



APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER - VOL 23.2

Alaska Sewlutions

EAGLE RIVER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SEWING GUILD

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9: Valley Neighborhood Meeting, 12-2pm,
Northern Light Chapel

April 16: Anchorage Neighborhood Meeting, 1-3pm,
Joann Fabric, 3801 Old Seward Hwy

May 7: Valley Neighborhood Meeting, 12-2pm,
Northern Light Chapel

May 21: Anchorage Neighborhood Meeting, 1-3pm,
Joann Fabric, 3801 Old Seward Hwy

August 5-6: Alaska State Fair entry intake

August 7: Alaska State Fair judging

August 17: Alaska State Fair display

August 19-September 5: Alaska State Fair sit & sew

September 6 & 10: State Fair entry pick up

Oct. 1: Community Service Sew

Oct. 25-31: Fall Retreat

Oct. 29, 10am: Chapter Meeting

Nov. 12: Anchorage & Valley Neighborhood Meetings
(tentative)

Dec. 3: Annual Meeting & Holiday Party

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

April 1 marks the 40th year since my arrival in Anchorage, but more importantly, it's April Fool's Day, which gives free reign to the prankster in all of us. I think people who sew are among the most creative, so make me proud!

We again had a very successful Spring retreat. The number of garments and projects completed must have broken all records! There were a number of highlights: the appearance of a great gray owl just outside the B&B for two evenings and one member having her photo op outside on a bench in her newly constructed bikini were both memorable!

The Chapter meeting on Saturday, March 19 included an update on the success of the new meeting place for the Anchorage Neighborhood Group at JoAnn Fabrics, a vote to choose the next project for the Valley Neighborhood Group, passage of our chapter's Standing Rules, and

the welcoming of three new members: Andrea Kinucan, Jennifer Marcelain and Julia Barnett. The Chapter Advisory Board meeting that followed voted to initiate a simple sign-in sheet for your name and an emergency contact number to be used at our chapter gatherings.

Thank you to all who participated in the Satisfaction Survey. With the ability to gather more safely in person, we are looking forward to an exciting year incorporating your ideas. Non-perishable entries for the Alaska State Fair will be accepted Aug. 5 and 6, so it's not too early to plan projects to enter. The Exhibitor's Guide is now available, and this year's theme is "Experience the Wonder". Entering is free and fun, challenges your skills, and is inspiring to viewers.

Happy sewing,

Rae Longbrake, 907-863-0800,
ralongbrake@gmail.com

LOST & FOUND AT THE SPRING RETREAT



Contact Kathy Lunning
to claim: 414-9600,
scottandkath@gmail.com

BUT FIRST, SAFETY

Thanks to participant feedback during our annual meeting on March 19, 2022, our guild will now request that members and guests sign in when attending in-person events and share an emergency contact of their choice, just in case a group leader or organizer needs it. We value your safety and privacy!

VALLEY FEBRUARY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Sat. April 9, 12-2pm, Northern Light Chapel

Bring show and tell items, and for our project, we will make reusable grocery bags in honor of Earth Day on April 22. Please bring these supplies:

- Fabric: you can use ripstop nylon, lightweight cotton, or recycle a nylon shower curtain. How much you need will depend on the width of the fabric. If buying yardage, you'll need about 1 ½ yards of 44" wide material. For 60" wide material, you'll need about 1 yd.
- Sewing machine & basic sewing supplies (cutting board & iron available)

See tinyurl.com/sewshoppingbags for all the details or contact Julie at 907-244-9610 or Ladyjulia75@gmail.com with questions.



ANCHORAGE FEBRUARY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Sat. April 16, 1-3pm, Joann Fabric, 3801 Old Seward Hwy

Join us for show and tell, plus an eco-friendly project in honor of Earth Day. We will make reusable "unpaper" towels. Please bring these supplies:

- 2 yards of cotton terrycloth fabric, prewashed
- 2 yards of cotton flannel, prewashed
- Snaps of choice (snap setter available)
- Sewing machine with basic sewing supplies
- Rotary cutter, cutting mat, and ruler - you may precut fabric to 12x12" also

See a tutorial: abeautifulmess.com/unpaper-towel-diy-they-are-reuseable

For questions, contact Ada, 907-244-9614, adaknik@alaska.com.

ALASKA STATE FAIR: SAVE THE DATE

Entry Intake: August 5-6. Even though the snow is still melting, the State Fair will be here soon! Please consider entering any projects completed since Aug. 5, 2021 for participation, not just perfection. The sewing department is allotted space based on the number of entries received, so your entries are very much appreciated and will help us put on a good show for years to come. Find the Exhibitor's Guide and more details at alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibits. Contact Alice at 862-1662 or akalice49@gmail.com with questions.



