



April 19, 2024

“What’s for supper?” Becca asked, trotting in from outside, shaking off the rain from her coat splattering water everywhere.

“Becca, you’re a mess,” I told her.

“Have you looked outside recently?” she asked. “It’s cold, wet, gloomy, icy and probably snowy later tonight,” she said. “You’ve been trying to figure out all morning what to write about, so you might as well write about what’s for dinner.”

She’s right about that. She usually is. Becca, for those of you new to the post, is a red mini Australian Shepherd whose diet consists of dry dog food. I have suggested she introduce more fruits and veggies into her diet, but she usually spits them out. She does, however, like pizza bones.

“Well, an article did catch my eye about the best frozen pizza choices,” I said.

“And you went down that rabbit hole,” Becca said. “And now the internet is offering up a myriad of top 10 food this and top 15 food that,” she said.

“Well, that’s true,” I admitted. “It’s amazing how the algorithms that stalk your internet searches have progressed. You click on one article and then all you see all day are repeats of that same article, just based on different stores, with Trader Joe’s and Costco being the most popular. The stories are all set up in the same way, with some anonymous chef or buyer or customer who touts what is best to buy.”

“And the pizza?” Becca prompted.

“I was inundated with the top air fryer recipes from some chef,” I said, ignoring her question, “the top breakfast meals to order at a restaurant and what not to order, the top things to buy at Costco and why you should have an expensive membership, a restaurant critic’s top things to buy at Trader Joe’s, all the best pre made meals at Costco, everything you can make with pesto, and then I get this headline ‘Calories are key to weight loss regardless of fasting schedule, study shows.’”

“The internet’s just looking out for your welfare,” Becca said. “And the pizza?”

“And I don’t shop at any of those places,” I went on, continuing to ignore her question, “or at least not often, because they aren’t even in Cheyenne. I’m surprised the algorithms haven’t taken that into consideration. Surely it knows where I live even if I usually keep all of the location services turned off.

“Plus all the things that all these ‘people’ think are great at these stores, I wouldn’t drive 50 miles to buy. Like whole-grain Dijon mustard at Trader Joe’s or maybe it was Costco, I can’t keep it all straight. Or squiggly knife-cut-style noodles, organic rainbow cauliflower, Brazilian-style cheese bread—I’m sure it’s delicious but I bet that’s why I got the headline reminding me about weight loss. Sliced Korean rice cakes...”

“The rice cakes will help with your calorie counting,” Becca said dryly. “PIZZA! Let’s get back on track.”

“Okay, there were 17 on the list, with Totino’s Party Pizza at the bottom. The ultimate opinion was that it was for kids or people who didn’t know any better. And I think he’s right, but it doesn’t mean it isn’t any good. My dad lived on Totino’s Pizza, partly because he could buy them for a buck a piece.

“He would keep them stocked in the freezer, break one in half or quarters, and heat it up for dinner. When I came home, he’d be generous and heat up the other quarter for me. Totino’s is a thin enough pizza that you need to eat the whole thing just to get full. Dad would grudgingly cook the entire pizza because a quarter just wasn’t enough for me. Remember, we’re talking about a 50 cent meal, here.”

“Well your dad didn’t have many teeth left and he was old. He didn’t need that much food. You were 40 years younger,” Becca reminded me. How she knows this stuff, I have no idea. She wasn’t even born when he was alive.

“Well, I lived on Totino’s during law school. I had next to no money and it was a cheap meal. And then I discovered Tombstone. It’s a step up for just a little bit more and it is still my favorite frozen pizza,” I told her.

“Does the list agree with you?” Becca asked. “I’m guessing cheap makes the bottom of the list.”

“Well, the 5-cheese Tombstone came in at #13. In between was Whole Foods 365 Thin Crust Pizzas, and Amy’s 4-Cheese Pizza. I’ve never heard of Amy’s. Newman’s Own Thin & Crispy Uncured Pepperoni Pizza was #12. The gripe was that it was too thin. Next, Freschetta Mushroom and Spinach was described as ‘not the most exciting.’”

“Spinach doesn’t belong on a pizza,” Becca said. “Neither does barbeque.”

“Funny you should say that because the California Pizza Kitchen BBQ Chicken came in at #4. The chicken was juicy and the sauce not overwhelming. And I agree with you that barbeque doesn’t belong on a pizza.”

