



February 26, 2021

I think we've become just a little bit pathetic. I'm not trying to be judgmental here, and actually, it's kind of a good pathetic. And it revolves around the first question we tend to ask each other these days.

Have you gotten your shot yet? And there is only one shot to be gotten.

And when the answer is, yes!, we even relate the day and sometimes the time when we got the shot. We are so excited.

See what I mean? Pathetic. But I guess it beats talking about what joint aches, what colds we didn't catch because we've been wearing masks, what new disc has herniated, what hip hurts. You know. The general litany of old people's ills. And we don't have much else to talk about, like: what trips we've taken, dinner & a movie, concerts...I can't think of all the other things we used to do. Go to the zoo? Okay, now I'm depressed.

Did I tell you I got my first shot! Yeah! My second shot will be at 1:15 on March 11. See what I mean. Pathetic! Yeah! It's like belonging to this marvelous club for everyone on the planet. I belong here. I don't have to go to Mars.

I remember going over to the Hultman's house (family friends) when I was a kid. Mom and Helen sat at the big table drinking coffee from one of those restaurant sized 25 gallon metal coffee urns. (I'd look up the correct word for it but my internet is down, once again on a Friday, all thanks to Spectrum.) Helen probably drank 25 gallons a day. She was never without coffee in a cup.

Anyway, the old people (okay, they would have been in their late 40s early 50s at this time) would sit around the table and talk about their various aches

& pains. To a 12-year-old the conversation was at once both gross and fascinating at the same time.

But they also included me in the conversations, on other topics, mostly stories about the families, my family, me, my brothers. This was part of my "village" that raised me, taught me things, helped give the world around me a context. I was always a little disappointed when Helen's youngest girl would drag me away to go play upstairs in her bedroom.

But I always wondered why such topics were so fascinating to the adults. Was that all there was to their lives? And now I realize: Yup, that's pretty much it.

I'm kidding.

But that's not what I planned on writing about. I wanted to talk about the bands that play their tunes on late night tv. These videos are typically shot somewhere else (because of covid) and they have gotten very creative. I'm being extremely nice here. That's a euphemism for: What were they thinking? Actually, even that is extremely polite.

I remember when bands simply stood on stage, with the drummer in the back, and they played, sang and yelled while basically just standing in one place. Then Mick came along with those big lips and danced & slid all across the front of the stage. And then KISS came along & smashed things. And all that became normal.

I don't think any of the bands today will ever become normal, because.... First of all, I'm going to play the old people's card and say I can't understand a word they're saying. I'm not saying I could understand everything the Beatles said, but at least "I wanna hold your hand" came through loud and clear.

Then there is the weird costuming or sometimes lack there of that doesn't seem to have anything to do with the song. But I don't really know that because...I have no idea what they are singing. And then there's the weird staging. And the weird art around the walls. And the youthful sexuality that seems to be needed regardless of the song. And then there is the withering. I don't know how else to describe it. It's not dancing. The singers just tend to wither & sloop while dry ice creates fog and red lights play across the stage making everything look a little surreal. It's all probably supposed to mean something. (I don't actually believe that. When these kids wake up when they're 40, they'll look back and say, What was I thinking? And then realize

they weren't.)

Michael Jackson's Thriller I get. Very cool dancing, a theme for the staging and song, a mini play, if you will. I get that.

What I don't get is a young girl wearing a skirt with cowboy boots, fake singing in a great big New York apartment loft, occasionally picking up a guitar, sometimes sliding across a grand piano, singing some tune that has nothing to do with country western style music, at least I don't think it does, but then again I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD SHE'S SINGING. So it begs the question. Why the cowboy boots? Maybe if I understood the words, I might get it. But I don't think so.

