



April 22, 2022

Happy Birthday Planet Earth! It's Earth Day today and we are celebrating with quite a few candles on the cake. As of yesterday there are at least 10 uncontained wildfires burning in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Texas. And the smoke you smelled this morning was from a fire west of town. Unfortunately, the wind will not blow out these candles. It will just make them burn longer and farther.

Happy news, though. We're supposed to be hit with a snowstorm starting tonight. Relatively happy news, I guess. But what a way to celebrate Earth Day.

Earth Day was first proposed in 1969 at a UNESCO Conference by peace activist John McConnell. The suggestion was to honor the earth and promote peace on the first day of spring. Remember that just eight years earlier Rachael Carson had published her seminal work, *Silent Spring*, which exposed the hazards of the pesticide DDT, which basically got into the fatty tissues of animals, including people, and caused cancer and genetic damage. We on Planet Earth were just beginning to wake up to some of the damage we were creating.

The United Nations got on board with McConnell's idea and proclaimed a day of nature. Then Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin took the idea a step forward and proposed to hold a nationwide teach-in event on April 22, 1970. The day was chosen because it fell during spring break and final exams. Nelson hired Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize it all. Remember that at this time colleges were all about student activism regarding the Vietnam War. The idea was to tap into this energy to bring about awareness of air and water pollution.

The first event was a huge success. By some reports 20 million students took to the streets to protest and environmental pollution. Even groups like the United Auto Workers helped sponsor the first Earth Day, and according to Hayes, "Without the UAW, the first Earth Day would have likely flopped!" In 1990 Hayes took the

celebration international, organizing events in 141 countries. Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

We have a seriously stressed planet. The evidence is overwhelming. The causes are multitudinousness. And we usually tell ourselves, how can I, just one person, help. We all know that recycling isn't working. Most recycled products end up in the same place as all other garbage. But we still make the effort, because it's the right thing to do. But what else can we do? Can we just foist the responsibility off to corporations and expect them to not sell us goods encased in plastic? Who should be responsible for eliminating carbon emissions and other pollutants into the atmosphere? I don't know.

My only suggestion is that each of us should do one thing in our Planet's best interest in the coming year. Pick something. Buy an electric car. Turn down the heat. Use less water. Use reusable products rather than throw away products—and I fully understand that reusing something may require washing it which requires water usage. And I don't know what the right answer is. Plant trees. Switch to LEDs. Avoid plastic whenever you can. Support a cause by donating time or money. Make your own reusable items: (from a customer today) crocheted "Swiffer" attachments that can be washed & reused, crocheted/knitted scrubbies, cloth napkins. Use bar soap not soap from plastic dispensers.

And above all, don't start a fire. Don't light any candles for Planet Earth's Day. To date – and remember we're still in April – 20,006 wildfires have burned 834,238 acres, give or take. This is well above the 10-year average (to date) of 13,934 wildfires and 649,898 acres and double and quadrupled (if I have my math right) from the last 3 years.

And I don't think we can take much solace from the fact that many of these fires are started by lightning, downed power lines, or accidental sparks, all compounded by high winds – meaning the fires weren't set deliberately. Because we have contributed to environmental/climate changes, then we bear responsibility for our contributions to the problem. It is not enough to simply say, the planet always has these cycles it goes through; it's just normal. While that may be true, that does not absolve us from the footprints we are leaving. We should help our planet, not ignore it.

So take a deep breath today. I did. And I thought, how ironic to smell the planet on fire on Earth Day.

P.S. This posting comes after a frustrating week, so I apologize if I've not been very humorous. A friend caught covid and I had a car accident. Between trying to get a rental, rearranging a dental appointment, and struggling to get to knitting classes in Loveland, it's been a bit stressful. I'm grateful for my friends who were able to step in and help me get to and from places. But I will say that the rental car I got this time is smarter than I am. It's so smart I can't figure out how to change channels on the radio.

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For those of you who don't (or can't) get to the end of the newsletter, shop hours right now are:

Normal Shop Hours:

Monday-Saturday 10-6

Sunday 1-5

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

New Hours for Winter Time (Nov 7-May 22)

Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-5. Check the schedule.

