

SIGN UP FOR LONG ARM QUILTING CLASSES TODAY!

Classes are on Wednesdays in March: 10:30-1:30; 2:30-5:30, or 6-8:30. Only 4 to a class--classes are filling, so if you want a March class, be sure to call. We will continue with classes in April and May and I will schedule some classes on Saturday and Sunday, time permitting.

Rentals have started for those who have taken the class. Mondays and Fridays rentals only for right now. 2 rentals times per day: 10:30-2 and 2:30-6. \$25/hr or \$85 for 3 1/2 hours. \$50 minimum. Plus \$5/bobbin for thread. Most quilts (double and smaller), even for beginners, will take about 2 1/2-3 hours. We will discuss what you plan to do on your quilt and will help you estimate how long it will take.

We will have more thread selections by next week, but right now the machine is running very well on regular Aurofil, 50/2. So that is a good option.



March 16, 2018

I can tell that schools aren't in session. The roads weren't plowed.

Now, to be fair, I should say, my road wasn't plowed. And actually, only half of my road wasn't plowed-the half in front of my house & up & over the hill to the south. Once I got down to the paved part: voila! It was plowed. It wasn't really critical getting out this morning, but if you didn't stay in the middle of the road-well, let's just say that the poor snook without 4-wheel drive who didn't stay in the middle of the road now needs a tow truck.

I can also tell that it snowed last night. And no, it's not because of all the pretty white moisture on the ground. It's because my dogs are in their dog houses! They didn't even come out to bark me good bye.

Things in the news, or at least on YouTube: Becca wants a toddler. She saw this little kid on a video feeding a dog straight from the fridge and figures she should have one. Now, first of all, this video was not captured surreptitiously by a "nanny" cam. No, a parent was responsible for letting this happen. Makes you wonder sometimes. Anyway, there are several things wrong with this, from my perspective at least, and these are in no particular order:

- 1) The door to the fridge is open for several minutes while the parent films;
- 2) a toddler is taught that it is fun to have the door to the fridge open;
- 3) a toddler is taught that feeding a dog stuff from the fridge is okay-remember, a parent is supervising this, so whatever the dog is being fed (cheese, I think) is probably okay for the dog. But just think what the dog could be fed if the toddler is unsupervised for 2 minutes, and I suspect that toddlers often go unsupervised for 2 minutes;
- 4) the parents wanted a cute video that would go viral so they encouraged this behavior; and
- 5) just think what could happen when that toddler has a play date at a friend's house.

Now Becca figures that if I get a toddler, she'll get food from the fridge. It's her only shot at getting chilled goodies because, fortunately, she's not tall enough to reach the door handles, otherwise she'd be getting the food herself. I tried to explain to her that I can't just go to a breeder and pick up an 8-week old kid, but she didn't get it.

There is another video (these are easy to find because when you click on one, all sorts of others pop up) where the baby (a kid at least with a tooth who is on to more solid food) gets a french fry from mom in an attempt to calm a temper tantrum. I'm not a parent (and I can hear every parent saying,

she just doesn't know what it's like to be around a screaming kid, and that much is true) but the lesson this baby learns is that if I throw a tantrum I will get food-and fYou can thank me later.rench fries to boot. I guess one can't do that much harm..... Right?

In other internet news, did you realize that the show, The Bachelor, has been on for 23 years? Wow. And it's being renewed, so it must be popular. And I've never seen it. Days of Our Life, 54 years, renewed. America's Got Talent, 13 years, renewed. So You Think You Can Dance, 15 years, renewed. The Walking Dead, 9 years, renewed. Haters Back Off, 2 years, cancelled (I've never heard of it either). Keeping up with the Kardashians, 15 years, renewed for 2 more.

I've never watched any of these programs, I'm happy to say. I report on these things for you, so that you don't have to look up whether your favorite show has been cancelled or renewed. You can thank me later. There were 184 slides to go through, mainly because every network, channel, streaming service and others are now in the business of making shows, no matter how cheaply, no matter how badly, so there were a lot of strange shows on the list.

