

Spanish Castles Quilt Challenge

In July, I am traveling to Barcelona, Spain, to sing Verdi's Requiem. To help me kick off my adventure, I'm organizing a quilt challenge where we will make a quilt to be donated next year to the fund raising event for the Cheyenne Youth Symphony.



This is a four part quilt challenge. Part One: Starting July 1, enter the challenge by selecting 3 neutral fat quarters from our basket of neutrals (\$9). Your buy-in gets you the Spanish Castle Quilt Pattern. Part Two: You have 2 months (I changed it) to make your block. Return your completed block by September 1. You may make more than 1 from the 3 fats.

Part Three: Everyone who has entered the challenge & completed the block

gets to participate in the "mosaic" portion of the quilt. I will put the quilt top together and then draw a musical image (like a treble clef) on the top of the quilt. Everyone who has completed Part One & Two will have an opportunity to fuse a square of colorful fabric onto the quilt. Make sense? We will "color in" in the treble clef with colorful squares. I will then quilt the quilt and it will be donated the Cheyenne Youth Symphony for an auction at their fund raiser next year. (Quilt shown doesn't have the mosaic applique on it, yet.)



So what about Part Four? Everyone who enters the challenge, is eligible for Part Four. To enter Part Four, you need to buy 2 fat quarters of colorful fabrics from our basket of colorful fats and one neutral fat quarter. With those fats construct up to two Spanish Castle blocks. Turn in your completed colorful block(s) and you will be entered into a drawing to win a selection of the blocks made by other quilters --each block turned in gets you one entry. Make sense? Make up two colorful Spanish Blocks with the 3 fat quarters. Each block gets you one entry into the drawing. You may enter as many times as you like, but for every 2 blocks, you have to buy three fat quarters from the colorful basket. Winners will win up to 6 blocks (all depending on how many blocks get turned in). Multiple winners are possible. Timing is the same for this challenge: July 1-September 1.

It sounds like a lot of rules, but it's pretty simple. Make a neutral block, with fats purchased from the store, and help participate in making a quilt to be donated to the Cheyenne Youth Symphony. In addition, make a colorful block and put your name in for a drawing to win up to 6 blocks to make your own Spanish Castle quilt. Don't worry--we will color coordinate the blocks that are turned in.

Stay tuned for the pattern.





Around the **Block**
QUILT SHOP

ROW BY ROW!

Here is our Row! It's called, "Who Let the Horses Out of the Barn."
The block with the horses is an elongated Hole in the Barn Door block.



June 30, 2017

Did you know there is a 4th of July city? I don't know who comes up with this stuff, but the city isn't Boston, New York, Washington D.C., nor any city that was alive in 1776.

America's Small Town Fourth of July City, which is also Nebraska's Official Fourth of July City, is wait for it.....Seward, Nebraska. Who knew? Well, everyone in Seward, but I can tell you not everyone in Nebraska, because I came out of Nebraska & I've never heard of it until today as I was schlepping around the internet looking for fun facts about the 4th of July.

Seward has been doing the 4th of July celebrations since 1868. Seward is about 20 minutes west of Lincoln & has 6,000 people, give or take a new baby arrival. You drive right by it (almost) on the interstate. Of note: It boasts a great quilt shop called the Cosmic Cow Udder Store. The Cosmic Cow quilt shop is in Lincoln. The Udder Store is in Seward. Cute.

The first celebration was held on the town square, where men "dug a well and the women sewed an American Flag. Speeches were given and a celebration was created!" Today, high school students are the primary moving force behind the celebration.

The Seward 4th of July celebration has won 4 George Washington Honor Certificates awarded by the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge; 2 George Washington Honor

Medals from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge; the 1975 Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor Award; and the 1979 Merit Citation from the Nebraska Travel and Tourism Division. In 1976 Seward was declared the official site for the Nebraska Bicentennial July 4 celebration by the Nebraska USA Bicentennial Commission. And finally, in 1979 Seward was designated "America's Official Fourth of July City-Small Town USA" by resolution of Congress. And...it has won other awards since then. Wow.

Events at the celebration include fireworks, parades, an apple pie eating contest, and a bubble gum contest-the hot dog eating contests and greased pole climbing were dropped because of requests from parents. They have area grade school students (K-4) who are crowned local royalty as "Miss Independence" and "Mr. Firecracker": contestants have to write an essay, "Why I Like to Live in Seward." They have patriotic and humanities programs and lectures, runs, walks, bar-b-que, plane shows, car shows, a pet parade, band concerts, historic exhibits, clowns, art shows, cloggers & dancers, a horseshoe contest, a carnival, and an anvil firing, just to name a few of the events.

