



February 10, 2017

It's been a very frustrating week. First of all the Atlanta Falcons lost the Super Bowl. I'm not a fan, but I really didn't want to see the Patriot's win. Again.

And I'm not even sure you can call this year's Super Bowl a good game. For 3 quarters it really wasn't a good game. Meaning, not all that exciting. Then the 4th quarter happened and, again, it wasn't a good game, but a rout.

It's also hard to watch the Super Bowl. Regular football games are easy. You tape them, then watch on fast forward, usually fast forwarding through the commercials, but not always. If you don't like the other team, and if they're not playing well, you can fast forward through all their downs, and then slow down for the home team. This method saves a lot of time and turns 3 hour football games into less than an hour.

But with the Super Bowl, you have to do the reverse, in order to speed things up. Fast forward through the play action and normal motion through the ads. It's really easy to get confused. And then you waste time by rewinding. It's frustrating. And speaking of ads, that was another frustrating thing for this week. I didn't know which commercial I was supposed to like the most. I had to look it up on the internet. According to the Washington Post, the best ad was for a product I had never heard up, sung with a lyric I didn't get. It's the Bai (drink?) with Christopher Walken singing Bai Bai Bai-or Bye Bye Bye, with a shot back to Justin Timberlake. Get it? I didn't. Bye Bye Bye was a "N Sync song and Timberlake sang it. And when you have to explain the commercial this much, it's just frustrating.

There was also a T-Mobile ad that the Post liked, that I also didn't get. Comedian Kristen Schaal (who I don't know from Tina Fey), spoofed the movie Fifty Shades of Grey (which I have no intention of watching) and turned the spot into a S & M (no, not M & M the peanuts, think sadomasochism) spoof of enjoying the infliction of pain and humiliation - in the form of going over your Verizon data limits. Remember, this is an ad for T-Mobile. It took the Post story to explain why this ad was funny. The car ads were also frustrating - actually they are always frustrating - because not only are the cars unrealistically expensive, you can't drive them anywhere, except maybe Germany, that fast. So what good are they? But I realize making ads for hum drum drivers, just isn't exciting, and not Super Bowl worthy. Although, I do miss the dogs-driving-Subarus commercials. Those I got. Those I thought were funny.

And speaking of animals. Where were they? No cute dogs, no Budweisers, no jumping cats, no talking llamas-okay, I can do without the talking llamas. But where was Betty White turning into a hungry football player-I didn't really get the Josh Grobin/Snickers commercial. And then, when I looked it up, I learned that the actor was Adam Driver and the commercial was shot live. And I still didn't really get it.

Like I said, when I have to turn to the internet to tell me which commercials were the funniest - and to explain why they were funny - it's just frustrating.

That was Sunday.

Then on Tuesday, I got my second new Fitbit Blaze. My first one wouldn't charge-I didn't tell you about that, because it was well, just normal in the scheme of things. But then the second one wouldn't charge, either. I don't think the guy on the other end of the text chat believed me, because he had me download new software, which was needed to make the Fitbit actually work. Twenty minutes into the 10-minute download, I asked, how much battery life do I need to do this, and he said about 35%. So I said, how much life do I have and he said about 30%. But of course, we didn't stop.

Fifty minutes later, into the standard 10-minute download, I told him that that in another 40 minutes I had to leave and I was betting that the upload or download of new software wouldn't be finished Or that the Fitbit would die, one of the two. So the guy told me to stop and reboot my phone. And I said: Do you want me to turn off my phone & turn it back on? Yes. Rebooting. Who knew? I reboot things when they don't work, but the phone was working just fine.

So now we were back to square one and I asked the guy how I could tell if the Fitbit was charging. The manual said that a

small icon showing the battery would appear on the screen. Since there was no battery showing on the screen, I didn't know if it was working. He said until I got the new software uploaded, the icon wouldn't show. So I asked, if the Fitbit won't charge until it is updated and if I can't update it until it is charged, now what do I do? I told him that was a Catch-22. I don't think he understood.

But he agreed to send me a new charger, which, is what I told him the first guy had concluded. In fact, I told him this at the start of all this, two hours previous. And that the first guy was supposed to send me a new charger and instead I got a new Fitbit. I mean, they were both very nice & both helpful. They just didn't pay attention to what I was telling them.

So now I have 2 perfectly good Fitbits and one dead charger. I'm glad the Fitbit wasn't working during all of this because I'm betting my blood pressure was through the roof.

So after all of that I was frustrated and feeling really sorry for myself. And then I got in the car & turned on the radio to NPR and listened to the stories about the legal immigrants who had been flying back & forth from home to the US to home to the US this past weekend, not knowing where they would finally land. And I got further depressed because it's silly to be frustrated by a nonworking Fitbit that is really only going to tell me what I already know-I don't walk as much as I should-when families don't even know where home will be. And I told myself that I must live in a wonderful world, if that's all I had to complain about. But I was still depressed & frustrated.

But that was Tuesday.

It wasn't until Thursday that I learned Tom Brady lost his jersey. And maybe the game winning football. And the Texas Marshall's are on the case. I can just imagine Chuck Norris hunting down the jersey & football. And that made me happy. Someone now is more frustrated than me. It might be a good week after all.



