



May 31, 2024

“Where have you been, young lady!?” I demanded as Becca strolled in dragging a small bag on wheels behind her. Becca, for those of you new to the post, is my mini Australian Shepherd. Sometimes it’s just best not to ask questions. She must have gotten ahold of my copy of Animal Farm and figured if those animals could rig up harnesses to work the farm, she could figure out how to pull a suitcase behind her.

“Well, some place I’M NEVER going back to again. Do you know there are things called tornadoes!” she demanded. And before I could answer her, “In North Platte of all places. You went there to see sandhill cranes. I thought I’d go see Boots and he could take me around to see the cranes.”

Wow. So much misinformation there.

“And I figured that while you were gone, it would be the perfect time. Cassidy would never miss me. She can’t even see me. And the cat’s indifferent.”

“Slow down, Becca. First of all, I don’t even want to know how you got to North Platte. Second, I went when the sandhill cranes were there. It wasn’t tornado season. And if you went last week, then it was tornado season and the cranes were already gone.”

“Well you should warn a person,” she grumbled.

“You mean warn a dog?” She growled at me.

“Well, I went to New York, where the weather was great,” I said. I usually go to New York in January to sing and it’s always cold and often snowy. This time it was hot, or hotter than here, at least. “If you had come with me, you would have met a mini you at a restaurant. She was a cute, little red merle puff ball puppy, just come from a salon.”

“Don’t get any ideas,” Becca growled. “I will not be coiffed into puff ball.”

“No,” I agreed, looking at her. “You don’t have the build for that.” She growled again.

“How about I just tell you what I did in New York while you unpack,” I told her. She agreed and started pulling stuff out of her bag with her teeth. You don’t want to know....

So New York was another singing gig with the Jonathan Griffith Singers, a group of international singers who have performed under Maestro Griffith’s direction for the past....15+ years or so (for me). Dr.

Griffith is the Co-founder and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for the Distinguished Concerts International New York series, which performs at Carnegie and the David Geffen Hall at the Lincoln Center.

The fun part, well there are lots of fun parts, but one of the best parts, well in addition to the performance, was getting to see old friends from previous gigs. Our group has sung internationally and in New York, produced a recording of the Messiah at Abbey Road Studios, performed at historic sites like the Palau de la Musica Catalana, a UNESCO World heritage site; traveled to beaches, museums, wineries, cathedrals; ate fabulous mussels at Figures (Salvador Dali Museum locale) in Spain; and went on a pub crawl to the Puhoi Pub in New Zealand.

“Enough, already,” said Becca, who was obviously bored. “You were talking about New York, right?”

Okay. New York is a city that doesn’t sleep. Everyone knows this. But it is weird to be reminded of it. We didn’t get in until around 10 p.m. and hadn’t eaten because of plane delays. So at 10:30 we head off on foot for food. The lobby was hopping at this hour with either people like us, just getting off planes, or people just coming in from seeing a show, or people just deciding to head out to Times Square to go to the M & M Store. I mean, why not.

We chose an Irish pub in the next block. I had fish & chips. Heidi had a steak sandwich and we shared fried calamari for an appetizer. It’s astonishing how fast and good and hot New York food can be. What’s also astonishing is that not everyone in the pub were tourists. The woman sitting next to us, chatted on her phone the entire time we were there. It was too loud to pick up on her conversation, but I’m betting no tourist would chat for an hour+ (she was there before we got there and was still there after we left) in a noisy pub. It would wear down your battery way too much. And you need your phone to get Ubers and to tell you which direction is up, down, east, west from where you are standing. If you don’t know your directions, New York blocks can be very long and you don’t want to go the wrong way.

Our rehearsals started the next day at 8 a.m., which I’ll explain more about next week. We were done just in time to catch a 2 p.m. ferry to Liberty Island. Our Uber guy had the coolest tech for getting around. The cameras in the car reflected the actual traffic in real time, including pedestrians, on his big screen on the dash. But he was not familiar with where the best drop off point for the ferry. Either that or he didn’t want to go around the corner and down a long block. Consequently, we walked a bit to get to the ferry.

And it was warm. And sunny. And I had left my hat at home, which actually made Heidi happy ‘cause she really doesn’t like my floral floppy hat. She even volunteered to buy me a new one, so long as it wasn’t one of the embarrassing bucket hats with cat ears sticking out. Since the ridiculously funny hats were all I was interested in I didn’t take her up on her offer.