“Neither does chicken,” Becca said. “What else? What was #1?”

“Well, a couple of the DiGiorno Original Rising Crust Pizzas landed in the top 10, as did a Freschetta Naturally Rising Crust Pizza. The problem with these thicker or rising crusts is the chewiness of the crust. Some liked all the dough, others didn’t.

“Tony’s Pepperoni Pizza came in at #5, Red Barron Classic Crust Pepperoni at #2 and...”

“Number 1! Number 1?” Becca said, practically drooling.

“Tombstone Roundhouse!” I said. “Actually, I have never heard of this version of Tombstone. It’s a loaded pizza with a good crust. At least that’s what the list said. But my favorite new frozen pizza didn’t make the list: Chicago’s Home Run Inn, specifically the sausage and pepperoni pie. The crust isn’t as

robust as the Tombstone, but the pizza's great. It's also about twice as expensive as Tombstone and 4 or 5 times greater than Totino's."

"So we're having pizza tonight?" Becca said, nodding hopefully.

"Well, I am. I have one slice left of Chicago's Home Run Inn. And it's Friday's free fries day at McDonald's. And peanut butter to round out the meal."

"Seriously?" Becca said. "Fries, pizza and peanut butter? I think I'll stick to my dog food, and you need to get to a grocery store."

"It's our final choir practice tonight before our concert on Sunday," I said. "Grocery store will have to wait."

And just so you know, the internet is still offering up food lists: "I'm a busy dad of 2 who shops at Trader Joe's. Here are 17 things I love to buy for easy meals during the school year;" "I work at Aldi and cook for my family of 4. Here are 9 high-quality dinner items I can't believe I got at the budget grocer," and "I'm a Brit who moved to the US and made Trader Joe's my go-to store. Here are 10 things I get there." It's just endless. Moral: Be careful what you click on.

P.S. Concert is Sunday at St Mark's at 2 p.m. It should be a great concert! The pieces are fun and challenging and in a couple of places in a couple of the songs, we may just blow you out of your seats with sound!

Spring 2024 Challenge

Buy a scrap bag (or more than one), make a quilt (top is sufficient), and bring the top to the store by JUNE 1--come to the Free block of the Month to show it, if you want. Your name will go into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate! For each scrap bag you buy, you can enter another quilt. 3 bags, 3 quilts. 1 bag, only 1 quilt. You can also mix and match the bags, so you can buy multiple bags, swap the fabrics back & forth and make as many quilts as you buy bags. Minimum size on the quilts is 50" X 60". You can add any other fabrics to the mix as you like, but you must use some of the scraps from the bag in your quilt.

We will take a picture of you and your bag(s) when you buy so we can at least spot a couple of the scrap fabrics in your quilt. Any quilt you make counts, even quilts you make in class. Just be sure to remember which fabrics came out of the scrap bags, in case you're asked.

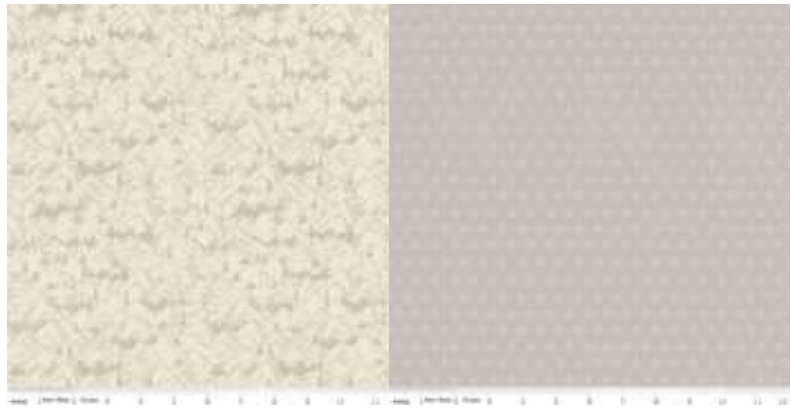
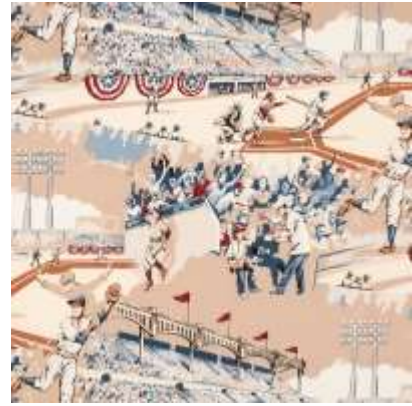
New Fabric



