



May 3, 2024

ENOUGH. ENOUGH. ENOUGH.

It snowed yesterday. How do I know this? Well, first, I live in Wyoming. Second, I was sitting at the dentist office, one of my least favorite things to do, and I watched forlornly as the flakes drifted by the window. Third, I'm still wearing my winter sweaters. Fourth, it's still May, after all.

So I console myself with...it could be worse. And there is a lot worse going on across the nation. Remember the woman who had just gotten back from a trip to Missouri and her main complaint about the weather was it rained so hard the windshield wipers couldn't keep up. It's probably good she couldn't see beyond her windshield that day. She was traveling right through the middle of a huge bunch of tornadoes. And she didn't even know it. And that same weather story just continued all this week.

And my traveling companion for all things singing informed me that I couldn't take onions with me on trips. Do you remember last week's post about using onions to improve your health and foot smell? Just as well. I'm sure it wouldn't work.

And it's gray. Winter gray. Just dismal. And the northern lights could be visible tonight, but I don't know if the clouds will go away. Probably not. I'm just not that hopeful. I'm channeling Eeyore, here, if you're wondering. Do you remember Eeyore? He is the gloomy donkey from Winnie the Pooh. He lives at the edge of the Hundred Acre Wood in a place called Eeyore's Gloomy Place. He's famous for his pessimistic sayings, like, "After all, one can't complain. I have my friends. Somebody spoke to me only yesterday. And was it last week or the week before that Rabbit bumped into me and said 'Bother!'"

Eeyore's Gloomy Place could be called Cheyenne right about now. I can also hear him saying:

"Don't blame me if it rains."

"Could be worse. Not sure how, but it could be."

"It's snowing still. And freezing. However, we haven't had an earthquake lately."

"When your tail is missing, remember you have every right to mope."

"It's the only cloud in the sky and it's drizzling, right on me. Somehow, I'm not surprised."

"I never get my hopes up, so I never get let down."

"The sky has finally fallen. Always knew it would."

"The nicest thing about the rain is that it always stops. Eventually."

"If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient."

"Don't worry about me. Go and enjoy yourself. I'll stay here and be miserable."

Survival mode. That's what we're in. Looking for sunshine in a gloomy world.

I thought things were bad in 2016. Little did we know what was to come. Then I thought things were bad in 2020, and it just got worse. So how do you cope?

Crafts are great stress relievers, but I'm not sure that's going to be enough.

So instead, let's turn to food, always a great comfort. And what pops up on my computer screen this morning but a site talking about not just comfort food, but cheap comfort food. There is a difference.

Like pizza bread, where you take a French loaf, split it, load it up with Velveeta cheese, tomato sauce & maybe some pepperoni slices, nuke or broil it and you have instant pizza.

Or chicken parm, using chicken nuggets, spaghetti, Kraft parmesan cheese and cheap pasta sauce. Put it all on a plate, heat and eat. And the ever popular mac & cheese varieties: with hot dogs, with sausage, with tuna, with veggies, with canned tomatoes, with chicken or any combination of things. Another trick with the macaroni is to cook it in milk, sweetened with sugar and vanilla. Toss cheese on top and bake.

Or this rather disgusting suggestion: "Rice and chicken porridge. Grab some rice, cook it with cheap chicken parts, and boil it all until it turns into porridge. Add salt and pepper, remove chicken bones, and stir it so the rice and chicken mix together. It looks terrible, but it's so comforting to eat during the winter." As Eeyore might say, "Could be worse. Not sure how, but it could be."

This week I tried left over turkey from Thanksgiving and a jar of Rao's 4 cheese sauce, thinking it would be a little like a Turkey a la King. Not so much. On the last, and final, meal I melted a half stick of butter, added Parm & gruyere cheese and flour and stirred it into the leftover pasta & turkey. I should have done that earlier.

So hope for clear weather tonight, but don't hope too much. Even if it clears, we probably won't see the northern lights. And it will probably snow tomorrow. But as Eeyore might say, and has said on his better, wiser days:

"It never hurts to keep looking for sunshine."

Spring 2024 Challenge

The challenge deadline is approaching. Many of you have brought your quilts in to show me and I think I have everyone ticked off. But to make sure, if you can come to the block of the Month on June 1 to show your quilts, that would be great. But, rest assured, we won't draw for the winner until I know I have everyone's name in the pot. And you can always call me to remind me how many quilts you've done. I haven't taken pics of the quilts -- we'll do that at Block of the Month. And I do know that all of the ones I've seen so far, you've used the scraps from the bag. I recognize the fabrics. And the quilts are beautiful!