I won't judge you if you watch Keeping up with the Kardashians. On the other hand, probably best not to tell me if you do. But I know the other shows are popular. My form of trash tv involves shows that don't feature lawyers. I go out of my way to avoid those shows. On the other hand, scifi shows I generally find entertaining, no matter how bad. And I generally don't watch anything that is "good for me." I want to be entertained, told a story that is purely fictional-so I don't watch much news. Although I have found the Rachael Maddow show entertaining. With what is happening in D.C., it could be subtitled, "Stranger than Fiction."

And finally, under stranger than fiction column, a Romanian man returned home from Turkey, where he had been working as a cook for 20 years. Unfortunately, he must not have kept in touch with his wife, because she declared him dead some years ago. I think there is a little animosity going on here. But the kicker is, the court has refused to overturn the death certificate because the man's request was filed to late. The decision, the court said is final. Dead is dead, after all.

And RKO has already written and filmed the story -- in 1940: "My Favorite Wife," with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. One of my favorites.

**GRAND OPENING PARTY!
MARCH 17
LOTS OF THINGS TO CELEBRATE!**

**National Quilt Day!
Brand New Sign!
Nolting Quilt Machine!
St. Patrick's Day!
Green Beer Punch!**

Classes!

Demos!

Sales!

25% off sale

All books are 25% off, green fabric 25% off, kits and fat quarters are 25% off.

We will have hand quilting demos, long arm quilting demos, knitting demos and prairie point making demos! And it's the first class for French Braid. If you have never done a French Braid quilt it's time to add that to your skill set.

How to make prairie points will be all day long.

How to sew a table topper on the long arm machine--around 2 p.m.

How to make an oven mitt in less than 30 minutes: A "show" & take--we will have kits for sale, already pre cut.

Hand quilting and knitting will be morning to early

afternoon.

French Braid class is all day long.

And to celebrate all of this, we'll have cake, cookies, and green punch. If you haven't seen our new look, drop by and say hi!

Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop! April 20-21 The Ranch, First National Bank Building, Loveland, CO

Our theme for this year's quilt show is Modern Quilts and we are asking for your participation. Design your own modern quilt or use a commercial pattern that embraces the modern quilting movement. To participate, fill out an entry form and bring it to the shop with your quilt by April 2. Forms are available here, just ask me for one. Quilts will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 20 & 21. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$400 1st, \$300 2nd, and \$200 3rd, selected by Viewer's Choice. Quilts and prizes can be collected from me after the show.

A few rules: Quilts must be made by entrant and made within the last 6 months.