From Kennard & Kennard

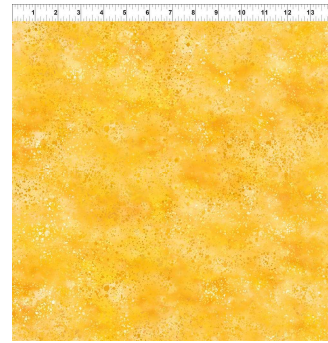
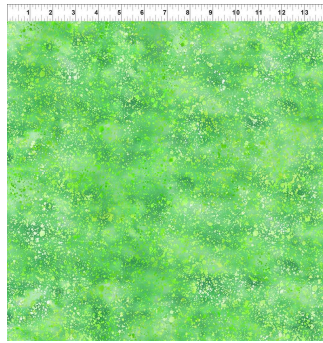


From Alexander Henry

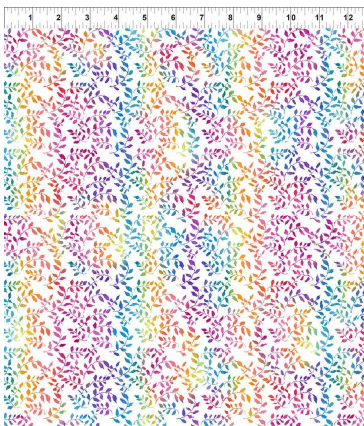
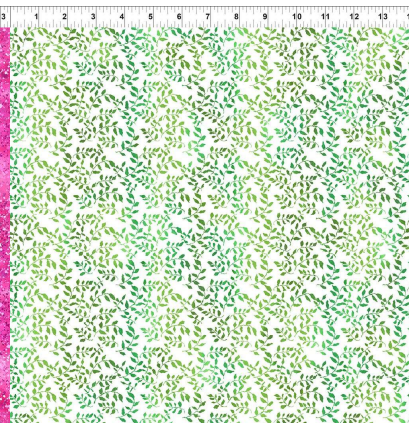
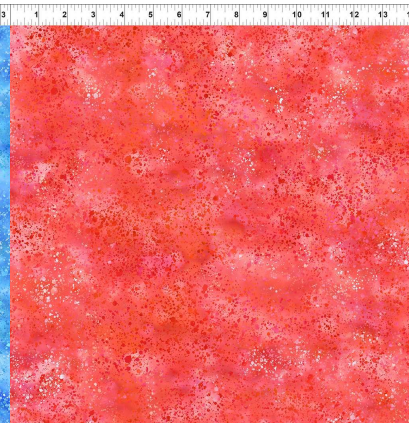