Calendar for June-August is displayed below. Some of the classes are self explanatory, like Machine Binding and Machine quilting. The Sew Spring Quilt is the In the Beginning quilt, now hanging by the register, that we kitted. We still have 2 kits left. I am teaching it over several different days: June 8, June 29, and August 3 and 10. We may not need all those classes, but the summer schedule got a little whacky.

Jean is teaching a quilt as you go class, that we're calling Triangle Log Cabin. If you are interested, we will have a supply list and preliminary cutting suggestions, and a picture of what we're doing.

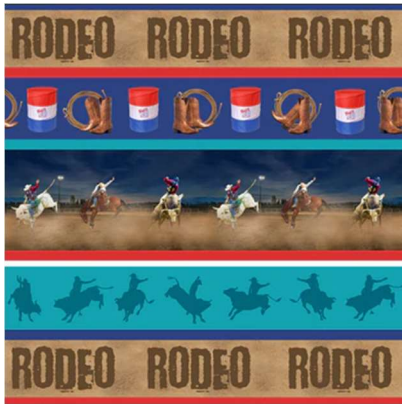
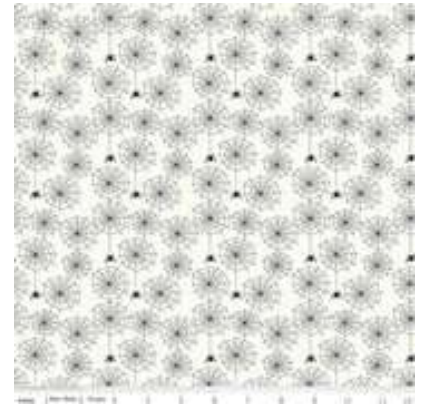
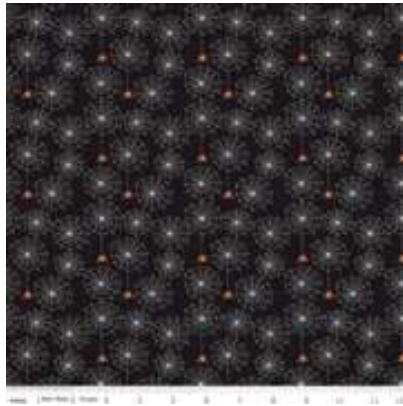
I'm teaching a paper bag log cabin quilt, where I'll teach you the basics of making a scrappy log cabin. It's a great class for color confidence. You will need a bunch (3-4 yards) of dark & medium fabrics cut into 1 1/2" strips (by any length) and the same amount for lights. Choose one color for your center square--you'll need as many center squares as you do blocks. The size of the quilt and setting of your blocks, will determine how many blocks you will need, but 1/4 yard for the centers will be enough.

For the Machine Binding class, you will need a small quilted project (20" X 20" - 40" X 40", and it doesn't have to be square, just something within those dimensions) ready for binding. Choose your binding fabric, **but don't cut until class!**

For the Machine Quilting class you will NOT need a project. I will supply the materials for you to practice on. You will need a machine that you can either drop of cover your feed dogs AND a hopping or darning foot. If you have a walking foot, you can bring it, but you don't need one.

We have a couple more classes to set in August. So we'll keep you posted.

New Fabric



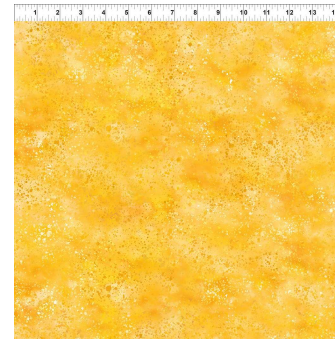
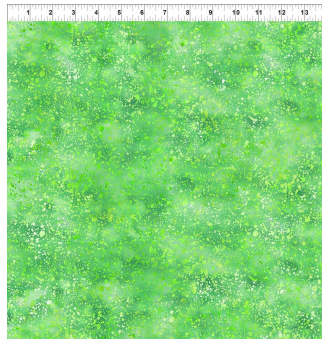
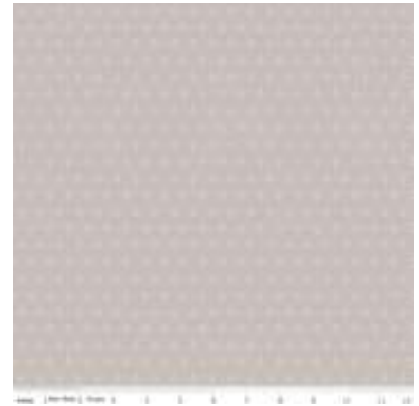
From Kennard & Kennard



