

Favorite quotes from the Dowager Countess of Downton Abbey:

ROBERT

What's going on?

MARY

She's not here, but apparently she's coming soon. He'll explain what's happened when our guest is gone.

VIOLET

Something to look forward to.



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**February 20, 2015**

Just so you know, I do reread my posts before I send them. And I reread them the next week before I put the new post in. I always marvel at the mistakes -- sometimes typos, sometimes words left out. So I do try, but I am my own editor and you know how tough that can be.

Becca has been watching the Westminster dog show. Becca, btw, is my miniature Australian Shepherd. She worries a lot about things. Ever since she was a pup, she worried about everything. Whether she should come inside (if she's out) when I open the door; whether she should go outside (if she's in) when I open the door; whether she's getting the same number of treats as Cassidy; whether the cat should be on the dryer or not; whether the joggers on the road are running fast enough--you get my drift. She worries about a lot of things.

So letting her watch tv is dangerous. The last time she got into a TV show was when the summer Olympics were on. She found out that horses had grooms and grooms had treats. She was ready to pack her bags and head off to London. For treats. Actually I was the one who was supposed to pack the bags, but that's a minor detail.

Anyway, Becca got intrigued by the agility contests. She had no interest in the show part. She couldn't figure out why the dogs trotted around a ring only to have to stand and have a stranger check to make sure dogs were dogs and b...., well Becca doesn't know that word. Let's just say that boys were boys and girls were girls. And besides, the dogs never got to bark at anyone in the audience. She trots around the front yard all day, no one checks her body parts and she gets to bark at everything. She clearly missed the treat part of the "bait & gait" portion of the show. (For those of you who have never shown a dog, you "bait" them with treats to get them to "gait" or trot around the ring.) But I didn't point that out to Becca. She'd just start worrying why I wasn't taking her to dog shows.

But Becca did like the agility classes. That she understood. She liked the jumps, but wondered why there wasn't a wall or fence to climb. She pointed out that climbing over fences was her specialty. She's right about that. The poles across the top of the fence

in the front yard got broken this winter and hung down on her side of the fence. Becca used them like a trampoline-bouncing from the ground to the poles and up & over the fence. I watched her, and watched Cassidy, the big dog, try to figure out how she did it.

She also thought it was funny that the bigger dogs went slower-I pointed out that we were watching the masters level classes-the older dogs. Plus while big dogs have longer legs, little dogs can turn faster. She didn't think older dogs had any business on an agility course. Look at Keepers, she pointed out with a smug little grin. She can barely walk up the steps to the porch and if she has to turn quickly, she falls down. I told her to mind her manners, but that didn't stop her. She told me that I couldn't be her handler because I'd fall down, too, if I had to run beside her & twist & turn to point out which obstacle to do next. So the conversation went downhill for the next few minutes.

When Becca focused again on the tv, she said she thought the tunnels were pointless. If she were competing she'd skip those obstacles. It's not that she couldn't do them she just didn't like tunneling under anything unless it was my bed, which she sleeps under when she's not on top of the bed. I told her she couldn't pick & choose which obstacles to do. And that she was just worried that she couldn't see what was at the end of the tunnel.

She glared at me and said she'd rather go through things. Like fences. When she was younger she went through the fence in the front yard with ease. I pointed out that she couldn't get through the fence any longer because she was too big. I'd been watching her since I fixed the "trampoline" in the front yard. Since she couldn't get over the fence, she decided to go through it instead. I warned her she was liable to get her head stuck if she wasn't careful, and besides getting your head stuck in a fence wasn't one of the obstacles on the agility course.

I also pointed out that the dogs did have to jump through a hoop. Becca thought about that for a minute, clearly she missed that obstacle. Score one for me. I also told her that if she jumped through the hoop, she couldn't touch it, that she had to make sure her feet touched certain parts of the obstacles and that she couldn't choose which poles to weave in and out. And that it was timed.

At that point, Keepers got up, which was a signal that it was probably a good idea for everyone to go outside. And Becca started worrying that she wouldn't be the first one out the door.

## **DOWNTON ABBEY RETREAT!**

**The dates are set for March 20-22, Nagel Warren Mansion. Special Attraction: Downton Abbey Trunk Show!**

We are set for Friday March 20 through Sunday March 22. 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 (cost of retreat will need to be adjusted). Reservations will be made through me and you can secure your spot with a down payment of half the cost by Feb. 15. 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. 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 this year's quilt (quilt blocks will be online prior to the retreat).

