

Vote for my row!

We have 75 votes so far! Yea! I think we're in 1st place, thanks to all of you!

Creative Grid has sponsored a Row Challenge and our row has been selected for the contest! Last year we participated, but we didn't know we had been selected until right at the end of the voting period. This time we have until the end of the Row By Row Experience to get the vote out.

You can go to Creative Grid's Facebook page to see all of the rows entered into the contest. You need to click "Like" to vote. You can vote for as many rows as you like.

Or you can just vote for mine. :)

To make it easy for you to find my block, you can click on the link below.



[For Around the Block's Row Click Here!](#)



July 29, 2016

Why do we get so excited when the Thunderbirds come to town?

It's because of the aliens. And DNA. Let me explain.

Human beings do lots of things instinctively. We choose our mates based on what kind of a car he drives or how high her heels are. Really. A psychologist did a study showing women a picture of a man standing next to a car. Actually 3 different cars: junker, a nondescript and an expensive high end model. The man by the high end model won hands down.

And we all know men choose women based upon body type, sometimes the bigger & bouncier the better. That's where the high heels come in. When women wear high heels it changes the angle of their hips, hiking up one of those bigger & bouncier parts. Now, don't send letters about this. I'm speaking generally. I know plenty of couples for whom I have no explanation as to how they got together.

What we're instinctively doing is choosing a mate that will guarantee our survival and it goes back to our caveman days. Other things like sugar & fat cravings may also take us back to prehistoric times when survival was based upon a successful hunt. When we are filled to the brim with high caloric food, the feel-good chemicals like dopamine and serotonin flood the body. We are happy to be alive one more day. Today we call this Thanksgiving.

We do these things because of our DNA. I knew you were wondering when I'd get back to my theory. Now, if you're wondering how a car or high heels can be hard wired into our DNA, especially since cars have only been on the planet for about 100 years, and high heels probably less, it's because a fancy car suggests the man will be a good provider and the heels are, well, just sexy. Both aspects contribute to human survival.

Before we get to the alien portion of the story, I want to talk about the human genome, which is the blueprint that makes us us. This is called the educational part of the story. A copy of the human genome is contained in all cells that have a nucleus. The genome contains more than 3 billion DNA base pairs-that's a lot of information in a very small space. The human genome contains about 20,000 genes, which only accounts for about 1.2 percent of the total genome. Think of genes as those parts of the genome that are awake and know how to use the remote control. The other 98.8 percent of the human genome is just junk. Maybe. Over the last 10 years scientists have learned a lot about this junk DNA and this "non coding" DNA may actually have more function that scientists originally thought. But that's another story for another day, perhaps another 10 years in the future after scientists get it figured out.

So what do aliens have to do with any of this, you ask? It's in our DNA, may be in some of that junk DNA that scientists don't understand yet. I figured this out while driving down the road, craning my neck out of the window to spot a Thunderbird, thinking why is it so exciting to see an incredibly loud, fast plane that makes fancy maneuvers. And I'm not the only one craning their necks. People pull off I-25 just to watch the planes soar over LCCC 10 miles away. It's got to be something more than just loud, fast planes.

My theory is that this planet was populated by aliens who flew loud, fast planes. They dropped us here and then left. Now some people believe that originally we were a penal colony of a more advanced civilization. It's kinda hard to break out of a planetary prison unless you possess warp drive: think very fast, loud, planes. I actually shared a dinner table on a cruise ship with a guy who believed this. He wasn't quite all there, though, and he had a keeper that followed him around. She was cute for a nurse.

Anyway, because aliens dropped us off on Earth, loud, fast planes have been hard wired into our DNA. They evoke some kind of ancient memory of distant planets, alien ships and interstellar travel.

So there. That's why we love the Thunderbirds.

On another alien note: Be sure to watch for the Delta Aquaid meteor showers tonight. They may have peaked last night, but you still may be able to catch some falling stars.