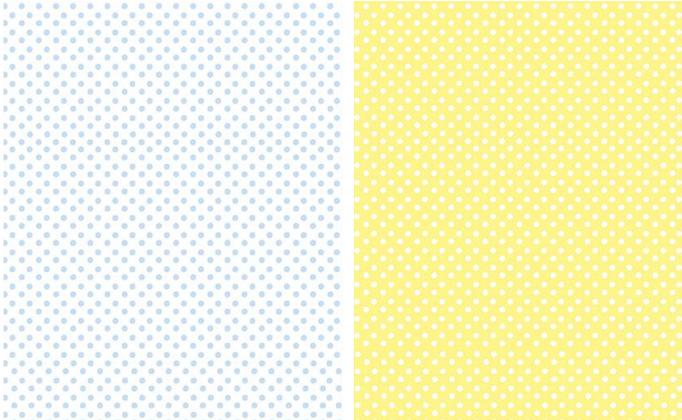
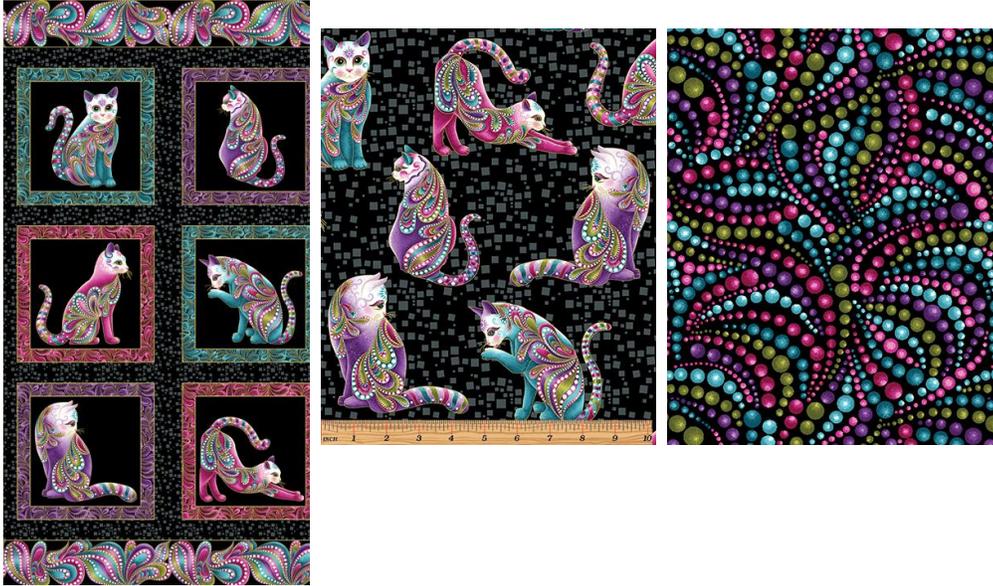
Our challenge this year is cats & dogs! Big ones, little ones, funny ones, short ones, tall ones. Design your own project or use a commercial pattern. To participate, fill out an entry form (get from me) and bring it to the shop with your project by April 2. Wallhangings, totes or other interpretations of cats and dogs no larger than 60" X 60" will be accepted. Last year Tracy Wilson won! Can we take home the prize again this year?!!!!

Projects will hang at the Springtime in the Rockies Shop Hop at the Ranch, April 20 & 21. Gift Basket Prizes awarded: \$150 1st; \$100 2nd; \$50 3rd, selected by Viewer's Choice. Projects and prizes can be collected from me after the show.

A few rules: Projects must be made by entrant and made within the last 6 months.

WHAT'S NEW!!

From Benartex:

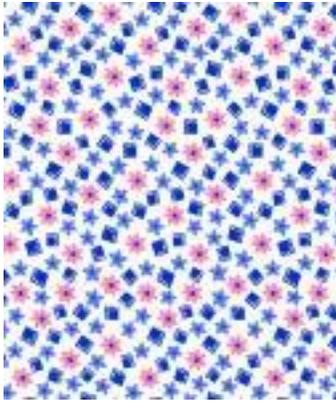
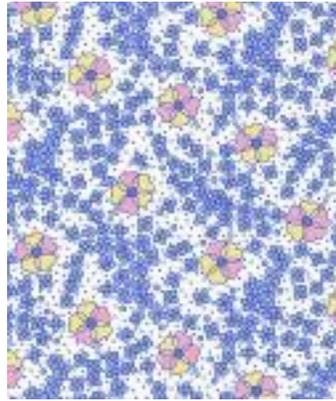
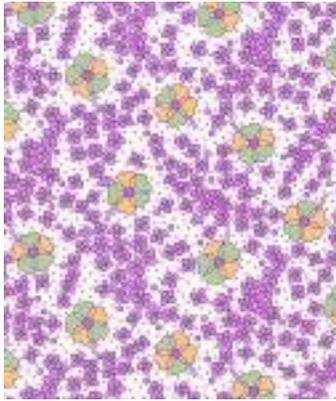
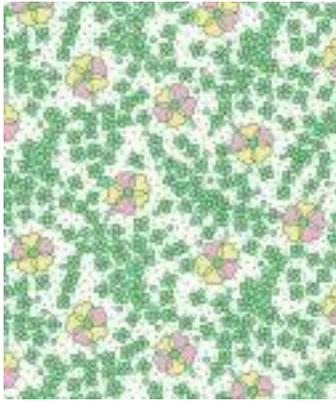


