



Needle News

Serving our Neighborhood Groups throughout Manatee and Sarasota Counties

May/June/July 2023

Volume 28, Number 2

2023 Chapter Advisory Board

President: Lorraine Potter, 941-773-6198, lorraine@sgcasg.org

1st VP: Lou Burns, 941-377-4157, lou@sgcasg.org

2nd VP: Julie Blood; 941-661-1324; julie@sgcasg.org

Secretary: Jackie Pettit, 941-224-6014, jackie@sgcasg.org

Treasurer: Kathleen Heinicke, 941-725-7299, kathleen@sgcasg.org

CAB Volunteers

Editor: Crystal Allred, 941-685-7108, news@sgcasg.org

Program Manager: Julie Blood; 941-661-1324; julie@sgcasg.org

Events Chair & Ticket Sales: Julie Blood; 941- 661-1324; julie@sgcasg.org

Membership: Lou Burns, 941-377-4157, lou@sgcasg.org

Social Media/Marketing/Publicity: Vacant

Retail Liaison-N, Storage Unit: Kathy Pell, 941-351-4533

Sunshine Volunteer: Kimmie Bynum, (912) 617-0148, sunshine@sgcasg.org

WEBSITE/Tech Support: Sandi Dickenson, 941-371-1465, sandi@sgcasg.org

ASG Mission:

"Advancing Sewing as an Art and Life Skill"

Sarasota/Gulf Coast Chapter of ASG



Canine Capers: Sewing for Your Furry Friend

We all love to sew, whether it's for ourselves, for friends, for gifts or for our homes, but sometimes our pets need a little sewing love as well. Instructions for making two dog toys can be found on the [American Sewing Guild \(ASG\)](http://American Sewing Guild (ASG) web-site) web-site. Both toys can be great gifts for your own dog or grand-dog, and are also ideal for community service projects or donating to your local animal shelter. They're easy-peasy so even beginners (and kids) can create them, making them ideal for scouting and other group projects.

~Linda Griepentrog is the owner of G Wiz Creative Services and she does writing, editing and designing for companies in the sewing, crafting and quilting industries. In addition, she escorts fabric shopping tours to Hong Kong. She lives on the Oregon Coast with her husband Keith, and three dogs, Yohnuh, Abby and Lizzie.

Bone Appétit



Tug Toy



From Your President

Thank you for all of your thoughts, prayers, food, donations, kindness and concern that was poured out to me and my family following the death of my husband at the beginning of March due to complications of his heart surgery. It was traumatic for me, and your love and comfort was felt and needed. Our guild not only shares a love of sewing, but we also care for each other in times of distress. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

We march on developing great projects and sharing new techniques and our love of fabric! Our Spring Fling was crowded with our members and guests who enjoyed a great lunch and an outstanding presentation by Eric Drexler, Sulky National Educator and free-motion guru and an amazing artist.

Our Spring Retreat is coming up in May at the Day Springs Retreat in East Parish. I am planning to attend the ASG national convention in July, and will report back on all I learned. We also look forward to our monthly meetings and a community sew in the Fall.

Let's all focus on a bright future for ourselves and our guild. As they say, the best is yet to come.

Happy Sewing.

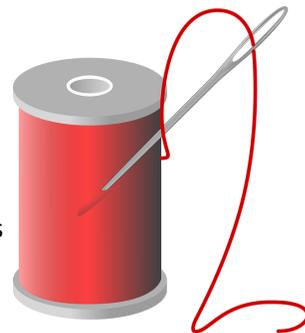
Lorraine

Chapter President

Amazon Smile – Shut Down

The AmazonSmile customer-directed donation program was permanently shut down on February 20, 2023. (smile.amazon.com). This news is a disappointment because in 2022, members' purchases helped contribute to our ASG chapter to stretch our budget a little further.

Thanks to the members who designated our chapter as their charity of choice!



ASG On-Line

An extensive list of videos and educational sessions are available on-line for free to ASG members. Go to [American Sewing Guild \(ASG\)](https://www.americansewingguild.com), log-on and then go to the Members Only area for FREE online video classes.