And, because I didn't get the full moon days copied over from the Spring Newsletter and because they aren't showing up in the calendar:

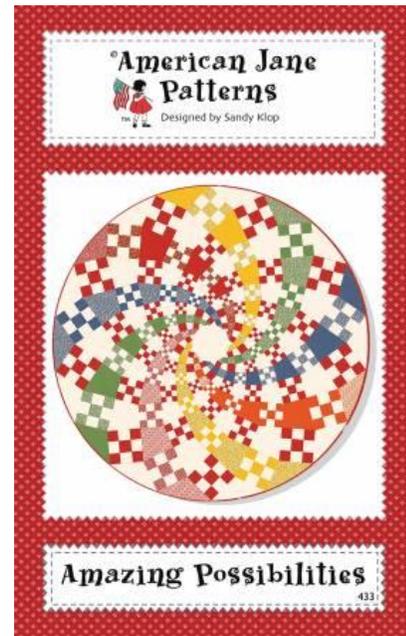
Full Moon Days: May 16. I'll get June-August scheduled soon.

## RETREAT WITH SUE FRERICH!

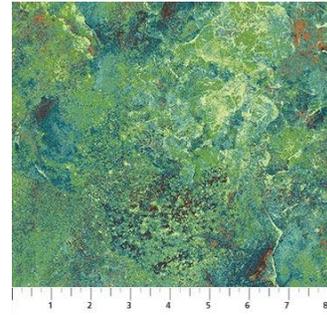
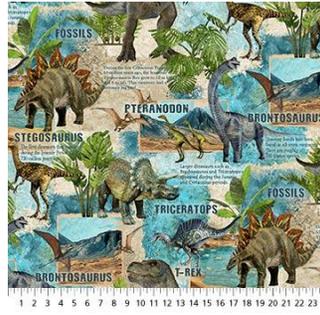
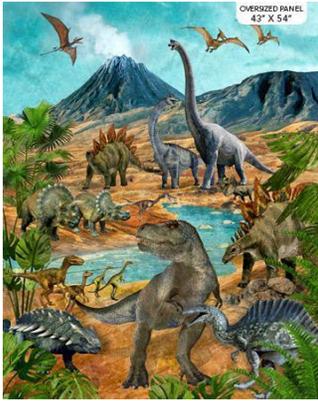
Sue Frerich is coming for a visit and she wants to teach a class! And it's a great way for all of her friends and students to see her and say hi.

The retreat will be June 3-5 (Fri-Sun). She is teaching an American Jane pattern, a fun round quilt perfect for a table topper or fun wall hanging. Come into the shop to see Sue's sample.

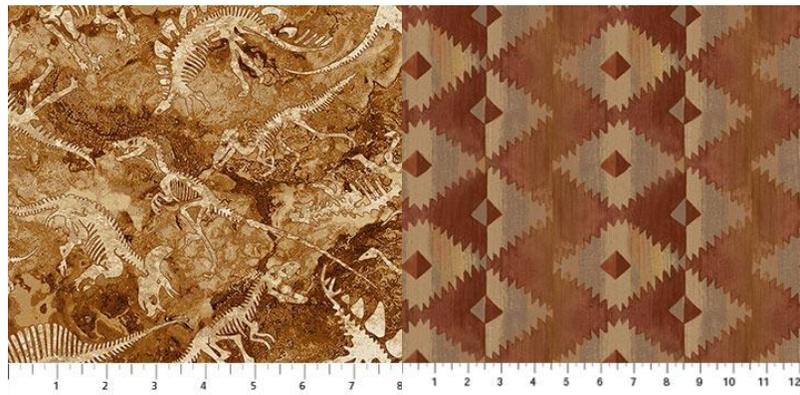
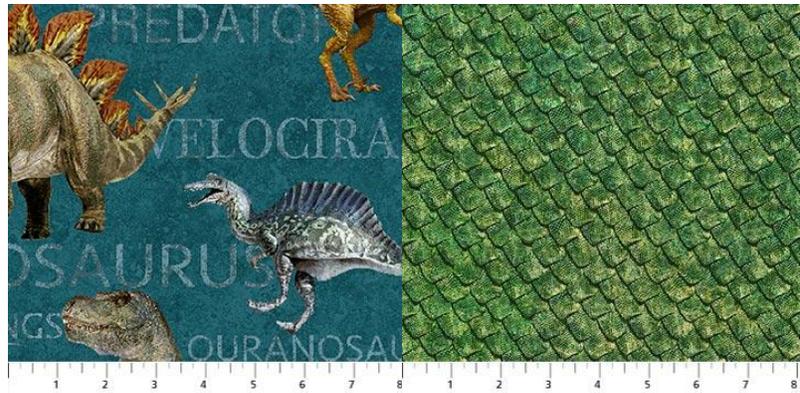
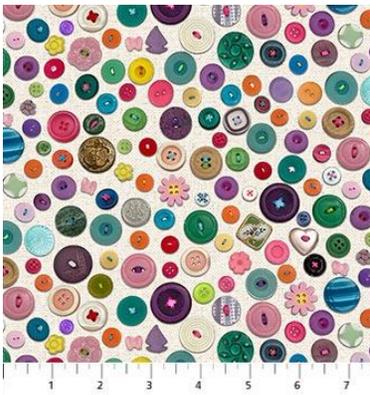
Sign up early to reserve your space. You know the shop, so space will be limited but we're hoping to accommodate 15 sewers! More info will be coming.