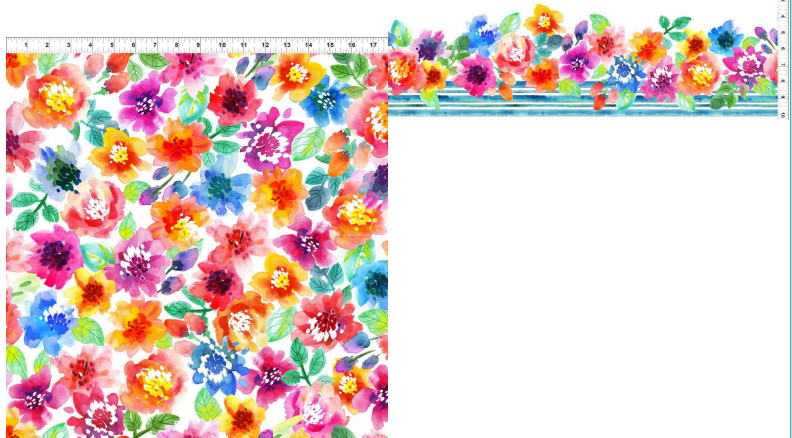
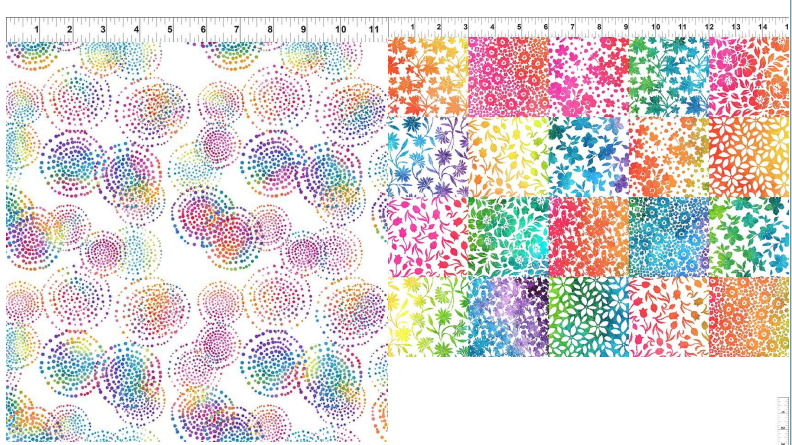
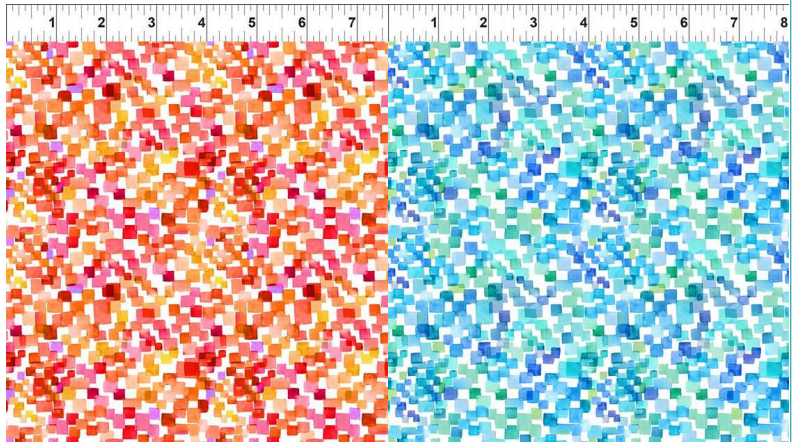
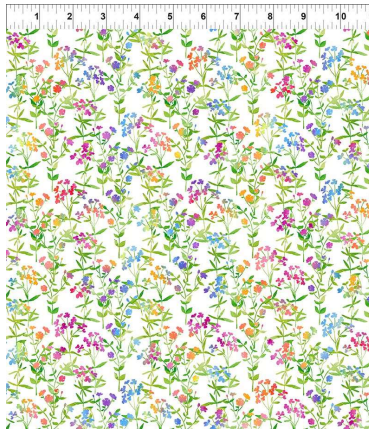
From Riley Blake





From In the Beginning: **We've made 6 kits: \$175. 4 are sold.** If you are interested, don't wait too long. We have enough fabric to make 1 more kit, maybe 2. We will have a class this summer to teach the blocks & the applique.

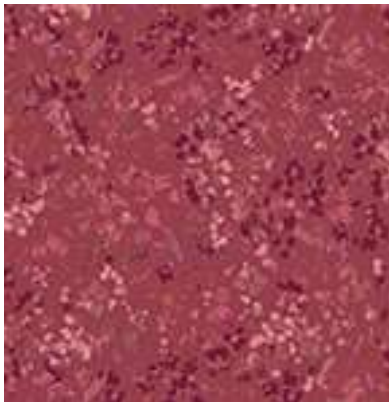
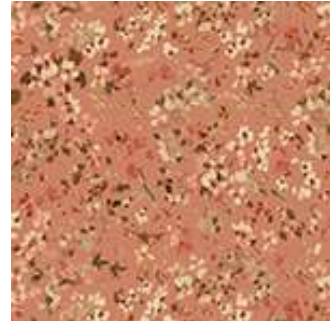
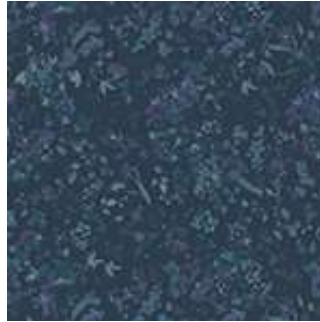
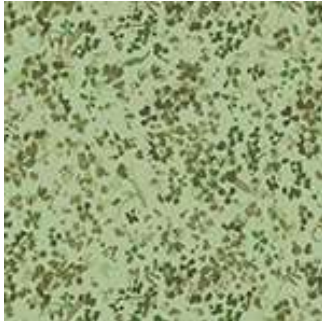




