

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

"I hate Greek tragedy, when everything happens off stage."



January 3, 2014

"They are prepping for Armageddon, the apocalypse, the end of the world as we know it. They are doomsday preppers."

Now we're not talking about preparing your soul for heaven or another after world destiny. No. These preppers are digging underground bunkers and stocking them with food, ammo and water so they can live through the apocalypse. And they have a tv show to teach you how to prep for doomsday, too, on National Geographic channel, no less.

I'm actually a little worried about this. The traditional definition of apocalypse is "the complete final destruction of the world, esp. as described in the biblical book of Revelation." Armageddon is no better. It also envisions a total end of the world scenario. End Of The World. Get it? So why would anyone need a bunker? I mean really. How much food can you hope to stash away in order to save you from complete destruction? Boggles the mind, doesn't it. These people are either complete idiots or they don't own a dictionary. Maybe they just don't read very well.

Now to be fair, "apocalypse" also has a not quite so fatalistic meaning. The second definition offers a minuscule ray of hope: "An event involving destruction or damage on an awesome or catastrophic scale. As in a 'stock market apocalypse.'" Now we all know about stock market crashes and we all know we've lived through them. So it's possible to get through some apocalypses, maybe even an almost earth destroying apocalypse.

But back to what worries me. Assuming we experience a less than apocalyptic apocalypse, who do you think might survive? Yup. Those idiots who don't own a dictionary but who have 3 years' worth of beef jerky, canned beans, millions of rounds of ammo and a down sleeping bag. I made up that last one. And maybe the beans. Frankly I couldn't finish watching Doomsday Preppers on the National Geographic channel, so I'm not really sure what's stocked in the bunkers.

Clearly I'm not meant to survive. And that's what worries me. Wait -- I'm not worried that I won't survive. I have fake knees. I shouldn't survive. What worries me is that when the world wakes up following a catastrophic event, those that will inherit will not be the meek, the strong or the intelligent. It'll be the guys that don't own a dictionary & can't read. Scary, huh? I bet Darwin never thought of that one.

In my mind, the National Geographic channel has joined the ranks of otherwise "good for you tv" like The Learning Channel (Honey Boo Boo) and A & E (arts & entertainment, featuring Duck Dynasty). All channels that probably won't survive the Apocalypse, either.

But one good thing has come of all of this. Through repeated use, I think I can now spell apocalypse without resorting to spell checker. Armageddon is another matter.

Don't forget about the Valentine Challenge!

It costs \$5 to enter and you get a free fat quarter to get you started. You must use a recognizable portion of the chosen fat in your quilt. The quilt may be any size and the top must be submitted by Valentine's Day. The catch?

You must come into the shop and choose a candy heart-whatever saying is on the candy heart is the theme your Valentine quilt! The winning quilt receives a \$25 gift certificate -- plus you'll have a quilt for Valentine's Day (only the top is needed for submission).

AND DON'T FORGET!

Make it Do (Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do or Do Without) Sat. Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar.1, April 5 and May 3 \$30 Barb Boyer

You have a limited supply of fabrics: Now, how many quilts can you make? Your fabrics will be limited to 30 of the ugliest, strangest, weirdly colored fat quarters that you can find, plus 10 fats that I will provide, plus 5 yards of background fabrics. Over the next 4 months, your challenge is to make as many quilts from this supply of fabrics. At the end, in May, we will have 2 winners: The person who made the most quilts and the person who used up the most fabrics (who had the least left, in other words). Come to the first class for more details. If you're interested, join up.

DOWNTON ABBEY SECOND HALF OF THE COLLECTION IS IN!

Blocks are posted on line at www.aroundtheblockquilts.com

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.



Here is a sampling:



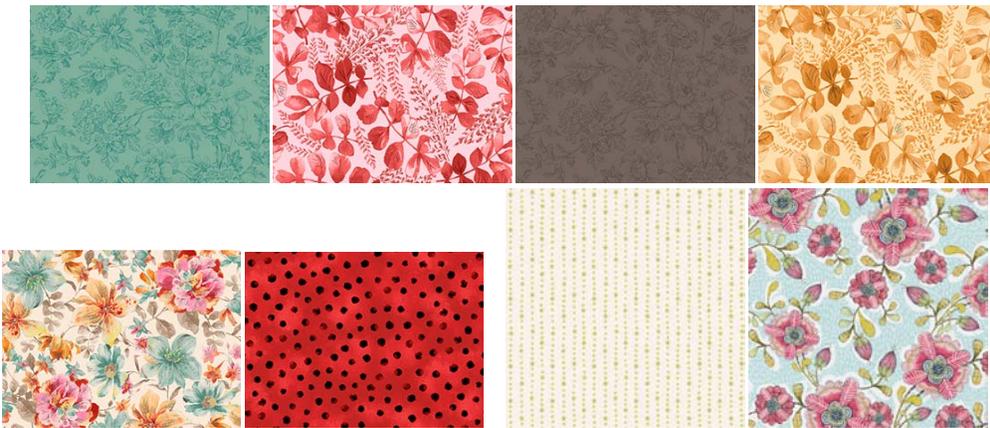


WHAT'S NEW!!

