

Exciting news!

We are launching a new web page! This is a soft launch.

Michelle Gess is the inspiration behind this new look. She has done all the work. And I am learning. So for now, you can click on this link to see what we're up to. Let me know what you think.

<https://sites.google.com/view/aroundtheblockquiltshop/home>



January 31, 2025



So I worry about the strangest things.

For example, my hair. I am of the age where most people start to go gray. I'm not. I do have some "plastic" hair, hair that is essentially colorless. But it's not gray. Most people would say, that's great! But I worry that people may think I dye my hair and wonder why I've chosen such a drab color. It's not even the dishwater blonde color from my teenage years. It's not even mousy brown. It's just kind of off color light brownish with no highlights.

Don't get me wrong. I don't mind my hair color. If I minded, I would dye it. But I worry what other people think of my color and whether they think I deliberately dye it that color.

So why am I worrying about this, you ask. Well, my 50th high school reunion is coming up, and.....I'm going. Everyone there will either be bald, gray haired or platinum blonde. Maybe a few pink & purple hairs. And then there's me. And they will all wonder....why did she choose....

I also worry about Yellowstone blowing up. I didn't use to worry about this until I read Bill Bryson's book, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, and learned about the supervolcano that is Yellowstone. That was about 30 years ago. But I haven't been worrying about that for 30 years. No the panic began as I was reading *Supervolcano: Eruption* by Harry Turtledove. This book fits the booklist category of alternate historical reality, otherwise I probably would have quit reading it. And not because it was causing me panic; it was because it was a terrible read.

In the book, Yellowstone blows up. But not before the various characters are established, each of whom has separate stories that get told. Have you ever watched any of the multiple narrative, ensemble cast movies like *Towering Inferno*, *Love Actually*, *Contagion*, *Airport*, etc. Various unrelated cast members tell individual stories that usually kind of come together at the end. That's the plot device for *Supervolcano: Eruption*. It's rather annoying.

The book is more invested with the various characters (whom I could never keep straight) than with the actual eruption. I actually missed the sentence (I'm listening to the book, not reading it) about what happened to Wyoming. The scientist (one of the characters that you follow) who is in Yellowstone when it starts to erupt, and manages to get to Montana before the caldera completely blows, and then the character in Colorado who wakes up to ash falling and she

manages to get to Kansas. And another character in a plane over Nebraska who manages to survive after the plane turns around and lands in a lake.

But Wyoming? I think the author said the state was toast, or the equivalent to that. And there was no further discussion. And it makes sense, in a way. Not that many people live here, so there's not that much to tell, especially if no one survives the explosion. "And Wyoming was covered in feet of volcanic ash." End of story.

But I wanted to know where I would go, and how much time I'd have before the ash covered me completely, and what I should take, and how far I should go and in what direction. I also resolved to keep my car gassed up, because if the power went out, I wouldn't be able to get gas and then how far could I get. The woman in the story who lived in Denver only got as far as mid Kansas before her car quit, because of the ash. And then she had to live in a refuge camp for the rest of her life. Or at least until the end of the story. I certainly don't want to end up like that.

I worried about this for days. I've always assumed that Cheyenne was far enough away that I would have time to escape. Now, based on a ridiculous disaster book, I'm not so sure.

I also worry that I won't live long enough to read all of the books I want to read. But sometimes I just can't dive into those historical non fiction books about the revolutionary war, or the biographies of various famous long dead people. I figure I have plenty of time for those things, but I'm beginning to worry that my book list is way longer than my years to read.

I worry about other things, normal things, like will I need to put in air conditioning at my house because of climate change, will I have to buy a new car eventually or will this one last for 30 more years, or will the political state of our country drive me to relocate in Canada or a Caribbean island, or will I ever get to Antarctica, or

should I buy another riding lawn mower or just hire a service for next year. You know, normal kind of things.

But most of the things you worry about, you can't control. So it's better to be happy instead. Or use Newt Scamander's philosophy, from *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find them*:

Jacob: Tell me — has anyone ever believed you when you told them not to worry?

Newt: My philosophy is that worrying means you suffer twice.



.Spring Challenge

I know, winter just got here, but this challenge will end on May 3, so spring. We're looking forward.