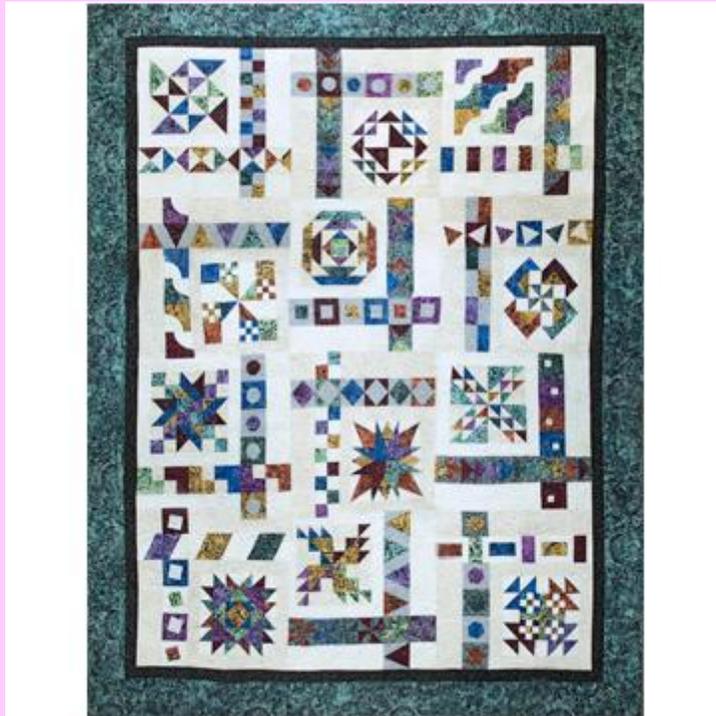
I wish I could give you a link to one of those videos, so you could see for yourself....but Spectrum is still down, so no internet, no phone, no nothing. Sigh. And besides, you really don't want to watch. It will just make you feel old.

And then you'll start talking about how your knee hurts, and the arthritis in your hands and....

Your covid shot! Yeah!

**Looking Way Ahead to 2022  
Block of the Month, in batiks**

I'm looking for expressions of interest for this Block of the Month quilt. Here's how it will work: Each month, beginning in January, you will receive a kit for certain blocks in this quilt. Each month thereafter, you will receive the next installment until you have all the blocks and fabric.



First I need to know if I have enough interest. Then, if I do, I will order all the fabric (I must have my order in by June), and I will be taking down payments for the quilt, which will guarantee that you will receive a kit each month.

I think each kit will cost app. \$25-\$30, and I am hoping it will be in the \$25 (possibly less) range. That's app. \$300 (or less) to make the quilt top, which is 88" X 112".

If you are not familiar with how this kind of BOM works, I will keep your credit card on file and I'll charge the card each month. You can also prepay up front, and I'll give you a 10% discount if you do.

I am also going to start charging for the kits starting in October. That means by January, you will have paid for 4 blocks of the quilt and you will receive your first four blocks at once.

We don't usually do these kind of quilts, mainly because of the logistics involved. But it is a cool quilt, unusual design, not like many of the block of the months that are offered from the various companies.

So if you're interested, first just let me know. Once I know how many are interested, I will do the final math and let you know the cost of the

quilt and how much the down payment will be.

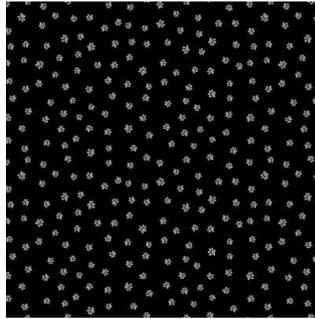
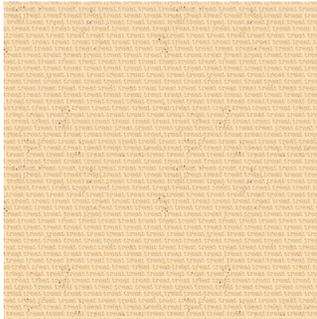
## WHAT'S NEW!!

Checker notions order came in: machine needles, seam rippers, needle threaders, lots of floss, scissors, Michael Miller's Jet Black, mono filament thread, pins, pearl cotton, wonder clips, patterns, add a quarter rulers.