FALL RETREAT: SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 25-31, 2022

Prices and more details about the Fall Retreat will be available later this year from our retreat coordinator. Stay posted!

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Did you know that some of the door prizes distributed at our spring 2022 retreat were donated by Janai Comer, a member of our guild since 2020, and a resident of Valdez for the past 50 years? She has been a Sales Rep for the past 8 years, currently representing 13 fabric vendors including Moda, Windham, Quilting Treasures, and Alex Henry. Her district covers Alaska and Hawaii.

She took a quilting class in 1983 & her interest blossomed. Circumstances lead to foregoing a start up quilt shop in Valdez but through the networking during that process with people including Dina Pappas (Eagle River Quilt Shop) and Gene Stewart (Moda marketing rep), she was offered the Alaska Sales Rep position for Moda. The rest is history. She gradually added the territory of Hawaii and the additional current list of vendors.

As a rep, Janai visits all the retail shops with new fabric lines, 6 months in advance of their release for retail sales. Notions are also part of the offerings to retailers. It is exciting to know who is behind keeping us quilters on the cutting edge (no pun intended) of current fabric trends!



ICYMI: IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Our neighborhood group meetings have included some really fun free projects: check them out online or in our Facebook group at fb.com/groups/alaskasewlutions

Skinny Pincushion: quiltingdigest.com/this-pincushion-is-perfect-for-use-at-your-machine/ (original instructions no longer available)

Adventure Hat: patternsforpirates.com/product/adventure-hat

Microwave Popcorn Bags: tinyurl.com/microwave-popcorn-bags. Bonus points if your fabric is snack themed!



TIPS & TRICKS

Kathy Lunning introduced us to a **yoga mat** placed under her embroidery machine to reduce vibration, noise and movement. Other members use marble or countertop stone for similar benefits. We can certainly apply this tip to all our other machines.

Linda Maclure showed off her discovery of **Zippity Do Done™** zippers by June Taylor for craft type projects such as bags or accessories. Check them out at junetailor.com/notions-zippity-do-done if you missed it at the retreat.

Janai Comer has been sewing for years with her machine placed on a **table tilt wedge** (about 18x9x3") for improved ergonomics and visibility of the machine bed. Lets give it a try!

Beverly Holmes discovered covered the **ultimate collar band technique** for shirts and blouses! Check out this tried and true method in Nancy Zieman's book *Sewing Express*, pgs. 18-19.

Please send your tips or tricks to emilylongbrake@gmail.com for publishing in our next newsletter.



Above: projects from the Spring Retreat at Pioneer Ridge B&B, March 17-21, 2022

FEATURED MEMBER

Etta Gamble was one of the founding members of our chapter: a two-year process to meet the ASG requirements to establish an Alaskan chapter. She has held the office of president, newsletter chair, neighborhood group leader, and principal display director at the state fair!

What do you love best about the guild?

Our retreats!

What are your earliest memories of sewing?

When I was 10 years old, I remember watching my grandmother making paper patterns and being intrigued by the neighbor who MADE clothes for her daughter. Soon she was using her babysitting money to buy fabric at "Ben Franklins" and could then make dresses that looked like the other kids! That led to high school home EC with commercial sewing classes.

What project are you working on currently?

"Camp Ethan Tent" for her friends' foster boy Ethan's new fort bed!

Who, or how were you recruited to join AK Sewlutions?

I was recruited by two sewing friends (Phyllis MacIntosh and Doris Lum) who were nurses at the valley hospital in Palmer, and I've been a member since. Sandra Whaley encouraged me to purchase my first embroidery machine, and the rest is history!



MORE MEMBER PROJECTS



"My completed king-size quilt was a lot of fun to put together: a block-of-the-month from Missouri Star Quilts." -Linda McClure



Clamshell pouches, scrunchies, and mug rug/small trivets by Mary Lammers



CBJ finished this quilt top with digitally printed custom fabric in just 2 days! Whew! -Cathy Baldwin-Johnson

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Walsh, 94, passed Wednesday, March 30. She was the earliest and the oldest member of our guild for many years. She was an Alaskan renaissance woman in the true sense of the word, and generous to a fault to her family and friends. She now has a special sewing table and garden in heaven. We will miss you Mary!