From Hoffman: These are batik ombres. We have all the colors:



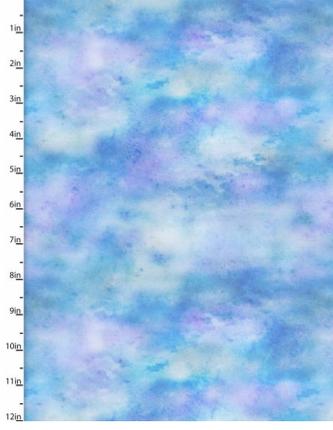
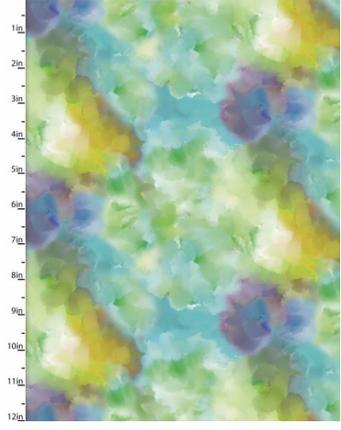
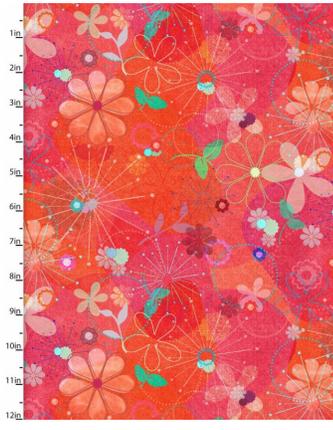
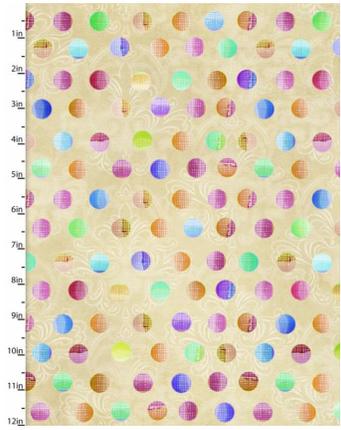
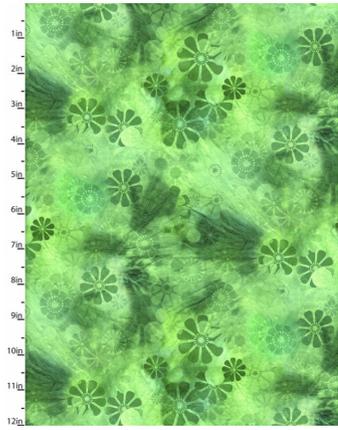
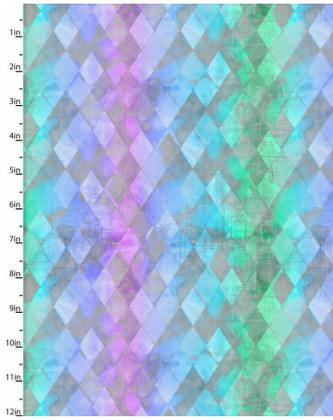
From Henry Glass, the Nana Mae 30s collection:

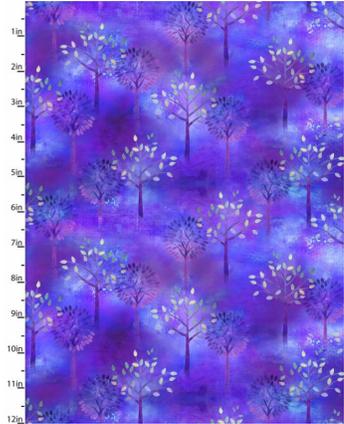
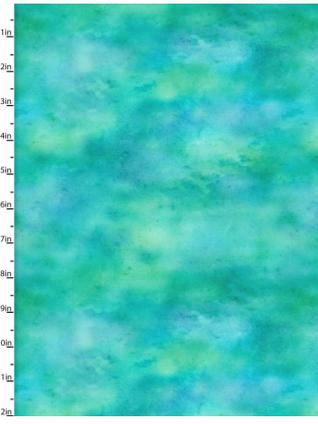
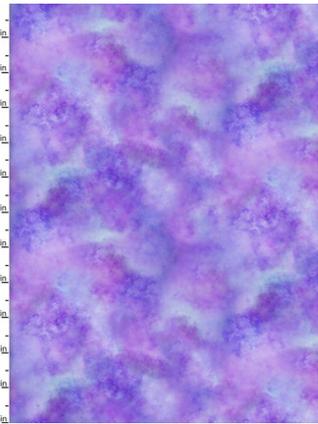
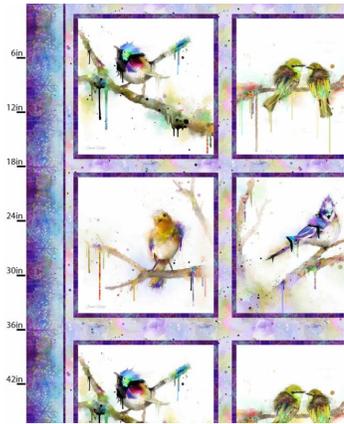




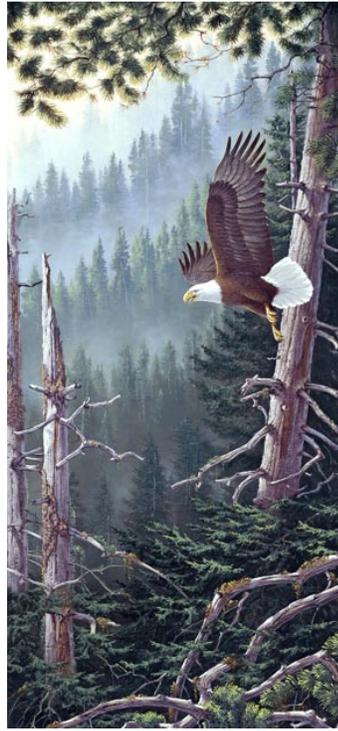


From 3 Wishes:





From Northcott:



1 2 3 4

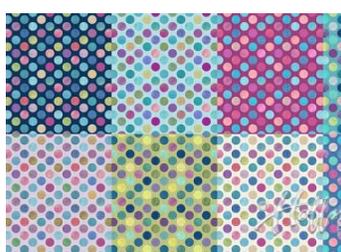


From Clothworks (the bolts are flannel and the precuts are cotton/flat):





From Hoffman:



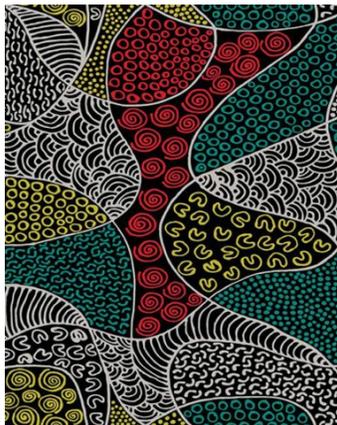
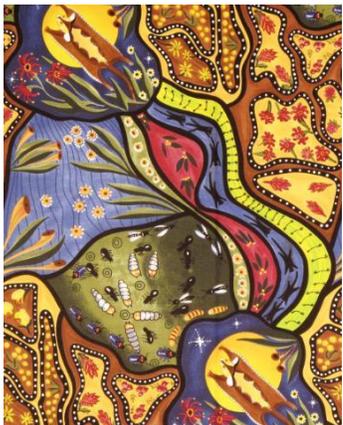
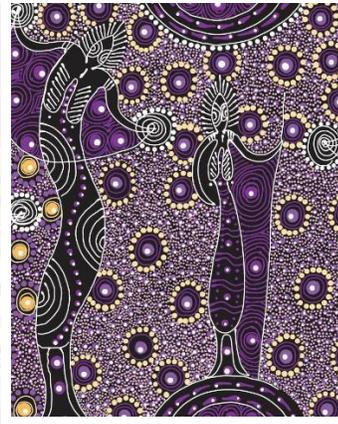
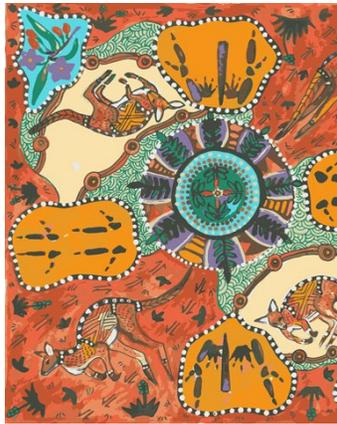


From Elizabeth Studio:

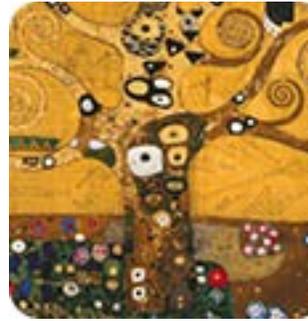




From M & S Textiles:



From Robert Kaufman:





Class descriptions follow the calendar, so keep scrolling. Classes are listed alphabetically.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Beginning Quilt 6-8:30 FULL	Long Arm Quilt demo 10:30-1:30	BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6

				MOON	(maybe)	
4 CLOSE D	5 Long Arm Quilt demo10:3 0-1:30 (maybe)	6 Long Arm Quilt demo10:3 0-1:30 (maybe)	7 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 OR 6-9	8 Beginning Quilt 6-8:30	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon
11 Beginning Quilt 1-4	12	13	14 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30 , 2:30- 5:30 Knit Pickers' Club 6- 8:30	15	16	17 National Quilt Day! French Braid10:3 0-5
18 Beginning Quilt 1-4	19	20	21 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30- 1:30, 2:30- 5:30 OR 6-9	22 Beginnin g Machine Quilting 1-4 and 6-9	23	24 Spider Web Quilt 10:30-4
25 Beginning Quilt 1-4	26 English Paper Piecing 1-4	27	28 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30- 1:30, 2:30- 5:30 OR 6-9	29 Beginnin g Machine Appliqu e 1-4 and 6-9	30	31 French Braid10:3 0-5 FULL MOON BLUE MOON
Color of the month: Green						

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30	5	6	7 BOM 10:30 Floral Menagerie 1-4 Great Pumpkin 4-6
8 CLOSE D EASTER	9	10	11 Knit Pickers' Club 6- 8:30	12	13	14 Embroider y Club 10- noon
15	16	17	18	19	20 Shop Hop	21 Shop Hop
22	23	24	25 Long Arm Quilt class 10:30-1:30	26 Paper Piecing 1- 4	27	28 One Block Wonder Panel 10:30-4
29 Pillow Case Party 1-4 FULL MOON	30 English Paper Piecing1 -4					Color of the month: Yellow