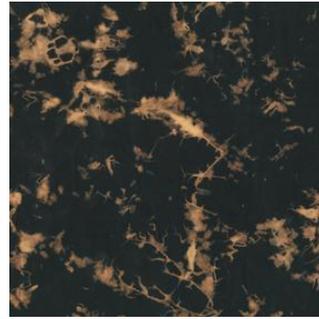
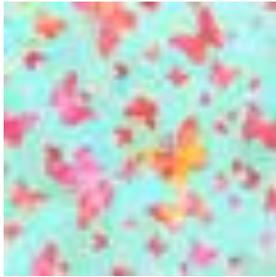
Clothworks:



Snarky Cats



Anthology:



Moda:



jelly rolls, charms,  
layer cakes



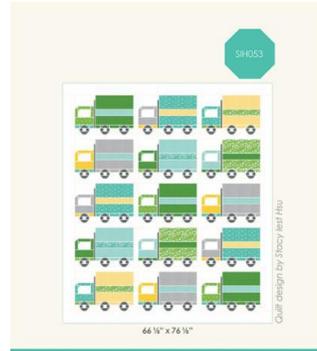
kit



66 1/2" x 66 1/2"

TRAFFIC JAM  
Featuring On the Go from Moda  
STACY TEST HSU

pattern



66 1/2" x 76 1/2"

TRUCKIN  
Featuring On the Go from Moda  
STACY TEST HSU

pattern

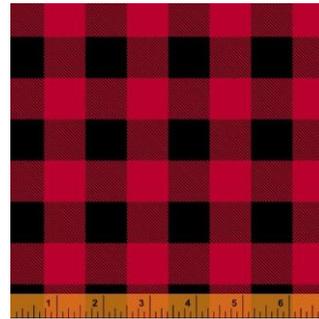
We also got in some white, and black, batiks from Banyon. Internet/Spectrum has been screwy all day so I didn't have a chance to grab pics.

From In the Beginning: Note: Kits are gone but we still have fabric --not much of the green or the border stripe





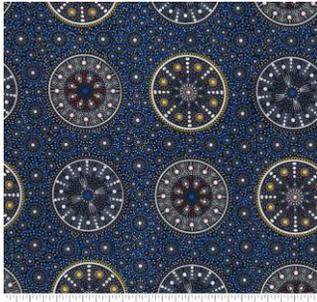
From Robert Kaufman & Windham



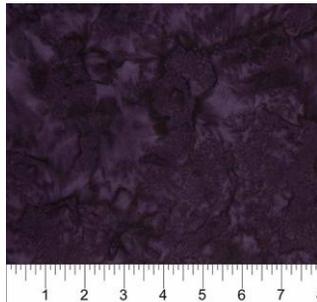
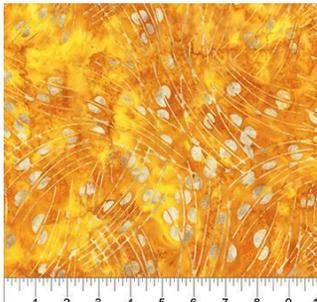
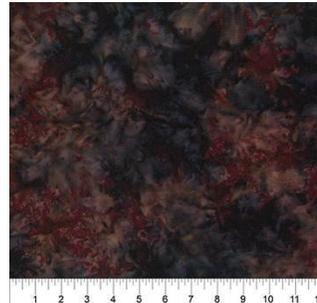
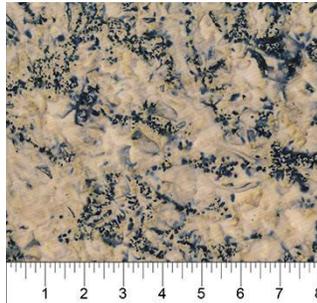
wide back



