



October 25, 2024

If you're not a literature major or were never forced to read something written by Sophocles, you've probably never learned about the Greek Chorus.

The Greek Chorus is a group of people, either women, soldiers, villagers, or elders, that stand around the stage and comment in unison about the action on stage. They might reemphasize an important point or chant about something the hero might be doing. They are there to make sure the audience understands what's going on. They typically speak or chant in unison. If you are reading a play, the chorus is pretty easy to spot, because the lines usually are tagged as "chorus."

I learned this stuff in a high school Humanities class, where we read all sorts of classical stuff. And yes, I was one of those (voiced with lots of emphasis) that liked Sophocles and Dante and Homer, etc. But it was years later that I discovered, quite by accident, that the concept of the chorus is still used by modern day writers.

For example, Bonanza. Remember Ben Cartwright, his 3 kids and those fabulous horses? Well, I was watching a rerun, and Ben was addressing the town's people about something, like...."We need a posse to go round up those outlaws! Who's with me?" Actually, Ben probably wasn't the one asking that question. It would have been some right minded town's person out for vengeance. Ben would have been off to the side, shaking his head because arming a posse is usually a really bad idea. But the

town's people would be all worked up and they would holler back, "Yeah! Let's get 'em! Everybody meet at 9 p.m.!" or something to that effect.

The town's people all voicing unison consent about something is the equivalent of a Greek chorus. They act as one voice, they support a plot point of the story and they drive the story forward, for good or bad. You see a lot of chorus activity in Westerns, any movie that requires mobs, or even in a show like *Little Shop of Horrors* where the Do Wop sisters sing and comment on what is going on with Audrey 2, the carnivorous plant. I am counting on the fact that you have, underlined have, seen this movie. Don't let me down, here.

So why am I talking about Greek Choruses, you may very well ask? Well, I'm still watching Halloween movies and the Greek Chorus pops up in *Halloween Kills*, a really dreadful addition to the Halloween franchise. It also pops up in *The Wicker Man* and *The Lair of the White Worm*, a very early Hugh Grant movie where Hugh Grant, once again, plays Hugh Grant.

Now, you know I watch these movies for your benefit. Think of me as the screener, to let you know the worthiness of a movie in this otherwise dreadful genre. I do this for you. I'd avoid the Worm movie, although the ending is great, and the *Wicker Man* is not for everyone.

Anyway, in *Halloween Kills*, Michael Myers is back, of course, and killing everyone he meets. The story picks up where *Halloween* (2018) ends. It would serve no purpose to explain the chronology from the original 1978 film, called *Halloween*, to the 2018 film called *Halloween*. Suffice it to say there are 13 films, but only 12 involve Michael Myers.

The plots from one to the next do not always follow a straight line, do not always have consistent characters with the same backgrounds, and do not make sense when watched from the start (1978) to the finish (2022). Don't even try. Forbes' writer, Scott Mendelson called the franchise a kind of "choose your own adventure." The only

consistent thing that can be relied upon is that Michael Myers returns. Regardless of whether he died in the previous movie.

For example, in *Halloween* (2018), the movie basically ignores all the timelines in the intervening movies. Michael has been imprisoned for 40 years and escapes. He hunts down Laurie (the Jamie Lee Curtis character who stopped him in the first movie, 1978), and tries to kill her again. She, along with her daughter and granddaughter, kill him by burning a house down around him. So, he's dead.

Halloween Kills picks up with Laurie, who is injured from that encounter with Myers, being rushed to the hospital. Michael, of course, is not dead, just pissed off and he starts hunting Laurie again and killing everyone who gets in the way. Slasher movie, remember?

Here's the chorus bit. Thought I had forgotten about that, huh? One of the characters is bound and determined that Michael Myers must die. So the crowd that has formed at the hospital – just go with it, because of course everyone would be congregating at the hospital – starts chanting, “Evil Must Die!” Not very original as chants go, but it pushes the narrative, such that it is, forward.

