



November 24, 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.

Pretend today is Wednesday. For several reasons.

Well, I killed several tumbleweeds on the way to work today. There they were. Just tumbling down the road. Drifting along. Careening, really.

So what is a tumbleweed exactly? According the Wikipedia, and I'm quoting, not making this up, "A tumbleweed is a structural part of the above-ground anatomy of a number of species of plants." Kinda takes the romance out of the song, doesn't it.

The strategy of tumbleweed plants involves a shallow root system that dries up when the plant dies in the fall, allowing the top of the plant to break free in the winter, and roll away. As the tumbleweed tumbles it releases seeds which then wait for water to germinate. In this country, I'm surprised we get any new tumbleweed plants, but I guess snow counts. As do the spring rains.

But that's not what I want to talk about. We're here to examine the herald of the season, the first Santa Claus sighting and now, probably, the worst parade of the year. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Don't send letters. Be honest. The Macy's parade isn't what it used to be.

The parade started in 1924. Store employees formed a parade and marched down to the store on 34th street in New York. Presumably the store employees were volunteers, but I'm guessing there are volunteers and there are no longer hires.

They had floats, bands and animals from the Central Park Zoo in the parade. No balloons. Not yet. Santa then emerged from the Macy's balcony. Everybody cheered! I'm guessing about that, but apparently there were more than 250,000 people watching, so Macy's considered it a success and decided to make it an annual thing. Just so you know, more people attended that parade than lived in Wyoming at that time (215,00 according to census data).

Prior to the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, the holiday was celebrated as Ragamuffin Day, when children would wander the streets dressed as poor people, hobos, and vagrants, begging for treats. Think Halloween before Halloween became a thing. There was even a Ragamuffin Parade. By all accounts, adults hated these activities, but businesses kinda liked it because they could sell costumes and other paraphernalia. But when the depression hit, the custom faded away and the Macy's Parade took over.

As you would expect, the popularity of the parade grew. Radio stations soon began to broadcast the parade. The movie, *Miracle on 34th Street*, was released in 1947 and in 1948 the parade was broadcast on network television, thus becoming the event we all must watch to kick off the holiday season.

Balloons were added in 1927 and the real animals were left at the zoo. And because the balloons couldn't be deflated, they were simply released at the end of the parade. Macy's even had contests for those who found the balloons, sometimes as far away as Canada. Although, come to think of it, Canada is pretty close to New York.

The balloons always made the Macy's Parade different from most others. The Rose Parade has roses, Frontier Days Parade has horses, wagons and buggies, and Macy's has balloons. And then performing artists were introduced. And then Broadway shows got involved. As well as every tv show host on the network walking around, casually interviewing parade goers who only want to wave to their friends at home and say "Hi mom."

And at some point, artists, supposedly singing their tunes through electronically enhanced and modified amps, became the focus for the parade. Each artist gets stuck on some float, like Wonder Bread, sings some current hit, and then cut to commercial for,,you guessed it, Wonder Bread. Sigh.

The balloons got lost along the way. I'm guessing all the balloons were shown on the broadcast, but they certainly weren't the focus and camera time was minimal.

So my advice for watching the parade is to tape it. That way you can fast forward through the endless commercials, the inane talk between hosts and other interviewers, and the singing artists who you can't understand what they're singing, nor do you even know them. Just watch the good stuff: The minute or two allotted to the bands, the balloons, the floats, the Broadway casts (maybe), and the Rockettes heralding Santa Claus. That should take you about 30 minutes.

Now if you've gotten this far in your reading, you will know that I did not write this today. I finished it today, but I started it on Wednesday, when we had no snow and only wind and tumbleweeds. I was going to post this on Wednesday, but didn't have time. So I was not able to tell you that the parade was starting 30 minutes early. But if you got in late, I don't think you missed much.

Although I was impressed that Central Park still had colorful turning leaves on the trees. Which, given today, made it all the more stunning.

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 1/2" 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 1/2". 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.