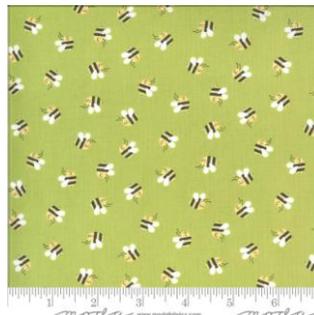
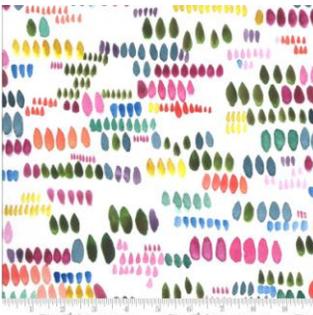
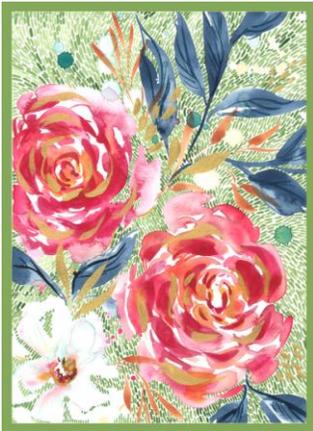
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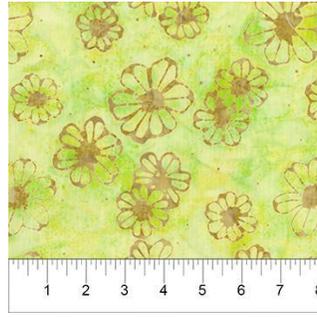
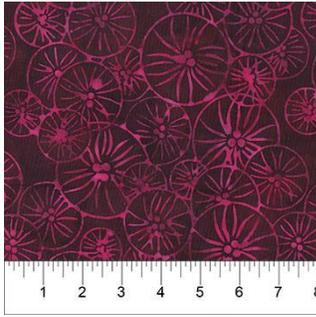
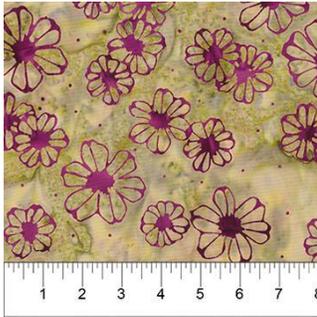
From Northcott:



From Moda:



From Northcott:

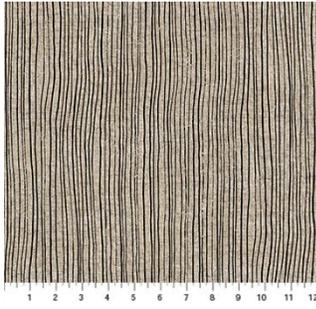
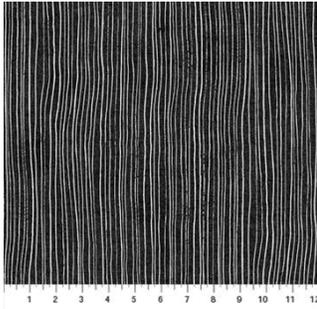


From Moda:



From Benartex:

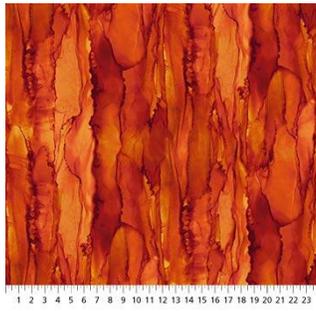
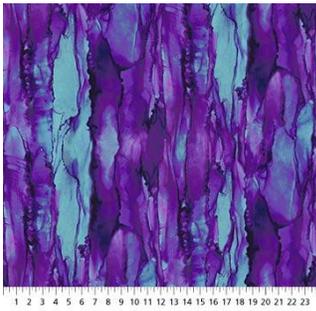
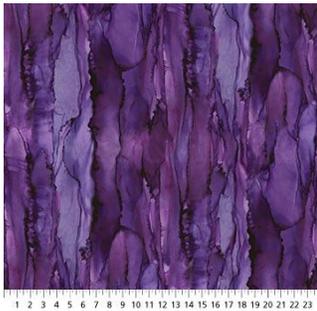
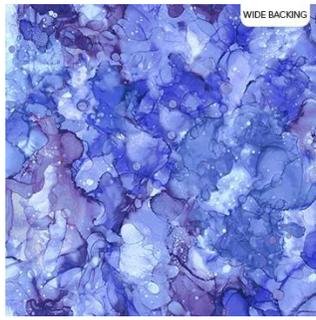
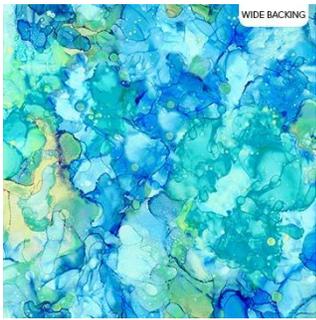
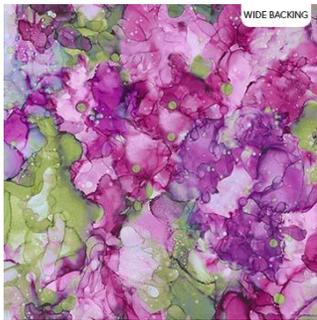