There are two parts to the challenge, but you don't have to participate in both parts. First, we are going to be making the Potato Chip quilt block. This block is all over the internet and it has been around for a long time, under various names.



The first challenge is to make a potato chip block quilt that is 50" X 60" (minimum size, you can make it bigger). Instructions will follow. You can set these blocks any way you want. I'm showing the quilt with simple 2 ½" sashings and posts, a 2 ½" inner border and a 5" outer border, but I will provide additional settings in the coming weeks.

You quilt top must be finished by May 3.

The second part of the challenge is to make a block for sharing. You can make as many sharing blocks as you like. Each time you bring a block to share, your name will be put into a drawing. Depending on how many blocks we receive, we may have several winners. Each winner will receive a grouping of blocks that you can turn into a quilt! For example, if we get 48 blocks, we will have 4 winners of 12 blocks each. If we get 12 blocks, we'll have one winner.

The pattern starts with 2 ½" pieces. You need 18, 2 1/2" X 4 1/2" rectangles for each block. Note: Some of the potato chip blocks use 2" strips. You are welcome to use that size, but for the blocks you turn in, you must use 2 ½" strips.

Click on the link for the pattern:

[Spring mystery 2025](#)

BINGO!

We're starting another game. The bingo challenge is to encourage you to finish projects, learn new things, take classes and buy a little product from ATB.

Bingo Rules

1. You get the original card for free. This card is set up with the harder squares appearing in only one column or row. For the most part.
2. Extra cards are \$1. Beware: The additional cards are randomized. Which means you may get a card with easy rows....or hard ones.
3. When you have completed a square, in order to get credit you must bring in the item, with your card, and I will stamp your square.

4. No teams. This is not a collaborative effort.
5. Contest will run from January 17 through July 1.
6. Quilt tops are acceptable for all squares requiring a block or quilt be done, except for the Finish 2 quilts square and the Give a quilt as a gift square.
7. One quilt top, quilt or block cannot satisfy multiple squares. For example, the quilt that is used for the Finish 2 quilts square, cannot also be used for the Put a binding on a quilt square. If you use both batiks and florals in an ATB BOM block, you can only count that block as one square: either using a floral, or using a batik or doing a BOM.
8. Quilts and blocks must have been started no later than January 1, 2024. You can dig back that far in your unfinished pile of projects, but go back no further.
9. Free classes count toward the Take a class from ATB. So attending a BOM or the Free Embroidery Class or the Hand Sewing group on Tuesdays, will count as one class.

Prizes

Anyone who completes a row or column or the traditional X on the card will get a fat quarter. I know, not great incentive, but....

If you complete 2 rows you get 2 fat quarters, 3 rows, etc. Per card. Maximum # of fat quarters, per card, is 4.

Now for the big prize

If you fill every square on the card AND you are the first person to turn in your card, you will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

I will also have 2 more “consolation” prizes for the second and third place finishers.

I have also provided a link to this information. [Bingo Game](#)

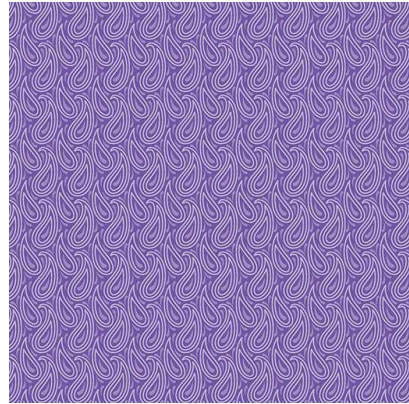
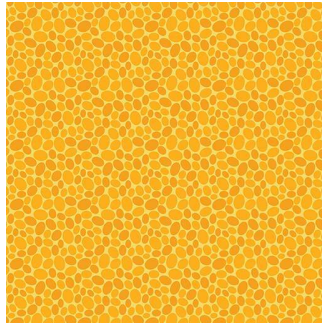
ATB B I N G O