- * Sewing Techniques
- * Pattern Drafting
- * Beginning Machine Embroidery
- * Serging, and MORE

Is your contact information up to date?

While you are visiting the ASG National Website, please review your Account Information. If you have a new email address, or phone number or mailing address, please update your information. This is how we contact you.

**Account
Information**

Chapter Advisory Board (CAB)

Each ASG Chapter has a Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) which is composed of elected members and volunteers (i.e., editor, program manager, etc.). Your chapter's CAB is charged with planning and conducting business – all for the benefit of chapter members. CAB meetings are held periodically throughout the year on Zoom and are open to Chapter members.

New York City July 27-31, 2023

New York Hilton Midtown
1335 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

Our annual in-person Conference gives sewing enthusiasts a place to celebrate all things sewing, quilting and embroidery. If you love sewing, you'll love the creativity, the ideas, the ingenuity and the fun. Members can attend our online conference which offers select classes from popular instructors.



Sewing at the VAC

By Evelyn LeVassuer



Hi Ladies. I have been asked to write about my sewing education endeavors and share my adventures at the **Yellow House**, so here goes.

I have become an active member of VAC (Visual Art Center) in Punta Gorda. It is a non-profit organization that supports artists in the community. About a year ago, the VAC began renting the **Yellow House**, which is located in Punta Gorda's History Park. It is where Fiber Art Artists gather, conduct and attend classes.

As a fiber artist, it is like having a club house for me and all my creative artist friends to gather, learn, inspire and educate. We welcome all those who wish to expand their creative life's journey and learn/discover the world of fiber arts. Artists of all levels are accepted. Experts work with beginners and everyone in-between to inspire and share their knowledge. We all share our love of creating and support each persons artistic endeavors.

I myself have taught a Wearable Art Garment 6-week class, twice! In the class, individuals get inspired, design a garment, get fitted and sew a one-of-a-kind art garment. This class was a success in part thanks to our ASG chapter which loaned us 5 sewing machines for my class. Students who have a machine are encouraged to bring them to class. However, the machines that our ASG chapter provided are user friendly.

The public has asked for a beginner/reintroduction sewing class, so this spring/summer session I will be offering a "Dust Off Your Machine" class. There seems to have been a wave of " sewing machine phobia" going around and some people want a class to get reintroduced to their sewing machine and the world of sewing. We are truly using the machines to further the art of sewing. Thank-you for your support.

There have been so many wonderful classes this past winter. I took a vintage journal class and have now made 3 separate journals, two for genealogy (to document the men and women in my family) and one as a memorial to my recently deceased dog. I also took a 4-week class (1 day per

week for 3 hours) on silk screen printing. We have a huge room for dying and painting fabric. The place is full of supplies which are available for students to use, experiment and create with. Classes are more like scheduled play dates. Students are often having so much fun they want the class to continue past its scheduled sessions.

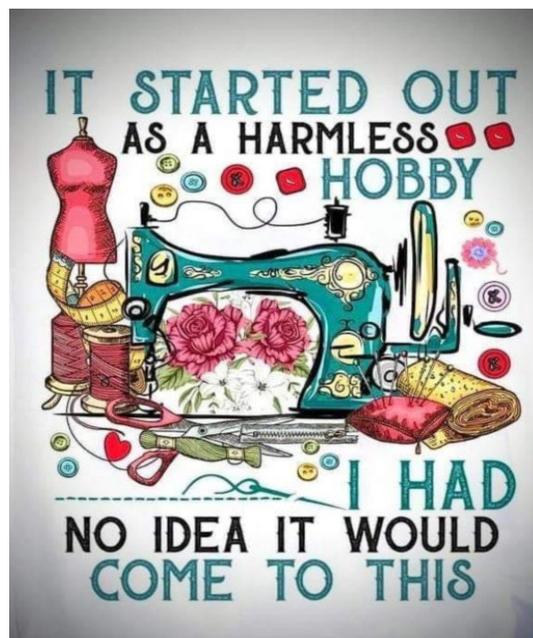
We have open studio time on Monday and Friday afternoons. They are supervised/proctored but no class instruction. You just come and play/create using our stuff and place. Often other fiber artist are there and offer help and inspiration for whatever you are working on. People often use open studio time to make up a class they missed.