So now, this chorus of town's people start chanting “Evil Must Die” whenever they need to prop up their courage. They run into the street chanting this. They run through the hospital halls after someone who is not Michael Myers chanting this. They chant it while beating Michael senseless or to death. They think they're killing him with sticks. Silly them. Of course, that doesn't work. Spoiler alert. Oh, sorry. I should have told you that before the last sentence. Oh well. Slasher movie. Michael never dies.

So the chant, Evil Must Die, by all the town's people, is the modern day version of a Greek chorus. And like most chants, it's pretty dumb. It doesn't even rhyme. And it's not alliterative. But it's easy to remember, and in today's world most chants have to be simple.

I'm clearly not a fan of chants. I think they belong on a football field or in a pep squad at a school rally. In other settings, I think it just shows a lack of imagination and, generally, intelligence. But that's just me. I watch Halloween movies in October.

And since there are two threads of conversation in this story, Greek Chorus and the Halloween franchise movies, you need to know that the franchise came to an end in 2022 with Halloween Ends. The clue is in the title of the movie.

So Michael meets his end in a movie that still celebrates trick or treating in a town that has probably lost about half of its population (over the years and various films) on Halloween night. But the town of Haddonfield marshals on with town folk decorating for Halloween and encouraging its youngsters to trick or treat.

I mean, I get it. It's a slasher Halloween movie. The plot doesn't have to make sense, and it doesn't. But I will say, the last movie, which presumably has ended Michael Myers, is nicely done.

But I suspect we haven't heard the last from Michael. Cue the Halloween theme music.



Christmas Mystery 2024

Part One

Collecting the Fabrics

Fabric Requirements (quilt size 88" X 94")

Background: 4 yards. Choose a mix of prints, all on the neutral or light side.

Greens: 3 yards. Choose a mix of prints in mediums and darks. You can use prints, even prints with other colors of them. But make sure the overall “color” reads green.

Brown: $\frac{1}{4}$ yard

Gold or Yellow or Silver: 1 yard. This fabric will be the stars. So you could use silver, orange, white. The fabric must stand out against the green.

Inner Border: $\frac{3}{4}$ yard (a little more than you need)

Outer border, cut straight of grain: $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards (a little more than you need)

Back: $7\frac{1}{2}$ yds with horizontal seams. $8\frac{1}{2}$ yards with vertical seams.

Binding: $\frac{3}{4}$ yard

Batting: 100 inches ($2\frac{3}{4}$ yds)

Color choices:

Hint: This quilt has a tree in it. The stars are decorations on the tree. Trees are green. Stars are silver or gold. You could also have a blue spruce tree (change the green yardage to blues), or silver, like an aluminum tree, or a multi colored tree, like a fiber optic Northern Lights tree. You could have a "cat" or a "dog" tree. Or a red tree or a purple tree. The stars can act as ornaments, so they can be all one color, or multiple colors, as long as they stand out against the tree.

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 colors based on the colors in the border.

Christmas Mystery 2024

Part Two

Cutting

From Background:

Cut 90 6 ½" X 6 ½" squares. If you are working from yardage or fats, cut 6 ½" strips and subcut into 6 ½" X 6 ½" squares. 90 is more than you need, but it will give you some choices. Keep these pieces together in one bag:

Cut 9 squares at 7" X 7". Keep these pieces together in one bag:

Cut 2 squares at 3 ½" X 3 ½". Keep these pieces together in one bag:

Cut 4 squares at 2" X 2"; and 4 rectangles at 2" X 3 ½". Cut these piece from the same background. Keep these pieces together in one bag. (**SEE NOTE**).

From Green:

Cut 40 6 ½" X 6 ½" squares. If you are working from yardage or fats, cut 6 ½" strips and subcut into 6 ½" X 6 ½" squares. 40 is more than you need, but it will give you some choices. Keep these pieces together in one bag.