Finish a quilt top using a panel	Take a class at ATB	Make a BOM from ATB	Share fabric with a friend	Learn to use a new ruler
Make a block or quilt using florals	Use batiks in a block or quilt	Take another class from ATB	Put a binding on a quilt	Finish a flannel quilt top
Buy border fabric from ATB	Finish an ATB Mystery or Challenge quilt	FREE SPACE	Make a foundation pieced block	Put a label on a quilt
Give a completed quilt as a gift	Buy a pattern or book from ATB	Finish 2 quilts, including binding	Add embroidery to a block or quilt	Take another class from ATB
Make 10 flying geese	Make another BOM from ATB	Buy backing fabric from ATB	Make a pillowcase	Complete a Christmas project

allbingocards.com

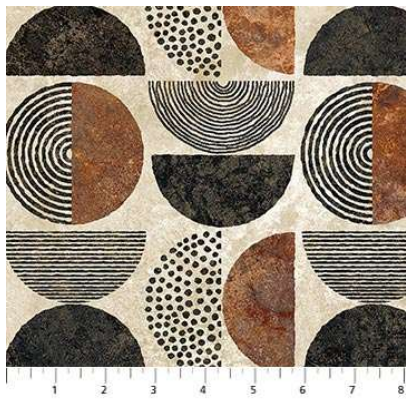
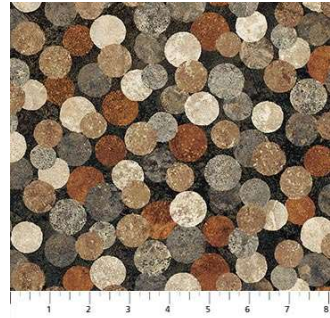
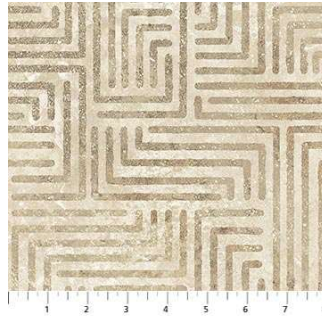


New Fabric



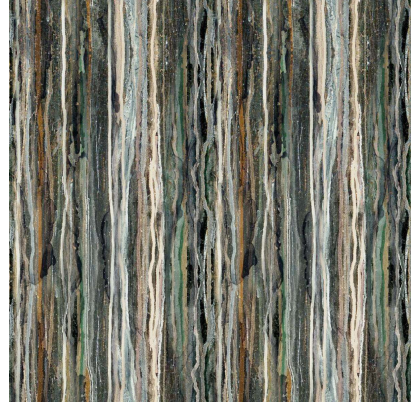
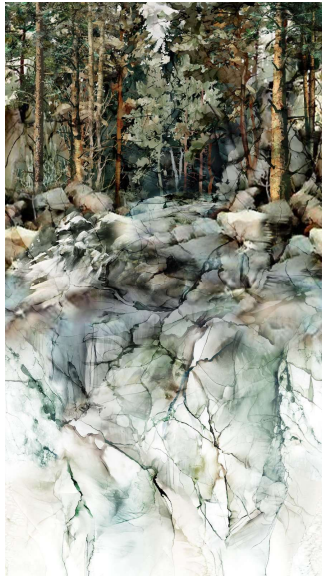
From Benartex, the first image are 10" squares, 42 pieces

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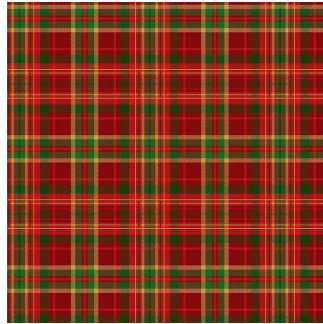


Northcott

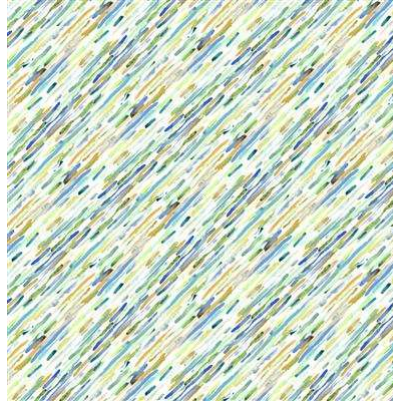




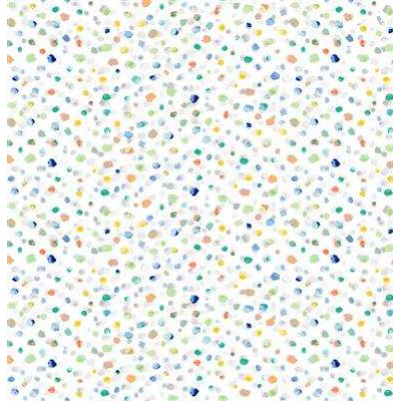
From Northcott (second image is also in wideback)