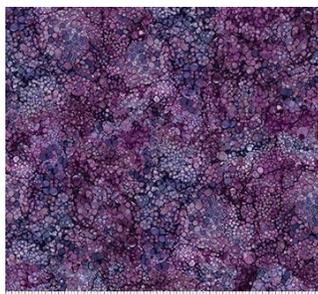
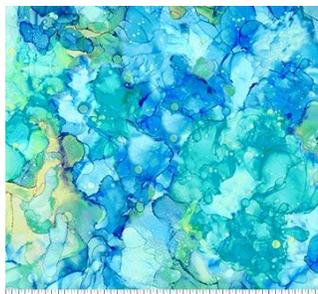
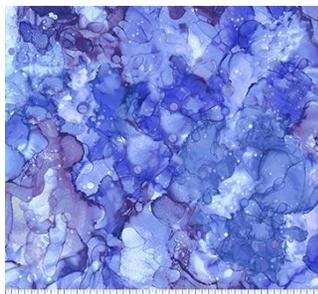
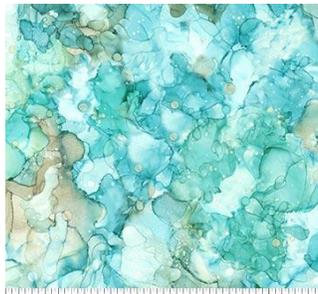
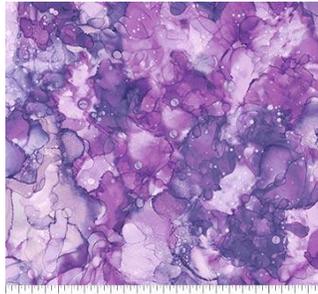
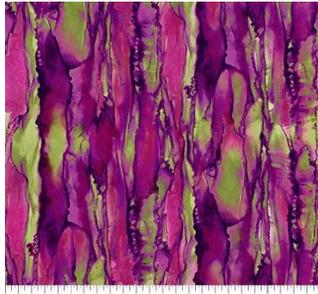
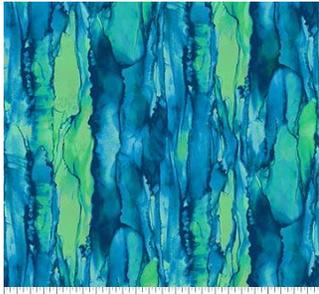


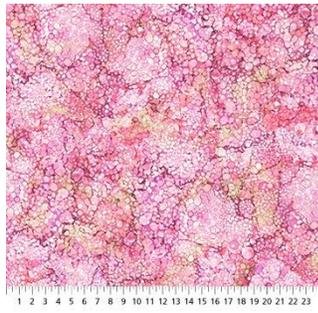
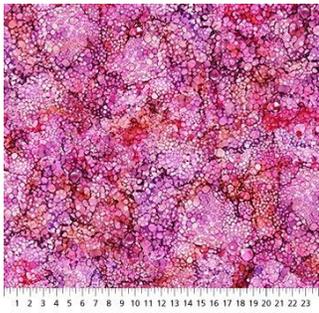
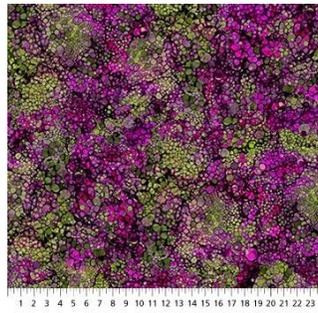
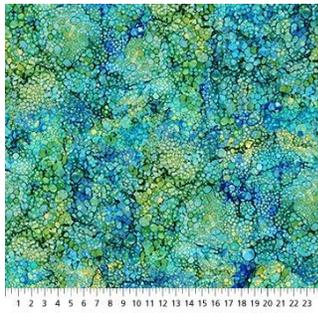
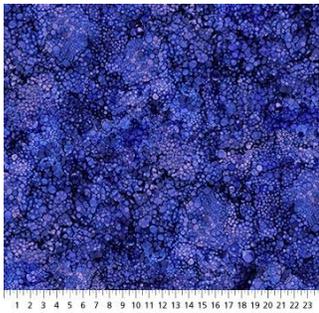
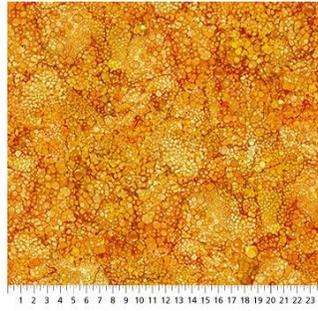
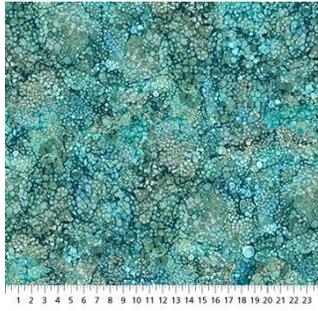
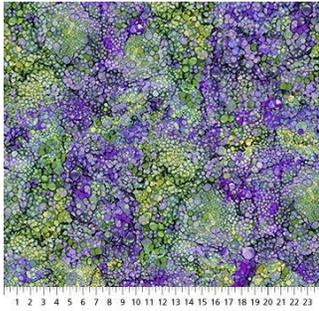
These are linen/cotton