Cut 9 squares at 7" X 7". Keep these pieces together in one bag:

Cut 52 squares at 2" X 2"; and 52 rectangles at 2" X 3 ½". Keep these pieces together in one bag. **SEE NOTE**

From Gold (stars) **SEE NOTE**

Cut 14 3 ½" X 3 ½" squares

Cut 112 2" X 2" squares

NOTE: You need to make 56 flying geese units. If using the Creative Grid flying geese ruler, these units will finish at 1 ½" X 3". You will need 13 4 ¾" squares of green and 1 square of background. You will

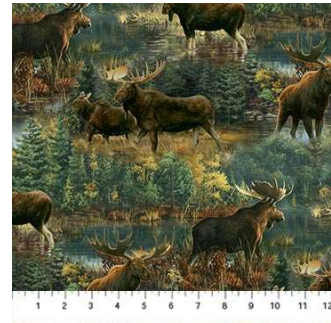
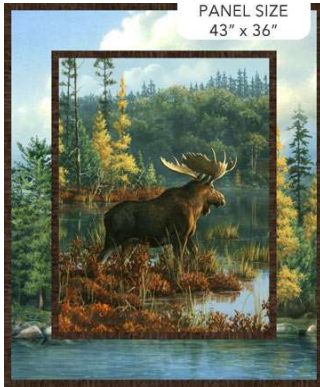
also need 56 squares of gold cut at 2 ¾". Follow instructions on the ruler. Also, make sure that the 4 2" X 2" background squares (see cutting requirements above) match the 4 ¾" square of background, if you are using the ruler.

From Brown

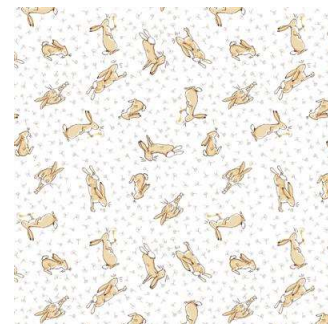
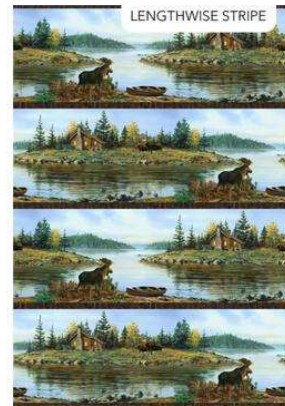
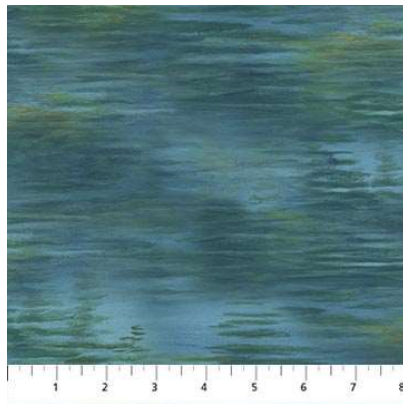
Cut 2 6 1/2" X 6 1/2" squares.

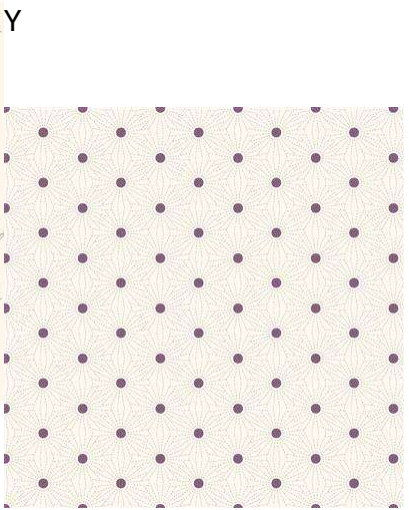
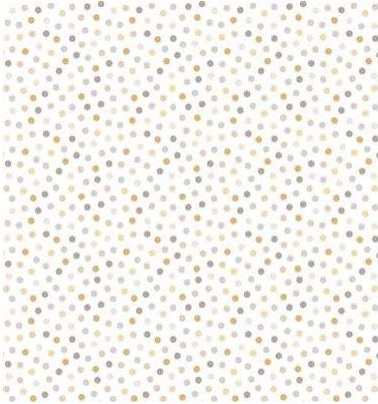