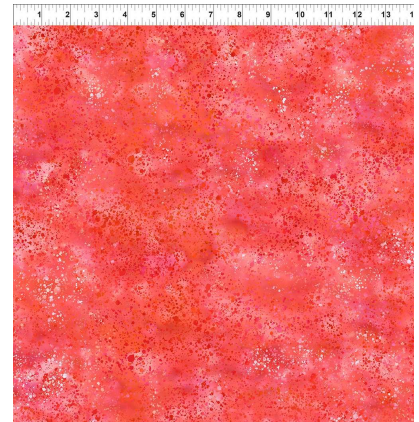
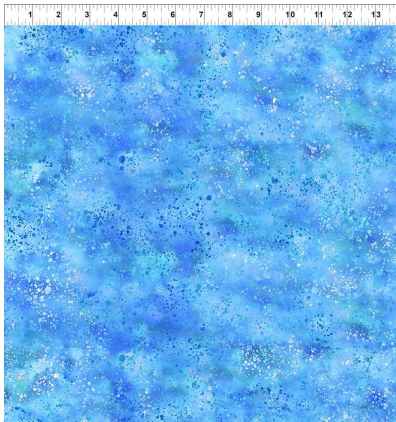
From Alexander Henry

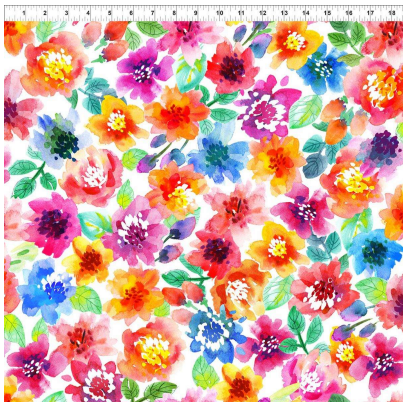
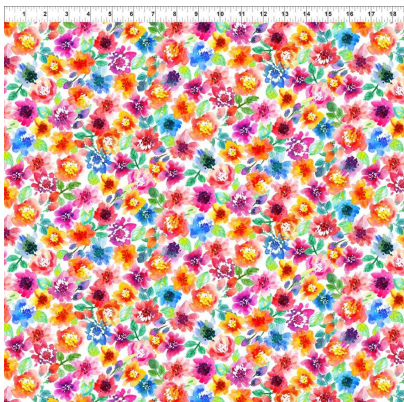
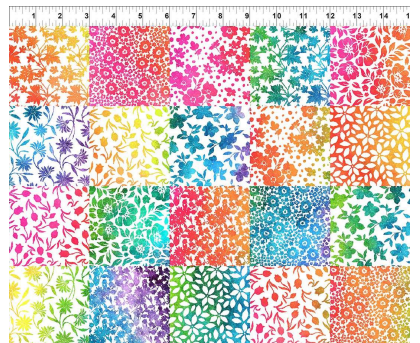
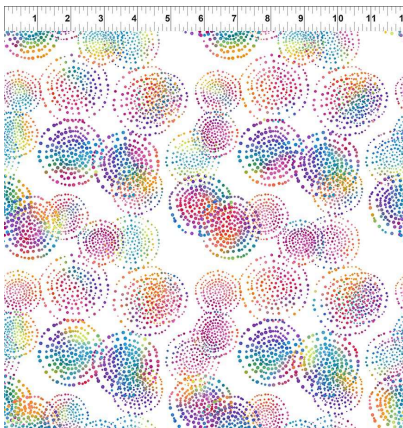
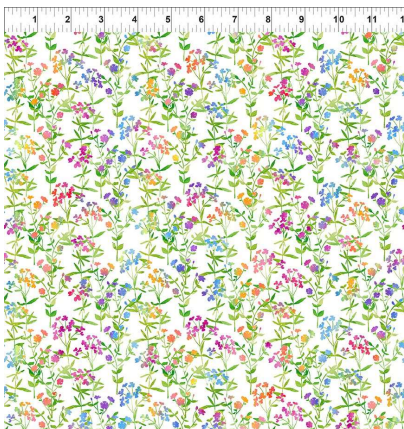
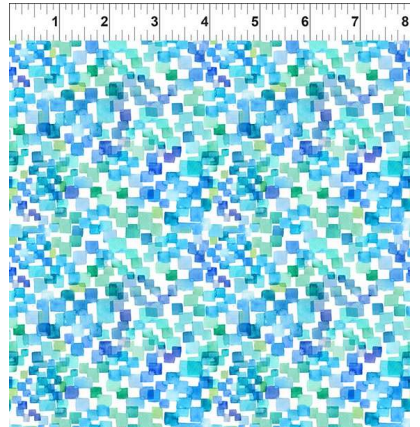
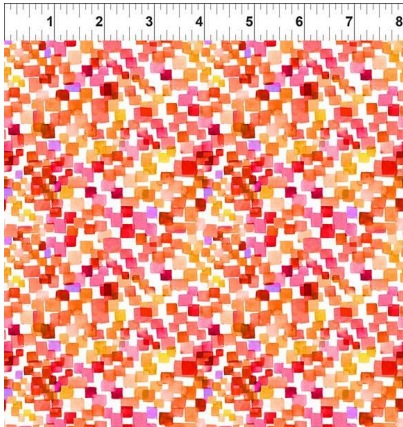
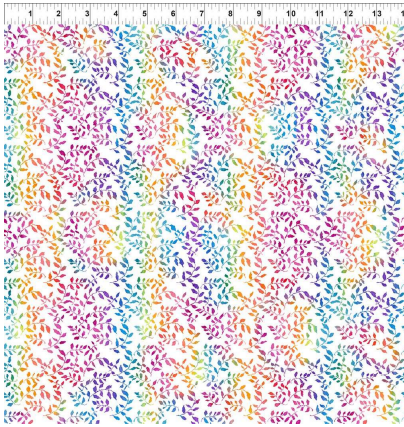