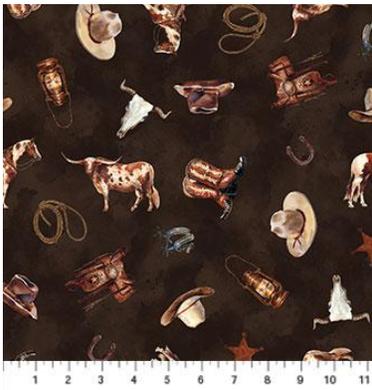
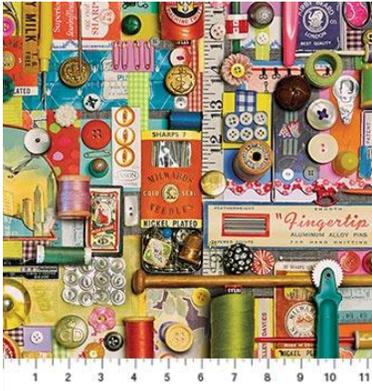


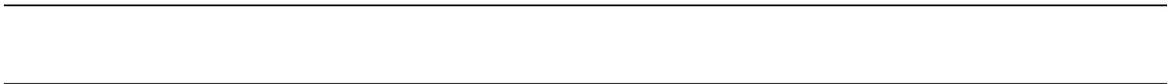
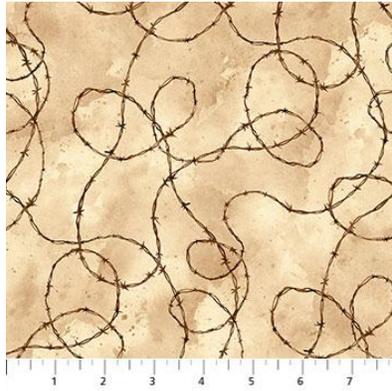
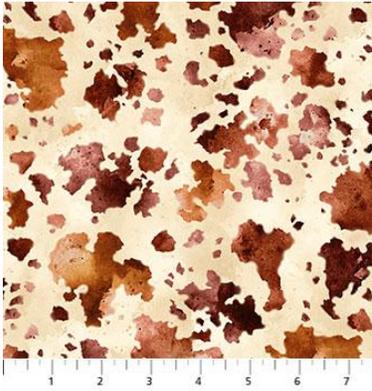
## What's New

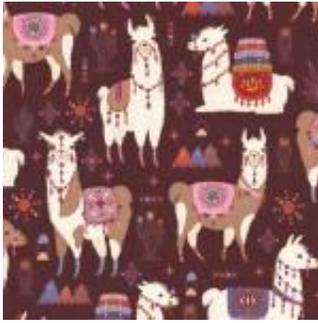


From Northcott





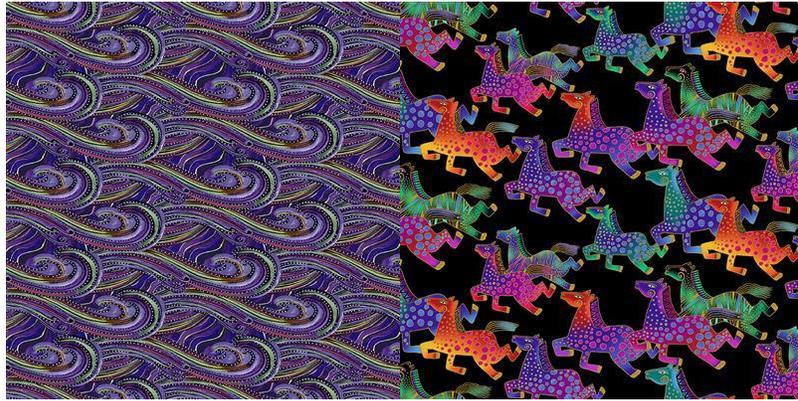
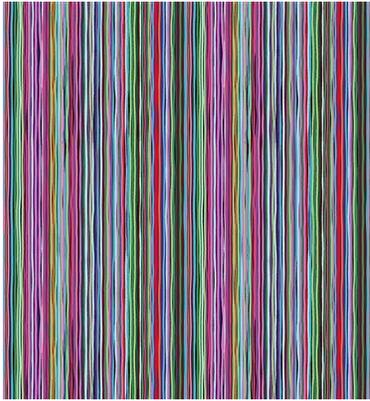