From Northcott: (Note a couple of these are gone)







pattern



pattern--we have 4 kits for this pattern: everything except the borders--you get to choose what you like.

From Benartex:



This should be here next week.

## Call for Quilts

The Blankets for Laramie County Kids needs quilts! It is looking for large (54 X 60) and medium (48 X 60) quilts. These can be completed quilts, quilts that just need binding, or tops.

After being shuttered for awhile because of covid, the group is getting revved up again and needs our help.

All quilts can be dropped off at the store. So while you are doing (and I know you are still cleaning out the house, because, let's face it, what else is there to do still) find all of those half finished projects that you know you won't finish and collect all of those the finished quilts that haven't yet found a home and bring to the shop to donate to Blankets for Laramie County Kids!

February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	3	4 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	5	6 <b>BOM 10:30</b> Circles 1-4
7 Beginning Quilt 1-4	8	9 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	10 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	11 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	12	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Circles 1-4
14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15 Presidents' Day Crazy 2-fer Quilt 1-4	16 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	17	18 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	19	20 Bumblebee Blossoms 1-4
21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22	23 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	24 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	25 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	26	27 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30 Bumblebee Blossoms 1-4 <b>Full moon</b>
28 Beginning Quilt 1-4	<b>Color of the month: red</b>					

# March

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	3 Dinosaur with Teeth Quilt 1-4	4 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	5	6 <b>BOM 10:30</b> Bear Paw 1-4
7 Beginning Quilt 1-4	8	9 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	10 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	11 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	12	13 Embroidery Club 10- noon Bear Paw 1-4
14 Beginning Quilt 1-4	15	16 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	17	18 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	19	20 Tiger Tiger 1- 4 National Quilt Day
21 Beginning Quilt 1-4	22	23 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	24 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	25 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	26	27 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30 Tiger Tiger 1- 4
28 Beginning Quilt 1-4 <b>Full moon</b>	29	30 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	31 Designing with panels 1-4	<b>Color of the month: green</b>		

April

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	2	3 <b>BOM 10:30</b> Pumpkins 1-4
4 CLOSED Easter	5	6 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	7	8 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Pumpkins 1-4
11	12	13 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	14 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	15 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	16	17 Attic Window using a Panel 1-4
18	19	20 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	21	22 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	23	24 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30 Thanksgiving Quilt 1-4
25	26 <b>Full moon</b>	27 <b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	28 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	29 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	30	<b>Color of the month: yellow</b>

May

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>BOM</b> <b>10:30</b> Lone Star 1-4
2 CLOSED	3	4 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	5	6 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	7	8 Embroidery Club 10- noon Lone Star 1-4
9 Moms' Day	10	11 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	12 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	13 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	14	15 Lone Star 1-4
16	17	18 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	19	20 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	21	22
23	24	25 <b>Hand work Club 2- 4</b>	26 <b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4 Full moon</b>	27 <b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>	28	29 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30
30	31 Memorial Day	<b>Color of the month: whites</b>				

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

**Ongoing Classes & Clubs**

**Block of the Month** First Sat of month 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

**Note: January class will be held on the second Saturday**

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year the challenge will be houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn - as many as I can squeeze in!

