



Zig Zag Express

The American Sewing Guild, Columbus, Ohio Chapter



From the President

I hope everyone is having a great spring. This has been a pretty typical spring for us —cool and wet followed by hot and muggy. I have not been sewing as much as I would like because of all the spring gardening my yard has required. But my yard is shaping up and the veggie garden is in so hopefully I will find some time to do what I love.

However, spring is not a time I should be slacking in my sewing room as I have a ton of summer sewing on my agenda. As many of you know, I make most of the bathing suits my girls and I wear and with a pool membership that means more than one suit **each. I also like to make end of the year gifts for my girls' teachers. I usually make** some sort of purse or bag. I try to start these early enough so I can be creative but I have been known to let it go to the last minute. And I have planned summer shorts, tops, skirts, dresses, camping stuff, etc. Am I the only one that plans way more than I can possibly complete?

Three guild events are coming up that I am very much looking forward to.

Our June workshop to make drawstring bags for service men and women is a really great way to use up some unused fabric stash if you want to do some cleaning. Or **one yard of 45" wide fabric is enough for 3 bags. You can download the pattern from** the national ASG site, www.asg.org; click on community service from the left side **screen. This is a 14" bag that can hold a gallon size baggie. We will be adapting the** pattern slightly from the instructions by serging the bags we make.

I am very much looking forward to the Pant fitting workshop in July. I have made **pants in the past but I can't wait to have the experience Carol Coleman will bring to** the event because I know my pants will fit better. If you have not signed up for this three hour workshop, you really should. There is more information on page 3 of this newsletter regarding this event

In August the ASG National Conference is in Atlanta, Georgia. I have a full three days planned at Conference. If you are looking for inspiration, this is the place to be. **There are so many classes to take and women to meet that you can't help to be excited about sewing when you return home.** There is more information about this event at the National ASG web site—www.asg.org. This is our best opportunity to attend Conference in the next two years since it will be held in Los Angeles in 2011. I have reserved a mini van to drive down and will be leaving very early morning on Wednesday, August 4 and will be returning the following Monday. If you would like to attend and would like to ride down with other Columbus Chapter members, I will have room for several conference attendees. Contact me directly if you are interested in carpooling to Atlanta (president@asgcolumbusoh.com) or would like to share a room with a Columbus Chapter member.

Go Sew! - Robyn

Volume X, Issue 2

April, May, June 2010

Upcoming meetings/events:

- *June: National Service Project workshop*
- *July: Pants Fitting Workshop*
- *August: No local chapter meeting.*

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Threads subscription discounts through ASG

By *Robyn Ramsay*

Did you know that your ASG membership allows you to get Threads magazine at the 20% discount? Actually, your membership allows you to get any Tauton press magazine subscription at a 20% discount. To get the discount, as a chapter, we need to send in 10 subscrip-

tions at once. However, if we don't have 10 members from our chapter that want to get subscriptions at this time, I can probably find another chapter to add your order to. If you would like to renew or get a subscription to Threads or any other Tauton publication just

send me a quick note at president@asgcolumbusoh.com

If you have not been to www.asg.org and checked out all the special offers available to ASG members you really **should! If you can't remember the log-in**, I can provide it to you.

Sewing for Charity

By *Mary Alice Elk*

If you, like me, have built up quite a stash of fabrics you may occasionally wonder **'why in the world did I buy this?'** After one of my periodic episodes of rearranging the fabrics, I decided it was time to think about ways to use it. Last year, along with many ASG members, I used some of my fabric for the ASG Ronald McDonald pillowcase project. Then a few pieces went to helping the Girl Scouts make hats and scarves for charity. This roused my curiosity to see what other sewing projects charities were asking for. I went out on the internet and found hundreds of sites! I picked a few examples but you might find others that draw your interest.

- sewing.patternreview.com/ (Look for charity sewing)
- www.nancysnotions.com (look for

Creative Kindness at the bottom of the home page)

- www.littledressesforafrica.org (also part of the Creative Kindness link on nancys notions)
- www.lwr.org/beinvolved/comfort.asp (comforts to go to missions)

This week I picked up the local paper and saw a request from the local chapter of Project Linus. They were asking for blankets to send to Haiti. I decided it was time to get busy and make some blankets. I ended up making seven blankets of varying sizes and fabrics. It didn't take long and I know that my extra fabric will be put to good use. I know how much my own grandchildren enjoy the blankets I make for them so I know these will be loved as well. One nice side

"This roused my curiosity to see what other sewing projects charities were asking for. I went out on the internet and found hundreds of sites! "

benefit of exploring sewing for charity has been trying new projects for family and friends. My great nieces and nephews as well as the grandchildren loved the pillowcases and fleece scarves they received for a couple of Christmases. For a small investment of time, someone receives a special gift.