New Fabric

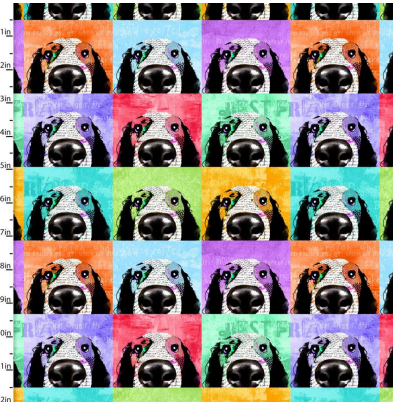
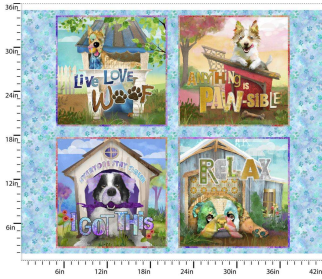


From Northcott

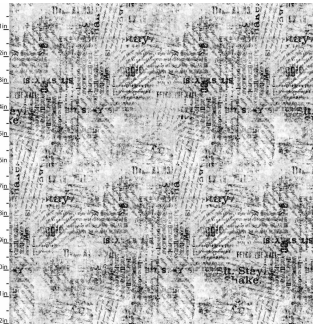
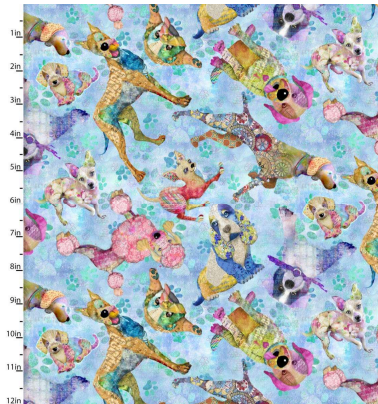




From Clothworks



From 3 wishes

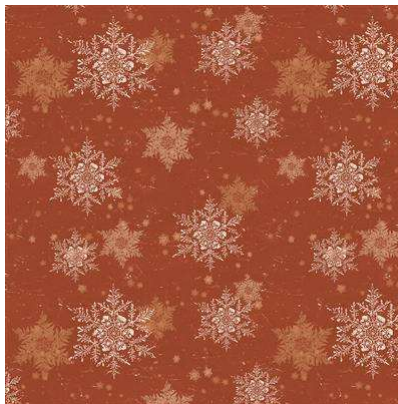
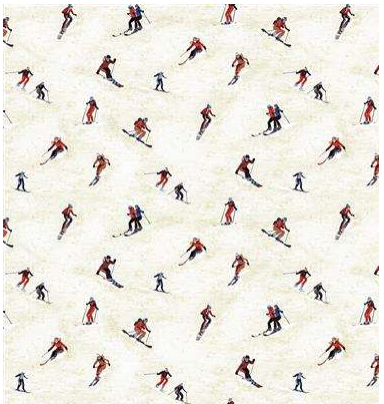




From Clothworks

Flannel

Flannel





From 3 Wishes



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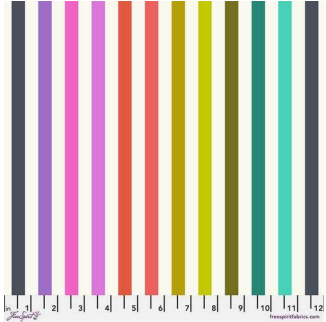
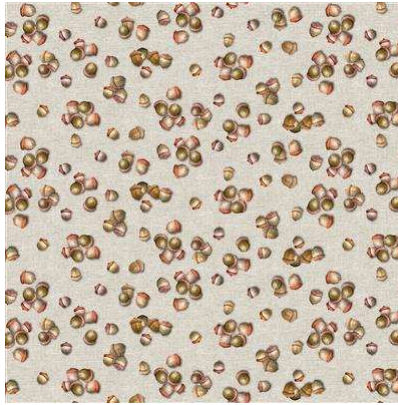