Many of our artist are snowbirds and are preparing to go back north. But many people are staying here year round and have asked for **Yellow House** activities to be scheduled for this summer season too. So in answer to this, a few of us that are here in the summer are offering a few varied classes. We are trying a new format. The classes will be offered condensed into 1-week (4 days @ 3 hours a day).

Well, if any of this sounds interesting to you and your creative journey then go to [Visual Arts Center \(visualartcenter.org\)](http://Visual Arts Center (visualartcenter.org)) of Punta Gorda on your computer, click on classes and check out class offerings. The costs are quite reasonable and ladies, Punta Gorda is not the other side of the world...it is just a ways down the road and well worth the trip! .

Happy creating!

Evelyn



VISION JOURNALS - Are you filling in your journals made by Sew Chic as favors at last year's Chapter Christmas party? We're looking forward to seeing them at the next Christmas party. Some of the suggestions were to record things you may like to make, paste in pictures you like, drawings, keep track of your projects as you make them, notes to yourself, dream ideas, colors, inspiration pieces and etc. The sky's the limit in how you can use this tool.

Chapter Meetings

Events & Contact Info	Location	Date & Time	Programs
CAB Meetings	Zoom	2 nd Friday, each month, unless otherwise noted beginning at 9:30 AM	◆ Chapter business
Neighborhood Meetings			
Anything Sews Lou Burns (941-377-4157; lou@sgcasg.org)	The Modern Sewist, 2264 Gulf Gate Dr, Sarasota	4th Thursday each month, beginning at 10:30 AM	◆ May — TBD ◆ June — TBD ◆ July — TBD
Creative Sassy Sewers Kathleen Heinicke (941-725-7299, kathleen@sgcasg.org) & Paulette Braga (941-807-0915, paulette@sgcasg.org)	South Manatee Branch Library, 6081 26th St W, Bradenton	2nd Saturday each month, beginning at 10AM	◆ May — Open sewing (Good opportunity to get help with a project) ◆ June — Needles, threads & their relationships to fabrics with Judy Hasch ◆ July — Christmas in July
Pins & Needles Lorraine Potter (941-773-6198, lorraine@sgcasg.org)	Manatee Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd W, Bradenton	1st Saturday each month, beginning at 10:00 AM	◆ May — Introduction to Fibonacci Quilts ◆ June — Make snap bags for December Manatee Historic Village Festival ◆ July — Meeting Cancelled
Sew Chic Evelyn LeVassuer (941) 624-6237, evelyn@sgcasg.org)	Shannon Staub Public Library, 4675 Career Lane, North Port	4th Monday each month beginning at 10:30 AM unless noted. Bring your lunch & stay awhile.	◆ May — TBD ◆ June — TBD ◆ July — TBD
Zoom WW Julie Blood; 941- 661-1324; julie@sgcasg.org	Zoom	3rd Wed each month from 10-11:30 am	◆ May — Creative ways to store ongoing projects ◆ June Vision Journals with Kathleen Connor ◆ July — TBD
Special Interest Groups			
Sew Wearable — Self-motivated group that inspires each other by sharing finished projects. Terry Petti, (941-567-4917, terry@sgcasg.org)	Zoom	3rd Thursday each month at 1:30pm, unless otherwise noted	◆ May — TBD ◆ June — TBD ◆ July — TBD
Machine Embroidery — A group of machine embroidery enthusiasts Crystal Allred (941-685-7108, crystal@sgcasg.org) & Jackie Pettit (941-224-6014, jackie@sgcasg.org)	Zoom & Braden River Library, 4915 53rd Avenue E, Bradenton	1st Friday each month at 2:00 PM, unless otherwise noted	◆ May — Meeting Cancelled ◆ June — Scan N Cut Work Session with Crystal Allred ◆ July — TBD
Chapter Events			
Sewing Retreat	Day Springs Retreat, East Parish	May 1-4	Open Sew
September Community Sew	TBD	TBD	TBD
Annual Meeting & Elections	Meadows Country Club, 3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota	October 14	Guest speaker: Mary McCarthy Topic: Garment sewing
Christmas Luncheon & Gift Exchange	Sun Outdoors, Boondock Room	December 16th	Food, games & gift exchange

REMINDER: If you need assistance to get on Zoom, Jackie Pettit or Sandi Dickenson can assist you in getting set up and running. Don't miss the opportunity to participate.

