



November 17, 2023

Block of the Month News

Come see our display of Block of the Month Quilts since 1998. It's quite something. We are missing two of them, the floral challenge and the 2 1/2" strip challenge, but all of the others are hanging. If you would like to repeat one of these quilts, we will be taking a poll at the December BOM class. If you can't make that class, and want to do one of them, just let me know your choice.

How did we manage?

I'm talking pre internet. How did we manage? In 1983 or so, I had a copy of an Air Force diet of eating only eggs for six days straight then eating a steak on day 7. I'm sure there were other things in that diet plan, but it came when the standard advice was to avoid eggs because of their dangerous cholesterol issues.

So where did I get this diet? Not off the internet; it didn't exist. Nor from a tabloid newspaper because I don't buy those. Not from a magazine, because I was in law school at the time and had no money for frivolous purchases.

"It had questionable bono fides," Becca said, trotting in from outside.

"It had....what? Ah, I don't want to ask. Why are you inside, Becca, the day is beautiful," I told her.

"Wifi's out in the Queen's Palazzo. I need to connect with yours," she said, as she settled down on the floor.

Okay, for those of you who are new to this post, Becca is just a dog.

"Wait a minute! Just?" she challenged.

Okay, let me rephrase that. Becca is a mini Australian Shepherd who is very precocious...

"Don't call me names," Becca growled.

....and thinks she's pretty smart. (Low growling) She has a dog house that she doesn't use dubbed as the Queen's Palace, apparently now changed to Palazzo. She surfs the internet from her doghouse. How she got a connection is beyond me.

“Anyway, back to pre internet,” I told her. “How did we manage? You couldn’t look up the cast of various tv shows and movies on your devices while watching the show. You couldn’t scroll through endless recipes looking for the perfect Thanksgiving side dish. You couldn’t fact check your politicians, who also couldn’t use social media to spread weird information.”

“Instead you bought TV guides, recipe books and cooking magazines, and tabloid newspapers that spouted Aliens Took Over Marjorie Taylor Greene’s Brain,” Becca added helpfully.

“Yeah, checking out at the grocery store isn’t as much fun anymore since the tabloid press have gone online,” I said. “Way before Covid, probably 2016, I remember someone came up to me to warn me that Hillary Clinton was deranged and crazy because she had collapsed somewhere and the headlines in the tabloid were confirming that diagnosis. That woman actually looked deranged, while Clinton was just exhausted and dehydrated. I think I may have even told her that.”

“That kind of stuff is still going on,” Becca confirmed. “It’s called HDS, Hillary Deranged Syndrome. I’d rather read about the aliens sucking our brains. Or Marjorie Taylor Greene’s.”

She grinned.

“You and me both,” I agreed. “But it’s hard to remember life without the internet.”

“Some people think life was better without it,” Becca said.

“Not me,” I said. “I like being able to look up stuff, to find recipes, to buy movie tickets on line, to buy my McDonald’s breakfast on a mobile app because it’s insanely cheap, to know which are the best and worst beers, and to make sure the world hasn’t blown up recently.”

“But what bothers me is when technology that is supposed to work doesn’t. For example, spell check in Word. It used to work, but now it doesn’t.” [Aside, I apologize for my typing mistakes because Word is not helping me any more. I now have to know how everything is spelled and be able to spot when it isn’t.]

“So what prompted this semi trip down memory lane,” Becca asked. “Because this posting is really not going anywhere specific.”

“Well, I downloaded an organizational app but couldn’t figure out how to work it. It should be intuitive, but it’s not. And the spell checker thingy in Word doesn’t work all the time and I’ve checked all the settings and nothing there has changed, so I don’t know what is going on and I don’t want to reload it. And while I love technology, I hate it when it doesn’t work right. And last night the guys fixing the lights in the plaza decided to move the big cherry picker rig onto Vandehi, thus blocking all traffic at 5 p.m.”

“Wise move on their part,” Becca agreed.

