



Around the Block  
QUILT SHOP

February 24, 2017

For those of you only following Trump news, and it's hard not to, you may have missed some of these important stories. Well, important might be too strong of a word. Interesting & weird might be better adjectives.

Story #1: NASA and a Belgian research team discovered seven new planets this week. Now don't go packing your bags just yet. The planets are in a constellation called Aquarius and are 40 light years away. We're still years away from figuring out how to get to Mars, let alone some distant constellation that was featured in a 1969 Bill Board hit song by the same name.

The exciting feature about these planets is their relationship with their star. They are in the right orbits to suggest the possibility of water, which suggests the possibility of atmosphere. But we won't know more until October 2018 when a new telescope gets launched. And to quote the song, "when the moon is in the 7<sup>th</sup> house and Jupiter aligns with Mars, then peace will guide the plants and love will steer the stars" then the world will have "harmony and understanding" with "sympathy and trust abounding" and there will be no more "falsehoods or derisions." Don't get too excited. We're not talking about tomorrow or four years from now. Astrologers (not astronomers) predict that the Age of Aquarius won't occur until 2062 to 2080. And we might, actually by then, be able to travel to Aquarius to see for ourselves.

In other exciting science news, did you hear about the rock python that swallowed a porcupine? Sounds like the beginning of a bad joke. Unfortunately for the python, it wasn't a joke. A cyclist in South Africa found this python while he was out & about. The python had a big bulge in its middle, and it was dead.

Now a python kills its prey by coiling around it and squeezing it to death and whatever this python had eaten was big. Some speculated that it might have been a small warthog. Pythons are big-up to 16 feet long-but there is only so much space inside to accommodate lunch and apparently 50 pounds of prey isn't an unusual meal for a big python.

But this snake ate a 30 pound porcupine-oh, you ask, how did they know what the snake ate? Of course, they cut it open. Remember the snake was already dead. The scientists think the quills might have had something to do with the snake's demise. I can only think what it must be like to swallow a pincushion, but I guess pythons routinely eat porcupines, so they must know how to do it. The speculation is that this python fell off a rocky cliff, and when it landed the porcupine's quills penetrated the snake.



And I hope you are all following the adventures of April, the giraffe. The Animal Adventure Park in New York has been live streaming the impending birth of April's 4th baby. Now YouTube shut

the site down briefly because animal activists said the streaming violated YouTube's policy against nudity and sexual content. Remember, we're talking giraffes here. They don't wear clothes. Well, the shut down didn't last long, and the streaming is back up. This will be an impressive birth. I've seen foals and calves born, but a baby giraffe weighs about 150 pounds and comes with 6 foot long legs. I can't imagine.

And final news, remember that Sunday is Oscar night. The stars will all be aligned, the quills and barbs from host Jimmy Kimmel will be prevalent, and I'm sure some of the winners will lay goose eggs during their acceptance speeches. It's worth taping and watching on fast forward as needed.



### 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!!

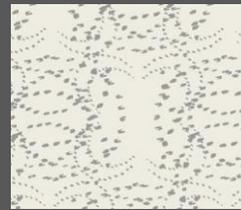
From Windham:



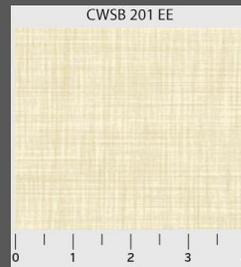
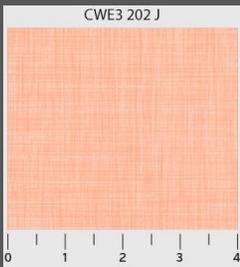
From Blank:

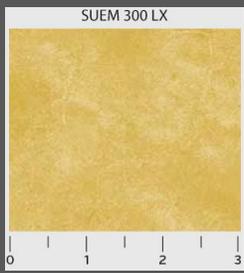
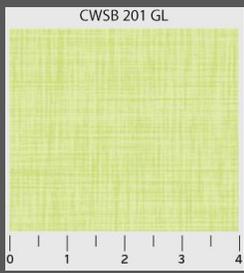


Camden Bag parts are in!  
 New threads from Presencia, 50/3 (50 weight, 3 ply) on small spools. Plus some green wool blend for embroidery.  
 From AGF:



From P & B:

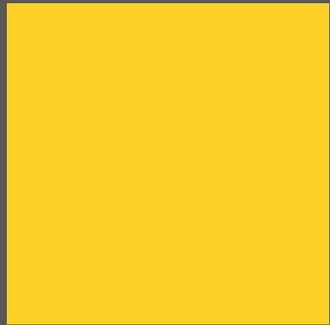
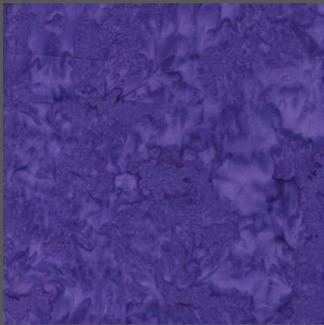


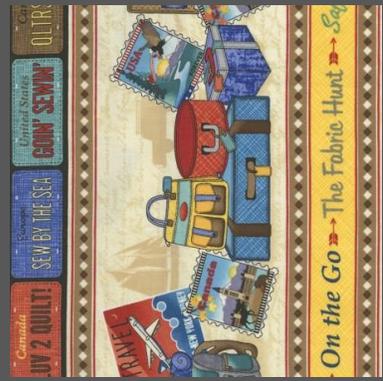


From Kaufman:



Timeless:

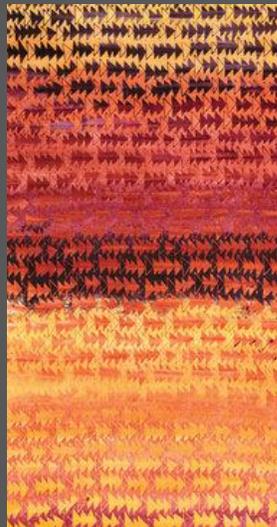




Stof:



Anthology.

