


Around the Block
QUILT SHOP

May 27, 2022

I love the idea that people think that we can weaponize school teachers in order to combat AR-15 armed shooters. The trained police force, whose job it is to handle such catastrophes, were themselves uncertain as to how to approach the gunman. Rightly so. So how can we expect teachers to take on this responsibility? I think there are better solutions.

And while that is not enough said on that topic, that is enough from me.



So instead we'll turn our attention to bats in libraries and jumping worms.

In the Camas Public Library in Washington, a librarian found a sleeping bat nestled by the books in the historical nonfiction section. She called local animal services who came out and got the bat into a box and then released it in the nearby Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. (It's worth going out to the website for the Refuge. Very cool pictures of the residents.)

Apparently bats in libraries are not unknown. In Portugal, bats are used as pest control—they eat bugs that might otherwise feed on manuscript paper. While the bats are mostly out only in the evenings or after dark, on rainy days the bats are more active and you can hear them chirping deep within the stacks. Librarians say they hear the bats “singing” – social vocalizations – on rainy days.

I remember in the Harry Potter series, Mr. Weasley told Harry that the Ministry used to use owls to deliver messages, but it got too messy. They switched to, essentially, paper airplanes instead. I can only image what the clean up crew for the Portugal libraries must encounter.

And from bats in Washington we go to jumping worms in Wisconsin. These worms are an invasive earthworm from Japan and Korea and can be found all over the east coast and parts of the upper Midwest. Unlike normal earthworms that nourish the soil, these earthworms eat a

way nutrients from the soil. They can flip themselves up to a foot off the ground. I'm used to seeing earthworms crawling out of soggy ground when the dirt gets too saturated with water. I'm not sure I can deal with an earthworm that jumps a foot off the ground just to say hi.

And in other weird facts, did you know that Queen Elizabeth II's cows sleep on waterbeds? Apparently, just like for us, the beds help ease a cow's pressure points.

A blue whale's tongue can weigh as much as an elephant and its heart can weigh up to a ton.

Lobsters taste with their feet.

You can't hum while holding your nose. Try it. It's really weird. Although it is fun to hum through a straw.

And roller coasters were invented to distract us from sin. I'll go a step further. Roller coasters can distract from just about anything. Anyway, in 1880 a business man, LaMarcus Thompson, decided that there were too many salons and brothels. Just so you know: Thompson made his money making hosiery for women. Anyway, he built a roller coaster on Coney Island in New York to tempt people away from seedier pastimes. The roller coaster he designed was more like a scenic ride, generally called a Gravity Switch Back Railway, where you rode by scenic depictions (paintings/murals) of foreign places, like the Swiss Alps. But he is still known as the Father of the American Rollercoaster.

Happy Memorial Day. My parents and their parents used to call this weekend Decoration Day because it was the day to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers who died in battle, from as far back as the Civil War. The name was changed after WWI to Memorial Day, but it wasn't officially designated that until 1967. In Omaha, where I grew up, the flower of choice at this time of year are peonies. Bushes of peonies are often planted at the gravesites while vases of peonies adorn other sites. It is a beautiful way to remember family.

Star Crossed Mystery Quilt

79" X 97"

Step One

Fabric Requirements

- 1 10" precut package or 36 9 1/2" squares of various colors
- 1 1/2 yds. Choose a dominant dark color (red, for example) that will contrast well with the 36 squares
- 1 1/2 yds background or light. Choose a light color (tan for example) that will contrast well with the 36 squares and the dark fabric.
- 3/4 yard for inner border Color can be chosen after quilt is made.
- 2 1/2 yds for outer border Color can be chosen after quilt is made.
- 3/4 yard for binding
- Backing: Vertically pieced 5 3/4 yards (only gives 5" extra). Horizontal piecing (3 pieces) 7 yards
- Batting: 85" X 103"

Cutting Instructions:

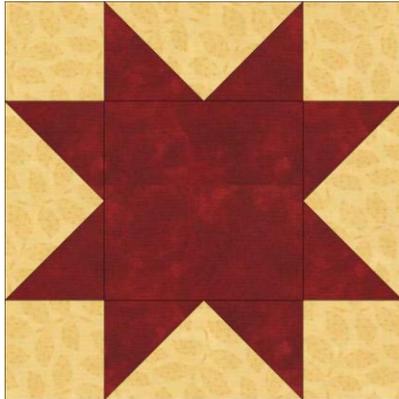
1. Cut 36 9 1/2" squares of various colors. If working with a 10" precut, you will need to trim each square to 9 1/2".
2. Cut 6 red squares and 6 tan squares at 10" X 10"
3. Cut 60 tan squares at 2 3/4" X 2 3/4"
4. Cut 60 tan rectangles at 2 3/4" X 5"
5. Cut 120 red squares at 2 3/4" X 2 3/4"
6. Cut 15 red squares at 5" X 5"

Step Two

1. Using the red and tan 10" squares, draw a line from corner to corner. Stitch 1/4 inch from each side of the line. Press and trim these half square triangle units to 9 1/2" X 9 1/2". Make 12 half square triangle units. (no pics for this part. You know how to do it.

2. Using the 60 tan rectangles and 120 red squares, make 60 flying geese units. Square to 5" X 2 3/4". See pics below. Sorry, it's hard to manipulate these things.

See last newsletter for pictures of making flyig geese units.



Step Three
Make 15 stars.

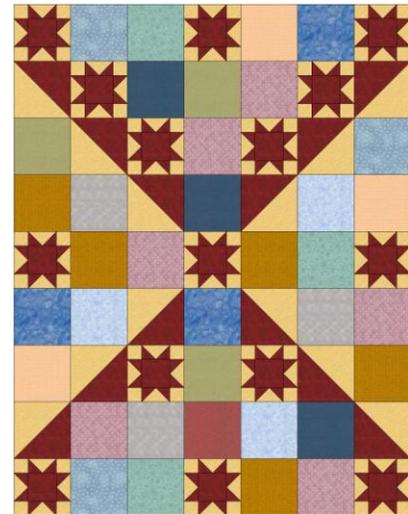
Sew a tan square to either side of a flying geese unit.
Make 30

Sew a flying geese unit to either side of a 5" red square.
Make 15

Sew together in rows. Make 15 stars. Square to 9 1/2" X 9 1/2"

And the final step: Sew together in rows!

Arrange your blocks, as shown in the picture, and sew together in rows. Add a border, or two, if you want. Cut the inner border strips (need 8) at 2 1/2" by WOF. Sew strips together in one long length, then cut to the measurement of the quilt. Then add outside border: Cut at 5 1/2" by length of grain.



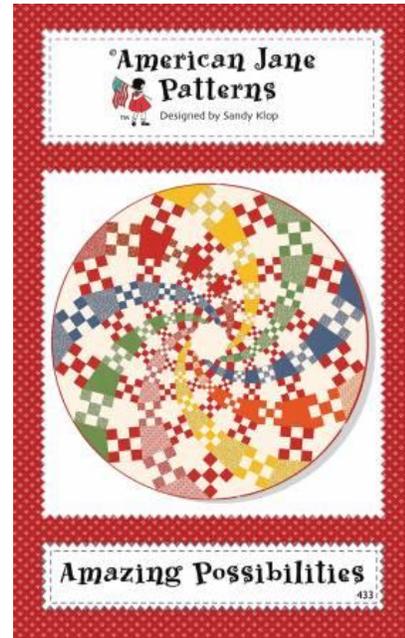
RETREAT WITH SUE FRERICH!