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 quilt  
Door prizes  
Lots of Fun !!!

## **Downton Abbey Trunk Show (quilts provided by Andover from the new line)**

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 (for a buck or two).

**Cost per person = \$250. A \$120 deposit will secure your room.** Single Room supplement is \$75. We need a minimum of 10 quilters for the retreat.

Blocks will be posted on line at [www.aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com) You can find the blocks under the "What's New" tab (once I get them posted). 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.

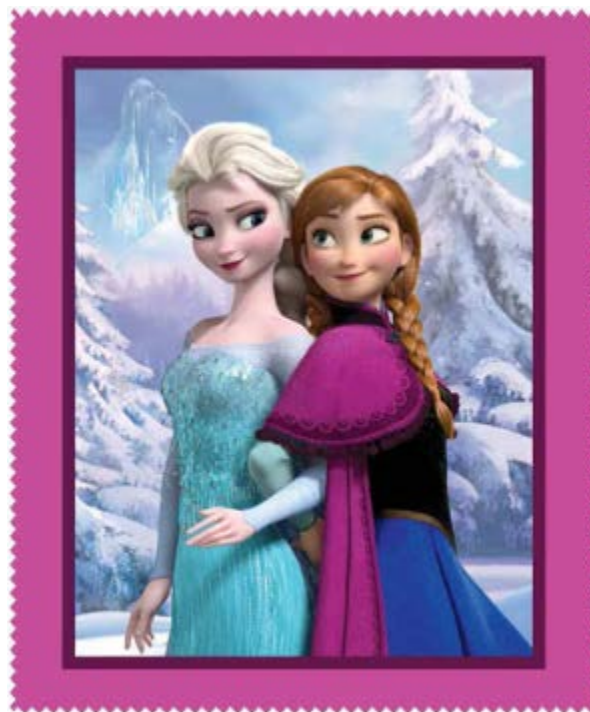


They face adversity and endure hardships; yet all too often their troubles go unnoticed. We also honor those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who must miss holidays, birthdays, and family moments in far-away distant lands. It is for the family members who keep the

house running while their husband, wife, son or daughter is away. It is for the children who dearly miss their deployed parent, brother, sister, uncle, or aunt. We say thank you to the men and women who have volunteered to serve our country and preserve our freedom.

See precious posts for more info on submitting a quilt for the challenge.

The Frozen panel is here! Panels are \$8. We have some beautiful sparkly fabrics that should work well with this panel.



## WHAT'S NEW!!

From Alexander Henry:



From Moda:





From Andover:



## February Classes & Special Events

**Chloe** February 21 10:30-5 \$20 Sue Frerich

This contemporary applique quilt with its unique setting has the look of needle turn applique, but is done entirely by machine in a fraction of the time! Furthermore, because of the materials used, it has the look of trapunto after it has been quilted. During class you will learn this machine applique technique using applique fiber. With this method there is no need to slit the back of the fabric and stress your stitching to remove paper.

**Jungle walk** February 28 10:30-5 \$20 Sue Frerich

This adorable quilt is a fusible applique project, as easy as it is fun to make! Gather up your scraps to make your quilt one of a kind. You will learn the fusible applique process and explore both hand- and machine-finishing techniques. Expect to finish at least one block during this 1-day class.

### Hand Applique Club

Thursday February 26 1:30-4 free

The last Thursday of each month, 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.



### **Bertie's Year** last Friday of the month, 1-4

Bertie's Year is a small wall hanging, (or you can make each block into a mini quilt for display each month). Bertie is done in flannels and wool (kit only includes flannel). Bertie (the bird) and friends (squirrel, pumpkins) are appliqued with crazy quilt embroidery embellishments.

### **Friday Nighters** Fri. February 27, 5:30-9 \$10 (one time fee for year)

This class will help you get organized for Christmas 2015 -- 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**

### **Monday Morning Quilts** Mar. 2 10-2 Free, if you buy that month's kit

Each month we will feature quilts from the Quilter's World magazine or other fun quilts. 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. Quilt is a Hexi Swirl from this issue of Quilter's World. Learn to cut the triangles for the hexies in several different ways.