“But I couldn’t get a whole post out of why blocking traffic at 5 p.m. was not the best decision.”

“So do you feel better now, after venting all of this stuff?” Becca asked. That was sweet of her. I wonder....

“Well, yah, I guess. Although this weekend I’m going to see two different dystopian kind of productions: Fahrenheit 451 about book burning and the new Hunger Games prequel about the rise of an autocrat.”

“Delightful,” Becca quipped. “You’re just going to be all chipper this weekend.”

“Okay, what do you want.”

“Well, now that you mention it, I was looking on line before until somebody, who will remain nameless, Padfoot, chewed through my cable lines.....”

“And you want my wifi password?” I prompted. She looked at me eagerly.

“Nope. Nope. Nope. You are on the internet way too much.”

“You could get an app to monitor my internet intake,” she said. “We could monitor each other, send warnings when it exceeds too many hours.”

“Nope. Nope. Nope. Not going down that path. Go outside and play. The fresh air will be good for you.”

Christmas (OR Not) Mystery 2023 Poinsettia

Large 88” X 105”
Double 70” X 88”



Fabric Requirements

Small Quilt 12 assorted fat quarters. Suggestions for colors: 6 Greens and 6 Reds. Use both patterned fabrics and tone on tones prints. Choose a mix of value: light, medium and dark. Make sure the light prints are darker than your background.

Background: 2 ½ yards

Inner Border: ¾ yard (a little more than you need)

Outer border, cut straight of grain: 2 ¼ yard

Back: 5 ¼ yard (it is the same as the smaller quilt, vertical seam)

Binding: ¾ yard

Large Quilt 20 assorted fat quarters. Suggestions for colors: 10 Greens and 10 Reds. Use both patterned fabrics and tone on tones prints. Choose a mix of value: light, medium and dark. Make sure the light prints are darker than your background.

Background: 3 ¾ yards

Inner Border: ¾ yard (a little more than you need)

Outer border, cut straight of grain: 2 ¾ yard

Back: 5 ¼ yard (it is the same as the smaller quilt, horizontal seam)

Binding: ¾ yard

Other color choices:

This quilt works well in two colors, blue & yellow, pink & gray, purple and blue, etc. Make sure that you choose 6 & 6 (blue and yellow) or 10 and 10 (pink and gray). And then vary the value (lights-darks) and the prints (small-large, various prints from florals, dots, stripes, plaids, tone on tones, novelties, etc). Be sure to mix some tone on tone (not busy) prints into the mix. Keep the background light (I don't advise using a dark background). You can use a patterned background as long as it's not too busy. You can also

use a light yellow or a light green, for example, as long as the fat quarter choices stand out against the background.

Choosing borders: Your border choices can be picked after the inside of the quilt is finished. Or, you can choose your borders first (as we usually do) and then pick your fat quarters based on the colors in the border.

Step One:

From each fat quarter cut 2 strips **5" X 21"**. Subcut into 5" X 9 ½" rectangles. You need 4 from each fat. Keep these together. Then cut 2 strips 2" X 21". You need 24 (40).

From Background:

Cut 12 (20) strips 5" X 42". Subcut into 96 (160) 5" X 5" squares.

Cut 13 (20) strips 2" X 41". Subcut into 2" X 21" segments.

Next week: Sewing!

Step two:

1. Take 4 5" X 9 ½" rectangles from your colors and sew a 5" square, on the diagonal, on one end. Pretend you are sewing half of a flying goose. Trim and square to 5" X 9 ½". Make 12 (20) sets. Set aside, keeping the sets together. (See (left hand side) pic below)

2. Sew a background 2" X 21" strip to a color 2" X 21" strip to a 2" X 21" background strip. Make 10 (16) panels. (L + D + L) Set aside. Next, sew a color 2" X 21" strip to a background 2" X 21" strip to a color 2" X 21" strip. (D + L + D) (D = dark; L = light)

The panels should measure 5" wide after you have sewn the 3 strips together. Make 10 (16). Set aside. NOTE: you should have some extra color strips left. If you want more color choices for Step 3, make extra panels. You will have to cut some additional background 2" strips.