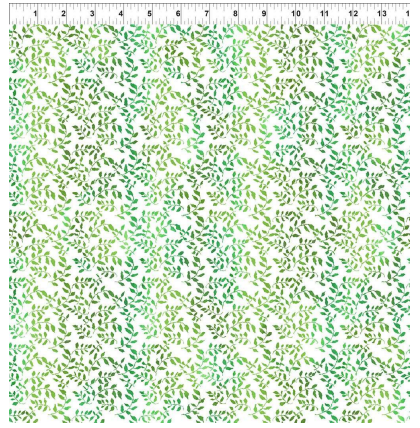
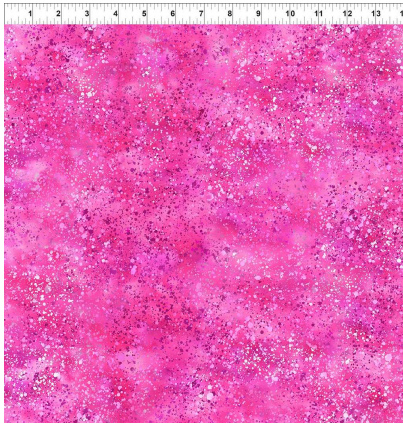
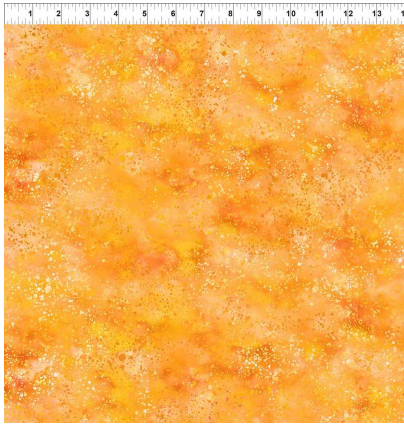


From Riley Blake



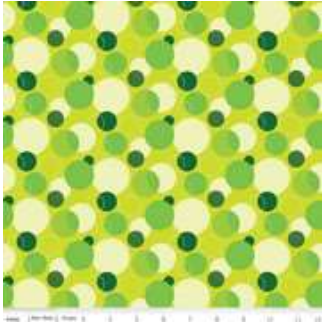
From In the Beginning: **We've made 6 kits: \$175. 4 are sold.** If you are interested, don't wait too long. We have enough fabric to make 1 more kit, maybe 2. We will have a class this summer to teach the blocks & the applique.







