



Around the Block
QUILT SHOP

July 28, 2023

My New Zealand trip will be remembered for many things: The exquisite music we made in rehearsals and concerts; the reconnecting with old friends as though five or more years had not passed since we last sang together; the discovery of new friends; embracing the warm friendship of the New Zealanders we met; and the reveling in the beauty of the country.

But the trip will probably be truly defined by two things: 1) the day Heidi ate my half of the donut and 2) the encounter with a truck driver on our evening drive to our first rehearsal with our New Zealand choristers. And perhaps a third thing, revolving around the line: “So it was you who kept our money for three years,” upon meeting our Tour Time guide, Vikki, who would be with us for the next two weeks.

All of this requires a little explanation. For regular newsletter readers, I spent the last couple of weeks in New Zealand on a concert tour. Some of my stories may fall into the category: You had to be there. For the choir readers, I hope some of the stories bring back good memories and a few laughs.

For example, the donut joke. Heidi and I discovered the delights of New Zealand “donuts” about 6 days into the trip. We had paused in Matamata, which is the town just outside of Hobbiton, a 12-acre movie set depicting the Shire in the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies. We had a little time to kill before we could go to the farm where the movie set was built. This was the town where I missed my first opportunity to find a yarn store.

Instead, we found the donut store, a bakery. The others in my group were interested in finding coffee. My caffeine fix comes from diet soda, not always an easy find in New Zealand. But I found the little market where I got my diet Coke and they found the bakery with the coffee and donuts.

Now this donut looks like a chocolate éclair, minus the chocolate, but filled with cream and a dazzle of a berry sauce drizzled on top. Diabetic coma heaven. We learned from Liz, our singing companion from the United Kingdom, that this confection was called a donut.

Our next encounter with this donut came when we were leaving the town of Hamilton, after our first concert held in that city. We were going to the award winning Hamilton Gardens before making our way to our final destination in Auckland. So before we took off, I was on the hunt for my caffeine. I should point out that there are no vending machines in the hotels. But up around the corner from the hotel was a main street and on that street was a wait for it a bakery. So I bought a donut to share with Heidi at lunch, some 3 hours away.

The donut was contained in a little cellophane kind of bag, which after about 15 minutes, the time it took to get to the gardens, was soaked in the oily residue that exuded out of this marvelous donut. I was going to leave it on the bus, for the snack after the Garden visit, but Heidi said no, it didn't seem like the thing to leave in a bus on a warmish morning. New Zealand is in its winter, but the temps during the day stayed in the 50s for the most part. You can imagine the melt down this donut would have had in the bus.

Now the other problem with this donut -- I had forgotten to grab napkins. And this is where the problem took off. Heidi went to the café for napkins and I went to the kiosk for a map of the gardens. We wouldn't meet up again for 3 hours. And Heidi was carrying my donut. Well, I had handed it to her when I went to get the map so I would have my hands free to find the \$2 coin for the map.

When I came out, Heidi was gone. For the next two hours, I wandered the gardens with Liz, asking everyone we saw from our group if they'd seen Heidi. But more importantly, if they had, did she still have the donut. I was feeling guilty that I had saddled her with carrying the donut. Some people reported Heidi sightings, but no one noticed whether she still had the donut.

So when Liz and I got back to the café, we ordered lunch, but still no Heidi. Then our tour guide showed up, and I asked Vikki whether she had seen Heidi...and the donut. Yes to Heidi, no to the donut. Then Vikki got suspicious and asked, "You're only concerned about the donut, aren't you," which was true. I knew Heidi would make it back to the bus.

Finally Heidi showed up, without the donut. Her explanation: She decided to eat her half, and then just got tired of carrying it around, so she ate the rest. She said she worried she was going to pass out in a diabetic coma in the middle of the Gardens. Clearly, a good donut. My consolation prize was a dessert she bought for me at the café....good, but not the donut.

So Liz then told Vikki that Heidi ate my donut, and that's when the story blew up and the whole bus knew. Vikki, you see, controls the microphone on the bus. We even overheard a couple of women behind us saying, "Did you know that Heidi ate Barb's donut?" Perhaps you had to be there, but it was hilarious.

I'll talk more about Vikki, not that my regular readers will really know who she is, but she played a big part in our trip, was a fabulous guide, and between her and Jan, our bus driver, they gave us what is known as a tiki tour of New Zealand—a tiki tour is generally described as a scenic tour of an area. Our tiki tour was more like a tour of both well known places, plus out of the way places that only locals know about.

Now in some ways, the donut story carries no meaning for most of my readers. It's a donut, you say, just get over it. What about Hobbiton? Or the singing? Or the Gardens? Or.... I'll get to that stuff in later posts, but I want to discuss the truck driver incident first.

So we were running behind schedule, getting stuck in a fairly big traffic jam on the way to the church for our first rehearsal with the New Zealand choristers. Our director, Jonathan Griffith, has a particular warm up routine he wants his choirs to do, and the first part is stretching. You reach your hand in the air, then stretch up, then bring it down & shake the blood back into the hands.