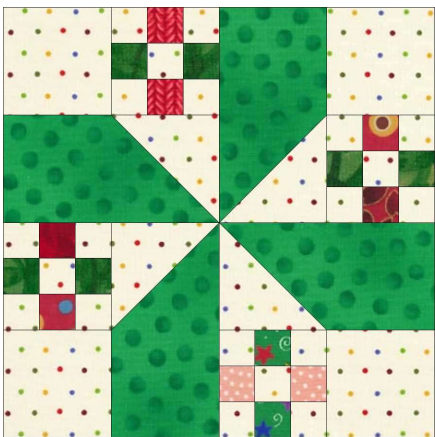
3. Cut the panels into 2" segments. These should measure 2" X 5". Keep the LDL segments in one bag and the DLD segments in a separate bag.

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

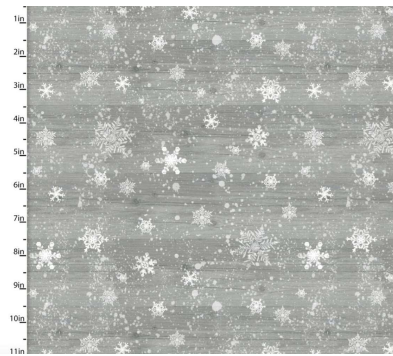
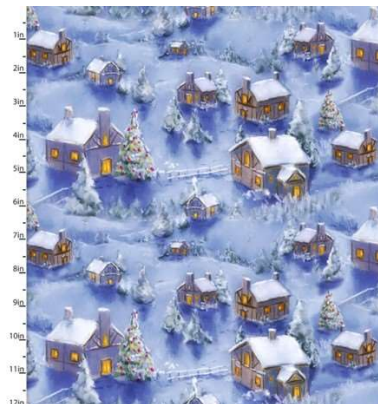
Two new quilts from In the Beginning fabrics will be coming in December and March. On both, I will be taking down payments for preordering the kits. I will have approximate pricing in a couple of weeks (freight plays a part in pricing, and that's all over the map these days). If you are interested, let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



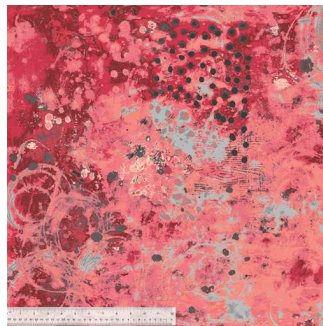
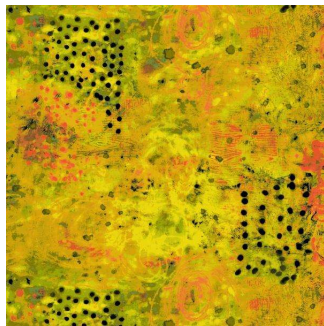
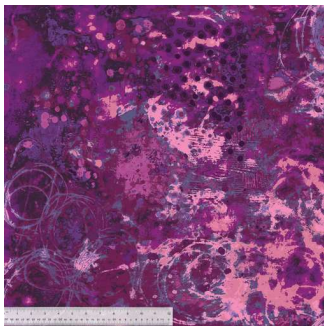
Decoupage, a simple and stunning quilt done with lots of black and white.
87" X 104"