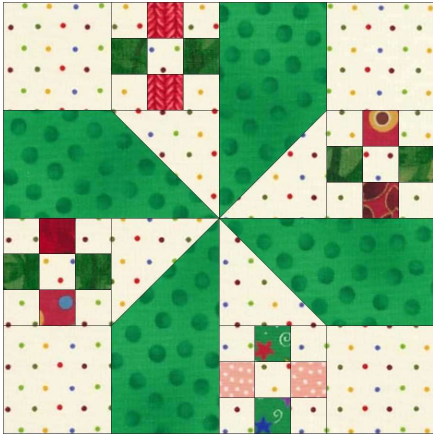
3. Cut the panels into 2" segments. These should measure 2" X 5". Keep the LDL segments in one bag and the DLD segments in a separate bag.

4. Sew the segments into a 9-patch (see pic below). Square to 5" X 5". Don't worry about color placement, just make things random. It will be fine.

Step 3:

Now sew a background 5" square to a nine patch. Then sew the half flying geese to that unit. See picture for placement. Make 4 of each color set. It will be helpful if you keep the 4 units of the same color of the half flying geese unit together. Remember you made 4 half flying geese units using the same color (Step two: #1) Meaning, you will now have 12 (20) sets of this unit (or 36 (80) units).

Final Step: Put the blocks together. See picture below. (Shows big quilt. The small quilt is 3 blocks X 4 blocks.) Square to 16 1/2" X 16 1/2". Then sew the blocks together in rows, as shown below, alternating your colors (brown v red as in the store sampler, or green v red). Add borders as you choose. Pattern calls for an inner border cut at 2 1/2" and an outer border cut at 6 1/2".



What's New

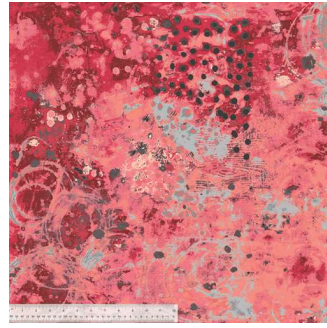
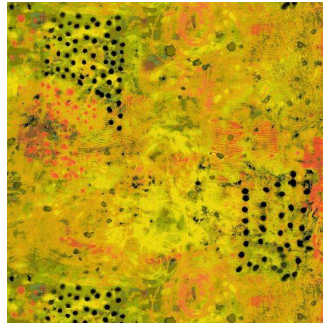
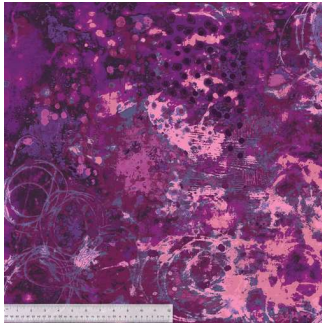
Two new quilts from In the Beginning fabrics will be coming in December and March. On both, I will be taking down payments for preordering the kits. I will have approximate pricing in a couple of weeks (freight plays a part in pricing, and that's all over the map these days). If you are interested, let me know. The number of kits are limited to 6, right now.