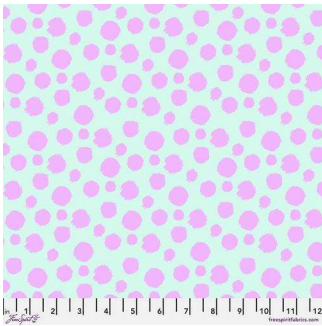
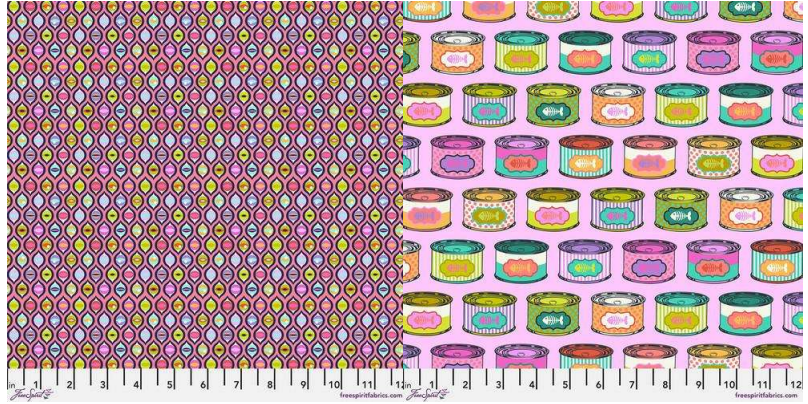
From Riley Blake



From Clothworks: Secret Life of Squirrels II





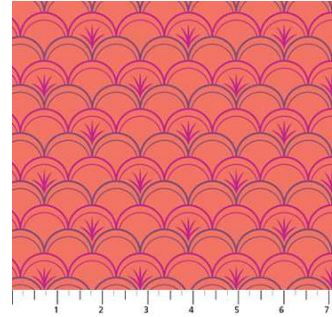
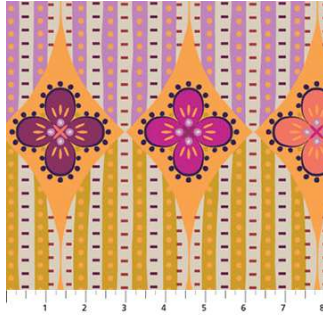


From Tula Pink

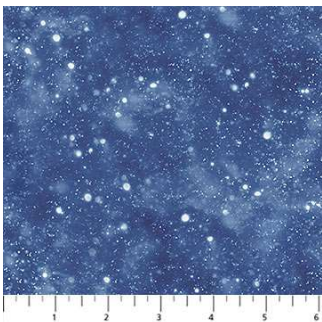


From Dear Stella





From Figo + rolls & squares



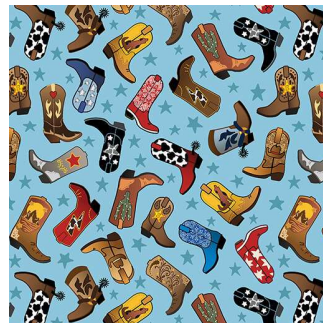
From Northcott: flannel, except for the 2 sports fabrics

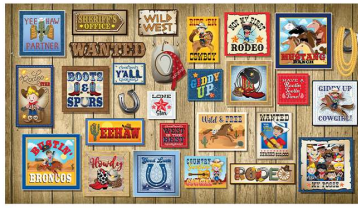


Yoy 7 remaining!"