From Marcus Bros and Timeless



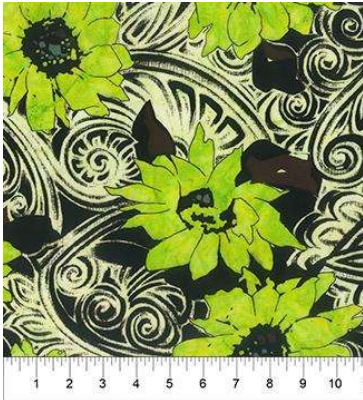
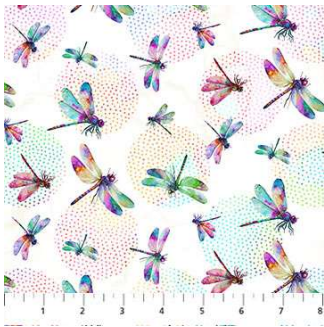
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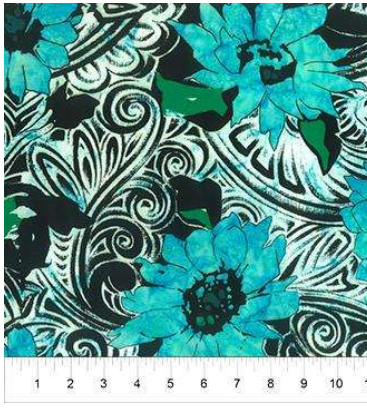
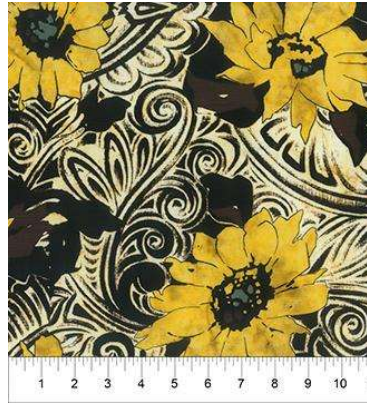
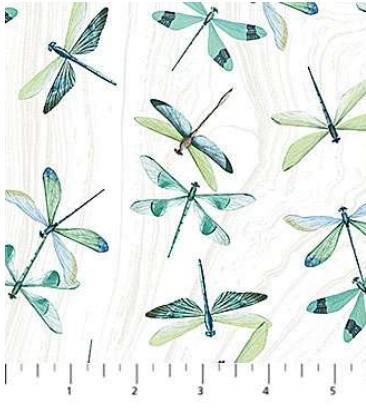
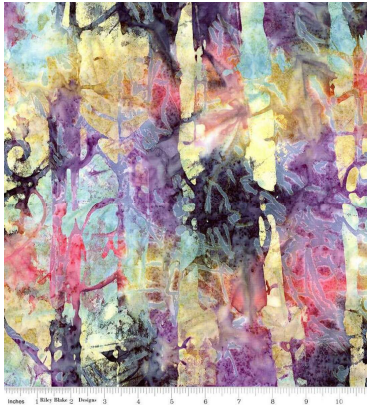


From Michael Miller



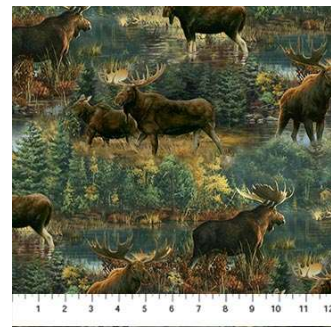
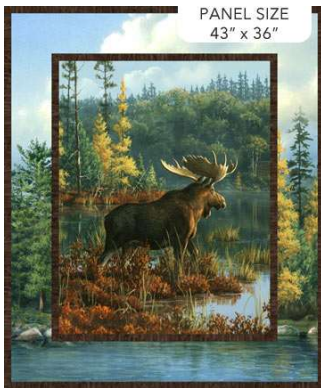
From Northcott