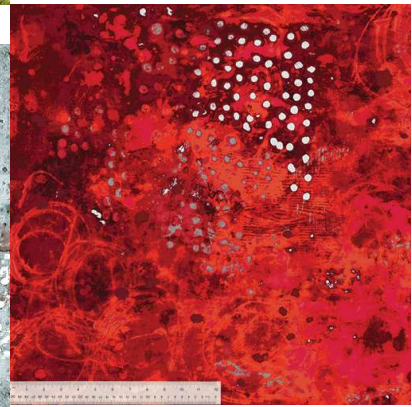
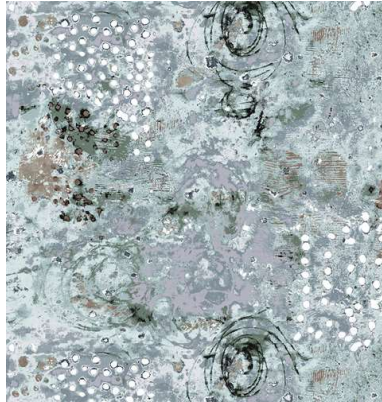
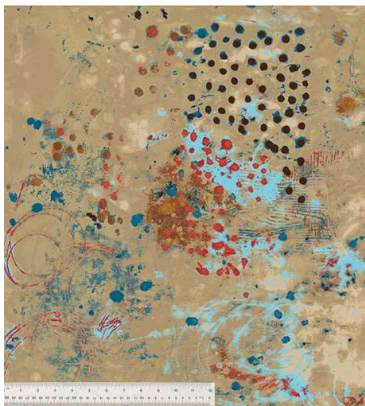
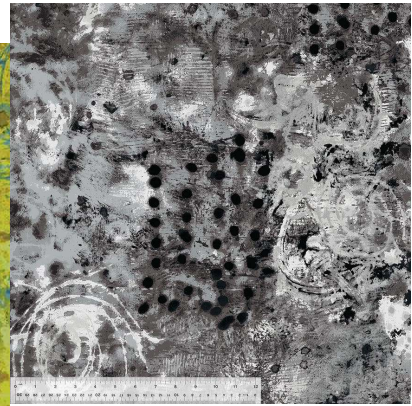
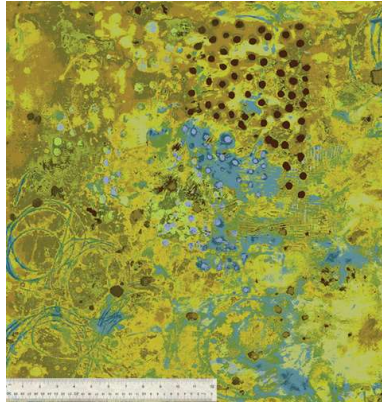
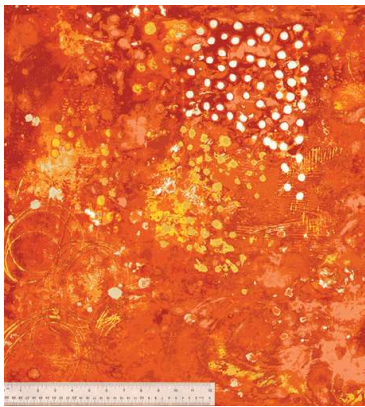
Decoupage, a simple and stunning quilt done with lots of black and white.
87" X 104

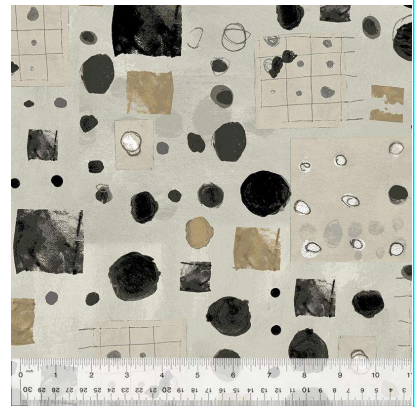
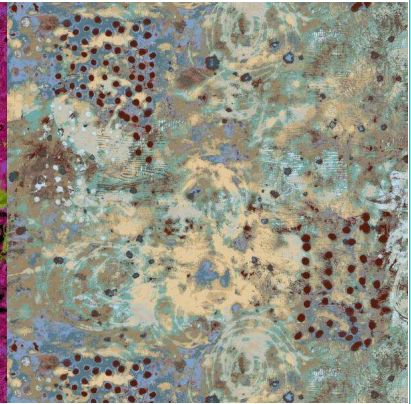
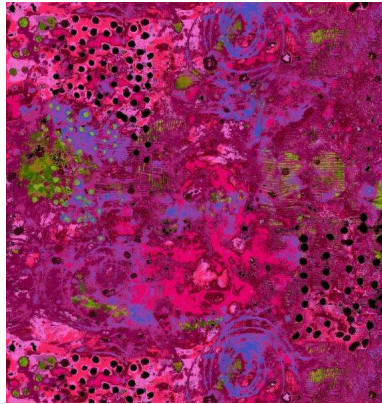
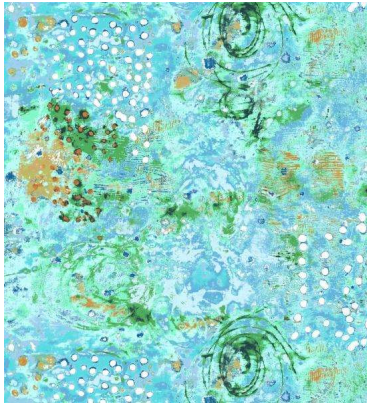