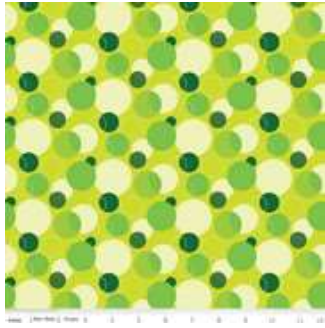




From QT--some good panels for one block wonder class in the fall



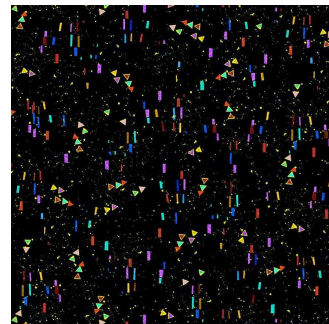
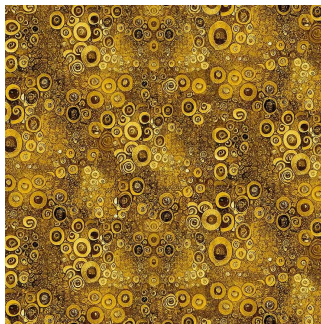
From Windham



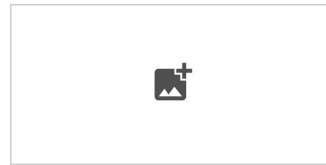
From Riley Blake, the green plus 10" square packs



From Hoffman



From Timeless Treasures



From Riley Blake



From Hoffman



CLASS NOTES

T-Shirt Class

I'm keeping the first class on May 4, but I am going to repeat the first class on May 11 and then hold the second class on June 1, from 1-5. I had some of my own scheduling concerns that I've fixed, so I can keep the May 4 date. But for those of you who couldn't make the May 4 class, I will repeat it on May 11. For everyone who can come on May 4, you have options: Come May 4 & June 1, come May 11 & June 1, or come all three days. LOL. Just talk to me and we can figure it out.

In The Beginning Quilt Kit

For those of you who bought the kit, Jean and I have started making the blocks. There is plenty of fabric in the kit, so there is some room for cutting errors. Also, we will have a class this summer to teach how this quilt goes together. In the first class, I will give you different cutting instructions for several of the blocks. Mainly, we will increase the size of all half square triangles by 1/8" inch. But there is also a flying goose construction that we will cut differently. All of this means: don't cut prior to the first class. For those of you not taking the class, you can cut exactly what the pattern says and you will be fine. But if you want my changes, please consider joining the class. If you can't take the class, and want my changes, come in and see me.

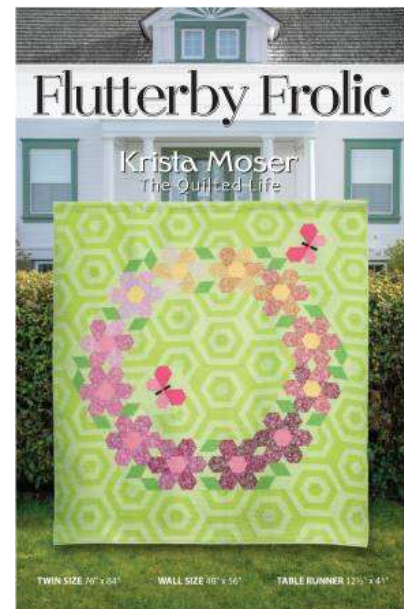
APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Hand work Club 2-5	3 Long Arm class 10:30	4 Long Arm Rental Day	5	6 BOM 10:30 Machine Binding 1-4
7 CLOSED	8	9 Hand work Club 2-5	10 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	11 Long Arm Rental Day	12	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon Disappearing Triangle Quilt 1-5
14 CLOSED	15	16 Hand work Club 2-5	17 Long Arm class 10:30	18 Long Arm Rental Day	19	20 Alligator Alley Quilt 10:30-4
21 CLOSED	22	23 Hand work Club 2-5 Full Moon	24 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	25 Long Arm Rental Day	26	27 Big Foot Quilt 10:30-4
28 CLOSED	29	30 Hand work Club 2-5				Color of the month: yellow