Why don't you share some of your experiences by sewing for charity?

Web Sites/Blogs we love

The following are some web sites that our Columbus Chapter members love. If you have not checked these out, they are worth it.

From Joni:

www.artisanssquare.com/ Select
Stitcher's Guild Forum from the

home page. It's a forum/bloggng format that gives ideas, suggestions, etc.

From Robin:

<http://girlsinthegarden.blogspot.com/>
<http://sewmamasew.com/index.php>
<http://u-handbag.typepad.com/>
<http://jchandmade.typepad.com/>

jc_handmade/

not sewing, but one of my new faves:
<http://crockpot365.blogspot.com/>

If you have any web sites you love, please share them with us. Email your favorites to newsleter@asgcolumbusoh.com





Book Review—

By *Robyn Ramsay*

"Sewing Lingerie that Fits - Stylish Underwear, Sleepwear, and Lounge-wear for Everyday Living"

By: Karen Morris

Taunton Press 2001

I picked this book up at the library because it looked interesting. I enjoy looking for different sewing books through the library so I can sort of preview them and decide if I might purchase them for my own library.

Morris takes a broad view of the definition of lingerie and includes lounge wear. This book covers topics such as fabrics, sewing techniques, developing patterns and bras. There is a lot of basic information on sewing lingerie that is not usually covered in sewing classes.

Her ideas for fabrics run the gambit. She encourages you to look at fabrics that are not usual for you and would work for your purpose. Knits make sense for close fitting undergarments but wovens also can be used for other types of garments. As Morris put it, "Sewing your own lingerie is all about

comfort, pleasure and choice, so it's all up to you." Choose fabrics that are comfortable against the skin even if they are not traditionally used for lingerie. Also elastics and other notions are covered.

The sewing techniques she discusses are those that leave a smooth overall finish so the garments are not rough against the skin. She also covers edge finishes as these are very common for lingerie such as for camisoles or slips. Lace treatments, elastic applications and even ribbon edgings are described. All of which can add a professional and/or luxurious touch.

Although I would not say that fit is the focus of this book as the title would suggest, there are ideas for pattern choices, adjusting patterns and some drafting. There are instructions for drafting a wrapped half slip, a v-neck camisole, and a basic panty (and modifications). She also discusses copying existing garments you already like.

There is also a chapter on bras. It is an overview with fitting tips and bra structure information rather than how

to make a specific bra. I did like the suggestions for tweaking your bra pattern for different needs. Morris has included instructions for converting your bra to a racer back or v-back. Having made bras before I found this additional information informative.

The final chapter is titled "Custom Details that make it your Own". The details are what can really make some of your lingerie extra special. Additionally, since it is easier to actually get findings and everything you need in white for a bra, dyeing it might be the best way to get the color you might like. Some of the other techniques she covers are fabric paint, appliqué, embroidery and beading, and silk ribbon.

I enjoyed reading this book and am thinking about adding it to my sewing library even though I have a similar book on making lingerie by Jan Bones. The sources list in the back of the book is extensive and is worth borrowing a copy just for that. "Sewing Lingerie.." has a lot of interesting information and making lingerie can be quick and rewarding and save lots of money.

Columbus ASG hosts Pants Fitting Workshop

July 17 - Saturday - 1-4pm - Pants Fitting Workshop - Carol Coleman will conduct a pants fitting workshop with the Columbus Chapter. You may remember Carol from when she came last October to give us the Silhouette Patterns trunk show. The photos to the right show a fitting from one of her previous workshops.

We will need a minimum of 10 members signed up for the event (maximum of 20, first come first serve, so don't delay). The cost per person will be \$25 plus \$14 for the pattern (unless you already have it). Prior to the class, you



will need to make a muslin from Silhouette Pattern 3200 Sally's Pant or 3600 Ralph's Pant. You can see the two patterns at www.silhouettepatterns.com. Your choice of pattern and instructions will be provided once you sign up.