Beginning Machine Applique Thurs Mar 29, 1-4 AND 6-9 \$25 Barb Boyer

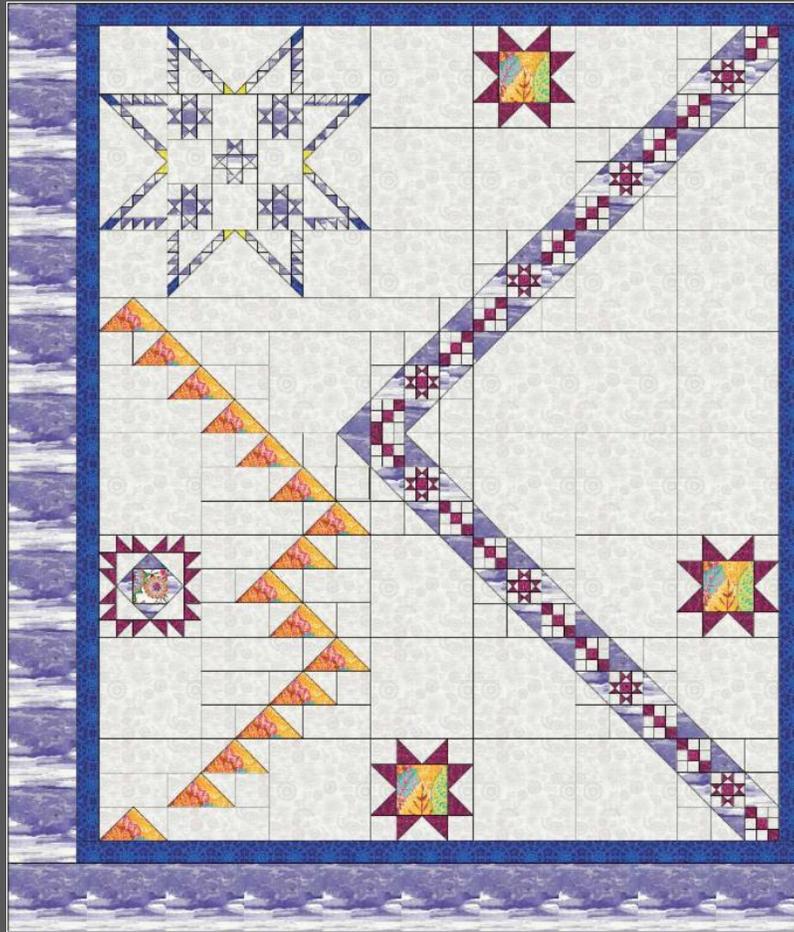
So many quilts use applique these days. Learn the ins and outs of machine applique, from points to curves. We will practice the button hole/blanket stitch, satin stitch, and you can also play around with your decorative stitches. Threads, fusibles and stabilizers will be discussed.

Beginning Machine Quilting Thurs Mar 22, 1-4 AND 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!

**Block of the
Month 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 "modern" quilt. Something new, something different. I will provide some other options as we explore the modern quilt world.



English Paper Piecing Club 4th (or last) Mondays 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-this is the pattern I am STILL doing this year. Several patterns will be available, including traditional Flower Garden and the Downton Abbey free pattern.

French Braid March 17 & 31 10:30-5 Sue Frerich

\$25

Are you looking for a little challenge & new technique to learn? That results is a spectacular quilt? Then come learn how to do the French Braid quilt. Casca

ding colors make this a very striking quilt-and it really is easier

than it looks. Techniques learn include how to handle bias, color placement to create a great cascading effect, and, of course, how to French Braid!



Hand Applique/Back Basting Wed Jan 17, 10-noon 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!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

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. You can work on your own projects or you can join the project we are doing. This year we are following a purchased pattern called My Crazy Life. It is wool appliques on flannel backgrounds. Then we will explore a variety of embroidery stitches to embellish each block--4 six inch blocks per month (or whatever you choose to do), for a total of 48 blocks. 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. We will also discuss wool, felted wool, wool felt, various threads for embroidery, various techniques for the wool applique and setting options for the quilt.

Hand Quilting Wed Jan 31, 10-noon Sandra Freeburg \$25

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.

Hunter Star, the easy way May 19 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$20 (Watch this date, it may have to change)

The Hunter looks complicated, but with the fast & easy tool, it's a snap. We are getting beautiful collections that I bought specifically for this class. If you are looking to learn a new technique, this is a great quilt for that.