Wait a minute: Did I mention Anvil Firing? I had to look that up, too. I thought it had something to do with heating up an anvil and showing tourists how horseshoes are made. Silly me. In Seward, they launch these things into the air with gun powder. This takes spud guns and punkin' chunking to a whole new level. The way this works (okay, one way. Apparently there are several ways to launch anvils) you put a hole in one anvil and fill it with powder. The second anvil (known as the flier) is placed on top. Add a fuse, step very far away, and light the fuse, probably with punk. Remember punk? Anyway, when the fuse is lit, the resulting deflagration, which is the rapid combustion of the powder rather than detonation of the powder, sends the anvil several feet into the air.

Anvil firing was a substitute for fireworks in the south, apparently. In the United Kingdom, they test anvils by trying to blow them up. If the anvil doesn't shatter, it's safe to use. I can hear mum now, "Don't go outside, dearies. Daddy's testing the anvil. I don't want you to come home with anvil shards in your neck." Jeez.

Wikipedia has a 2 sentence warning under the heading Dangers: "Individuals may be crushed by a falling anvil. The black powder can also prematurely ignite when the top anvil is placed, which can cause black marks on any nearby individuals." They should be so lucky just to get black marks. You should check this out and look at the pictures of flying anvils. It's truly spectacular.

Anyway, back to the 4th celebrations in Seward. They have pole valuting, book readings, bicycling, shot putting, breakfasts, used book sales, flag raising, tractor shows, thresher shows (you gotta be a farmer for that one), basketball tournament, best decorated bike contest, craft market, concerts by local & state choirs-and that's just before 10 a.m. I'm not kidding.

They also "kidnap" a tourist family, who apparently become the official tourist family. The State Patrol used to stop people on I-80 and haul them into town. Since, I suspect, this was not very popular among the travelers who had no desire to visit Seward, the tradition is now to "kipnap" a tourist family who is already walking around in Seward. Can you imagine if the Frontier Days Committee folk stopped tourists on I-80 during Frontier Days & hauled them into town to "shoot" them during the gunslingers' demonstration? Local attorneys would be guaranteed a job for life.

The remarkable thing about Seward's 4th of July celebration is that the local high school and college students are the main organizers of the event. During the year they meet once a month a noon at the local high school to plan everything. And if you didn't

notice when you were reading the list of events, the celebration is family oriented.

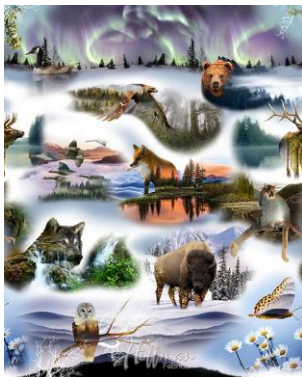
I'm not sure you'd find another 4th of July party that offers children's Big Wheel races along side a travelogue of Slovakia next to a patriotic piano concert. It's like something straight out of the Music Man.

I want to go.

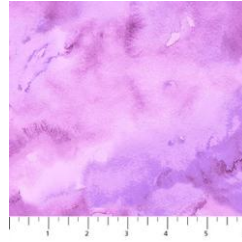
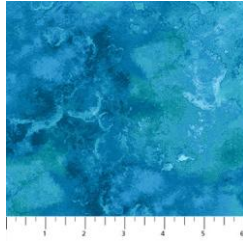
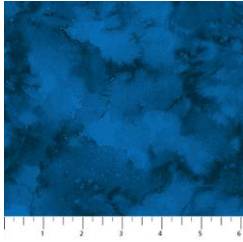
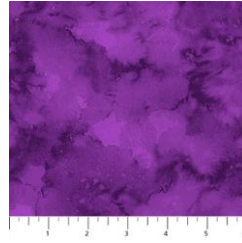
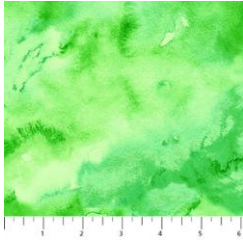
WHAT'S NEW!!

We have kings sized bats in packages, just arrived! Notions order has also come with patterns, thread, rulers, photo fabric (used to print photos on fabric), pearl cotton balls, prewound bobbins, and some what not.