If you are interested in attending this Workshop, please email president@asgcolumbusoh.com to show your interest and fill out the reservation form on our web site and remit with payment to the address on the form.





Chapter News

June 13 - Sunday - 2-4pm - National ASG Charity Workshop: This is our annual workshop to work on the National ASG community service project. We will be making US Troop Drawstring Bags. You can learn more about the project at <http://www.asg.org/html/giving.html> Recently, we have learned that the bags can be serged which will make the task go very quickly.

July 17 - Saturday - 1-4pm - Pants Fitting Workshop - Carol Coleman will conduct a pants fitting workshop. Check out the article on Page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

Keep updated by checking our website:
www.asgcolumnbusoh.com

National News

Our friends at the **Children's Wish** Foundation have shared with us a wish that could use our help in fulfilling! For **the first time in their organization's** history, they have received a request from a young child to have her own sewing room. For more information on the story behind the request, and how you may help, you may visit our homepage at www.asg.org and click on the **"What's New" Children's Wish** Foundation project story and donation information.

Find ASG on Facebook! Are you on facebook? - so is ASG. You can follow

what is happening at ASG national by linking to them and you will see updates in your news feed. For example, there are always posts to remind you of the ASG online meetings. You can also learn about what is going on at other chapters around the US.

ASG National Conference is August 4-9 in Atlanta, GA. Go to the national web site listed below for more information.

Remember to always check the www.asg.org homepage to see **"What's New" from ASG Headquarters**
www.asg.org

New and Renewing Members

Welcome! to our New Member

Lori Murray

Thank you! to our Renewing Members

Becky Alshire
Vicki Beahnel
Lisa Browne
Mary Alice Elk
Gloria Espinosa
Ann Forrester
Caroline Frye
Rosemarie Gearhart
Susan Leininger

Donna Morton
and
Vera Andrews
Mary Lou Ehrie
Ruth Hoenie
Ruth McMillan
Dawn Pearson
Robyn Ramsay
Pat Riederer

Thank you! to our Renewing Members who took advantage of the 3 year renewal

Pat Griffith
Gretchen Weaver

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our Columbus Chapter is only as good as what we put into it. Consider presenting a class, heading up a committee or running for the CAB so we can continue to learn, serve, grow, and play.

We could use help in any of the following positions: Librarian, Education, Special Events, Publicity, Newsletter or Retail Liaison. Many of these positions would require a small time commitment or would be short term.

Please contact a CAB member if you would be interested in helping our Chapter.

Important Reminder to CAB

If you are a member of the Advisory Board, part of your commitment is to attend Board meetings; If you are unable to attend, contact the President to give your report.

All Guild members are invited to attend. CAB meetings



Ohio State Fair Opportunities

Have you ever thought about entering something you have made into a competition? The Ohio State fair could be your opportunity. To see the competitions available, take a look at the Ohio State Fair web site: www.ohio-statefair.com and look under competitions then creative arts and when you scroll down you will find Fashion Arts. The deadline for entry is June 20 so you still have time to enter. I have talked to the organizer and they would love to see some new competitors in the categories. Apparently the same people compete year after year and some new entrants would be appreciated.

ASG Columbus and possibly some other Ohio chapter members are considering **setting up an "artist in residence" at the Ohio state fair**. But we can only do this if we have several volunteers. This would only be a couple of hours one day of the fair and we would be provided free parking and entry. If you would like to help out with this event, please contact president@asgcolumbusoh.com and indicate your interest. This is a great way to let Ohioans learn more about what we do.

Sewing Tips

We will include sewing tips in the newsletter so Please share your favorite tips by sending them to newsletter@asgcolumbusoh.com

When hand-sewing, always thread the needle with the end of the thread drawn off the spool. To be sure you get it right, thread the needle before cutting the thread. Never lick polyester thread as the thread end "bursts" and is then impossible to thread. Instead, re-cut the end with sharp scissors.

-shared by Joni Wright



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Articles for the Newsletter are accepted from any member. They can be reviews of products, events or any other sewing related topic. We would even be interested in Essays. Contact the newsletter editor with your ideas.

newsletter@asgcolumbusoh.com

Newsletter Deadlines

Jan/Feb/Mar	Dec 15th
Apr/May/June	May 15th
July/Aug/Sept	June 15th
Oct/Nov/Dec	Sept 15th