**Hand Embroidery Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

**Note: January class will be held on the third Saturday**

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. We will be starting Crabapple Hill's Snow Days. This is an embroidered and pieced block. So we will help you through the piecing, tracing and embroidery.

**Knit Pickers' Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

We are changing up the Knit Pickers= Club. We're going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we'll start earlier in the day at 2 and go to 5. 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. We may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. By summer, we may extend the knitting time into the evening.

**Hand Sewing Club** every Tuesday afternoon 2-4

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch. During covid, we sit 6 feet apart and wear our masks, but at least we can share our projects, get a little stitching done and just enjoy the companionship.

## **Other Classes**

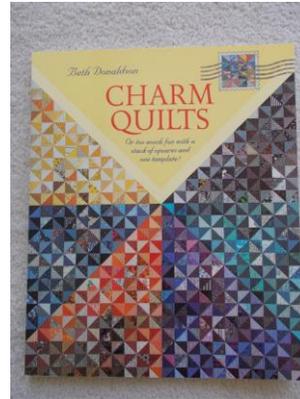
TBA Our schedule is limited this spring because of the pandemic. Face masks will be required in class and space will be limited. Classes will not run through lunch, so no eating (snacking & water okay, but no lunching). Bathrooms may or may not be available, but there are facilities within walking distance.

Please check the calendar regularly because we will swap out classes as needed and add others as we get back to more normal times. Machine quilting, machine applique, long arm classes, hand quilting and hand applique will also be coming back-I'm hoping by summer!

We may also teach the Elk Quilt, once the fabric comes back in sometime in April. And we're (meaning mainly Jean) are always sewing on new things, so those quilts may also be added to the schedule.

**Charm Quilts, last Saturday of each month (discussion, no sewing) Jan 30 10-noon, then on the other class dates from 10:30-11:30 \$20 Barb Boyer**

Charm quilts date from the 1880s and 1890s. They tend to be one patch quilts (all squares or all triangles) and they use lots and lots of fabrics-999 to be exact. But the catch is, you can only use one fabric per each patch. We need lots of people to sign up for the class - but don't worry about covid. We will do this very carefully. In order to get to 999 different fabrics, we will be exchanging 5" squares of different fabrics, each month exchanging different colors. We won't exchange 999 different fabrics, but we may exchange up to 300-400!



Class one - discussion and set up. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize into groups for exchanges. We will have 4 different meeting times: 10-10:30, 10:30-11, 11-11:30; 11:30-noon. I know, complicated. If I don't have that many people sign up, I will consolidate the class - remember, it's just a discussion class. I'll talk about charm quilts, explain the rules, and set up what we will be exchanging in the upcoming classes.

Class two - Exchange the first color ways. You will cut Xnumber of squares of the first colors for each person in your group: (example only) red, orange, yellow, blue. 10, 5" squares of each color per each class member. If you have 5 in your group, that's - 50 squares of red, 50 squares of blue, etc.

Now don't panic. I will adjust the number of squares to be exchanged based on how many people sign up. I don't expect you to buy all of the fabric: use your stash. AND the squares you exchange can be different for each person in your group, as long as each person gets 10 different reds, for example.

If you're interested, more info will be given in class, all questions answered, etc. The book we will use is called Charm Quilts by Beth Donaldson. Buy a used copy on Amazon.

## February Classes

### **Beginning Quilting 8 weeks\$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Feb 7.**

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

### **Bumblebee Blossoms (ongoing, see January) Sat February 20 & 27 1-4 (sewing) \$35 Jean Korber**

Krista Mosher has done it again with her Bumblebee Blossoms quilt. The pattern uses ombre fabrics, but Jean will show you other ways to choose your fabrics - thus the Jan 30 class where she will help you pick your colors. The next two classes will be all about sewing the blocks.