Battery Park, where you catch the ferry, was bustling. There were lots of fruit carts, where you could get a \$5 large cup of various fruit – papaya, strawberries, grapes, mixed. I hadn’t had breakfast, so I got the strawberries which were fantastic. As we continued to head to the ferry lines, we were almost bull dozed by fruit cart drivers, running down the middle of the sidewalk. It wasn’t until later, when we got off the ferry, that Heidi figured out these fruit sellers move back & forth from incoming ferry passengers to outgoing ferry passengers, and they have to hot foot it down the paths to get in the best places to sell their fruit.

The Statue of Liberty is cool. I've been there before, but had not gone inside her. We had tickets to go into the pedestal part (not up to the crown). You can get to the center of the statue and look straight up into the structural work (done by Eiffel himself) of Lady Liberty. The other tidbit I remember is that her "skin," essentially the outside layer of the statue, weighs 62,000 pounds.

Our next adventure was dinner, and because Heidi's family had come into town for the performance, we left it to them to choose a place. Do you know how hard it is to use your phone to find a place to eat while bouncing around in a taxi at 5 p.m. during rush hour traffic in New York? Plus we had tickets to *The Hours* at the Metropolitan Opera that night and we couldn't wait too long to make decisions.

Fortunately, her family picked a place, had reservations, and we headed off. We also invited two of our singing friends to join us. We hadn't had a chance to catch up and thought we'd be able to at dinner.

Have you ever heard of the Starlight Diner? It's a wanna be Broadway singer diner, where all the wait staff sing Broadway and other tunes all during dinner. Did I mention *All During Dinner*. Granted, some of the wait staff had landed Broadway gigs occasionally so they could sing, and granted their voices tended to be in the Broadway kind of caliber, and granted they were for the most part on pitch. But did I mention that they sang *All During Dinner*?

But that wasn't the worst part of the adventure. They sang at ear splitting decibels. No one seemed happy unless the decibel meter, which was on the wall, reached over 100 decibels.

To put this into perspective, anything over 85 is harmful to the ears. I don't think I ever saw the meter reading 85. 90 decibels is the sound of a lawnmower. They didn't sing much at 90, either. 95 is inside a subway car. They didn't sing at that level much either. At 105, which was often where they tried to keep the sound, is as loud as being on a motorcycle. According to charts, 105 is at the average human pain threshold. It's the decibel you start torturing James Bond with.

Needless to say, we couldn't have dinner conversation. We couldn't even chat about how to split up the check. Instead, we were wadding up the napkins to stuff into our ears. Liz said at one point, her inner organs were rumbling. She's a doctor and knows about stuff like that. It was rather a relief to get onto the street of New York where the decibel level was closer to 85.

"Are you going to talk about *The Hours*?" Becca asked. "You're getting a little long winded, and people have more things to do than read a travelogue about New York."

She's right about that. She usually is.

"Okay. I'll save *The Hours* until next week. And our performance of Mozart's *Requiem*."

"Good," Becca said. "Besides, it's time for dinner."

Note: My travel stories are written in part for me, so I can remember. And for the JGS who tune in to the newsletters.

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

Some bad news about the Bucking Horse & Rider fabric. The "chop" that is used to make the horse & rider had to be replaced. I don't know if you are aware of how batiks are made, but typically the print is hand stamped on the fabric. The stamp is called a chop. So remaking the chop took time, then Ramadan hit, which is a month long religious celebration observed in Bali. So the BH&R fabric won't arrive until July. Sorry.





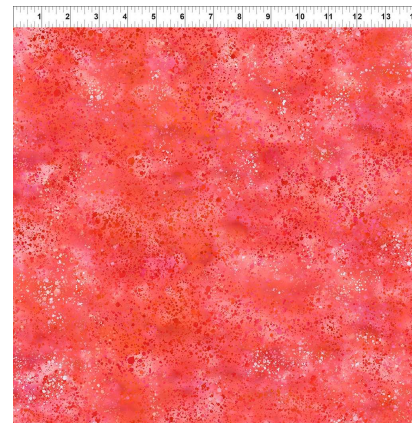
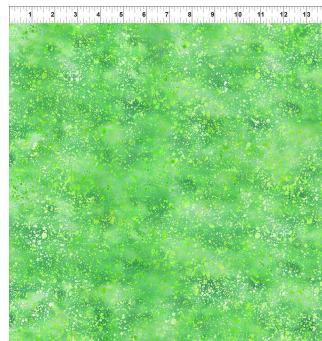
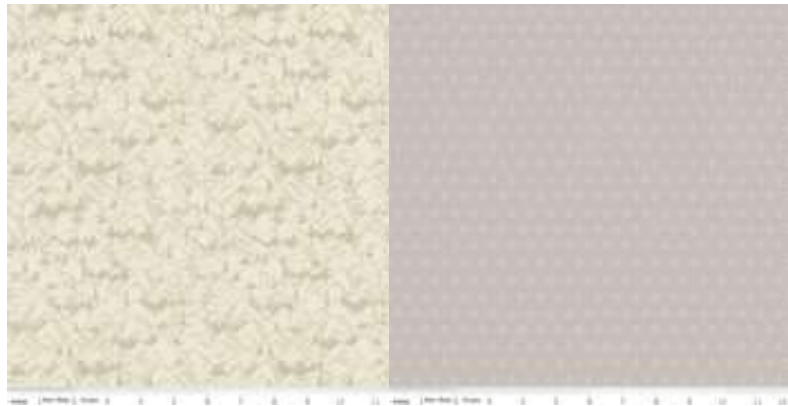
From Kennard & Kennard