MAY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Long Arm class 10:30	2 Long Arm Rental Day	3	4 BOM 10:30 T-shirt Quilt Part I 1-5
5 CLOSED	6	7 Hand work Club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	9 Long Arm Rental Day	10	11 Embroidery Club 10-noon T-shirt Quilt Part II 1-5
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand work Club 2-5	15 Long Arm class 10:30	16 Long Arm Rental Day	17	18 Strip Quilts 10:30-4
19 CLOSED	20	21 Hand work Club 2-5	22 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	23 Long Arm Rental Day Full Moon	24	25 Kirista Moser Weekend: Flutterby Frolic: Kirista Moser Quilt 10:30-4
26 Kirista Moser weekend 1-5	27 Kirista Moser weekend 10:30-5	28	29	30 Long Arm Rental Day	31	Color of the month: whites

1-r Alligator Alley; Decoupage;
Wildflower; Stack n' Whack;
Travel Duffle; Butterfly; Jelly
Roll Race Quilt; Disappearing 9-
Patch; Disappearing Triangles;
Flutterby; Hunter's Star; Big Foot





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 ... come in January and find out!

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 are sheep! From Crabapple Hill

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.

April Classes

Disappearing Triangle Quilt Sat April 13 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt is similar to the Disappearing 9-patch, but it takes the concept to a new level. This is another of the 9-patch, cut apart & put back together quilt, but it adds a triangle feature, that when made with bright colors is spectacular!

Alligator Alley Sat April 20 10:30-4 \$40 Jean Korber

This simple triangle quilt can be cut and sewn in a day. Okay, maybe not a day, but it is easy and yet looks complicated. We have some very cool fabric that we are holding back for class members—if you are interested in using this fabric, let me know IMMEDIATELY! We have limited quantities and we're only selling it to class members. But the cool thing about this quilt, is you can use any fun fabric you like and you'll get a gorgeous quilt.

Big Foot Quilt—Yeti by any other name Sat April 27 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

This is an Elizabeth Hartman quilt. With luck, we will have some more Big Foot fabric in the store by class time, but right now we have some great background fabrics that will make your trees and Big Foot look like they are in the middle of a forest. Of all the Elizabeth Hartman quilts, this is one of the easiest. And if you want more Big Feet Big Foots? in your quilt, you can add extra. You can also make them all different colors, because, after all, they are magical.

May Classes

T-Shirt Quilt Sat May 4 & 11 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer

So you've got all these t-shirts and want to turn them into a quilt? It's easy, but you need the right tools. The class is taught in 2 parts: First, preparing your t-shirts, and second, designing your top—which is where I come in, because I can help with all of the math that might be involved.

Let's Strip! Quilts Sat May 18; July 20; Sept 21 and Nov 16 10:30-4 or 5 Jean Korber and Barb Boyer \$130

May's quilt is Daydream, which is essentially a form of a spiderweb quilt. The blocks are made from triangles cut from strip set panels. By making more stripped panels you can make the quilt as big as you like. This is a great way to use up scraps, even ones that aren't 42" wide.

Krita Moser Flutterby Sat May 25 Jean Korber Saturday class only \$45

CHANGE ABOUT THE RETREAT. I AM OUT OF TOWN THAT WEEKEND, SO WE ARE NOT HAVING THE RETREAT. WE WILL TRY TO THIS AGAIN OVER ANOTHER LONG WEEKEND WHEN I AM IN TOWN.

Jean will teach the quilt Flutterby by Krista Moser. This is a newer pattern by her and uses the same ruler, a 60 degree diamond ruler, that has become her signature ruler. If you have not done one of Moser's quilts, they are great, easy and will teach you how to handle bias. You will also meet other students who are familiar with these patterns and love them.

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). 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2-5.

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.

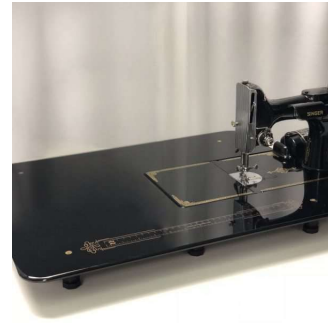
Full Moon Days: January 25; February 24; March 25; April 23; May 23

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



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 needleup/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



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