Group Happenings

Anything Sews

In February, we met at the Fruitville Library and made a "Folding Star potholder. It was amazing how many



varieties can come out of one pattern. One of our newest members, Robin LaClair, quickly helped others understand and follow the pattern.

Pins & Needles

In January, we learned about English Paper Piecing, a classic technique of hand sewing from Karen France and Diana Pickens. This class did not require a sewing machine as we only hand sewed using needle and thread. English Paper Piecing is a method where fabric is folded over cardboard



English paper piecing by Diana Pickens

geometric shapes using a small dot of glue or tack-basting the corners. Two pieces are joined by whip-stitching the edges. The paper or cardboard is generally removed after the shapes are sewn together. English paper piecing is relaxing and requires few tools which makes it easy to

sew the geometric shapes while riding in a car, waiting at the doctor's office, or watching TV. You can make Christmas ornaments or whole quilts.

In February, Diana Pickens taught us techniques to use when making blocks with strips that can be used in quilts, table



runners, pillows, and other projects. While the thought of using stripes may seem daunting, Diana's technique allows you cut the fabric and then rotate it in a unique manner that allows for quite remarkable results.

In March, Pins and Needles partnered with Creative Sassy Sewers and traveled to the Strawberry Festival to view the textiles display and have delicious Strawberry Shortcake.

Creative Sassy Sewers
We began the year with Evelyn Levasseur teaching us how to make the most fun and beautiful BOHO necklaces. They are so colorful and allowed us all to go a little Bohemian with our own designs.

In March, several of us joined our Pins & Needles' sewing sisters in a trip to the Strawberry Festival in Plant City. We all enjoyed seeing the talents of the young people's displays of things they had

Zoom WW

In January, Charlotte Cronin from the Illinois ASG Chapter discussed and displayed functional sewing rooms. We had a Zoom Sew-A-Long in February, with Brenda Harewood. She walked us through the steps in making a Green tote with removable dividers. The tote is excellent for carrying bottles

made and paintings, drawings and other crafts. And yes, we ate strawberry short cake.



In April, we learned how to sew Stripes in Squares with Diana Perkins, a relatively new member.

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(Continued from page 5)

and such from the store. Look how great they turned out! March we checked out 2023 Fashion Trends and how we might use them in our sewing.

SIG – Sew Wearable

Our small but consistently faithful group enjoyed a fun meeting in February. Our March and April meetings were cancelled. We are gearing up for fun sewing and challenges beginning at our May meeting. We're thinking shawls (supposedly, the gift for 2023), rash guard for summer sun and swimming and more. Hoping for ideas from all of you. Your output is outstanding, but let's concentrate on wearables. Let me know what technique you might like to learn, and we can and do it. Our group is knowledgeable and we always teach each other something new. Let's really begin a notebook of techniques. Let's start with one and bring it to show in May.

SIG-ME – Machine Embroidery

In February, Lynn Overton gave us a tutorial on embroidering with mylar. Lynn explained where you can purchase mylar and designs that are specifically digitized to be used with mylar.

Our Show & Tell brimmed with wonderful projects by several members. Who can forget Marsha Semrinec's apron made with repurposed jeans, embroidered pockets and pleats created using a fork.



Many were especially intrigued with Lynn Overton's embroidered rope bowl.

In March, Crystal Allred provided an overview of

Community Donations

Thank You to the following ladies who've been generous with their time in to sewing and knitting for Sarasota Memorial Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Ruth Folk and Lou Burns have sewn *MANY* scent cloths, and Linda Bynum and Peg Turner have contributed adorable hats, Peg including tiny mitts with her hats.

The NICU staff are very appreciative!