\$50

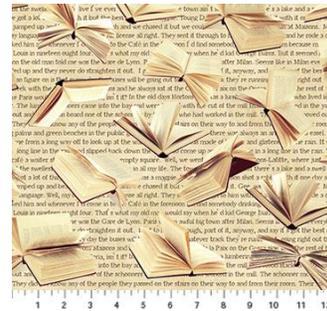
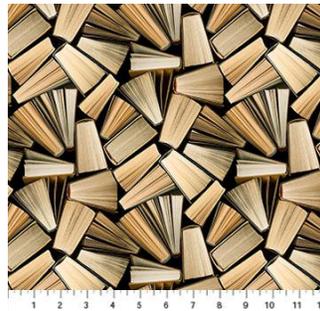
Sue Frerich is coming for a visit and she wants to teach a class! And it's a great way for all of her friends and students to see her and say hi.

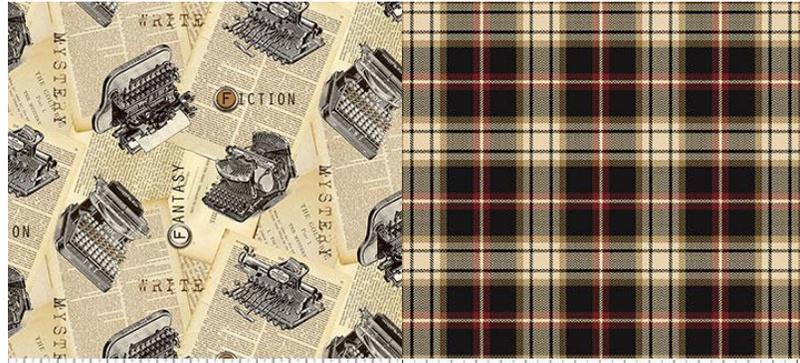
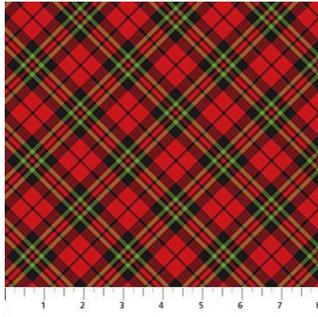
The retreat will be June 3-5 (Fri-Sun). She is teaching an American Jane pattern, a fun round quilt perfect for a table topper or fun wall hanging. Come into the shop to see Sue's sample.

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



WIDE BACKING

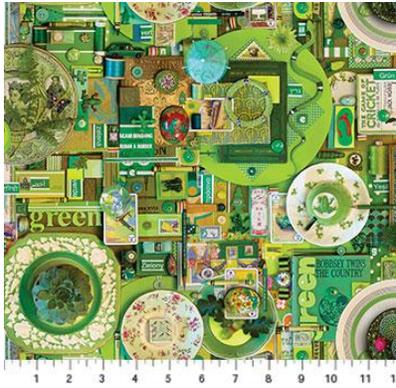




From Riley Blake--Note: These fabrics are bundled in a one yard package. There are 21 pieces, which include 1 each of the six panels. Pictures are representative of what is in the bundle.

Also have the Elk and Deer panel on the bolt.





