric requirements for the quilt are also given. These blocks will stay posted for a limited time and we'll have them in the store. Price to buy in store is \$1 for one page or \$2 for 2 pages -- to help me cover the costs of the ink.

First Quilt/horizontal



Second quilt/on point



NATIONAL QUILT DAY

March 15

We have all sorts of fun things planned. It's Toad Toter Day (full moon), so everyone

who brings in their Toad Toter bag will get 20% off anything that can be stuffed into the bag.

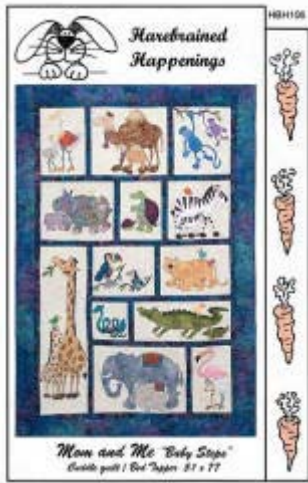
We are also having a "Finish your Quilt" sale for everyone. Bring in your finished top and get 20% your backing, binding and/or batting. But you have to bring in your finished top!

We are also providing free "classes" or "demos" on various quilt topics: Zentangles (doodling gone crazy), Electric Quilt (learn to use the quilt design software), machine applied binding (very neat binding technique), cool tool demos (cutting tips using Creative Grid rulers, Transfer EZ, rotary cutters, making bias tape stems for applique, what's the best batting to use, and other topics). And maybe a "make & take" class.

I'll get the schedule out in another week or so. So stay tuned.

WHAT'S NEW!!





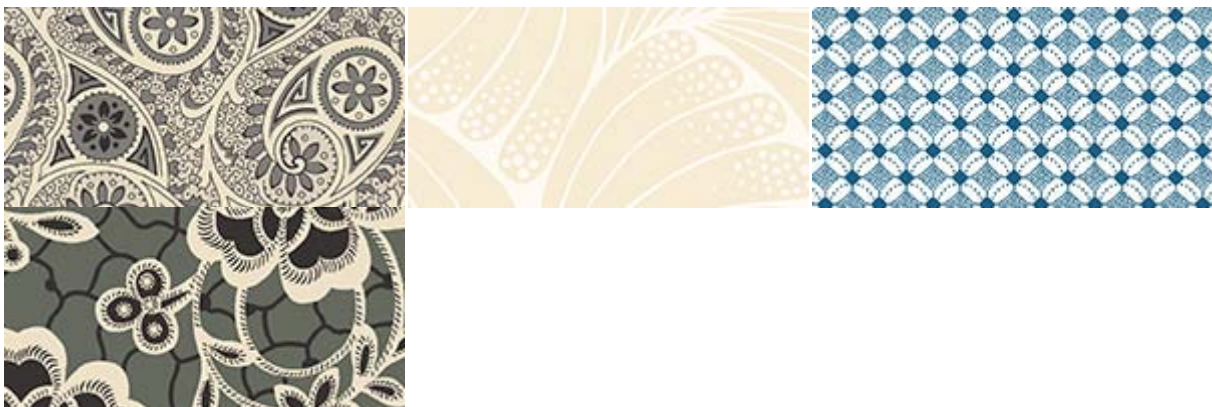
More music:



From Moda:



Limited shipment from Andover for the Downton Abbey collection. I have 27 yards of the background cream.



February Classes & Special Events

Design Challenge Sat. Feb. 22, 10:30-5 \$25 Barb Boyer

What would happen if I did this??? Working with just one block, you will discover all the various ways to turn & twist the block to create exciting quilt designs. You can either work from graph paper or experiment with the E-Quilt software. If you have a laptop and the E-Quilt software, I will help you design your quilt on your computer. I will also demonstrate how to design using the software on my computer. After your quilt is designed, then you will choose your fabric and start cutting & stitching. Once your quilts are done we will display the finished quilts in the classroom (probably sometime this summer). If you've ever wanted to design your own quilts, this is a perfect way to begin!

Beyond the Basics: Flying Geese

Thurs. Feb. 27, 1-3, \$20 Barb Boyer

Using the Flying Geese Ruler, learn to make 4 flying geese at the same time. If you've ever wanted to put a flying geese border on a quilt, but thought it was too much work, learn to use this ruler and it will make flying geese constructions a snap!

Friday Nighters Fri. Feb. 28, 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.

March Classes & Special Events

Block of the Month Sat. Mar. 1, 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, mostly 12" finished blocks.

Make it Do (Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do or Do Without) Sat. Mar. 1, April 5 and May 3 ongoing

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Jan-Dec. 4-6 Barb Boyer \$20 (free if you buy the kits)

Each month we will feature a snowman, from McKenna Ryan's Snow Buds patterns. The kits will be laser cut, all ready for assembly. You can also choose to make the Snow Bud with your own fabrics. The laser kits will billed month by month.

Monday Morning Quilts Mar. 3, April 7 10-2

Free, if you buy that month's kit

Each month we will feature quilts from the Fons & Porter Love of Quilting magazine or other fun quilts. From Fons & Porter, we will choose one of the quilts from the magazine and make limited kits. In class, we will show you how to put the quilt together and you will have time to get started. Quilts will be big or small or in between. The first quilt, just because it is January, will be Lost Socks, an easy fusible quilt. We won't completely kit this quilt, but we will have a bundle of flannel fats to get you started. **March will feature our first Fons & Porter quilt.**

Beginning Quilting Sun. Mar. 9, 16

OR

Wednesdays: 1-4 OR 6-8:30 Mar. 5 on going

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. Mar. 8, 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.