Monthly Mini & Monthly Ornament alerts:

Here are the projects for August. Both are kitted. Both are cute. Both might be finished before class.....Maybe.



We will do the pickup truck tree ornament in

September.

WHAT'S NEW!!

We have cut kits for the quilt from the book, Raven. We only have 1 kit left, although we could cut more.

In the Beginning:



Benartex & Eleanor Burns:



Also from Benartex are 2 1/2" strips called Dreamscapes. Couldn't grab a pic.

RJR: Geekery

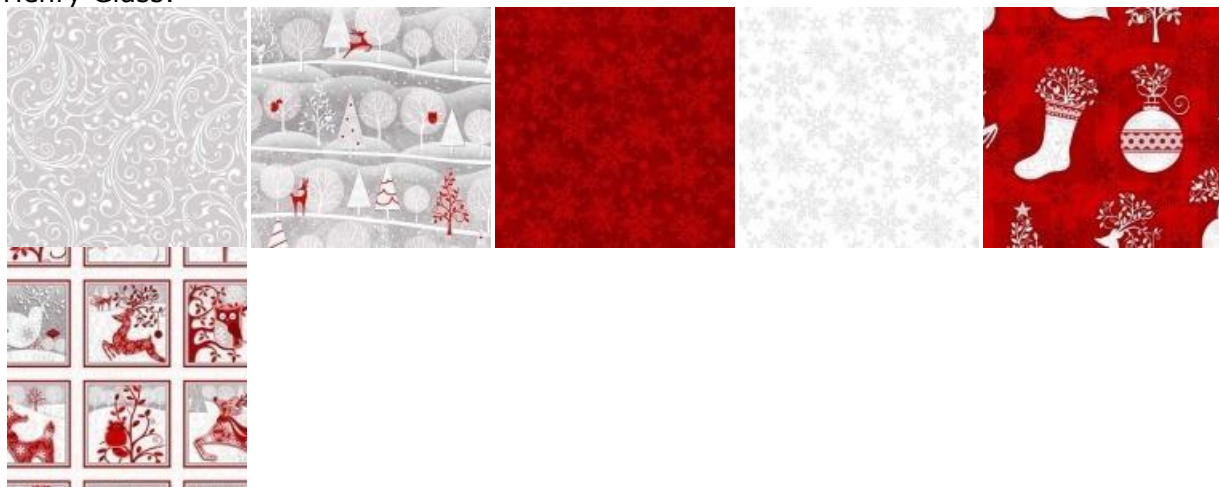


From Moda--jelly rolls, layer cakes & charms



Also from Moda: Wool scrap bags in assorted colors

Henry Glass:



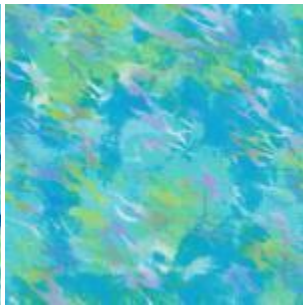
From Camelot: We've made a bunch of pillow case kits from this Disney collection--printed on quality fabric!



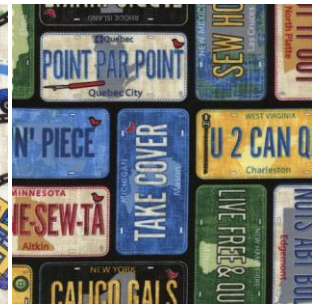
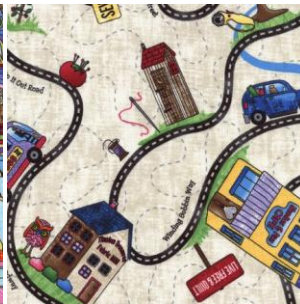
From Troy:



Plus the new Barn Trails Landscapes prints.