Sew Spring: We will do this as a class, starting in April or May. It will be taught as a "block(s) of the month," over a several month period, going into summer.
85" X 97"



From Windham. Spotted Graffiti





wideback



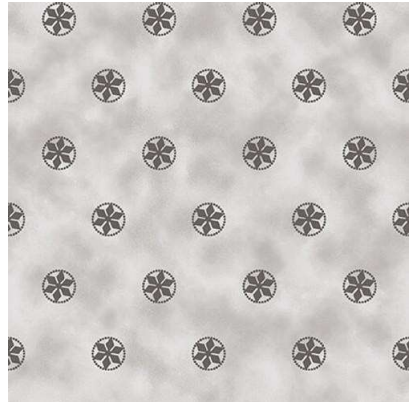
From In the Beginning: These are 13" squares representing each state & its bird and wildflower, and fruits, butterflies, insects, gems



From Kennard & Kennard



From RJR



From Henry Glass

From Timeless Treasures





From Alexander Henry

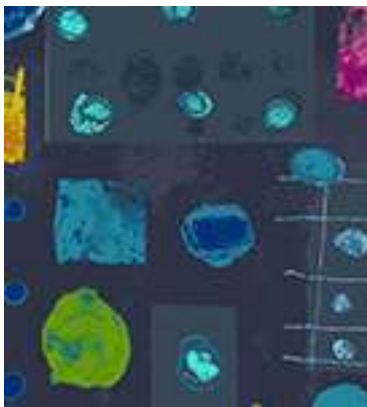
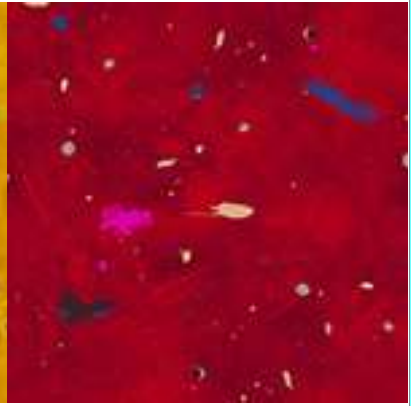
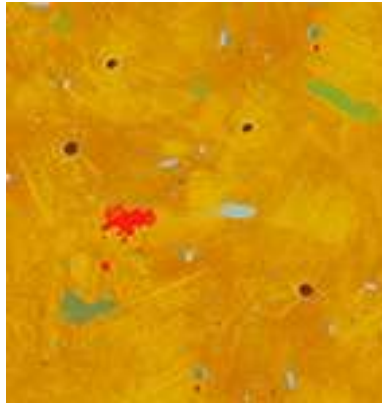


From RJR



From Windham







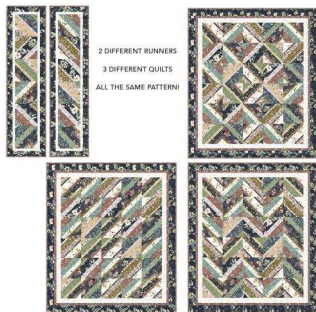
From P & B





From Windham

Fall Newsletter



It's hard to grab pics of everything. I don't have pics of the Trip Around the World, Chit Chat, one of the Happy Haunting. But samples are in the store. From upper left: Wildflower Path, Lone Star, Applique Tree, Happy Haunting, Bargello, tree skirt.