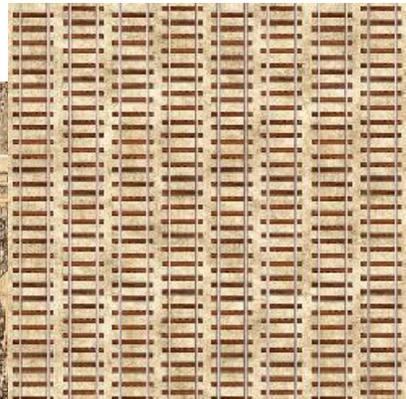
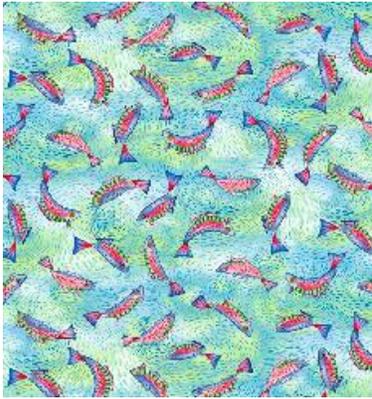


From Michael Miller

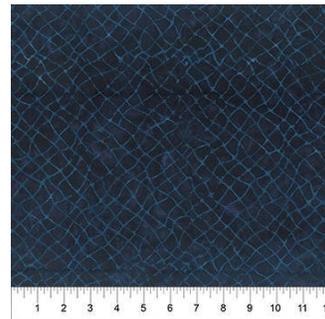
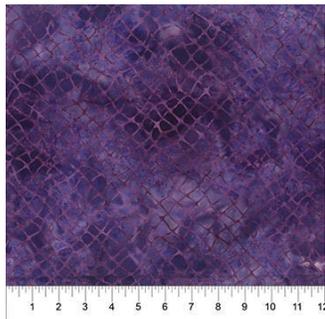


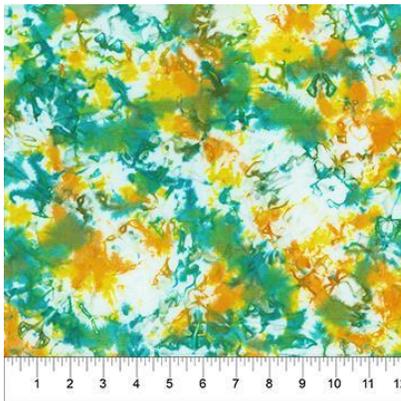
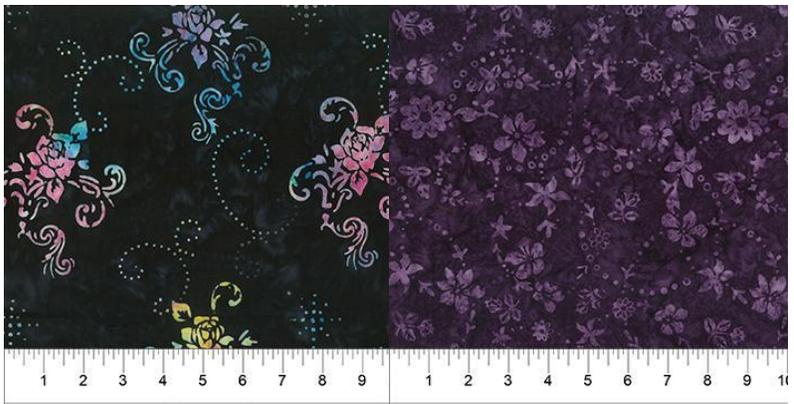
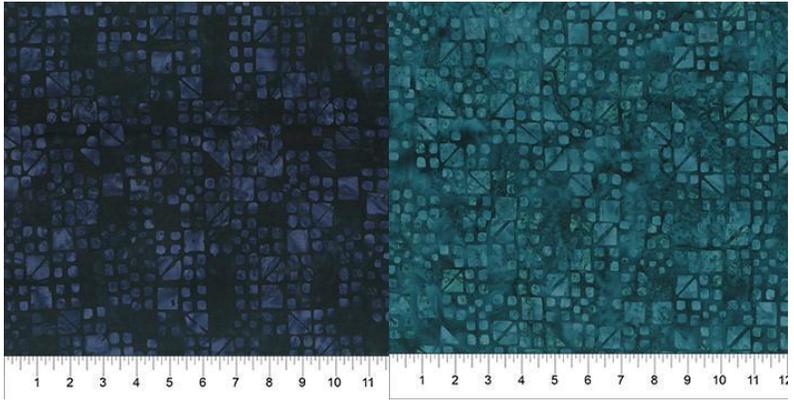
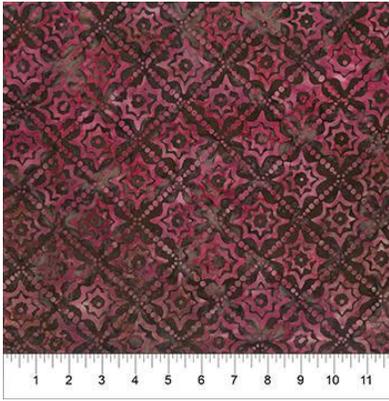
From Clothworks