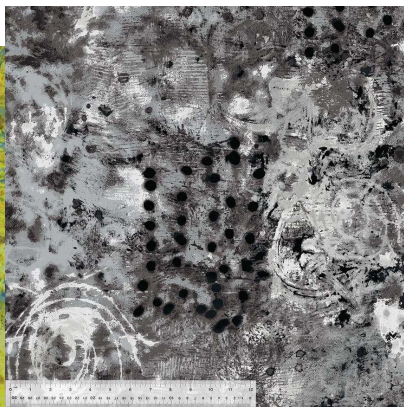
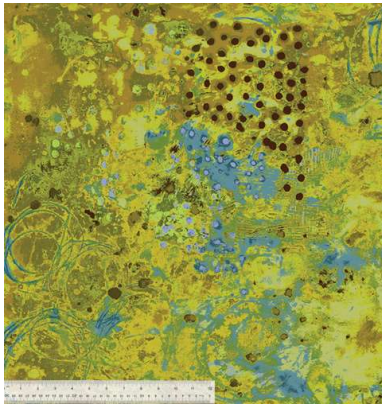
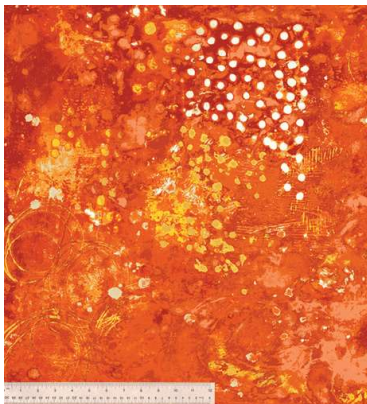
Sew Spring: We will do this as a class, starting in April or May. It will be taught as a "block(s) of the month," over a several month period, going into summer.
85" X 97"

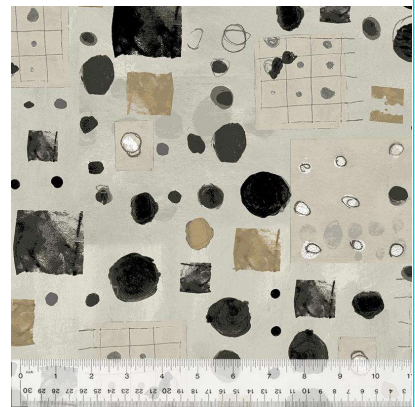
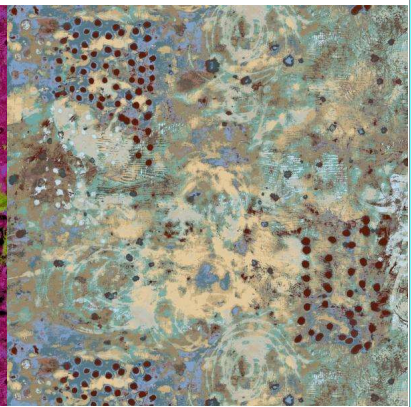
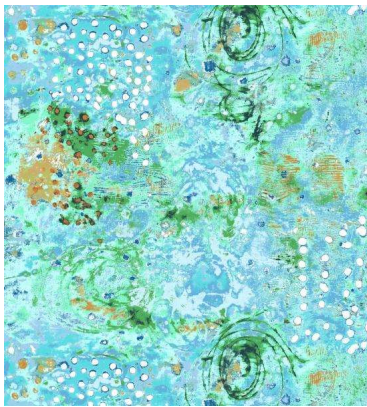
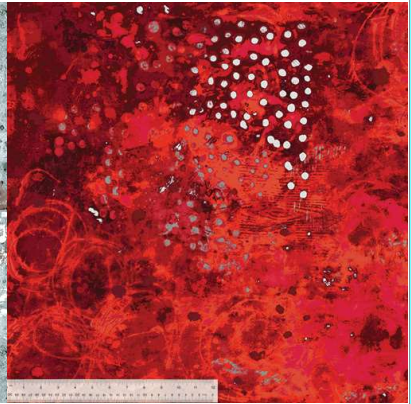
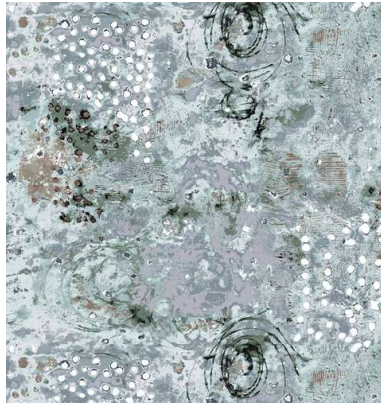
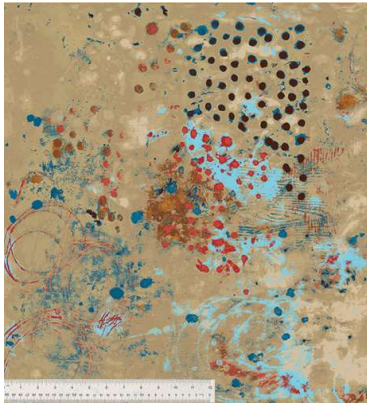


We have some new 3 Wishes Christmas fabrics.