November Classes

Bargello Saturday Nov 21 10-4 \$40 Jean Korber

Bargello is a form of strip piecing, similar to Trip Around the World, but the panels you make are sliced into different widths, creating a cascading effect of colors.

Fat Quarter Class Quilts Show and Tell Sat Nov 25 11-noon (or longer as needed)

To everyone from this spring's Fat Quarter class: Bring your completed quilts or quilt tops to the shop for a show and tell on shop Small Business Saturday! To everyone else: Come see the quilts and learn what we are going to do in the spring!

December Classes

Cathedral Window Ornament Dec 2 1-4 \$25 \$30 Barb Boyer

The Cathedral Window quilt block is a traditional quilt block made with a folded construction technique resulting in a dimensional block. While the block is not complicated, it requires a little time and a little patience. Consequently, we will teach the block as an ornament: You only have to make one and then you can decide if you want to make an entire quilt. These are spectacular quilts, meant to mimic the stained glass windows in churches.

Wildflower Paths Saturday Dec 9 1-5 \$30 Barb Boyer

This quilt may look hard, but it's the fabric that makes the stripes! So there is no piecing to make the individual blocks. This is another free pattern. If you need a quick Christmas gift, this would be it.

Attic Window Sat Dec 16 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$40

This quilt is another Jason Yenter showcase quilt! I've called it Attic Window, because the main block is the traditional attic window block. We will use the Marvelous Miters method of making the block (easiest way to make accurate attic window blocks), and then I'll show you an easy way to make the circles so you will have no raw edges. The circles will then be appliqued using invisible thread (if you want to) and a blind hem stitch on your machine.

November 2023

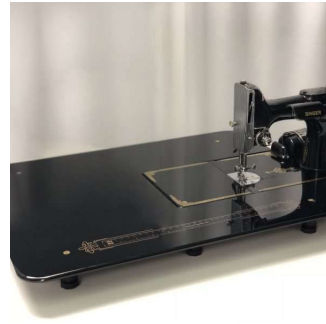
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Long Arm class 10:30	2 Long Arm Rental Day	3	4 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>battings</u> Tree Skirt 1-4 <u>\$30</u>
5 Beginning Quilting 1- 4 \$65	6	7 Hand work Club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	9 Long Arm Rental Day	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon Potluck
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand work Club 2-5	15 Long Arm class 10:30	16 Long Arm Rental Day	17	18 Bargello 10:30-4 <u>\$40</u>

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	CLOSED Thanksgiving	Black Friday Sale	Shop Small Business Sale TBA Show & Tell Fat Quarter Class Quilts 11-noon
26	27	28	29	30		
CLOSED	Full moon	Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day		Color of the month: Flowers

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Color of the month: red						BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>battings</u> Cathedral Window Ornament 1-4 <u>\$25</u>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CLOSED		Hand work Club 2-5	Long Arm class 10:30	Long Arm Rental Day Long Arm Rental Day		Embroidery Club 10-noon Wildflower Path 1-5 <u>\$30</u>

10 CLOSED	11	12 Hand work Club 2-5	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	14 Long Arm Rental Day	15	16 Attic Window 10-4 <u>\$40</u>
17 CLOSED	18	19 Hand work Club 2-5	20 Long Arm class 10:30	21 Long Arm Rental Day	22	23
24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 Hand work Club 2-5 Full moon	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	28	29 Customer Appreciation Pre Sale for Toad toters 10-5	30 Customer Appreciation Sale <u>10-3</u>
31 CLOSED						



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 5-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



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

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