From QT





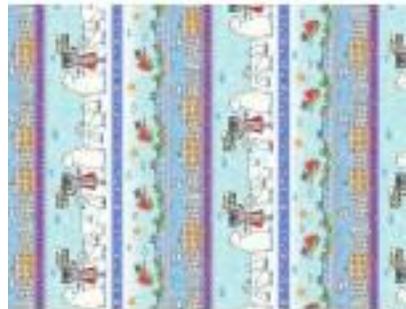
From Northcott

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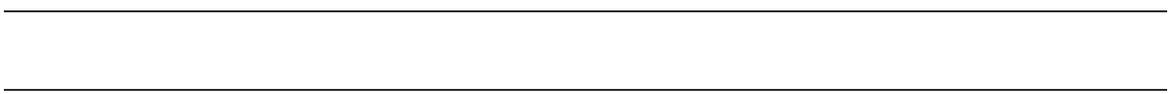
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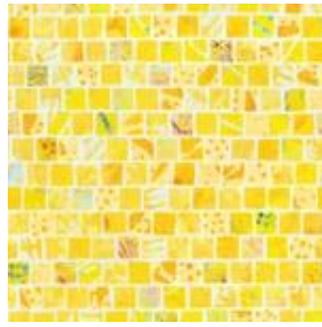


Michael Miller



These are "Save the Planet" fabrics



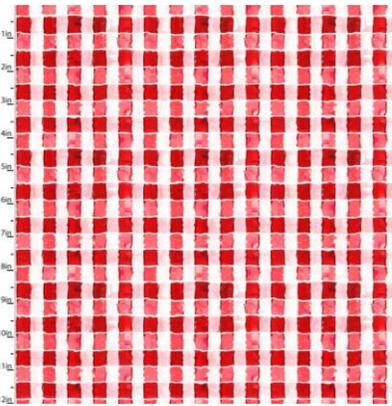


From Hoffman





From 3 Wishes

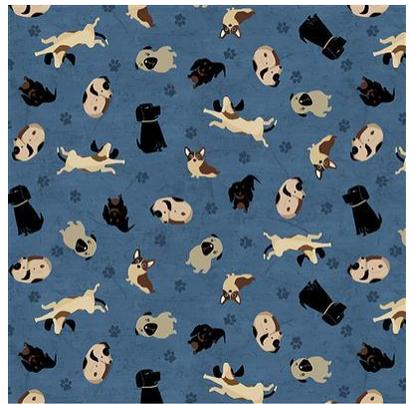
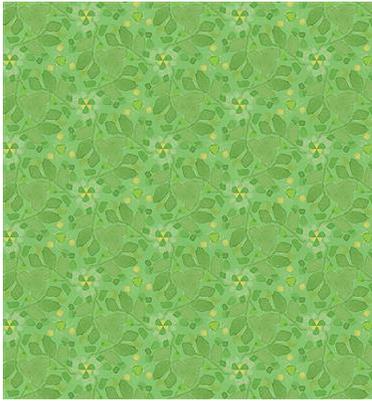