### **Beginning Quilting** ongoing Sun. 1-4, Mar 8, 15, 29 OR Wednesdays: 1-4 OR 6-9 Mar 4, 11

### **Block of the Month** Sat. Mar 7, 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 neutrally colored quilt (tans, taupes, greys, etc.)-come to class in January to see an example.

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

### **Knitting: Back to Basics.** Mon. Mar 9 6-8:30 \$20 Carol Moler

Each month we will offer a selection of projects for the beginner and more advanced knitter. In March we will how to bind off the projects we've been working on for the past couple of months. We will also have a beginning ribbing project, like a head band or scarf. For more experienced knitters, the project will be a slouch hat, joined in the round with ribbing.

### **Downton Abbey Sampler Quilt** Thurs. March 12, 1-4 ongoing

### **Knit Pickers' Club** Thur. March 12, 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. If you are in the Monday knitting classes, you can work on your project and get help, if you need it.

### **Hand Embroidery Club** Sat. March 14, 10-11:30 FREE

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

This year we're doing birds-state birds. We will have between 40-50 birds (some states use the same bird) for you to stitch. Various setting for turning the birds into a quilt will be provided. Color suggestions for the birds will also be offered. As a bonus, you will get the state outlines, state flowers, and other patterns to compliment the birds.

You can join anytime.

### **Table Runner of the Month: Leaves**

Sat. Mar 14 1-6 \$20 or free if you buy the kit Jo Sunderman

We will be making different table runners each month. This table runner includes appliqued (fused) leaves and simple piecing. It's easy to extend the length to fit the size of your table.

### **Sew Simple Hexie Flowers** Mon. Mar. 16, 1-3

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. Instead of traditional hexagon shapes, we will make "hexi flowers" using the shape called bishop's mitre, or jewel. We will make a bouquet of different flowers that will be appliqued onto a background, to make a small wall hanging. This class is for both beginners and experienced paper piecers.

### **Hand Quilting** Thurs. 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.

## **DOWNTON ABBEY RETREAT! AND DOWNTON ABBEY TRUNK SHOW! WARREN NAGEL MANSION MARCH 20-22**

See Dec. 12 Newsletter for more details (on web at [aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://aroundtheblockquilts.com))

### **Beginning Machine Quilting** Wed. Mar 22, 1:30-4 OR 6-8:30 \$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!

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## Machine Servicing Mon Mar 30, 10-6

Chris Blakeman from Blackman Vacuum and Sewing will come to the shop to service machines! We are hoping to be able to handle up to 20 machines, but I'll keep you posted. For now, I will start a list, first come first served, of everyone who wants a sewing machine serviced. Pricing will depend upon machine, but more details will follow. Machines can be dropped off at the shop on Sunday between 4-5 (please don't bring them earlier because there is a class) and on Monday after 10. Machines will need to be picked up no later than noon on Tuesday, unless other arrangements are made (we don't have the room to store machines). Let me know if you are interested!

## February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2 <b>Monday Morning Quilts 10-2</b>	3 Full Moon	4 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4 Or 6-8:30</b>	5 <b>Back Basting 1:00-3:00</b>	6 <b>Open Sew1-4</b>	7 <b>BOM 10:30-11:30 Monthly Minis 4-6</b>
8 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	9 <b>Knitting: Back to Basics: Stockinette 6-8:30</b>	10	11 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4 or 6-8:30</b>	12 <b>Downton Abbey Sampler 1-4 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30</b>	13	14 <b>Embroidery Club 10-noon Round applique table runner 1-6</b>
15 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	16 <b>Take 5 10:30-5</b>	17	18 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4 or 6-8:30</b>	19 <b>Hand Quilting 1-3</b>	20 <b>Open Sew1-4</b>	21 <b>Chloe 10:30-5</b>
22 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4</b>	23	24	25 <b>Beginning Quilt 1-4 Or 6-8:30</b>	26 <b>Hand Applique Club 1:30-4 Arcadia 6-9</b>	27 <b>Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?</b>	28 <b>Jungle Walk 10:30-5</b>
Color of the Month: Red						



**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.

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**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.

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**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: January 5 (observed), February 3, March 5, April 4.

**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**

January purple, February red, March green, April yellow