A Challenge! Featuring 12 Bella Solids #modabellachallenge

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of Moda's Bella Solids Moda is hosting a challenge inspired by Moda's leader, Mark Dunn's, passion for textiles and love of color!

Entries should have a contemporary feel and must include **only 12 Bella Solids and a piece of each must be used.** Any type of piecing, quilting, embroidery, etc. may be used to create your masterpiece. We have all of the solids, but 3, which are on back order.

Anyone can enter. Rules:

- Quilt must contain only the 12 Bella Solids and a piece of each must be used. Any type of piecing, quilting, embroidery, etc. can be used to create a masterpiece.
- Quilt(s) must measure 72 x 90.
- Quilt(s) must be an original design.
- Quilt must be quilted. No quilt tops will be accepted.
- Quilt must be labeled with Maker's and Quilter's name, city and contact information.
- Top 3 National winning quilt(s) will become the property of Moda Fabrics.

No limit to number of entries. International entries will be accepted.

Dates: February 1, 2017 - September 12, 2017

1. Digital image of quilt must be received no later than Tuesday, September 12. All the entries will be judged. Six finalists will be chosen.

2. Finalist quilts must be mailed at owner's expense to Moda home office in Dallas for final judging.

3. Moda will contact the 3 final winners on October 20th. The quilts will be on display in the Moda Fabrics booth during Fall Quilt Market, 2017.

4. The prize money will be considered the purchased price of the three winning quilts. They will

become the property of Moda Fabrics.

The best for last:

***First Place - \$5,000**

***Second Place - \$3,000**

***Third Place - \$2,000**

* Purchase Awards - Quilts become the property of Moda Fabrics.

What Wind? Contest

If we have to put up with the wind, might as well have a little fun.

Contest Rules: 1) Design a "What Wind?" 12" finished block. Blocks can be pieced, appliqued, embroidered--your choice. It must finish at 12" (which means, unfinished it will be 12 1/2"). Block must be provided.

2) Provide a written pattern.

3) Deadline: March 15.

4) Blocks will be displayed in the shop and customers can vote for their favorite.

Now here's the fun part (if designing a block wasn't fun enough :))

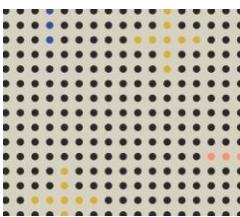
Everyone who enters will be able to get the patterns from all the other entrants. Each entrant will also select a charity of her choice, to be written on a slip of paper & put into a bowl. On March 18, National Quilt Day, several things will happen: A Viewer's Choice Award of \$25 gift certificate will be awarded, patterns of all the blocks will be given to entrants, and we'll draw for the favorite charity.

My job, after the contest, will be to put together all blocks into a quilt. This quilt will then be given to the favorite charity as a raffle/fund raiser.

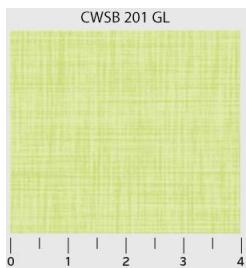
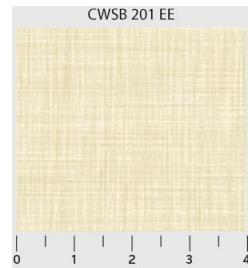
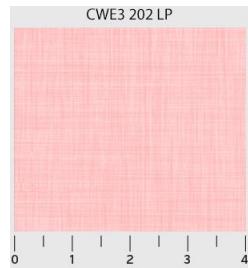
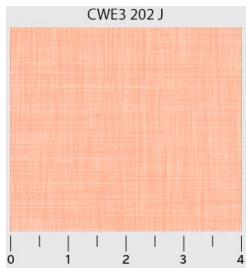
Make sense? All clear? It's Friday the 13th and all sorts of odd things have been happening, so I'm sure I left out some important detail. If you have questions, just ask.

WHAT'S NEW!!

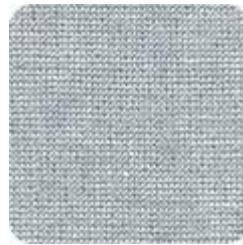
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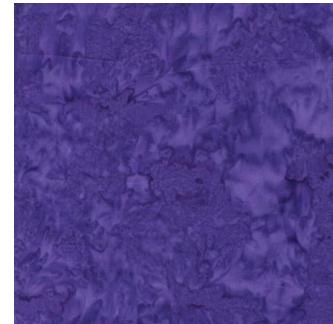
From P & B:

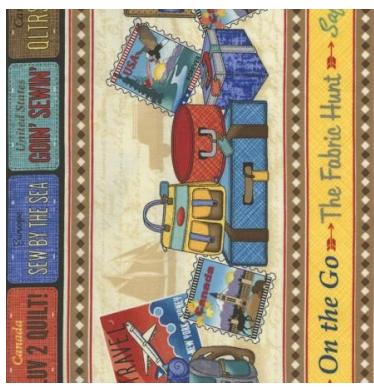
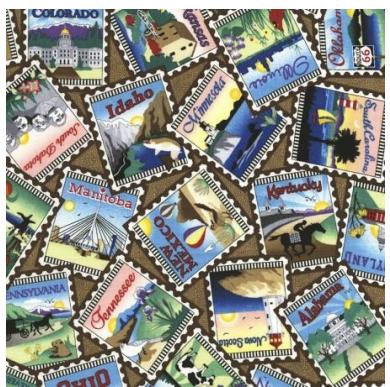