From Clothworks



From Clothworks





Northcott

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April

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: yellow					1	2
						<b>BOM 10:30 Nova/Sidekick ruler quilt 1-5</b>
CLOSED 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	Beginning Machine Quilting 1-4	<b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>		<b>Embroidery Club 10-noon Spider web 1-5</b>
CLOSED 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		<b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	<b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	<b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>		<b>Deb Tucker's Tumbling Triangle w/V Block Ruler</b>
CLOSED 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter		<b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	Beginning Machine Applique 1-4	<b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>		Spider web 10:30-4
CLOSED 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		<b>Hand work Club 2-4</b>	<b>Knit Pickers' Club 2-4</b>	<b>Long Arm Rental Day</b>		<b>Sewing Apron with lots of pockets 10:30-4</b>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2	3 Hand work Club 2-4	4 Long Arm class 10:30	5 Long Arm Rental Day	6	7 BOM 10:30 Zig Zag Quilt 1-5
8 CLOSED	9	10 Hand work Club 2-4	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	12 Long Arm Rental Day	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Beginning Paper Piecing 1-5
15 Moms' Day CLOSED	16 Full moon	17 Hand work Club 2-4	18 Long Arm class 10:30	19 Long Arm Rental Day	20 Potluck Long Weekend	21 Potluck Long Weekend
22 Potluck Long Weekend Shop Is now open 1-5!	23 Potluck Long Weekend	24 Hand work Club 2-4	25 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	26 Long Arm Rental Day	27	28 One Block Wonder Panel, getting started, choosing panels, first cuts 10:30-4
29 Shop Is now open 1-5!	30	31 Hand work Club 2-4	Color of the month: whites			

## April Classes

**Deb Tucker's Tumbling Blocks Saturday April 16 10:30-4 \$35 Jean Korber**

By Combining two contrasting fabrics you will create triangles tumbling down the quilt. Using your V Block tool, this quilt is fun and quick. Just jump right in and give it a whirl! It's fun to work with new rulers to create new and interesting blocks!

**Sewing Apron with lots of pockets Sat April 30 10:30-4 \$30 Jean Korber**

You've seen Jean and her sewing apron that she wears during classes? One with all sorts of pockets for all the things you need to keep handy when you're sewing? Well, she's not teaching that apron (she'll you how she does it, though, in class). But she is teaching a similar apron pattern, with lots of pockets. You may even get the entire apron made in class! And think what fun gifts aprons would be for ..... Christmas! It's not too early to get started!

## May Classes

**Beginning Paper Piecing Saturday May 14 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This small wall hanging will teach you all the basics of paper piecing! Paper piecing is a skill to be learned in person, but it is also a skill that is perfect for beginners. You sew directly on the

lines on the paper and your points come out perfect everytime!

**Pot Luck Retreat Friday-Monday May 20-22 \$50 Barb Boyer**

Pot Luck is just the name of the quilt, but it is also a good description of the quilt. Freddy Moran and Gwen Marsden are the creators of Liberated Quilts, that are made from left overs (often called the parts department). Black fabrics can feature prominently in their quilts and red is often used as a neutral. Blocks tend to be “liberated” or free form, kinda made up as you go. It is a liberating way to make a quilt. The retreat will focus on choosing various blocks to put into your quilt, finding your “neutral” color, sharing ideas and fabrics, and incorporating orphan blocks into the mix. These quilts are fun, and it’s on the schedule because I want to finish my quilt that I started 2 years ago. Which means a second quilt, with all the left over parts, will be soon coming.

**One Block Wonder Panel 1<sup>st</sup> class Saturday May 28 10:30-4 \$50 Jean Korber**

Back by popular demand! This quilt uses 7 identical panels, 6 of which are cut up into equilateral triangles and pieced around the panel, which is worked into the center, the top, the bottom, the side—you choose! First class is getting your panels cut. Subsequent classes (2 more) in June will follow for designing and sewing. If you haven’t made one of these quilts, now is the time to learn. And an in person class, especially for this quilt, is the way to do it.

**Zig Zag Quilt Saturday May 7 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer**

A change up from the traditional Jelly Roll Quilt. Zig Zag uses one bundle of 2 ½” Strips plus additional fabric. The cascading colors make a stunning, simple to piece quilt. Perfect for that last minute gift: graduation, wedding, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, etc.



## Nolting Quilting Machines

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## 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.

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Normal Shop Hours:  
**Monday-Saturday 10-6**  
**Sunday 1-5**

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

**New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 7-May 22)**

**Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-5.**  
**Check the schedule.**

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)