From Northcott





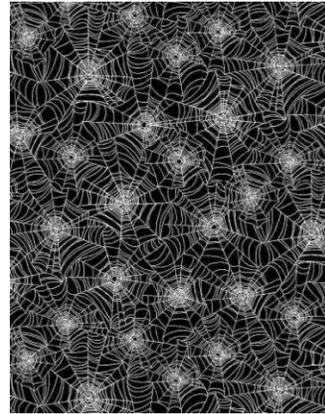
From Michael Miller



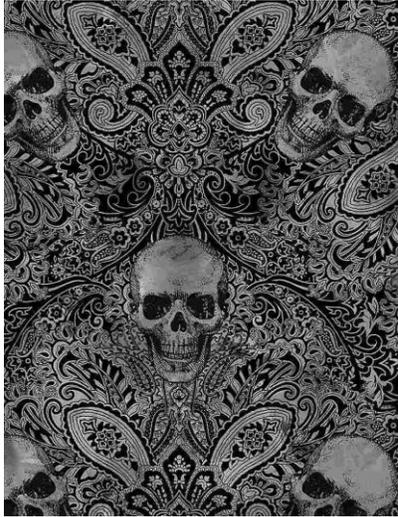
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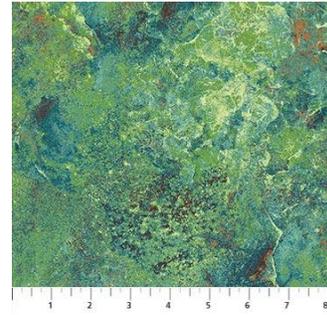
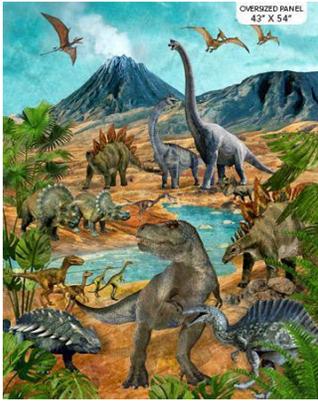


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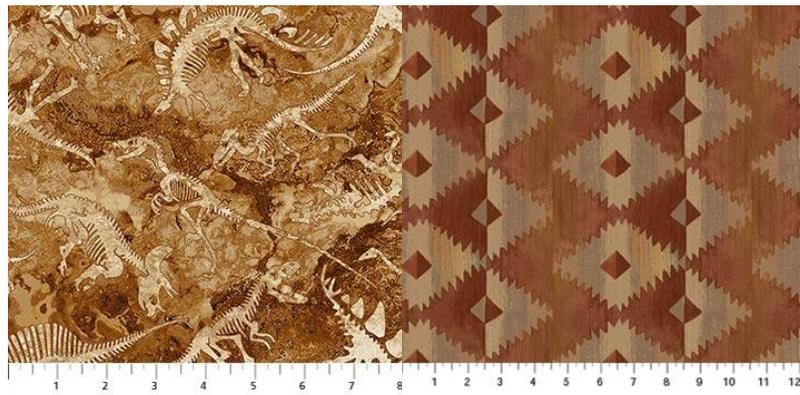
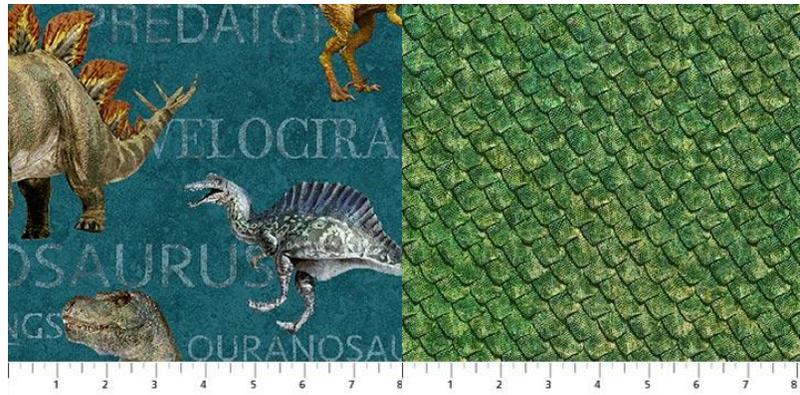
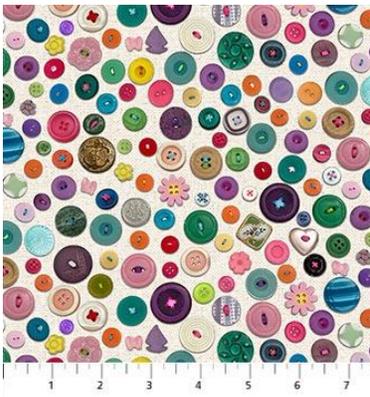