From Kaufman:



Timeless:

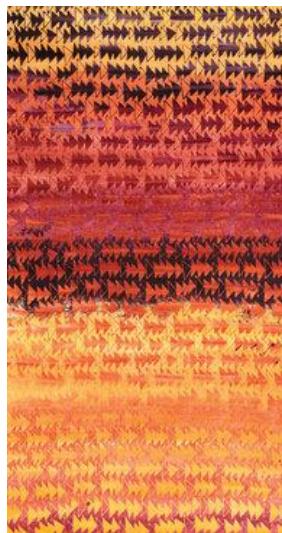




Stof:



Anthology.

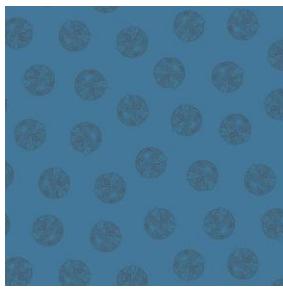
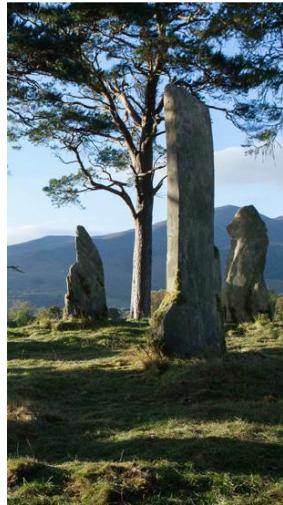




Wilmington:



Andover, the Outlander tv show fabric:



February Classes & Special Events

Beginning Quilting ongoing, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (6-9) OR 12, 19, 26 (1-4)

Camden Bag Thur. Feb 2, 16, (1-4) OR & Sat Feb. 11, 25 1-4 \$25 Sue Frerich

Zigzag together fabric-covered fusible-batting strips for the sides of this charming oval-bottom handmade bag. The pattern has two sizes to choose from: Large 18" wide x 16" tall x 12" deep Small 13" wide x 9" tall x 9" deep. Sue will walk you through the steps to make this great bag!



All Things Christmas! 2nd Fridays every other month. 1-4 \$20/per class Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich

We will do 6 Christmas projects this year, including a full sized quilt, a table runner, an ornament, and other fun projects. You can pick and choose which projects you would like to do or sign up for all of them and get 1 class for free! First project is a small wall hanging using a panel featuring trucks & trees. Red of course. We will have limited kits available for sale, but any fabrics can be used.



Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE (but see below) Kathy Sconce

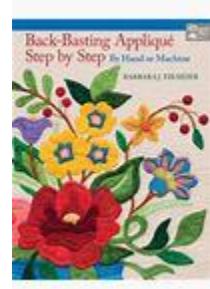
(Club normally meets the 2nd Sat. of each month from 10-noon)

Starting this fall we are doing barns. If you want to participate, there will be a COST. The patterns is \$20 + \$12 for printing. Each month, I will print the barn on Transfer Ez for you. Bring your fabric and supplies (floss, hoop, scissors, etc), and we will sit & stitch on the blocks during class. Fabric requirements will be provided in the first class.

Back Basting Wed. Feb. 15, 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!

Lone Star Sat. Feb 18, Mar 18 1:30-4 ongoing



Wild Orchid Raven Quilt last Friday of the month ongoing, 2-4 \$20

This block of the month will feature a different raven block, from the Raven book by Blackbird Designs. You can hand applique the blocks, but class will show you how to trace the pieces, fuse them in place and applique around by machine.

Friday Nighters, last Friday of the 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.

English Paper Piecing 4th (or last) Mondays 2-4 Barb Boyer \$20 (fee per year)

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**-this is the pattern I am doing this year. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and the Downton Abbey free pattern.

February 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hand quilting 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	2 Camden Bag1-4	3 Open Sew1-4	4BOM 10:30-11:30 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
5 CLOSED	6 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4	7	8 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	9 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	10 All Things Christmas 1-4 Full Moon	11Embroidery Club 10-noon Camden Bag1-4
12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13	14 <u>Valentine's Day</u>	15 Back Basting 1-3 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	16 Camden Bag1-4	17 Open Sew1-4	18 Lone Star 10:30-4
19 Beginning Quilt 1-4	20 <u>Presidents' Day</u>	21	22 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	23	24 Wild Orchid Raven Quilt 2-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	25 Camden Bag1-4
26 Beginning Quilt 1-4	27 English Paper Piecing 2-4	28				Color of the month: Red

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: Jan 12, Feb 10, March 12, April 11, May 10.

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, May neutrals/beiges/whites.

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

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

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer
Around the Block
307-433-9555
www.aroundtheblockquilts.com