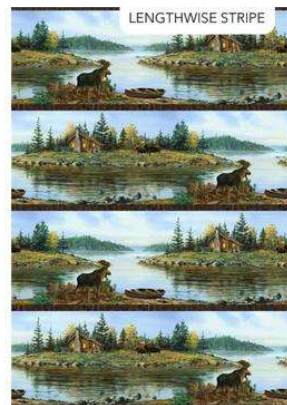


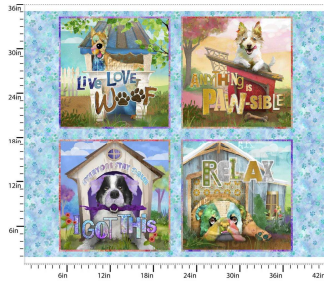


From Quilting Treasures

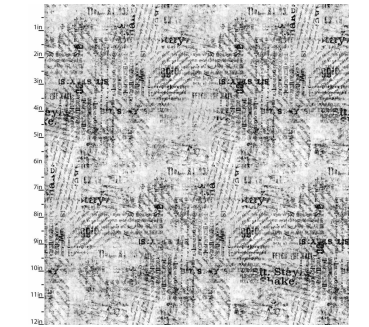
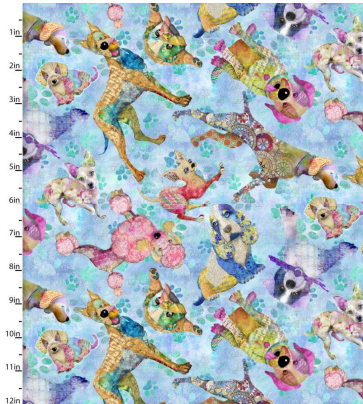


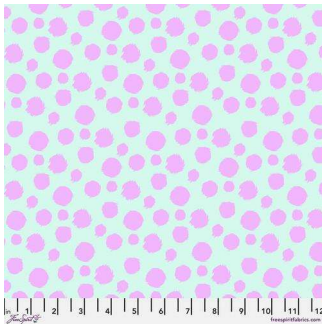
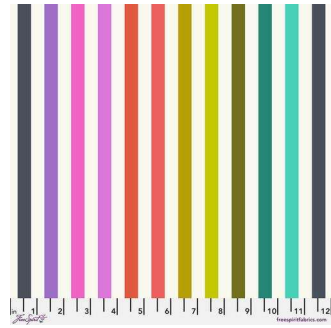
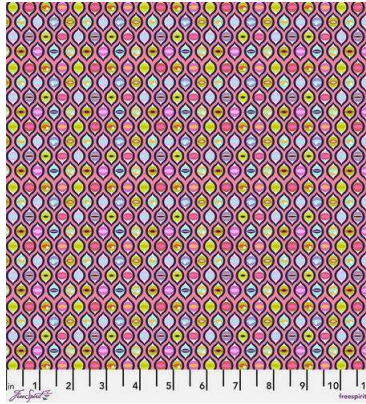
From Northcott





From 3 wishes





From Tula Pink



Full Moon Days: January 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday) NOTE: These did not get onto the calendar

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		CLOSED	1 CLOSED	2	3	4 10:30 BOM Pillow Case Party! 1-4
Pi5 CLOSED	6	7 Hand Sewing club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers 2-5	9	10	11 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Flannel Snowballs 1-5
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand Sewing club 2-5	15	16	17	18 Delectable Mountains 10:30-4
19 CLOSED	20	21 Hand Sewing club 2-5	22 Knit Pickers 2-5	23	24	25
26 CLOSED	27	28 Hand Sewing club 2-5	29	30	31	

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Machine Binding 1-4
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon
9 CLOSED	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 Counterpoint Part 1 10:30-4
16 CLOSED	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 6 Quilts, One Book 10:30-4
23 CLOSED	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Tennessee Waltz Part 1 1-5
2 Beginning Quilting 1-4	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Merry Snowmen 1-4
9 Beginning Quilting 1-4	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 NATIONAL QUILT DAY
16 Beginning Quilting 1-4	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 Counterpoint Part 2 10:30-4
23 Beginning Quilting 1-4	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	29 Cats in PJs 10:30-4
30 Beginning Quilting 1-4	31					

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 is Modern Herbal Block of the Month by Sewn Wyoming.