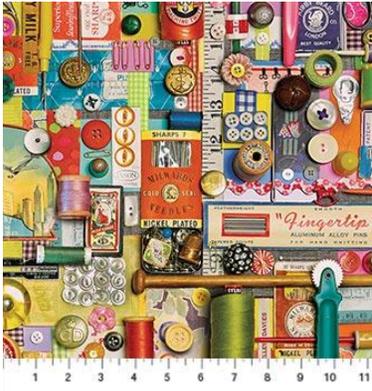
From Timeless Treasures

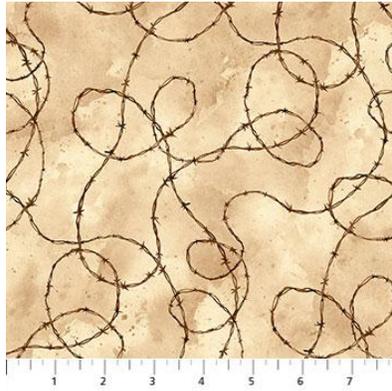
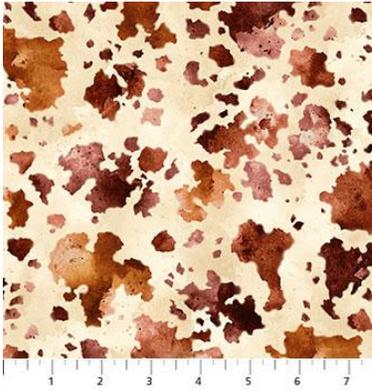


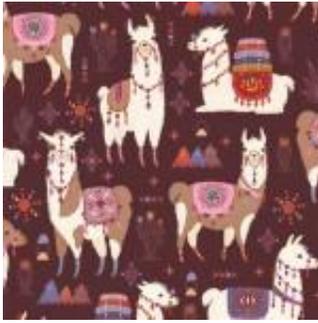


From Northcott



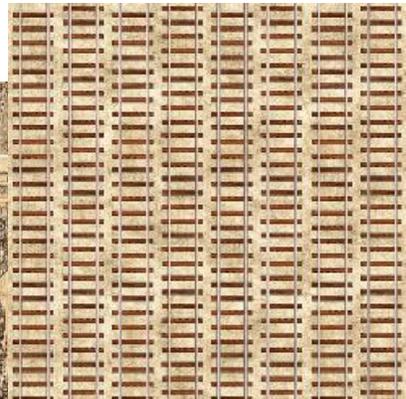
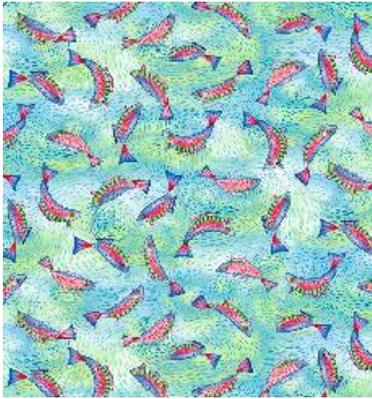






From Michael Miller





From QT



Northcott

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			

I've added the June calendar here. A separate email will be coming with June, July & August classes, plus descriptions of classes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE			1 Long Arm class 10:30	2 Long Arm Rental Day	3 Retreat with Sue! 10:30-5	4 BOM 10:30 Retreat with Sue! 11-5
5 Retreat with Sue! 1-5	6	7 Hand work Club 2-4	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	9 Long Arm Rental Day	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Rulers: Creative Grid flying Geese rulers demo, 1-2 <u>20%</u> of ruler
12 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilting 1-4	13	14 Hand work Club 2-4 Full moon	15 Long Arm class 10:30	16 Long Arm Rental Day	17	18 One Block Wonder Panel, sewing & designing 10:30-4

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Dads' Day Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-4	Knit Pickers' Club 2-4	Long Arm Rental Day Make & Take Wool Needle Holder 1-4		Binding by hand and machine 1-4
26	27	28	29	30		
Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-4	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day	Color of the month: blue	

May Classes

One Block Wonder Panel 1st 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.



Nolting Quilting Machines



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.

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