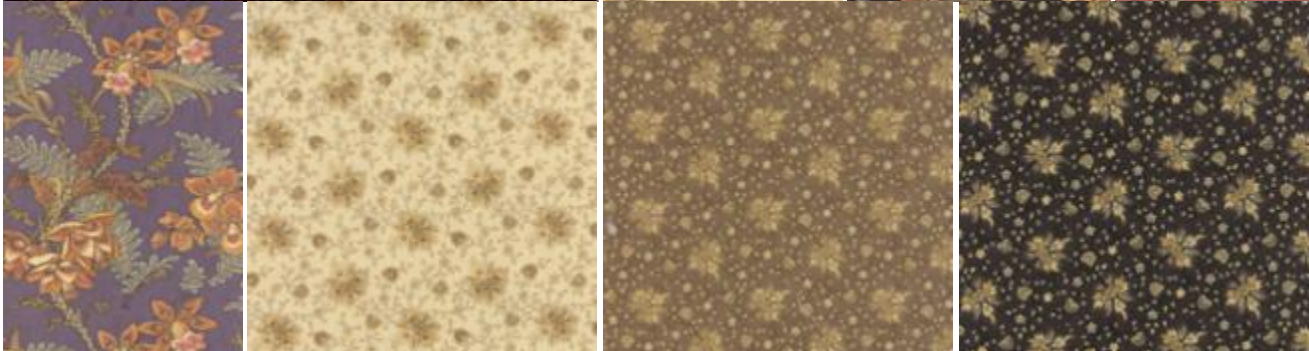


From Timeless:





From Moda: Wild Orchid: We'll be getting this book/pattern & we'll do a monthly class.





From Michael Miller:



These are coloring panels. We will be getting in fabric markers, but you can color with crayons, sharpies or colored pencils. Great for placemats for kids, napkins for kids, quilts for kids and coloring for adults!

July 2016

Bertie's Year & Companions last Friday of the month, 1-4 \$20, free if you buy the kit

Bertie's Year & Perfectly Pieced are small wall hangings, (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. The patterns are by Bonnie Sullivan, and you can do any of the series-she has a spring, summer, fall & winter Bertie's, plus the original, and plus the cats. You choose. Class is ongoing-because we need the time to get the embellishing done!

Friday Nighters last Fri. of month 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

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.

S.O.S. Quilts 5th Saturday of month 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

This is another of our Save Our Scraps quilts. This quilt is made with 2 ½" strips in cascading colors. So, of course, if you like our version, we have kits. Or you can use your "scraps" and make your own cascading quilt.

Pillow Case Party Sun. July 31 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!

August 2016

English Paper Piecing 1st & 3rd Mondays (In July dates are the 11th & 18th) 2-4 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. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and the Downton Abbey free pattern.

Wrapsody Purse Ongoing Thurs July 7, 21, Aug 4, 25 1-3 Sue Frerich \$25

This is the coolest purse I've seen in a long time. It is light weight (uses a new kind of interfacing), has lots of pockets and very cool zippers. Sue learned this purse at Houston last fall. The detail work on the purse is exquisite and with Sue's guidance, it will be a snap to make.

Block of the Month Ongoing. First Sat of month 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 red, white & blue quilt-patriotic theme, if you like.

Ornament Club 1st Sat of the month, 1:30-3:30 Free, if you buy that month's kit

Each month we will feature a different pieced ornament. Some of the ornaments can be used as gift tags & gift card holders. You can pick & choose which ornaments you want to make—each ornament will be displayed prior to class. You can make the March ornament & skip the April ornament, for example. Kits are limited, though, so if you are interested in a particular kit, be sure to sign up for that month & let me know.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month. 4-6 \$10 for the year (plus patterns or kits)

This year we are doing various table runners/ door banners/small wall hanging celebrating each month. Some of the quilts are long & skinny, some square, some round. Most of the quilts will be kitted.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Thurs. of month, 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.

Hand Embroidery Club Sat. 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

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

This year we're still 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.