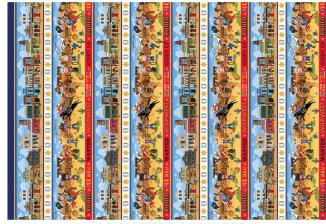


From Hoffman





AS SHOWN 42" X 24"

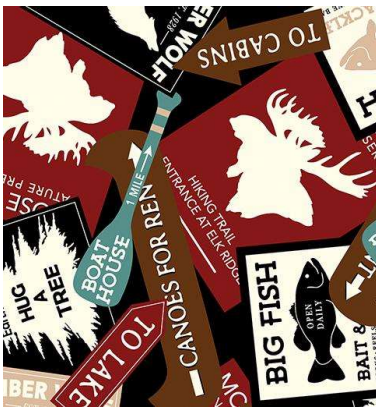
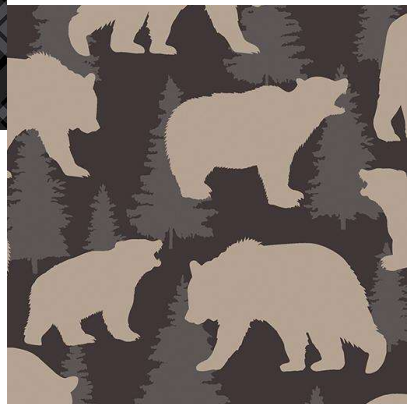
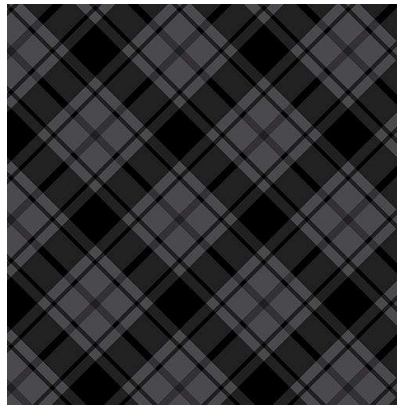
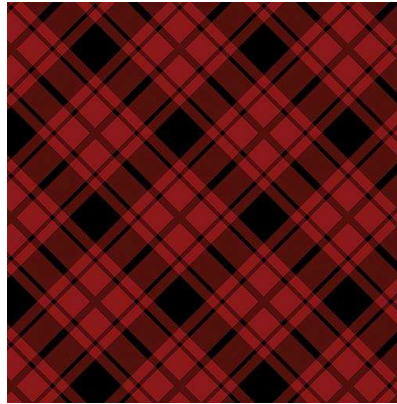
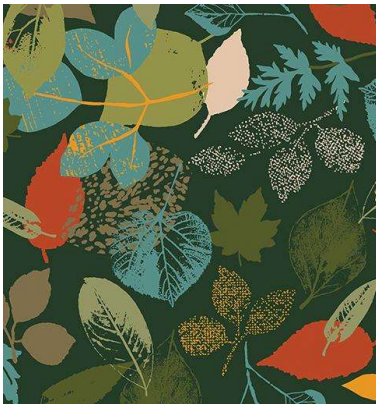


AS SHOWN 44" X 30"
*stripe runs parallel to selvedge



PANEL MEASURES APPROX. 18" X 27"

From Benartex: The fall looking ones are flannel



A Reminder:

First Saturdays of the month, from September thru December, is the Finish Your Quilt Sale! Backing, Binding and Batting are 20% off any of the three, BUT you have to bring in your finished quilt top for show & tell to get the sale price. No exceptions. We want to see your quilts!

OCTOBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hand work Club 2-5	2	3	4	5 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Lost Socks 1-5
6 CLOSED Beginning Quilt 1-4	7	8 Hand work Club 2-5	9 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	10 Long Arm Rental Day	11	12 Embroidery Club 10-noon Jingle Pops Christmas Tree 1-5
13 Beginning Quilt 1-4	14 Columbus Day	15 Hand work Club 2-5	16	17 Full Moon	18	19 One Block Wonder Part II 10:30-5
20 Beginning Quilt 1-4	21	22 Hand work Club 2-5	23 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	24	25	26 Travel Bag Part II 10:30-4
27 Beginning Quilt 1-4	28	29 Hand work Club 2-5	30	31		Color of the month: green

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Color of the month: Purple					1	2 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
3 CLOSED	4	5 Hand work Club 2-5	6	7	8	9 Embroidery Club 10-noon Bison Wall Hanging Part I 1-5
10 CLOSED	11 Veterans Day	12 Hand work Club 2-5	13 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	14	15 Full Moon	16 Strip Quilts 10:30-4
17 CLOSED	18	19 Hand work Club 2-5	20	21	22	23 Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt 10 30-4
24 CLOSED	25	26 Hand work Club 2-5	27 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Black Friday Sale	30 Shop Small Business Sale

DECEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 CLOSED	2	3 Hand work Club 2-5	4	5	6	7 BOM 10:30 Finish your quilt sale: 20% off backings, bindings and battings Machine Quilting with your BSR 1-4
8 CLOSED	9	10 Hand work Club 2-5	11 Knit Pickers' Club 2-5	12	13	14 Embroidery Club 10-noon Storm at Sea Part I 1-4 Full Moon
15 CLOSED	16	17 Hand work Club 2-5	18	19	20	21 Storm at Sea Part II 10:30-4
22 CLOSED	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27 Toad Toter Sale	28 Year End Sale
29 CLOSED	30 CLOSED	31 CLOSED				Color of the month: red

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates. NOTE: I will be doing a pillow case workshop in October on Thursdays in the afternoon. I will post the times and details soon.

Also, we did not include Machine Binding in the class schedule, but I will try to include it in November. Details to follow.

We may also do something special on Veteran's Day. So much to plan....

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.

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: September 17, October 17, November 15 and December 14.

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 and Book of the Month

September orange; October Book of the Month; November purple; December red

November Classes

Bison Wall Hanging Parts I & II, Nov 2, 1-5 and Nov 9, 1-5 \$35 Barb Boyer

The Bison Wall Hanging comes from Wyoming pattern designer Sewn Design. The head of the bison is made in a crazy quilt style or from left over bits from your stash. The rest of the bison is created from one piece of fabric. The two pieces are then fused into place on a background. I'll show you how to "window pane" the bison, to reduce the amount of fusible needed for the quilt. Then the bison is secured using a machine blanket stitch—or any other decorative stitch. Part I is making the head and Part II is fusing in down and appliqueing in place.

Let's Strip! Quilts Sat Nov 16 10:30-4 or 5 Jean Korber and Barb Boyer \$130

March's quilt is Tulip Patch. You will need 25 assorted green strips for stems and 25 assorted strips for the tulips, plus background (and borders, if you want them). This quilt teaches different ways to use the 45 degree flip method for making flying geese-styled blocks.

Krista Moser Christmas Tree Skirt Sat Nov 23 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Krista has done it again with a great eloquent tree skirt. We love Krista Moser patterns because they go together so well and look like they are so complicated: Not. We also like offering her classes because the quilts use a 60 degree diamond ruler and we like to get as much use out of our specialty rulers that we can!

December Classes

Machine Binding with your BSR Sat December 7, 1-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Do you have a Bernina and you have the BSR (stitch regulator) and don't know how to use it? This class is for you. Jean will show you the ins and outs of machine quilting on your Bernina with the BSR. This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10" to 40", table runner, small wall nagging, place mat, etc) that is ready to be quilted. When you sign up, we will tell you how to prepare your project so you are ready to quilt in class.

Storm at Sea Sat December 14 1-4 and 21 10:30-4 \$35 Barb Boyer

This quilt used to be intimidating—then a ruler was developed and now it's a breeze! We will work with Deb Tucker's ruler for the construction of the block. We will also talk about various color schemes, one of which includes coloring the blocks to make a heart appear within the design.



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