So on the bus with the lights on (it's 5:30 and dark outside), Vikki is leading us in our stretching. A truck driver pulls along side, sees all of us with our arms stretched over our heads, and he imitates us. I missed it, because I was on the wrong side of the bus, and unfortunately, no one got pics, but I can just imagine the story he told when he got home: "Yeah, I was driving down the road, passing this bus, and all of a sudden everyone was raising their hands in the air and waving at me. So I waved back. Tourists. Go figure."

And the final thing I will remember from this trip is the line uttered by Liz upon meeting Vikki for the first time at the airport: “So you’re the one that’s been holding our money for three years.” Three years ago, this trip was bought and paid for, and then Covid-19 hit. Refunds were impossible because the money had already been paid for all the bookings, and we sat for three years wondering if the trip would ever come about.

So our last night in Rotorua, five of us, including Vikki, went to the Pig & Whistle for dinner, an historic pub. We got to sharing stories about the trip and previous singing gigs, and Vikki told us that she was afraid our trip was off to a rocky start from the very beginning because someone just off the plane came up to her and said, “So you’re the one that’s been holding our money for three years.” Liz then raised a hand, a little sheepishly, and said, yup, that was me.

And that line became our goodbye line to Vikki and New Zealand, because if Tour Time and Vikki had not held onto our money for three years, we would never have met her and Jan, and Brent (the other guide) and Chris (the other driver who saved my concert pants, a story for the next post); and we would not have had the tiki tour of a lifetime, a glorious introduction to New Zealand.

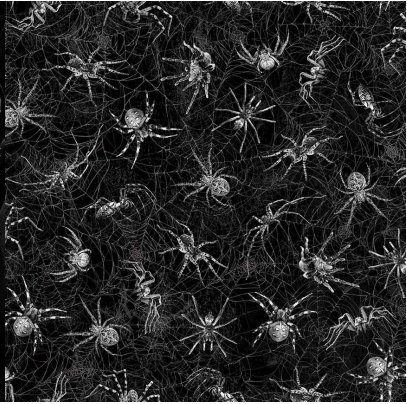
Next week: Pub crawls across New Zealand, and other fun visits.

What's New



From Dashwood Studios





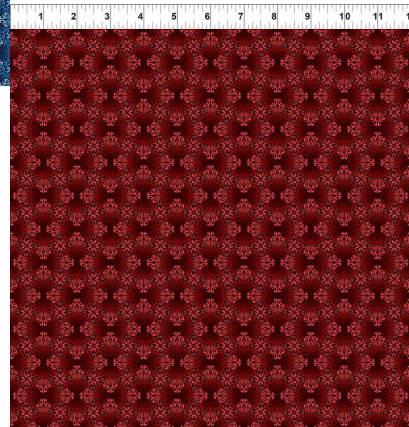
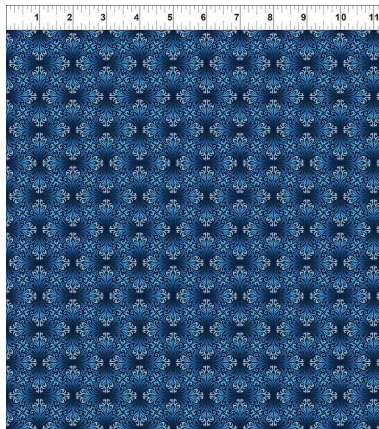
From Timeless Treasures



From Riley Blake. BIG FOOT is here!



From In the Beginning

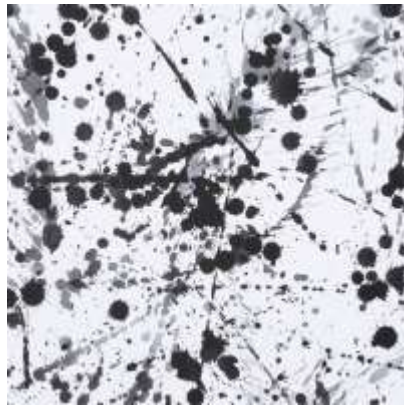




From Dear Stella (NOTE
The Hedgehogs) & Oasis
(the horses)

Plus we got whites in from P
& B. I won't put thumbnails
in, because they will just
look white.





