

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

ROBERT, EARL OF GRANTHAM

Mama, you've already looked him up in the stud books and made inquiries about the fortune, don't pretend otherwise. Are you afraid someone will think you're American if you speak openly?

VIOLET, DOWAGER COUNTESS OF GRANTHAM

I doubt it'll come to that.



May 2, 2014

And the answer is, no, I don't have a refrigerator yet. The old one is still making ice & keeping things cold. (Although see P.S. below)

And no, I don't want to talk about the weather. It's not polite to complain about the snow and the blizzards and the wind when other parts of the country are getting hit with tornadoes. And besides, that was Monday & Tuesday. It's Friday and 61.

And while I'd like to talk about the funny Weather Channel segment about whether to stay in the car during a tornado or drive away from it or run to a nearby shelter, if there's time of course, or get out and go hide in a ditch - all viable options apparently - that's probably impolite, too. One helpful hint I will pass along - about the only real useful tip I got from the segment - is to keep your car running, if you choose to stay in the car. Air bags don't go off if the car isn't running and deployed airbags might be useful if the car flies into a tree.

But I will say, knowing me, I'd probably panic and try all the options at the same time. And I grew up in Nebraska where you go outside to look when the sirens go off. But that's what watching the Weather Channel has done to me.

I remember in the 80s when I'd visit my aunt in Scottsbluff, she kept her television tuned to the Weather Channel. At that time, the Weather Channel consisted of a static map and music by artists like George Benson. Nothing ever really happened because things like Doppler Radar hadn't really been invented yet. It was kinda like watching a tv imitating fake a fireplace.

But I find myself tuning into the Weather Channel for entertainment more often these days. And I don't mean the weird shows like Reef Wranglers, Prospectors, Lifeguard and Reel Rivals. I have no real idea what goes on in those shows and what the connection to weather is, and I really don't care. I like the live broadcasts when big weather is happening - true reality tv. And, like the segment about staying in the car or running away from a tornado, often highly amusing tv.

For example, the Weather Channel is responsible for creating some of the strangest acronyms: Tor-Con, for example. This one took me a while to figure out. I got the Tor part, which stands for tornado. The con part, though eluded me for a while. I kept thinking in terms of Comic-Con, which is a convention of comic enthusiasts. Tor-Con clearly had nothing to do with people who liked tornadoes. It didn't stand for conflict, or conference, or

concern, or connection. But everyone was using it, as in "There is a Tor-Con of 3 for the next 4 hours," or something like that. It's the Weather Channel's own version of the Richter Scale for earthquakes. Okay, I know you've figured it out - it means Condition. But on the Tor-Con page, a tor-con of 4 is defined as a "low chance" of tornadoes while an 8 is a "high probability" of a tornado. I guess calling it a Tor-Chance or a Tor-Prob wasn't sexy enough.

The Weather Channel also has a morning show called AMHQ, which is clear as mud. Broadcasters on the show even refer to the program with the acronym. The Weather Channel also gave us names for winter storms, a process not supported by other meteorologists, like the National Weather Service. But the Weather Channel is all about marketing and it's come a long way from the static maps of the 1980s.

But I didn't want to talk about the Weather Channel. No, I'd rather talk about Ernest Hemingway. He wrote one of my favorite books, *A Moveable Feast*. Now this book was a favorite when I was in high school. I later reread the book as an adult and afterwards better understood the word misogynist. While the book is no longer a top favorite, Hemingway is one of those master writers who can capture a moment succinctly. He uses no more words than necessary, although he does have one sentence that runs on and on and on...about 123 words or more worth. But that's the exception.

Anyway, *A Moveable Feast* is not so much a story as it is a collection of impressions. Hemingway was living in Paris in the 1920s, with a bunch of other expats like Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ford Maddox Ford, John Dos Passos, and James Joyce. The book was published posthumously in 1964. He wrote about his writing, observations and life in Paris, from cafes to bars to hotels. He told his friend and biographer A.E. Hotchner, "If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast."

But it's at this time of year that my favorite quote from that book comes to mind. I don't think I ever fully understood what he was talking about until I moved to Wyoming:

"You expected to be sad in the fall. Part of you died each year when the leaves fell from the trees and their branches were bare against the wind and the cold, wintery light. But you knew there would always be the spring, as you knew the river would flow again after it was frozen. When the cold rains kept on and killed the spring, it was as though a young person died for no reason."

