

Notes from the Studio

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Greetings and Salutations!

The holidays are behind us and hopefully everyone is ready to start this New Year with new and fresh ideas. I love Christmas decorations, love seeing them but love putting them away, I always feel like the house is clean and back to normal after a whirlwind of activity. I don't make a lot of New Year's resolutions but one I do make and keep every year I would like to share with you and ask you to join me. I would like to suggest to you that you keep a project diary of everything you make this year. The goals and the details are up to you.

Here is the story behind my project diary, how it came about and why I do it. I think if you participate you will find you have the same feelings of accomplishments that I do when I look back after a few months.

Several years ago, during a group discussion about our projects that were in progress an acquaintance blurted out to me, "Do you EVER finish anything?" This really undermined my confidence and I began to wonder myself, "Do I only start new projects, and never finish anything?" Almost all of my sewing falls into one of three categories; they are either class samples or items for my grandchildren or gifts. Because of this I usually finish sewing, and then the items are gone, out of sight for the most part. Class samples hang in the store for 3 months or longer, and with grandchildren and gifts, I may see the item again in use and then again I may not. Therefore, I really don't actually realize the magnitude of my work.

That particular year my goal was to finish at least one thing every week. That would be a whopping 52 items!! Wow... can you imagine, 52 things finished!!! I thought that would be awesome as well as doable.

I usually use just a spiral notebook to record items when I finish them. For instance, when I finish that dress that I have been working on for weeks or the quilt that has been in the works for months, I write a brief description, like "pink smocked dress for Natalie" or Turning Twenty Quilt and the date. Now it doesn't matter how long I have worked on this dress or quilt, the important thing is that I finished it! This same rude person said, "Well, you can't make a whole quilt in a week!" I said: "of course you can! If you want to and really work at it". But I went on to tell her, "I didn't say, I would make one thing a week, but that I would finish one thing a week." "Big difference, don't you think?" Anyway, that first year I did really well, everything that was sewing, knitting, crochet, crafty type things, I wrote down. By the time July arrived I had well over 300 items listed. The reason I am not sure of the exact count is because I had things like "hemmed 4 pair of pants for". So is that one item or four? I considered it one job, one task but was in fact four items that was finished. Whatever the exact count it was the biggest morale booster I have ever had. Thanks to a rude person, I learned a lot about myself and boosted my own confidence. I hope you will give it a try. I think you will love what you learn!

Hugs,

Kathy

American Sewing Guild
Southern Tennessee Region
Fayetteville, TN

Our local chapter of the American Sewing Guild is small but still growing group of fun loving ladies. We would love to have you come join us or think about starting a neighborhood group in your area. Sewing buddies are the best friends of all.

Neighborhood groups are just a group of ladies that want to get together to sew with the added benefits of a local and national organization for support. As few as 3 or 5 people will constitute a NG group. Of course we will be willing to work with you to help you get started. The focus of your group can be what the members want. There are groups that mainly deal with clothing construction and fit and those that focus on machine embroidery; it is all up to the members. Be sure to let me know if you might be interested. The requirements are few, you must have a place to meet and a leader, which is usually a volunteer to hold things together and you must meet once a month or so and report back to the main group. The report is as simple as an e-mail of who attended, where you met and what you did. Pictures of the event would be awesome but are not required.

I would like to advise you that our local organization meets once a month, the second Saturday, in Fayetteville, at the Recreation Center on highway 64 E from 10:00am to 12:00 pm.

You are always invited to attend as a guest or come and join. We have decided to have quite a line-up of classes offered by members for the next year. All classes are free to ASG members; there will be a small fee for non-members. If you see something you are interested in, call and plan to attend.

Year in Advance – Make your plans now to attend.

January 10, 2009 Stabilizer Information, what to use and when, also How to Organize Your Sewing Room.

February 14, 2009 Quilting 101, cutting and attaching continuous binding, perfect mitered corners and more

March 14, 2009 To Dye For, learn to hand dye silk fabric and scarves.

April 11, 2009 Tripping Out, Take a group day trip, destination to be determined.

May 9, 2009 Pants fitting techniques

June 13, 2009 Louise Cutting's One Seam Pants fitting

July NO MEETING – Albuquerque Bound – 2009 ASG National Convention

*Class Offerings for
Ken's Muscle Shoals*

912 E. 2nd Street

Muscle Shoals, AL

256-381-0161 or 1-877-563-7739

January 12 Monday Morning Embroidery

9:30 to 12:30

Open for all Embroidery Machines

Class Fee: \$20 per class plus supplies

Digi BobbE

Turn your embroidery work upside down! Stitch beautiful embroideries using decorative threads in the bobbin for a unique look. Experiment with an easy, new and different way to do machine embroidery.

My Digi BobbE Blouse



and Bag



February 9 Monday Morning Embroidery

9:30 to 12:30

Open for all Embroidery Machines

Class Fee: \$20 per class plus supplies

Perfect Point Piecing In the Hoop

Learn how to piece a traditional New York Beauty quilt design in the hoop. This technique will guarantee that all your points will be perfect and you will see just how easy perfect piecing can be.