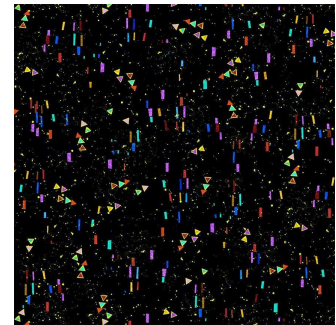
From QT--some good panels for one block wonder class in the fall



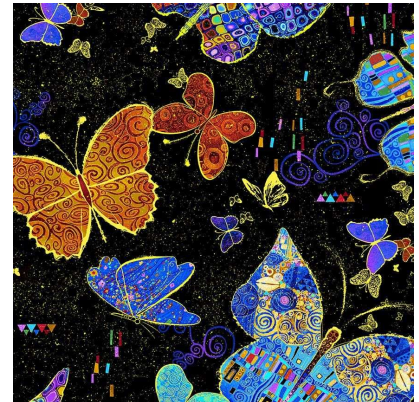
From Riley Blake, the green plus 10" square packs



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

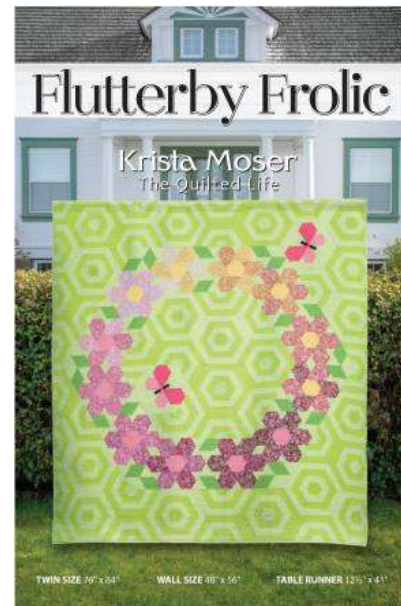
triangles by 1/8" inch. But there is also a flying goose construction that we will cut differently. All of this means: don't cut prior to the first class. For those of you not taking the class, you can cut exactly what the pattern says and you will be fine. But if you want my changes, please consider joining the class. If you can't take the class, and want my changes, come in and see me.

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 Flutterby Frolic: Krista Moser Quilt 10:30-4
26 CLOSED	27 Memorial Day	28 Hand work Club 2-5	29	30 Long Arm Rental Day	31	Color of the month: whites

JUNE 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 T-shirt Quilt Part 1 1-5
2 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Hand work Club 2-5	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
9 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	10	11 Hand work Club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Quilt as you go: Triangle Log Cabin 10:30-4
16 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	17	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21 Full Moon	22 Machine Quilting 10:30- 2:30
23 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	24	25 Hand work Club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	27 Long Arm Rental Day	28	29 Sew Spring Quilt 10:30-4
30 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4						Color of the month: blue

JUNE 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 T-shirt Quilt Part 1 1-5
2 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Hand work Club 2-5	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
9 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	10	11 Hand work Club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	13 Long Arm Rental Day	14	15 Quilt as you go: Triangle Log Cabin 10:30-4
16 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	17	18 Hand work Club 2-5	19 Long Arm class 10:30	20 Long Arm Rental Day	21 Full Moon	22 Machine Quilting 10:30- 2:30
23 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	24	25 Hand work Club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	27 Long Arm Rental Day	28	29 Sew Spring Quilt 10:30-4
30 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4						Color of the month: blue

AUGUST 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: blacks				1 Long Arm Rental Day	2	3 BOM 10:30 Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
4 CLOSED	5	6 Hand work Club 2-5	7 Long Arm class 10:30	8 Long Arm Rental Day	9	10 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
11 Shop Is now open 1-5!	12	13 Hand work Club 2-5	14 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	15 Long Arm Rental Day	16	17
18 Shop Is now open 1-5!	19 Full Moon	20 Hand work Club 2-5	21 Long Arm class 10:30	22 Long Arm Rental Day	23	24
25 Shop Is now open 1-5!	26	27 Hand work Club 2-5	28 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	29 Long Arm Rental Day	30	31



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.

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.

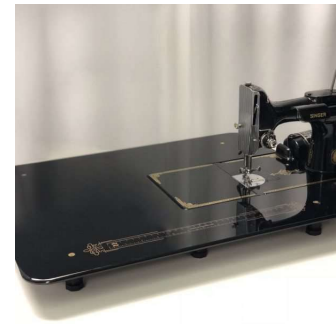
Full Moon Days: January 25; February 24; March 25; April 23; May 23

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