From Alexander Henry

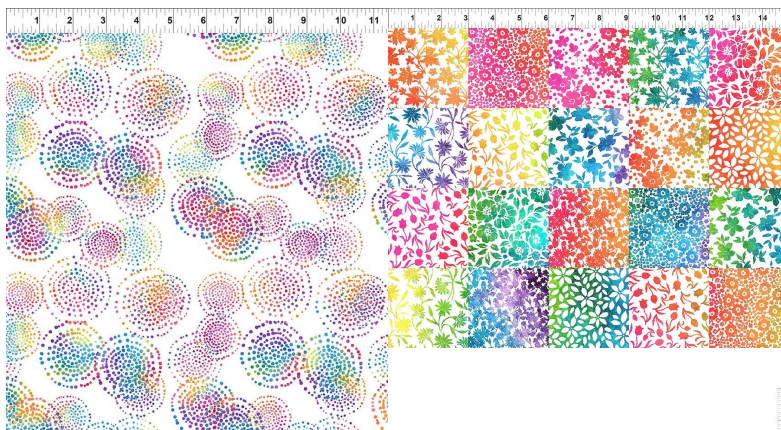
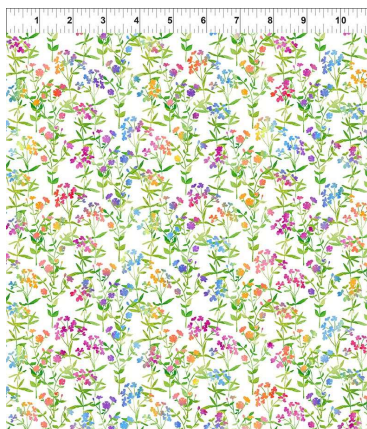
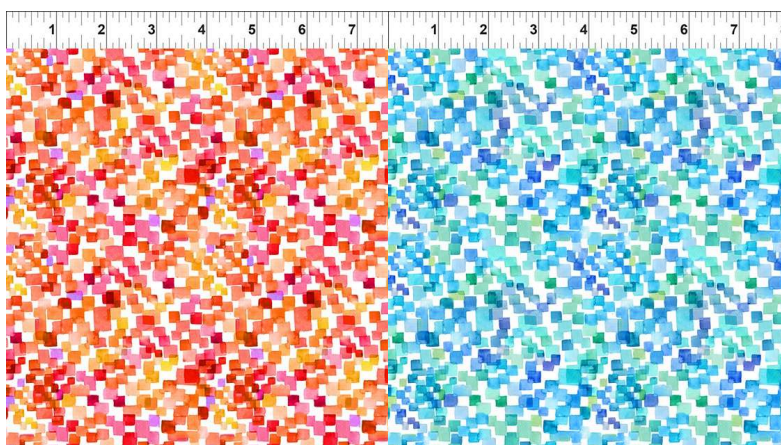
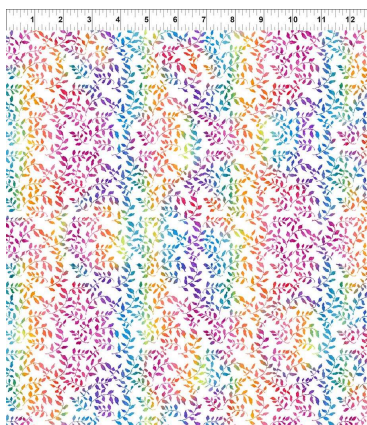
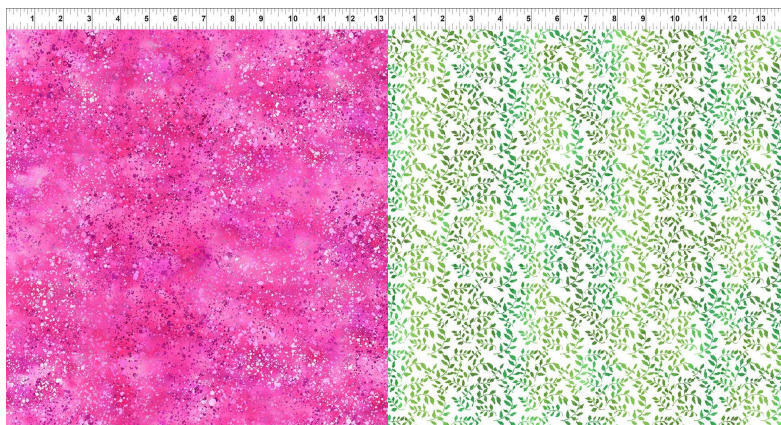