March 9 Monday Morning Embroidery

9:30 to 12:30

Open for all Embroidery Machines

Class Fee: \$20 per class plus supplies

Cindy Losecamp Edgings and Designs Pillowcase

Learn how to mark your fabric and combine several small designs to make a large look design for this antique look pillowcase. Finish off the edge with a look of hand crochet, done by machine of course! This technique has many possibilities, is fun and easy to do as well.



Beginning Sewing

February 16, 23, March 2 & 9

5:30 to 8:30 pm

Class Fee: \$20 per class

Have you always wanted to learn to sew but never took the time? Or do you just need a refresher? Learn the basics before you plunge into a project. Class will cover using the machine, making sample seams and seam finishes, properly sewing, trimming and clipping curves, trimming and turning corners, under stitching, top stitching and edge stitching. With your completed notebook you will be ready to tackle any project. In addition to learning to sew we will cover understanding the language of commercial patterns, what you need to know and why.

In the Studio ~ Class Offerings for

Groups or Individuals

In my last newsletter, I told you about cleaning and organizing my sewing room to allow very small and intimate classes. I have to report that classes have been going well and I have truly enjoyed teaching. My initial classes started with sewing friends and former co-workers who kept asking if I would teach. Thanks to them I decided to give it a try and it is going well. We are growing and to the point I am going to have to extend my class days to include more than just a couple. Too many people is a great problem to have and in teaching, like in friendships, there is no such thing as "to many!"

My belief with sewing and sewing classes is, "If it isn't fun, why do it? Enjoy the process! Enjoy the class!" My business focus is to teach sewing as an art and life skill. My business name is "Sew Fun" named by students that said, "Your classes are always so much fun!" Classes continue this year and you are invited to come sew, visit and have fun with me!

E-Group

Something new I have started this year is a new E-group, a Yahoo group that is just sewing friends, no ads, no flaming, and no jokes. This is just a safe group to discuss sewing, share news and sewing sites. Within the group we have also started a quilt block swap. If you are not a member of "Embroidery Alabama" and would like to be, e-mail me and ask for an invitation to join. This is an invitation only group and cannot be joined by searching on the web. We would love to have your smiling face join us.

Individual Classes:

When I first started teaching commercially, I also was attending every class I could find to try to upgrade my skills. You may find that you are like I was, I just wasn't getting much out of classes, I felt like I was above the classes but yet I knew I needed more knowledge if I was going to teach seriously and take my sewing skills to a higher level. Where, I wondered could I find what I needed without all the struggles, and without other students asking dumb questions? I fought my way through classes, and sat with other students that said they had been sewing and even teaching for years, only to hear them ask, how do you make a French seam? Or how do you make a buttonhole? AAAUUUGGG HHH... It was almost more than I could stand. Of course making a French seam or a buttonhole is something you should learn, I didn't want to sit through beginner sewing lessons when this was supposed to be an advanced class. My solution for you is private or semi private classes. I am sure you probably know what your sewing skills are and what you want to learn, and maybe you even know your strong points and your weak ones as well. I can customize a class or series of classes just for you. Call or e-mail to set up your own private class!

Group Classes:

I would like to offer you a chance for you and your friends to come to a group class. So if you have a group of friends that would like to sew together, we can discuss a project or technique, find a date and time that will be convenient for everyone. Call and we will make plans.

The Latte Quilt Club:

A Latte Club is going strong! If you have the book and the designs, you really should come join in on the fun. This is a beautiful quilt that can be done in your selection of colors and fabrics. Take this opportunity to use that embroidery machine and those decorative stitches like you never have before.

Class fee for Latte Club will be \$15 for each class you attend, come when you can and miss when you must.

The Latte Club meets the Second Thursday Afternoon, most months from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. There are two seats available at this time. Call or e-mail now to reserve your space.

Christmas Mystery Project! Is Here and Now!!

I have a great idea for a "mystery" project. It will take eleven months to complete but I thought you might enjoy it. Anyone can participate in this Mystery project and it will be operated similar to a typical Block of the Month Club. Even if you don't own an embroidery machine you can complete the embroidery by hand. You choose which stitching method you prefer and if you would like instructions only, instructions and a kit or instructions, a kit and a class.

Here is how it will work, each month you will receive instructions to do an heirloom project. The kit will include instructions, fabric and a monogram, by hand or machine. At the end of the project you will have several complete alphabets and one pretty cool project.

Option 1: The cost of the printed instructions only will be \$5. You can elect option one and can purchase the pattern and provide your own supplies and save even more. With this pattern only option, I can actually even e-mail it to you!

Option 2: The kit will be \$10 each month and will contain instructions and enough heirloom batiste, lace and stabilizer to complete the monthly project. I can mail the project to you or you can pick it up.

Option 3: You can choose to come to class to properly learn a few heirloom and embroidery techniques. Class fee for the mystery project will be only \$10 for each class, or sign up for the complete project for only \$80 and save some Christmas dough. This is a great deal since you will not be charged by the hour and will have all the necessary supplies available for the project.

Mystery Project Class Days will be: The fourth Thursday Afternoon, most months from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Sign up now to reserve your space. Other dates for the Mystery Project Class can be arranged as needed.