Brother's Scan N Cut machine. She demonstrated how to fussy-cut fabric for applique using the Scan N Cut. She will be providing a more in-depth workshop in June and is encouraging Scan N Cut owners to bring them to the meeting for a more hands on learning experience.



Our April meeting was devoted to Show & Tell. We had guests from Stay & Play who shared their recent and very impressive embroidery projects.

We finally got to see Lynn Overton's completed quilt made with embroidered mylar on t-shirt fabric. It was well worth the wait.



Education Committee Update

By Jackie Pettit

We want to send kudos to Beth Black, Evelyn LeVasseur and the Sew Chic Neighborhood Group for sharing their sewing experience with people at the Tringali Library in Englewood, Tuesdays from 2-4pm. The ladies who've attended are using the library's Singer machines, are getting advice about pattern fitting, garment construction, garment repairs and general sewing. Beth said that when she's not available, ladies from Sew Chic fill in for her. Thanks for all you're doing, ladies!

We're still planning to provide sewing education to members of the Boys and Girls Club of Manatee County. We'll send out a notice when plans are complete; we'll need help with the actual training, which we expect will start at the Palmetto site.



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To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

Peg Turner's brother, **David Goddard**, is a Viet Nam veteran and drove heavy equipment during the Viet Nam war. Peg nominated David to receive a Quilt of Valor® and he was selected. He chose to receive the quilt at his home in Deltona, Florida. He loves the quilt and is very much appreciative of the quilt and presentation. He thanks all the ladies involved in the making this lovely quilt.



So often we hear, "but I thought you knew about..." The truth is, we don't always find out what's going on in everyone's lives, so we depend on you to let us know. It's what keeps us connected — special anniversaries, births, illnesses, tragedies and recoveries.



Do you know someone with a special occasion, major celebration, concern, health issue or loss of a loved one? **Please let** Kimmie Bynum know by calling her at (912) 617-0148 or email her at sunshine@sgcsg.org, so she can send a bit of sunshine their way.

ASG Discounts

Show your ASG card **before purchase** and **receive a 10% discount**. Our Retailers appreciate it when you thank them for supporting ASG.

Donna's Beads: 941-444-7457, 2717 Beneva Road (excludes Books, DVDs, CDs, Magazines, Classes) OPEN Mon-Fri 10 to 5; Sat 11 to 5.

Pennie Fabrics: 941-484-0600, 8854 S. Tamiami Trail (Fabrics) **ALSO OFFERS 15% on the first Tues of every month;** OPEN Tues-Fri 10 to 6; Sat 10 to 4.

Annual Advertising Rates*

(4 Issues)

Size	Rate
Full Page	\$100
Half Page	\$60
Quarter Page	\$30
Business Card	\$20

ASG Member-owned businesses: 10% off

Membership News

By Lou Burns and Jackie Pettit

Thanks to the Following Members for Renewing

Annette Alberter
Sharon Bain
Paulette Braga
Lou Burns
Emily Carrier
Deborah Chegwidden
Brenda Clark

Kathleen Connor
Sandra Dickenson
Nancy Domenico
Ruth Folk
Karen France
Marie Gartley
Dolores Higgins

Betty Matthews
Betsy Megna
Katherine Pell
Linda Roberts
Carolyn Robinette
Sherry Tillett

Welcome

Meet our New and Transferred Members

New Members

Mickie McElroy
Vivian Yam

Transferred Member

Margaret Sill (from Brandon/East Bay, FL)

New Members — Carolyn Legg & Vivian Yam

Carolyn Legg has been sewing since she was a little girl. Her mother sewed, so all the fabric, patterns, sewing machine, etc., were always around. She took to it early and hasn't stopped. Her mother was the Home-Ec teacher in the same middle school and she had her for a teacher along with her 4 brothers and sister. They all know how to sew and cook.

"When I started high school, my mom told me that I had to buy or make my own clothes (family finances were slim). So, I made most of my clothes including a 3-piece gray wool pantsuit and my prom dresses. As an adult, I continued to sew for myself and my sons. When I divorced, I started a small business making window treatments.