From Riley Blake



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

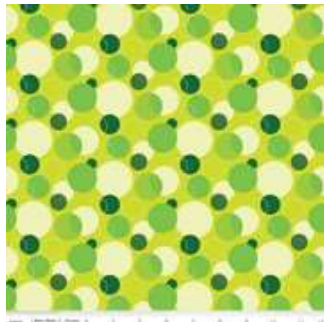
will have a class this summer to teach the blocks & the applique.







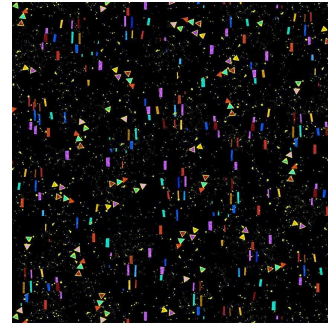
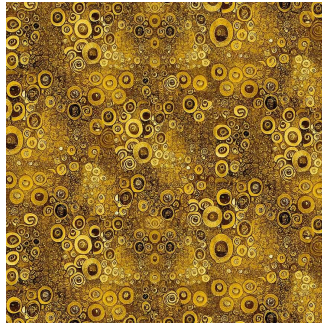
From QT--some good panels for one block wonder class in the fall



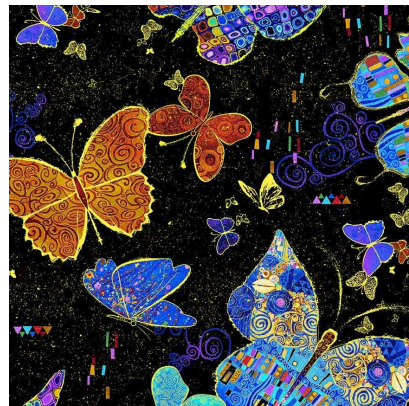
From Riley Blake, the green plus 10" square packs



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.

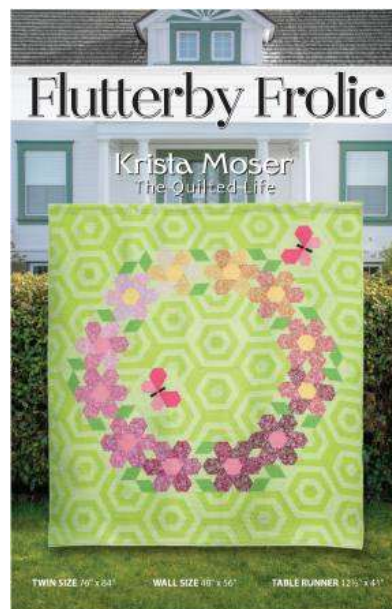
JUNE 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 BOM 10:30 T-shirt Quilt Part 1 1-5
2 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1-4	3	4 Hand work Club 2-5	5 Long Arm class 10:30	6 Long Arm Rental Day	7	8 Embroidery Club 10-noon Sew Spring Quilt 1-4
9 Shop Is now open 1-5! 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

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Hand work Club 2-5	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 BOM 10:30 Machine Binding 1-5
7 CLOSED	8	9 Hand work Club 2-5	10 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	11 Long Arm Rental Day STATE QUILT Meeting	12 STATE QUILT Meeting	13 Embroidery Club 10-noon STATE QUILT Meeting
14 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	15	16 Hand work Club 2-5	17 Long Arm class 10:30	18 Long Arm Rental Day	19	20 Strip Quilts 10:30-4 Full Moon
21 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	22	23 Hand work Club 2-5	24 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	25 Long Arm Rental Day	26	27 Paper Bag Log Cabin Quilt 10:30-4
28 Shop Is now open 1-5! Beginning Quilt 1- 4	29	30 Hand work Club 2-5	31			Color of the month: Christmas

AUGUST 2024

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



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.

Krista 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



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

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



Try email marketing for free today!