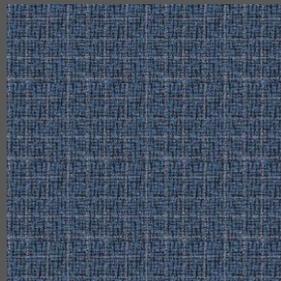
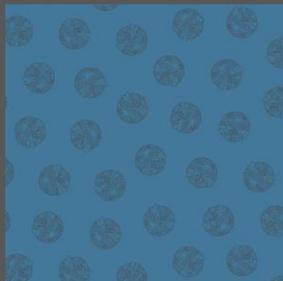




Wilmington:



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**, ongoing Feb. 25 1-4

**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 4<sup>th</sup> (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.

## March Classes and Special Events

### **Spoon Quilting** Wed. Mar 1 1-3 \$25 Sandra Freeburg

No more sore fingers! Learn to Spoon Quilt, with a special spoon quilting tool. This tool helps you keep your stitches tiny and even without pricking your finger. Need to have basic quilting skills (rocking motion quilting).

### **Beginning Quilting ongoing, Mar 1,8 (6-9) OR 12, 19 (1-4)**

### **Block of the Month** Sat. Mar. 3 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 basket quilt. Each block will be a different basket. The challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to use plaids!

### **Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the month, OR 1<sup>st</sup> Mon of each month Feb - July 1-4 \$25

Eleanor Burns has designed 12 quilt blocks, plus various pieced borders to go with each block, that celebrate 12 famous women, including Martha Washington, Harriot Tubman and Eleanor Roosevelt. Come learn their stories and piece their blocks, using traditional fabrics or make it modern and celebrate today's rising stars from designers like Tula Pink and Kathy Dougherty.

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

This year we are doing Holiday House, pre laser cut. Each kit will be app. \$40. These blocks can be made into a quilt, or kept separate as individual wall hangings.

### **Knit Pickers' Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur. of the month, 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.

### **All Things Halloween!** 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays every other month. 1-4 \$20/per class Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich

We will do 5 Halloween 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! **Second project is a wall hanging called "Witches Night Out."** We will have limited kits available for sale.



### **Hand Embroidery Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Fat Quarter Fun** Sat. Mar. 11, OR Mon Mar 13 1-6 \$20 Barb Boyer & Sue Frerich

Every other month we will make a quilt using fat quarters (plus additional fabrics for borders). Three of the quilts will be from the same book, and the last 3 quilts will come from another book, maybe 2 books. Each quilt will employ a new cutting or sewing technique, just to keep it interesting! We will have limited kits of each quilt. We will offer these classes twice-pick your day, Saturday or Monday. **March's quilt is a fun log cabin/partial seam construction block.** Books shows it done in pastels, while Sue's quilt is bright batiks.

## **Hand Quilting Wed.** Mar. 15, 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.

### **NATIONAL QUILT DAY WE'LL HAVE SPECIALS AND DEMOS ALL DAY LONG**

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

**Beginning Machine Quilting** Wed. Mar 22, 1-4 or 6-9 \$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!

**Tennessee Waltz quilt** Sat. Mar 25, 10:30-5 \$20 Barb Boyer

This cute quilt uses 2 blocks, a snowball block and 54-40 or Fight block. The combination makes it look like you've pieced circles. The "circles" provide graceful movement throughout the quilt, just like a Tennessee Waltz. And by using a special ruler combination, the blocks go together quickly and easily.



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

**Beginning Machine Applique** Wed. Mar 29, 1-4 OR 6-9 \$25 Barb Boyer

So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

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

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**Friday Nighters, last Friday of the month** 5:30-? \$10 Barb Boyer

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## February 2017

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

# March 2017

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			<b>1</b> Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Open Sew1-4	<b>4</b> BOM 10:30-11:30 Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
<b>5</b> CLOSED	<b>6</b> Eleanor Burns: Stars Across America 1-4	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	<b>9</b> Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	<b>10</b> All Things Halloween-Witches Night Out 1-4	<b>11</b> Embroidery Club 10-noon Fat Quarter Fun 1-6
<b>12</b> Beginning Quilt 1-4 <b>Full Moon</b>	<b>13</b> Fat Quarter Fun 1-6	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Open Sew1-4	<b>18</b> Lone Star 10:30-4
<b>19</b> Beginning Quilt 1-4	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4 OR 6-9	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Tennessee Waltz 10:30-5
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> English Paper Piecing 2-4	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Beginning Machine Applique 1-4 OR 6-9	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Wild Orchid Raven Quilt 2-4 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	Color of the month: Green

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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: 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.

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](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)