I do make items for myself and enjoy making items for charity including Days for Girls, and most recently scent cloths. During the pandemic I retook up hand embroidery and learned the Japanese art of Sashiko.

I'm so glad on found this fun and friendly group."

Vivian Yam was born in Cambodia but has lived in Bradenton since she was 3 years old. She is a newbie and learning sewing techniques are her first priorities. She joined our chapter to build up her sewing skills to honor her mom who was an amazing seamstress.

ASG MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone number _____

E-mail _____

How did you hear about ASG? _____

Return to: American Sewing Guild
9660 Hillcroft, Suite 510, Houston, TX 77096

New Member \$60

Junior Member (New and Renewal)
to age 17, or age 22 with student ID \$35

Chapter Sarasota/Gulf Coast

ASG Member at Large \$60

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Late Renewal \$60

Chapter Sarasota/Gulf Coast

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Spring Fling

By Julie Blood

Spring Fling was fun. Our speaker, Eric Drexler, a Sulky National Educator and free-motion guru and artist, really inspired us with his trunk show. We had a total of 61 people sign up – 43 members, 6 guests, and 11 from Sun Outdoors. Wonderful creativity and many hands made this another pleasurable event.

There are many people to thank for making this such a success: From Creative Sassy Sewers and Kathleen Heinicke for the gorgeous fabric flower centerpieces; Betty Hamilton and Ruth Folk for the door prizes; Ruth Folk and Julie Blood, for the table favors; and an appreciative thanks to our Neighborhood and Machine Embroidery Special Interest Groups for their raffle donations, including Helaine Eckstein, Jackie Pettit and Crystal Allred; and Betty Hamilton and her sister, Diana Rossey. Thank you, Nancy Ceci, for stepping in to help with registration, and Annette Alberter, Susi Olson, Carolyn Robinette and Marsha Semrinec for selling raffle tickets; and Lorraine Potter and her brother, Jackie Petit and Lou Burns, for researching, finding our new speaker system.

The BIGGEST thank you goes to the Special Events Committee: Lou Burns, Karen French, Kathleen Heinicke, Diane Newcomer, Arlene Dobra, Betty Hamilton and Julie Blood. Very Well Done!





5305 36th Ave Circle W
Bradenton, FL 34209

TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT

ASG Mission: Advancing Sewing As An Art And Life Skill



WANTED

Wanted: Articles and photos from Members in the *Needle News*. How about book recommendations, new product reviews, Craftsy class reviews, sewing tips and patterns you like. Neighborhood group leaders and members, please send in photos and descriptions of your group activities. Let's get the word out! We all enjoy seeing members of other neighborhood groups at our meetings. Plan to visit other groups to see what they are sewing. Please submit your articles and photos to news@sgcsg.org. Deadlines are Jan 1st, April 1st, July 1st and Oct 1st. Remember to include names of faces in your photos and what they are about.

The American Sewing Guild (ASG) is a nonprofit organization of home sewers. Its purpose is to provide information, education and programs for its Members and the Community. Membership is open to the Public. Membership is \$50 and \$25 for Youth Members (through age 17 and extending up to 22 for registered college students).

www.asg.org

Sensitivity Statement

The American Sewing Guild (ASG) is committed to equal access and opportunity for all. No person shall on the basis of age, race, color, religious creed, national origin or ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, disability or handicap be subject to discrimination whether in employment or any program or activity within ASG.

To foster the spirit of community within ASG and between ASG and the community at large, we will demonstrate respect and sensitivity toward one another through word and deed. In any way representing ASG or participating in an ASG activity, we will not promote or endorse divisiveness regarding any of the above or any other area that may fall into the category of sensitive subject matter.

What does this statement mean? *It means that as a nonsectarian, nonprofit organization, we, even more so, are behooved to be kind and considerate of others. We have members of our organization as well as our communities who have different cultural backgrounds, different religious beliefs, and different abilities. It is so easy to offend without intention; we will lessen the opportunity for that by insuring that nothing we do under the auspices of ASG can be in any way interpreted as exhibiting or endorsing any personal beliefs or prejudices.*