Alexander Henry



From Riley Blake



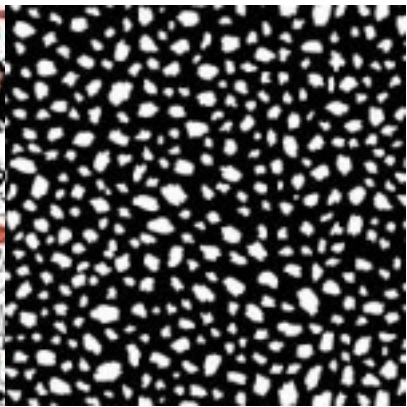


A - And here is the one,
 Made so by KAPOLO.
B - Eggs made like Buffalo,
 What name did I KAPOLO?
C - In for Canada, Chalkie, Clark,
 KAPOLO don't look away from
 work.
D - For Dots, an extra row,
 How KAPOLO made the bow.
E - For Easy—york is as
 if you see KAPOLO.
F - For Fun, which they enjoy,
 Who KAPOLO's all enjoy.
G - For Girls—good ones think
 KAPOLO perfect for their
 long hair.
H - For Hats, where all is bright,
 If KAPOLO's not right.
I - For Kids—please go—
 Never used KAPOLO!
J - For Jolly—just I had as
 if you see KAPOLO.
K - For Ladies; all women know
 What name from KAPOLO.
L - For Ladies, bright as new,
 Made so by KAPOLO, too.
M - For Men that loved the bottle,
 KAPOLO don't look away from
 work.
N - For Queens all around—
 What can't KAPOLO be
 found?
O - For Owl, which all may know,
 Who see their wife and
 KAPOLO.
P - For Pail, which they use
 For cleaning up in Fall and
 Spring.
Q - For Things—such are they
 Who see KAPOLO every day.
R - For Things of copper or tin,
 KAPOLO shows them within
 and with.
S - For Things, you should know
 KAPOLO's found where
 you go.
T - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.
U - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.
V - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.
W - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.
X - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.
Y - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.
Z - For Things, who can know
 How to use KAPOLO.

From Riley Blake



From Michael Miller



Spring Newsletter

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

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 Starry Skies. Challenge #1 is to use at least 25 different fabrics in the quilt – should be easy. Challenge #2 is to choose backgrounds for the blocks that aren't the typical cream/white neutrals that we generally use. Instead, we will mix it up a bit, using both traditional backgrounds for some blocks, and then choosing "colors" in both light and dark fabrics for other blocks.

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, which is Garden Belles. Each block features a lady in vintage costume, in the garden, or similar outdoor setting. These are old fashioned ladies in dresses, which offer all sorts of stitchery creativity.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

Come join our Knit Pickers= Club. We knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, from 2-5. The Club is open to all skill levels and, despite the name, includes crocheters as well. 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. We can even help you get started—teach you the basics.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-5

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch.

July Classes

Elizabeth Hartman Quilts, your choice Sat July 29 10:30-5 Barb Boyer 10:30-4

E.H. Quilts are made using a 45 degree flip & sew method. The trick is in the organization & keeping track where you are in the piecing. These make great kid quilts, wall hangings, ones with all the animals—bed quilts. You can start by making one animal from the quilt, and build out from there.

August Classes

Rail Fence Sat August 5, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

Rail Fence is an easy quilt to construct. You will design your own pattern, meaning you can choose the size of your strips and how you want to place your blocks: In the chevron style as shown in the sample,

or create your own design. Six colors is all you need. And alternate block fabric, if you choose to add other things into your quilt. And borders, of course.

Patches of Life Sat August 26 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This is an Eleanor Burns pattern, which uses 48 precut strips (generally one roll plus a few extra strips) and fabric for the half square triangles and the Triangle in a Square blocks, which create the illusion of curves. Class will be all about how to create the 9-patch blocks, the half square triangles, and, of course, the Triangle in a Square block.

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.

Hand Work Club FREE!

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-5, 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.

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).

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.

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 6; February 4 (observed); March 7; April 6; May 5; June 4

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, June blue

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July 2023

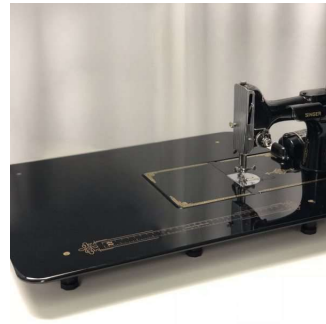
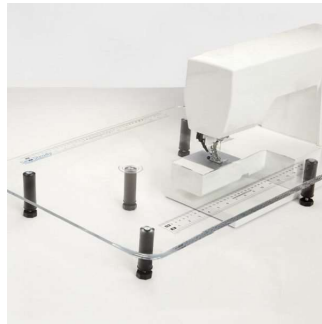
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 Fun Ways to use your panels: A strategy & design class 1-5 <u>\$35</u>
2 Beginning Quilting 1-4 Shop Is now open 1- 5!	3 Full moon	4 CLOSED	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10- noon Machine Binding 1-5 \$40
9 Shop Is now open 1- 5!	10	11 Hand work Club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15
16 Shop Is now open 1- 5!	17	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21	22

23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Elizabeth Hartman Quilts: Your choice 10:30-4
30	31					Color of the month: Christmas
Shop Is now open 1-5!						

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hand work Club 2-5 Full Moon	2 Long Arm class 10:30	3 Long Arm Rental	4	5 BOM 10:30 Rail Fence, design your own 1-5 <u>\$35</u>
6 CLOSED	7	8 Hand work Club 2-5	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	10 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon
13 Shop Is now open 1-5!	14	15 Hand work Club 2-5	16 Long Arm class 10:30	17 Long Arm Rental Day	18	19

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	Long Arm Rental Day		Patches of Life 10:30-4 \$35
27	28	29	30	31		
Shop Is now open 1-5!		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30 Full BLUE moon	Long Arm Rental Day		Color of the month: blacks



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
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