That was this week.

P.S. The ice in the freezer is getting soft again. Sigh.

P.P.S (or is it P.S.S.) AMHQ stands for American Headquarters. Like I said, clear as mud.

After Shop Hop Sale!

We're making room for all the new fabrics coming in and doing a little spring cleaning. So I've put a whole bunch of fabric down the hall (\$5/yd) and lots of patterns, Halloween fats, books and some kits at 40%. Come check it out!



Bucking Horse and Rider fans!

Hoffman is printing our beloved "Steamboat" on fabric! If you are interested in this fabric, please let me know quickly. I have placed my order, but I did order extra bolts. If you haven't yet placed an order and want the fabric, don't wait until it gets here. It may sell out before it arrives.

If you want to put the BH&R on backs or borders of quilts, you must think in yardage. 2-3 yards for borders (depending on size of quilt) and 5-10 yards for backing.

You may want to make curtains, pillow cases, purses, skirts, chair covers, pillows, aprons, napkins, t-towels.

Call me and let me know approximately how much yardage you want. I have started taking payments now with any pre order.

Fabric should arrive in late June, in time for traveling tourists. Just so you know. Price will be \$12.50 per yard.

Left to right: Bison, Saddle, Moss, Buckskin, Palomino, Denim

Yardage still available, 5-2-14:

96 yards of Bison; 106 Saddle; 65 Moss; 40 Denim; 96 Buckskin; 78 Palomino.

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Benartex:

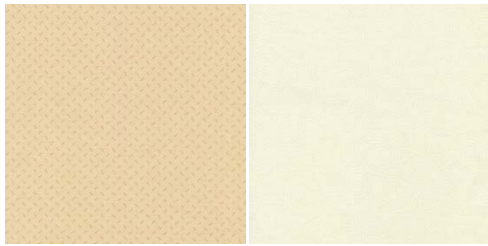


From Windham, the Freedom collection:



From Timeless:

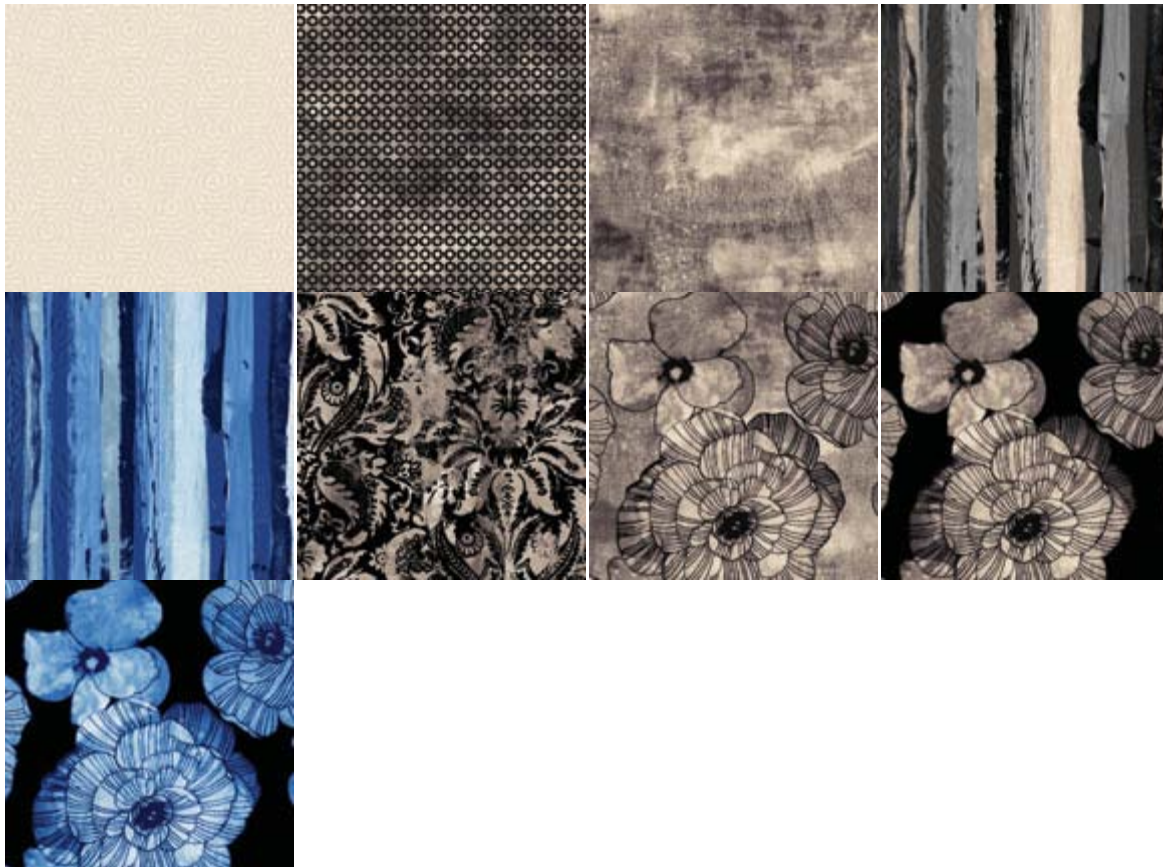




From Hoffman: 24 batiks. More to come in May.



From Benartex:



From Clothworks:



May Classes and Special Events

Block of the Month Sat. May 3, 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. 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 May 5 10-2
Free, if you buy that month's kit

In May will work on any past Monday Morning Quilts - to let up catch up and complete the projects you have started. This includes Lost Socks, Check Boxes, the Rainbow Quilt, and Connected Places.

Beyond the Basics: Flying Geese

Wed. May 7, 1-3, 6-8:30 \$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!

Knit Pickin' Club Thur. May 8, 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.

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. May 10, 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 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 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.

Mini Take 5 Sat. May 10, 1-5 \$20

Barb Boyer

If you cut the Take 5 block in half, you wind up with a cute mini Take 5 quilt! I stole this idea from a customer, who wanted to make the Take 5, but make it smaller. So we designed it to be half the size of a regular block-perfect for a crib quilt.

Let's Knit Socks! Mon. May 12, 1:30-3:30 OR 6-8:30

Carol Moler

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

Hand Applique Club Thurs. May 15, 6-8:30

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.

BQ Quilt for Railroaders! Depot Days in Cheyenne!

Sat. May 17, 10:30-5 \$20

Barb Boyer

The Model Railroaders are in town and we thought it would be a perfect time to

make a train quilt. The BQ pattern is well suited for a quick project that showcases fabulous fabrics. I'm working on getting some great train fabrics in stock. Click on link to see Train Flyer: [Train Class Flyer](#)

Catch up on the Monthly Minis: Sat. May 24 10:30-5

Barb Boyer

Stitch on the last 4 Snow Bud blocks, or even start on Block 5. Get caught up on your monthly minis!

Field Day Quilt Mon. May 24, 10:30-5 \$25 or free with kit

Barb Boyer

This cool quilt is made with 2 1/2" strips and squares cut from the new Hoffman line - Home is Where Your Story Begins. This quilt is quick pieced and will brighten any room.

Friday Nighters Fri. May 30, 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.

Turning 20

Sat. May 31, 10:30-5, \$20 Barb Boyer

This fun, simple quilt is easy to make and stunning to look at. Perfect for any beginner. You may even get the quilt top sewn in class.

May 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Open Sew1-4 | 3 BOM 10:30-11:30 Make it Do 1-2 Monthly Minis 4-6 |
| 4 Closed | 5 Monday Morning Quilts 10-2 | 6 | 7 Beyond Basics: Flying Geese 6-8:30 | 8 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30 | 9 | 10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Mini Take 5 1-5 |
| 11 Mother's Day | 12 Socks, cont. 1:30-3:30 or 6-8:30 | 13 | 14 FullMoon | 15 Hand Applique Club 6-8:30 | 16 Open Sew1-4 | 17 BQ quilt for Railroaders 10:30-5 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Get Caught up on Monthly Minis: Free sew from 10:30-5 |
| 25 Open sew 1-4 | 26 Field Day Quilt 10:30-5 Memorial Day | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Friday Nighters 5:30 -? | 31 Turning 20 10:30-5 |