From Hoffman:



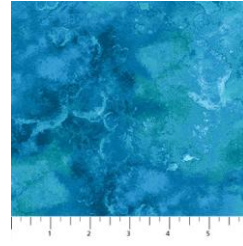
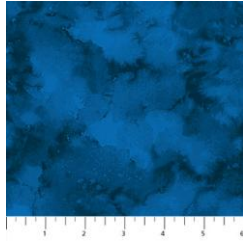
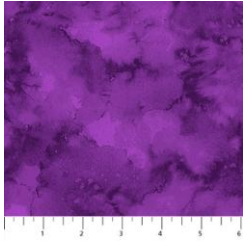
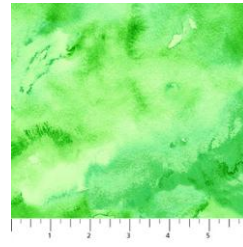
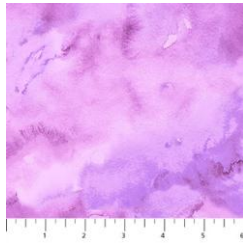
From Northcott:



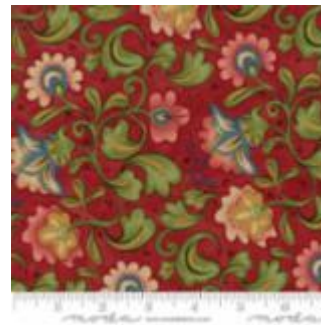
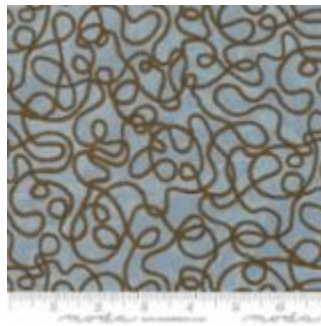
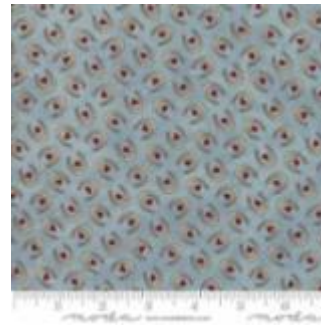
From Blank:



From Northcott:



From Moda:





July Classes and Special Events (Check calendar below for dates & times)

1. Get R' Done--Stitch Your Bindings Down! Come on the first Saturdays from 1-4 and sit & stitch on your bindings. If you need help cutting, stitching deciding on color--this is the class for you. \$5 per class/Saturday.
2. Jelly Roll Race. July 3, 10:30-5. \$20. A fun, fast quilt that you will get completely sewn in class--or at least that's the plan.
3. All Things Halloween. A cute table runner from Happy Hollow Designs. \$20 plus kit.
4. Fat Quarter Quilt: Turning 20. Class on either July 8 or 10 from 1-6. \$20.
5. English paper piecing on June 26, 2-4. Come learn how to hand stitch using the English paper piecing method. It's an ongoing class, and class fee is \$20 for the year.
6. See the schedule for other classes: Friday Nighters, Knitting, Embroidery Club, Block of the Month, Monthly Minis, and Open sews.

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1BOM 10:30-11:30 Get R' Done-Stitch Your Bindings Down! 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
2 Beginning Quilt 1-4	3 Jelly Roll Race 10:30-5	4 X-Block Flag 10-3-- Postponed until pattern arrives <u>Independence Day</u>	5 Beginning Quilt 1-4	6	7 All Things Halloween 1-4	8Embroidery Club 10- noon Fat Quarter Fun 1- 6 Turning 20 Full Moon
9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Fat Quarter Fun 1-6 Turning 20	11	12 Beginning Quilt 1-4	13 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Open Sew1-4	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Color of the month: Blue
30 Beginning Quilt 1-4	31 English Paper Piecing 2-4					

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Open Sew1-4	5 BOM 10:30-11:30 Get R' Done-Stitch Your Bindings Down! 1-4 Monthly Mini 4-6
6 Beginning Quilt 1-4	7 Full Moon	8	9 Beginning Quilt 1-4	10 Knit Pickers' Club 6-8:30	11 All Things Christmas 1-4	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14	15	16 Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	17	18 Open Sew1-4	19 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 1: Disappearing Sun quilt 10:30-5
20 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 2: Reappearing Sun quilt 1-6	21 Solar Eclipse extravaganza: Day 3: Solar Eclipse quilt & road trip 8-5	22	23	24	25 Friday Nighters 5:30 -?	26 Counterpoint 10:30-5
27	28 English Paper Piecing 2-4	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: 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