From Quilting Treasures



Elle: From Quilting Treasures:



From a new company called Blend:





January Classes & Special Events

Valentine Challenge Thur. Jan. 2-Feb. 14 \$5 to enter

Make a Valentine quilt and you'll be entered to win a \$25 gift certificate. But there's a catch! You must come into the shop and choose a candy heart-whatever saying is on the candy heart is the theme your Valentine quilt! Then choose one (free) fat (from a sack, with your eyes closed) to use in your quilt. You must use a recognizable portion of the chosen fat in your quilt. The quilt may be any size and the top must be submitted by Valentine's Day.

Block of the Month Sat. Jan. 4, 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 we're making a Christmas Quilt -shaped like a tree. Each month will feature a different block, mostly 12" finished blocks.

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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 Buds with your own fabrics. The laser kits will billed month by month. If you are interested in taking this class or buying the laser cut snowmen, please let me know ASAP so I can get them ordered.



Monday Morning Quilts Jan. 6, Feb.3, 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. February's quilt will be a kit from Moda in bright jewel tones. March will feature our first Fons & Porter quilt.

Knit Pickin' Club Thurs. Jan. 9, 6-8:30

Carol Moler

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.

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. Jan.11, 10-noon 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 them 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 quilt, 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.

Sidelights Sat. Jan 11, 1-5 \$20 (free if you buy the kit)

We're featuring a flannel panel for this version of the Sidelights pattern. We have several kits available, but you can make this fun quilt with any fabrics - Ghostlies, oriental, fun novelty, peacocks.



Beginning Quilting Sun. 1-4, Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 9, 16, 23; Mar. 9, 16

OR

Wednesdays: 1-4 OR 6-8:30 Jan. 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 5

\$65 Barb Boyer

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.

**Learn to Read Knits & Purls Mon. Jan. 13, 1:30-3:30 OR 6-8:30 \$20
Carol Moler**

Does it slant to the right or to the left? Learn to read your stitches while making this fun and easy scarf.

**Hand Applique Club
Thursday Jan. 16 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.

Finish Your Monthly Minis Sat. Jan. 18 Barb Boyer

This finishing class is for everyone who participated in last year's Monthly Minis class. We will work on the appliques and choose fabrics for sashing and borders to put the blocks into a quilt.

Dakota or Lobo or Morley or Randolph Mon. Jan 20, 10:30-5 \$20

This is a 1) fusible 2) machine appliqued and 3) a pieced wall hanging. These make great gifts and are fun to put together. You can choose any of the patterns you want (bear, moose, reindeer, lobo, bison, horse and others) and you can use your own fabrics or buy one of our kits. The kits are good sellers and we have a hard time keeping them in stock.



**Hand Piecing Thur. Jan. 23, 1-3 \$25
Sandra Freeburg**

Learn to hand piece straight lines, curves & inset seams. Very portable, doesn't need electricity, can sew anywhere, and it's easy to tote. Your mothers and grandmothers pieced by hand-this is an art form we don't want to lose. Stay connected with tradition and learn to hand piece.

**Red & Black Star Quilt Sat. Jan. 25 10:30-5 \$20
Barb Boyer**

Strip pieced flying geese make this Star Quilt stunning - as do the polka dots. Make a wall hanging or add more blocks for a bed sized quilt.

**Friday Nighters Fri. Jan. 31 5:30-? \$10
Barb Boyer**

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.

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Closed	2 Valentine Challenge	3 Open Sew 1-4	4 BOM 10:30-11:30 Make it Do 1-3 Monthly Minis 4-6
5 Closed	6 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2	7	8	9 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sidelights Quilt 1-5
12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13 Learn to Read Knits & Purls-Scarf 1:30-3:30 OR 6-8:30	14	15 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	16 Hand Applique Club 6-8:30 FullMoon	17 Open Sew 1-4	18 Complete Monthly Minis (ongoing class) 10:30-5
19 Beginning Quilt 1-4	20 BJ Designs (animal quilts) 10:30-5 ML King Day	21	22 Beginning Quilt 1-4 or Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	23 Hand Piecing 1-3	24	25 Red & Black Star Quilt 10:30-5