Lace Houses, block of the month 2nd Sat. of month 1-3 Kathy Sconce \$25

Lace Houses is a Crabapple Hill pattern. It combines fusible applique, laces & trims, crayon coloring, minimal piecing, and, most importantly, embroidery. Each month we will concentrate on a new block or part of the quilt. The class will run from February through November, maybe December. Come learn from our master embroiderer, Kathy Sconce.

Disappearing 9-patch Quilt Sun August 14, 1-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

Using just one charm pack and a couple of yards of extra fabric, you can make this delightful lap sized quilt. Of course, you can make it bigger. We have some wonderful new charm packs (5" squares) that would make a gorgeous 9-patch (disappearing) quilt. This quilt is quick & easy to do. Perfect for beginners.

Disappearing Triangles/9-patch Quilt Wed August 24, 1-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

This quilt is done like the Disappearing 9-patch, but it is made with 10" squares so it is bigger. Sample is made with brightly colored batiks.

Christmas Row Quilt Ongoing 3rd Sat of the month, (in August class is August 27) \$20 Barb Boyer

Each row uses a different pieced block. There are log cabins, stockings, wreaths, ornaments, snowmen, trees, houses, bells, and stars. Each month we will piece a different row. There are 7 rows (2 rows use multiple blocks), plus a pieced border. You should be able to have the quilt done by Christmas!

Bertie's Year & Companions last Friday of the month, 1-4 \$20, free if you buy the kit

Bertie's Year & Purfectly Pieced are small wall hangings, (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. The patterns are by Bonnie Sullivan, and you can do any of the series—she has a spring, summer, fall & winter Bertie's, plus the original, and plus the cats. You choose. Class is ongoing—because we need the time to get the embellishing done!

Friday Nighters last Fri. of month 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

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July 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 Open Sew1-4 | 2 BOM 10:30-11:30 Ornament Club 2-4 Monthly Minis 4-6 |
| 3 CLOSED | 4 CLOSED Independence Day | 5 | 6 Beginning Quilt 1-4 | 7 Wrapsody Purse 1-4 | 8 | 9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Lace Houses 1-3 |
| 10 BH&R Quilt 1-5 | 11 English Paper Piecing 2- 4 | 12 | 13 Beginning Quilt 1-4 | 14 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30 | 15 Open Sew1-4 | 16 Christmas Row Quilt 1-4 |
| 17 Turning a Panel into a Quilt 1-5 | 18 English Paper Piecing 2- 4 | 19 Full Moon | 20 Beginning Quilt 1-4 | 21 Wrapsody Purse 1-4 | 22 | 23 Jelly Row Race 10:30-4 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Beginning Quilt 1-4 | 28 | 29 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -? | 30 S.O.S.Quilts 10:30-5 |
| 31 Pillow Case Party 1- 4 | Color of the month: Blue | | | | | |

August 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------|--|---|--|--|
| | 1 English Paper Piecing 2-4 | 2 | 3 Beginning Quilt 1-4 | 4 Wrapsody Purse 1-4 | 5 Open Sew1-4 | 6 BOM 10:30- 11:30 Ornament Club 2-4 Monthly Minis 4-6 |
| 7 CLOSED | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30 | 12 | 13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Lace Houses 1-3 |
| 14 Disappearing 9-patch 1-5 | 15 English Paper Piecing 2-4 | 16 | 17 | 18 Full Moon Santa Fe | 19 Open Sew1-4 Santa Fe | 20 Santa Fe |
| 21 Santa Fe | 22 | 23 | 24 Disappearing Triangles 1-5 | 25 Wrapsody Purse 1-4 | 26 Bertie's Year 1-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -? | 27 Christmas Row Quilt 1-4 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Color of the month: black | | |

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: June 20, July 19, August 18.

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

June Brown, July Blue, August Black.

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely,

Barbara Boyer
Around the Block
307-433-9555

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