Knit Pickers' Club 2nd Wed of each 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. This year we are doing a knit along project involving 6" squares. Each month we will learn a different pattern (or 2), make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project-afghan, scarf, bag, etc. Join us & learn some new stitches!

Long Arm Quilting Classes Wednesdays in, March & April from 10:30-1:30, 2:30-5:30 or 6-8:30 and Barb Boyer \$30 (check calendar for times & dates)

In this class you will learn all about the Nolting long arm quilting machines: loading, threading, quilting. I'll demonstrate how to load and thread, set stitch length, change tension, wind and load bobbins. Then I will load a practice quilt onto the machine and show how to do hand guided quilting. Each student will be given at least 15-20 minutes of practice time. (Each class is limited to 4 students). You will be able to do free hand quilting plus you can practice following a pantograph. Any quilter who wants to rent to machines must take this class first, regardless of whether you have experience on a long arm machine. This class is not designed to teach you everything there is to know about long arm quilting-it's just a start.

Monthly Minis First Saturday of the Month, Feb-Dec. 4-6 FREE

This year we are going to do the Great Pumpkin Quilt, a purchased pattern. It will start in February because we are still finishing last year's Holiday Houses in January. Starting in February we will work on the Great Pumpkin quilt. We will plan to do 2 blocks a month, and do the top banner section over two months. In class we will discuss use of color in the backgrounds and pumpkins. We will also discuss and learn various machine applique techniques to use on the blocks.



**One Block Wonder Panel Quilt Sat April 28 & May 12 & 26 see
calendar for
times**

**\$30 Sue
Frerich**

For all of you who missed the class before, you don't want to miss this class- we won't have it on the schedule again for awhile. The technique is called One Block Wonder and you need 7 panels for the quilt. Sue used a beautiful



eagle print (keep your fingers crossed, we may be able to get 1 bolt). But we have lots of interesting panels that would make a fantastic One Block Wonder Panel Quilt. (I'm looking at the Star Wars panels....). The technique used is similar to a Stack & Whack quilt, but the difference is in how it is sewn together. This is truly a stunning quilt. You don't want to miss this class!

Pillow Case Party Sun. April 29 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!

**Spider Web Quilt Saturday March 24.
10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$20**

Everyone who has the 60 degree triangle for making the Triangle Frenzy table runner- here is a quilt that you can do using this same ruler! It's a strip pieced quilt (strip size of your choosing). Turn your strips into triangles and turn your triangles into rows, creating "spider webs." Great for scraps or precuts.



**Spoon Quilting Wed Feb 7, 10-noon
Sandra Freeburg \$25**

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).

Nolting Longarm Machines

Nolting has 5 main machines, each with different reaches: from 17" to 30" depending on the machine. They are sold with or without a frame, but after I saw & helped set up one of the steel frames this week, I recommend buying the frame. All machines, except for the Standard-- the most economical machine-- have a stitch regulator. I recommend a stitch regulator. All machines can be equipped with a computer and there are a couple of different ones to choose from. In addition, you can get an extended table base so that you can use rulers, you can get larger bobbins on some of the models and on the frames you can get hydraulic lifts to raise and lower the tables. In the coming weeks, I will print out more information on each model.

The best entry level machine is the Fun Quilter. It comes in 17", 20" & 23" reach. It comes with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The Pro Machine has the Intellistitch Turbo stitch regulator, single stitch option, standard speed control, needle up/down and customizable



handles in the front & rear. The Pro Machine comes in 20", 24" and 30" reach with 10-12" of inside height. There are easy dials on the front to set stitch length and other options. This machine can also be equipped

with a computer.

The NV Machine is the newest in the fleet of Nolting machines. This machine has a touch screen with progra



mmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

Nolting also has a commercial machine with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

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 use printed patterns and some vintage free patterns that you can embroider, embellish and color. Depending on the projects, 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 1, Jan 31, March 1, March 31, April 29

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.

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

Around the Block, 453 Vandehie Suite 120, Cheyenne, WY 82009