RETREAT RECIPE: RICE PILAF WITH NUTS & DRIED FRUIT

Thanks to Kirsten Tysver for this delicious recipe originally from recipetineats.com/rice-pilaf. A fragrant rice that's right at home on your holiday feasting table or a Middle Eastern spread! Switch the nuts and fruit to whatever you want, and feel free to customize the Spices too. This is a rice so good, you'll be eating it straight out of the pot!



INGREDIENTS

- ⅓ c pistachios, shelled
- ⅓ c slivered almonds
- 2 tbsp (30g) unsalted butter or olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ small onion, finely chopped
- 1 c (180g) uncooked basmati rice
- 1 ¾ c (435ml) veggie or chicken broth
- ½ c dried sultanas or raisins
- ¼ c dried apricots
- Finely chopped parsley, optional garnish

SPICES

- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cardamom
- ⅛ tsp ground cumin
- ¼ tsp black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Place dry, oil free large saucepan or small skillet over medium high heat. Add almonds and pistachios. Toast lightly, shaking the pan, until the nuts smell amazing. Remove immediately. Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium high heat. Add garlic and onion, saute until translucent. Add rice and stir for 30 seconds or until mostly translucent. Add Spices, stir. Add broth, sultanas and apricots, stir. Cover with lid, bring to simmer then immediately turn heat down to medium low (low for strong ovens). Cook for 15 minutes or until liquid is absorbed (tilt pot to check). Then remove pot from the stove (still covered) and leave, undisturbed, for 10 minutes. Remove lid, use fork to fluff rice. Add most of the nuts, toss. Transfer to serving bowl. Garnish with remaining nuts and a little sprinkle of parsley if using. Serve!



Sunflower coaster by member Kathy Rockey



Pat Sloan, Instagram: @quilterpatsloan

SEW WITH UKRAINE: PATTERN ROUNDUP

Threads.com recently shared this post: "One way to support the Ukrainian people is to sew with Ukraine. You can patronize Ukrainian-owned shops via Etsy. Although mail service has been disrupted, purchasing PDF downloads of sewing and crafting patterns is an effective way to help Ukrainian artists and families."

See tinyurl.com/sewwithukraine for all the patterns.

MORE PATTERNS & RESOURCES

Peace For Ukraine: free Sunflower quilt pattern
sewcanshe.com/peace-for-ukraine-free-sunflower-quilt-pattern/

Quilting Daily: We Can All Make a Difference
quiltingdaily.com/we-can-all-make-a-difference/

Interweave Artists for Peace Helping Ukraine
interweave.com/article/knitting/artists-for-peace-helping-ukraine/

Interweave Jewelry: Art in a Time of War: Jewelry and Beading Communities Support Ukraine: interweave.com/article/jewelry/jewelry-beading-support-ukraine/

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Do you have a local Alaskan cause with a need for sewn items? Please send the donations or volunteers needed to emilylongbrake@gmail.com for publishing in our next newsletter and on our website. We're still working on a project for our annual Community Service Sew on October 1 and would love to hear from you.

SUMMER POTLUCK

Everyone is invited to a summer potluck picnic (rain or shine) **Sunday, June 26 at noon** at Rae Longbrake's home and garden. Bring your show-and-tell, a dish to share, and guest(s) or self for an afternoon of sharing. RSVP is not required. For questions, contact Rae at 863-0800 or ralongbrake@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP BONUS

Have you received your ASG member email with the latest blog posts from our national organization? If not, check out asg.org/blog for thorough articles for garment sewers like "S-T-R-E-T-C-H-I-N-G it! Choosing Elastic", an excellent series on "Fabric Sources" with eye-opening information about where and how our fabrics are made, and "Thinking Outside the Sewing Store — Ideas for Tools & Notions" with pro tips for sewers of every level.

2022 CHAPTER ADVISORY BOARD - C.A.B.

President: Rae Longbrake, 863-0800, ralongbrake@gmail.com
 Vice-President & Membership: Teresa Gleason, 244-9611, tgleason@gci.net
 Secretary: Linda Maclure: 346-1293, lrm1234@outlook.com
 Treasurer: Beverly Holmes, 360-0011, beverlyholmesak@gmail.com
 Retreat Coordinator: Kathy Lunning, 414-9600, scottandkath@gmail.com
 Newsletter: Emily Longbrake, 863-0801, emilylongbrake@gmail.com
 Anchorage Group Leader: Ada Gleason, 244-9614, adaknik@alaska.com
 Valley Group Leader: Julie Gleason, 244-9610, Ladyjulia75@gmail.com
 Fair Coordinator: Alice Stevens, 862-1662, akalice49@gmail.com



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