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.

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 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday)

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 and Book of the Month

January dogs and cats; February red; March green; April blue; May flowers

January classes

Delectable Mountains Sat Jan 18 \$45 Barb Boyer

From the book *Scrappy & Happy Quilts, Limited Palette, Tons of Fun* by Kate Hendersen. The book is out of print, but you can find it on used books sites, like Amazon. To make the mountains, you will also need the Creative Grid Ruler, 2 Peaks in One, and a special ruler for the largest mountain will be provided in class. The mountain block is a form of a “kite” construction. You will learn how to use the templates to create perfect mountains.

February Classes

Machine Binding Sat Feb 13 1-4 \$45 Jean Korber

This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10” to 40”, table runner, small wall hanging, place mat, etc) that is quilted and ready for binding. In class Jean will show you how to cut your binding, press it, and stitch it down (DO NOT CUT YOUR BINDING IN ADVANCE), how to stitch it down & miter the corners and then how to apply decorative stitches to the edge. In class you will cut your binding, stitch it to your project, miter your corners and then stitch it down by machine on the other side, using decorative stitches.

Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

The pattern is by Mountain Peak Creations. The quilt provides large spaces to showcase fabrics. Follow the pattern for fabric amounts. While the quilt has few parts to sew, it is tricky to get things lined up properly. We will show you the easy way to keep the quilt square and perfectly pieced. No special rulers are required.

6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.

6 quilts, 1 book, every other month, 1 price for all 6 classes. (or \$35/class if you pick & choose). This is our third year doing 6 quilts out of one book. This year the book is a Christmas book, but don't be fooled. Our sample quilts include a Halloween quilt, a dog quilt, a wildlife quilt, an autumn flavored quilt, a star quilt (the Christmas quilt) and a dragon quilt. We want you to learn something new in each class. The book is Simply Modern Christmas by That Patchwork Place. This is another out of print book so look for it on the used sites, like Amazon. The first quilt we will teach is Argyle. 2 is Coming Together, 3 is Joy, 4 is Funky christmas, 5 is Snowball Games, and 6 is Peppermint Float

March Classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Mar 2

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer

This is a classic quilt design that incorporates the 54-40 of Fight block and a snowball block. The result? The quilt will look curvy, but it's all pieced straight. Pattern will be given out in class. You will need the 2 Peaks in Once ruler by Creative Grid. Yardage needed for a 61" X 70" is app. 2-3 yards of the focus fabric for the center squares, 1 ½ for the stars and 1 yard for the 4-patch squares. Border app. 2 yards.

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45

Pattern Merry, Merry Snowmen by Bunny Hill Designs. The applique in the sample quilt is done with wool. We will teach both wool options, traditional needle turn or finished edge applique, or raw edge applique. Skill level: Confident beginner

NATIONAL QUILT DAY SATURDAY MARCH 15 DEMOS AT NOON

We will have a special sale for National Quilt Day. We will have demos and other activities going on, TBA.

Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber ongoing

Cats in PJs Sat March 29 10:30-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

This is an Elizabeth Hartman Cats in Pajamas pattern. Follow pattern instructions for fabric amounts. And think creatively about fabrics for the cats and for the PJs. Footballs, stripes, dogs, plaids, ballerinas—anything you can think of for cute PJ fabrics. And the cats can be all different colors, and some may have different tail and ear colors, as well.

April Classes

Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer ongoing

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing

Fanfare Sat April 19, 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Fanfare pattern by Krista Moser required. Follow pattern instructions for fabric requirements. You will also need the Creative Grid 60 degree triangle ruler, 8 1/2" size. Skill level: Intermediate

6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.

The second quilt we will teach is Coming Together.

May Classes

T-Shirt Quilt Sat May 3 & 24 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.

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing

Drip Drop Sat May 17 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$45

The quilt is in Graphic Quilts book by That Patchwork Place. We have copies. Templates will be provided for the curved pieces. Follow fabric requirements in the book. Skill level: Intermediate



Normal Shop Hours:

Monday-Saturday 10-5:30

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