**Charm Quilt (ongoing, see January)**

## **March Classes**

**Bear's Paw Quilt Saturdays March 6 & 13, 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This retro looking quilt is easy to do, but be warned, there are many pieces. This is a perfect scrap quilt - chose a color way, pull from your stash, cut your pieces and sew! I used blue calicos and a background calico that I have carted around since 1978 for the "claws" and assorted "darks" and "mediums" in a variety of colors for the "paws." I am looking at some vintage lines of fabrics to bring in, but they may not be available by the time of class. So just hunt for dark and medium scraps (don't worry about color just darks and mediums) in your stash or buy 30-40 fat quarters (to give yourself a variety).

**Charm (ongoing) See January**

**Designing With Panels March 31 (discussion, no sewing) \$30 Barb Boyer**

We all have panels, but we don't know what to do with them. I will show you how to turn your panel into a wall hanging or full sized quilt. We will discuss how to add blocks to "border" out the quilt, add lights to a Christmas or Halloween quilt, change patterns to fit your panel, chop up your panel into attic windows or other designs----so bring some of your panels to class and go home with a plan!

**Dinos with Teeth Wednesday March 3, 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer**

In the Beginning has done it again with great digital fabrics of dinosaurs. The quilt is big, but the piecing is simple. In class you will be able to get the panel and blocks cut out and you'll start sewing on the half square triangle blocks. At the end I'll show you how to miter your borders-simple. I recommend using Marvelous Miters by Susan Cleveland - get it on Amazon as a used book.

**Tiger Tiger Saturdays March 20 & 27 \$35 Sue Frerich**

This beautiful tiger wall hanging is paper pieced - the green eyes just glow! From the book Animal Quilts, you can choose to do the tiger or any of the other animals in the book. This is not a class for beginners, however. You must have some experience doing paper piecing to join this class as it will stretch your sewing skills. But what a wonderful way to learn and grow in your quilting!

## **April Classes**

**Attic Window Saturday April 17 1-4 \$30 Barb Boyer**

Take a panel (or two, always recommended), cut it apart and turn it into an attic window marvel! Skills learned: y-seams or inset seams. You will have a choice or using a pattern or creating your own design using your panel. All it takes is a panel (or two), and window sill fabric!

**Crazy Pumpkins Saturdays April 3 & 10 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This quilt is like a stack and slash quilt-with a little more organization. Actually a lot more organization. But I've got it all figured out and sometimes organization is just over rated. Learn this fun way to stack, cut, rearrange and sew to create whimsical looking pumpkins - no two pumpkins are quite alike, which makes this style of sewing so charming. Once you've done one, you'll be itching to do her dogs, cows, barns, santas, flowers.....

**Thanksgiving Quilt April 26 1-5 \$30 Barb Boyer**

I used Thanksgiving fabric for my quilt, but the quilt is essentially a pieced nine-patch scrap quilt. This is an easy strip pieced quilt with an old fashioned feel. Choose darks and mediums for the blocks and a neutral background that compliments. Did I mention that the left overs went into the Bear Paw Quilt? Scraps and Scraps, it's fun to use it up.

## May Classes

**Lone Star Quilt Saturdays May 1, 8, 15 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This is the perfect "next" quilt for everyone who has taken the beginning quilt class. You will build on your skills, like learning how to do inset seams. All you need is 6 fabrics plus a background. It will be helpful if you have your fabrics chosen before class, so just come in and I'll help with that. The class has three sessions and by the third session you will be in-setting your squares and triangles, completing the inside of your quilt.

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### CLUBS

**HAND EMBROIDERY CLUB FREE!**

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.

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**Hand Work Club FREE!**

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4, join us to just sit & hand stitch, crochet, bind, or knit group. Bring what you're working on, sit up at the table in front by the window and work on your projects for a while. You can get advice & suggestions from your fellow quilters and share your experiences about your projects.

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**Knit Pickers' Club FREE!**

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). We are discussing trying to do a group project meaning everyone does the same pattern. Each month we will learn a

different pattern, make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one projectBafghan, scarf, bag, etc.

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**Block of the Month Club FREE!**

First Saturday of the Month, 10:30-11:15. Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block.

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**Toad Toters Club**

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: January 28, February 27, March 28, April 26 and May 26.

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 whites.

**Normal Shop Hours:  
Monday-Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 1-5  
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)**

## **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 programmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needle up/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.

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

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer

Around the Block

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