Sophia Sat. Mar. 8, 1-5 \$25
Jo Sunderman

Treat yourself to a wonderful spring quilt! If you are unfamiliar with Jo's patterns, now is the time to take a class from the designer herself!--learn her tips and tricks as she guides you through her easy process of tracing, fusing and securing the flowers onto stunning backgrounds. (Pssst: You can have your quilt done in time for Mother's Day!)

Let's Knit Socks! Mon. Mar. 10, 1:30-3:30 OR 6-8:30
Carol Moler

Learn the basics of top down knitted socks with heels and toes.

Beginning Machine Quilting Wed. Mar. 12, 6:30-9 \$25
Sue Frerich

Be prepared to quilt! You will practice your quilting skills on various samples, using both your walking foot and darning foot. Batting, threads, needles and patterns will be discussed. Who knows? By the time you leave you may even be able to write/quilt your name!

Back Basting Applique Wed. Mar. 13, 1-3
Sandra Freeburg \$25

Back basting is a template free method of needle turn applique. No slippery freezer paper or chalked lines on top that never seem to get turned under quite right. This method is especially great for traveling, because your pieces will be basted onto your background -- no need for pins to get in the way. This class is great for beginners and all levels of appliquers. Don't let hand applique frustrate you. It's really easy and relaxing!

Knit Pickin' Club Thur. Mar. 13, 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, you can still join the club--it's time for you to simply sit & knit & share ideas.

NATIONAL QUILT DAY
Lots of demos all day long! It's also a Toad Toter
day (full moon observed) Stay tuned for more
details.

Hand Quilting Mon. Mar. 19 1-3 \$25
Sandra Freeburg

Hand quilting is an art that should not be lost. By the end of Sandra's class you will be hand quilting with confidence. Everyone has at least one special quilt that calls out for hand quilting. And there is nothing better than the feel of a hand quilted quilt. Do yourself a favor and learn this art that connects us to our past -- our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

**Hand Applique Club
Thursday Mar. 20 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 while sometimes you can just fuse it down, learning how to hand applique is a wonderful skill that can be carried anywhere you go.



**DOWNTON ABBEY
RETREAT!
WARREN NAGEL
MANSION
MARCH 21-23**



**Beginning Machine Applique Wed. Mar. 26, 1-4 or 6-8:30 \$25
Barb Boyer**

So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

**Hand Quilting Mon. Mar. 27 6-8:30 \$25
Sandra Freeburg**

Hand quilting is an art that should not be lost. By the end of Sandra's class you will be hand quilting with confidence. Everyone has at least one special quilt that calls out for hand quilting. And there is nothing better than the feel of a hand quilted quilt. Do yourself a favor and learn this art that connects us to our past -- our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

**Hare Brained Jungle Walk Applique Quilt Sat. Mar. 29,
10-5 \$30 Sue Frerich**

Giraffes in high heels? Zebras in snow shoes? Snake on a skateboard? Each jungle animal is decked out in sneakers, roller skates, spats and crocs - for the crocodile, of course. This cute quilt is fused and then you can have fun decorating the shoes with laces and fur.

Pillow Case Party Sun. Mar. 30 1-4 FREE

If you've never made a pillow case, or just want some time to sew a pillow case, this class is for you. This is a great mother/daughter styled class and pillow cases make great



presents!

Friday Nighters Fri. Mar. 28, 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.

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30-11:30 Make it Do 1-2 Monthly Minis 4-6
2 Closed	3 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2	4	5 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	6 Beyond Basics: Paper Piecing 1-3 Back Basting 6-8:30	7 Open Sew1-4	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Cabin in the Woods Rag Quilt 1-5
9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Learn to Twist- Knit a Cowl 1:30-3:30 OR 6- 8:30	11	12 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	13 Beyond Basics: Bias Half Square Triangles 1-3 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14 Valentine's Day FullMoon	15 Ruffle Quilt 10:30-5
16 Beginning Quilt 1-4	17 Jelly Roll Race 10:30-5 Presidents' Day	18	19 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	20 Beyond Basics: Inset Seams 1- 3 Hand Applique Club 6- 8:30	21 Open Sew1-4	22 Design Challenge 10:30- 5
23 Beginning Quilt 1-4	24	25	26 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	27 Beyond Basics: Flying Geese 1-3	28 Friday Nights 5:30 -?	

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30-11:30 Make it Do 1-2 Monthly Minis 4-6
2 Closed	3 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2	4	5 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	6	7 Open Sew 1-4	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sophia 1-5
9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Learn to Knit Socks 1:30-3:30 OR 6-8:30	11	12 Beginning Machine Quilting 6:30-9	13 Back Basting 1-3 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14	15 National Quilt Day FullMoon (celebrated)
16 Beginning Quilt 1-4	17	18	19 Hand Quilting 1-3	20 Hand Applique Club 6-8:30	21 Downton Abbey Retreat	22 Downton Abbey Retreat
23 Downton Abbey Retreat	24	25	26 Beginning Machine Applique 1:30-4 or 6-8:30	27	28 Friday Nighters 5:30-?	29 Hare Brained Jungle Quilt 10:30-5
30 Pillow Case Party 1-4	31					