From Windham. Spotted Graffiti

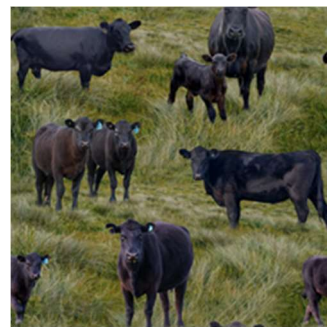




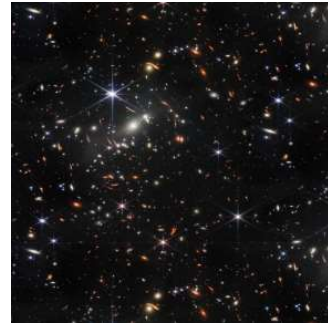
wideback



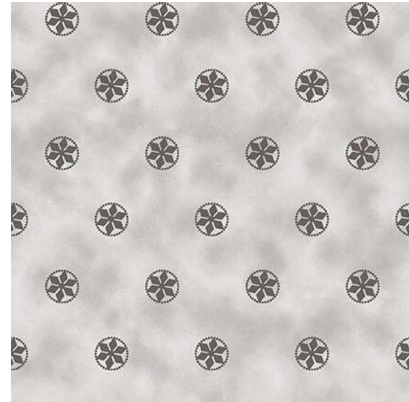
From In the Beginning: These are 13" squares representing each state & its bird and wildflower, and fruits, butterflies, insects, gems



From Kennard & Kennard



From RJR



From Henry Glass

From Timeless Treasures





From Alexander Henry

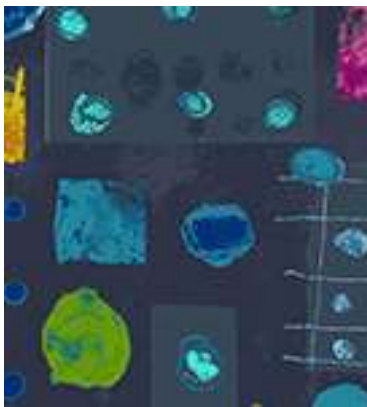
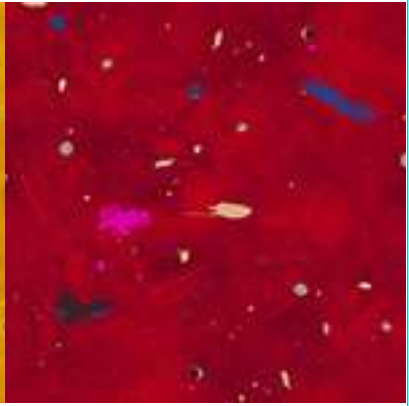


From RJR



From Windham





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

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 CLASS MAY BE POSTPONED UNTIL SPRING

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

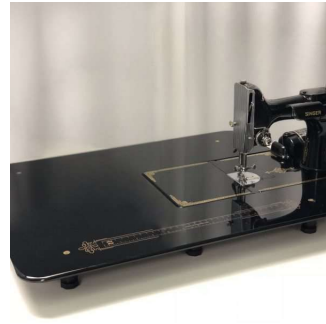
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Long Arm class 10:30	2 Long Arm Rental Day	3	4 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and <u>battings</u> Tree Skirt 1-4 <u>\$30</u>
5 Beginning Quilting 1- 4 \$65	6	7 Hand work Club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	9 Long 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

[Unsubscribe office@jubjub.com](mailto:office@jubjub.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by barbboy@msn.com powered by

