

Alaska Sewlutions

Proud Member of the
American Sewing Guild

Eagle River Chapter of the American Sewing Guild

<https://alaskasewlutions.org/>

Use this link to check the Guild calendar and upcoming events. (Email us for the members' password)

ASG <https://www.asg.org/>

(You will need your ASG password for the members only area. Lots of great sewing info there)

Join us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlaskaSewlutions>

Email the Sewing Guild

info@alaskasewlutions.org

Thoughts from our President

Hope these next months as we transition from fall through winter finds you all able to slow down and refuel so to speak, like the natural world around us. Keeping in mind the "reason for the season".

Be sure to check the events coming up as there have been some additions and subtractions. Only the Anchorage Neighborhood Group will meet one more time this year on **Saturday**, Nov. 18th and the Holiday Party (and short chapter meet) is on **December 2**, in Palmer at my house. The next chapter meeting will be at the Spring Retreat, **March 13th-17th** and we will again have a combined Neighborhood, all chapter sew day in May, at Alice Stevens studio.

We also plan to again have a vendor booth at the Palmer Garden and Arts Faire in July. I will continue to send timely updates on details to your email. A final reminder as you may be marathon sewing last minute projects, that pandiculation applies to humans as well as our pets.

Rae Longbrake, President

Welcome to our Newest and Returning Members

Julie Baldwin, Sara Scoles, Deb Steinbach, Sarah Blanning, Rhonda Stark, Barb Childs

Thanks so much for joining!

SAVE THE DATES:

**Saturday, December 2, 12:00 PM Christmas Party
(details below)**

Valley Neighborhood Group meeting Jan. 13th from 12PM-2PM to make quilted note cards

Spring Retreat: **March 13-17, 2024**

All Chapter Sew Day: **May 4, 2024**

Alaska State Fair: Aug. 16-Sept. 2, 2024 "Enjoy the Ride"

FEATURED MEMBER: BEVERLY HOLMES

Beverly has been a member of our chapter for over 23 years and currently serves as our chapter treasurer. Besides being an extremely accomplished seamstress, she works full time as Associate Professor of Business Admin. & Management at APU, volunteers as a horse walker 5 days a week, and she is a serious SF Giants fan and Beatles fan!

What do you love best about the Guild?

The networking with fellow seamstresses and the camaraderie of the community.

What are your earliest memories of sewing?

I started sewing when I was age 5 making doll clothes. I discovered Barbie Doll patterns and was hooked! Originally, I used my great grandma's treadle machine then inherited Mom's Necci. By age 9-10, I was making my own clothes and by age 12 started sewing for my friends. I took the requisite home-ec classes in HS and later a workshop in college on Design and Dressing and though basically self-taught, have taken advantage of many workshops and seminars.

What projects are you working on currently?

I am finishing a plaid shirt for my son and will soon start a dress coat for a friend out of a luscious wool cashmere inspired by one worn by a main character in Netflix "Night Agent"!

Who or how were you recruited to join ASG?

I picked up an ASG flyer at a fabric store and joined. Later, I attended one of the guilds' retreats and have been hooked ever since!



The Christmas Party!

The Guild Chapter Holiday Party will be held [Saturday, December 2](#) starting at 12 noon in Palmer at 1201 S. Grover Lane (Rae Longbrake's) The meat course is provided as well as beverages.

You are invited to bring a dish based on your birth month i.e.

Jan.-March an appetizer or bread, April-June, a main dish, July-Sept., a side dish, Oct.-Dec, a salad.

Everyone is invited to participate in the optional Yankee Swap gift exchange. Just bring a hand crafted gift for the kitchen in a brown paper bag.

Chapter Advisory Board Minutes, [October 28](#), 2023 at Pioneer Ridge B&B

Present: Rae Longbrake, Alice Stevens, Beverly Holmes, Janai Comer, Julie Gleason, Ada Gleason, Kathy Lunning (recording meeting minutes for vacant secretary position)

Elections: Rae is waiting to hear back from ASG on term limits for the CAB. ASG wants the CAB Change Form to be submitted by [December 1st](#). Discussion was held about our elections being done at the Holiday Party. It was discussed that we must have the form to ASG by [December 1st](#) then perhaps we move the elections to the Fall Retreat Chapter Meeting.

It was discussed that it should be considered for all winter CAB meetings to be done by ZOOM due to the possibility of bad weather.

NG Meetings were tabled. It was discussed that perhaps we need to consider changing the day and/or times. This would allow different people to attend. Some guilds are finding that they are closing as their members are aging out. Evenings were discussed by many people even though [Saturday](#) mornings are convenient for some, it is a time to get caught up on daily chores if you are working.

It was decided to have a combined NG Sit and Sew Day. Alice volunteered her sewing room for us to meet. We will be holding it on [May 4, 2024](#) from 10 am to 4 pm,

It was suggested to survey members to see if they would be willing to share a skill with the group for a monthly meeting. Rae will send out a survey to the members in [January 2024](#),

Retreat Question - Janai and Megan discussed the rate to charge for the Retreats as the cost is dependent on the amount of overnight guests. For the lower rate, we need 15 overnight guests for 2 days. At this retreat, Megan had to come to stay so that we had enough people overnight. It was decided to charge the higher rate, which is 12 overnight guests. Rather than refund the extra amount, it should be given to the housekeeping staff at the B & B.

Meals for the retreats were discussed. It is felt that people were not volunteering for meals as it is completely donated. It was decided that guests are to give \$10. For each meal that they partake in. This would be on the honor system. If \$10/Per day was charged for the meal and added to the room rate then the chapter may be subsidizing the meals and there are members who are not here.

It was discussed to talk to Etta about cooking again for the Spring Retreat since it is a smaller retreat. Kathy will speak to Etta about this possibility.

Rae will let us know the inventory of the excess Community Day Sew Projects. It will be decided what to do with it at the January CAB meeting.

Janai will investigate the price of 2 large self-healing cutting mats and let Rae and Beverly know.

A note to confirm the Anchorage NG meeting will be held on [Saturday, November 18th](#) from 1pm-3pm at the JoAnn Fabric in Anchorage (3801 Old Seward Hwy.)

Tessie Gleason will be hosting a "bring your own project to work on" as well as "show- and-tell". Everyone is invited!

Miscellaneous:

The CAB is looking into the purchase of 2 large, self-healing cutting mats to have available for chapter events & both the Valley and Anchorage group events!

A survey will be sent to your email in mid-January to ask for volunteers who could share their skills/knowledge with fellow guild members at a neighborhood meeting. The idea is for a short, 15–30-minute sewing tip or skill set to share and or demonstrate.

We are still in need of a Guild Secretary.

2024 Chapter Advisory Board- C.A.B.

President: Rae Longbrake, [907-863-0800](tel:907-863-0800) ralongbrake@gmail.com

Membership Chairman: Teresa Gleason, 244-9611 tessgleason77@yahoo.com

Secretary: TBA

Treasurer: Beverly Holmes, [907-243-8333](tel:907-243-8333) beverlyholmes@gmail.com

Special Events Coordinator: Kathy Lunning, [907-414-9600](tel:907-414-9600) scottandkath@gmail.com

Newsletter: Kathy Rockey, [907-232-8410](tel:907-232-8410) krockey@mtaonline.net

Anchorage Group Leader: Ada Gleason, [907-244-9614](tel:907-244-9614) adaknik@yahoo.com

Valley Group Leader: Julie Gleason, [907-244-9610](tel:907-244-9610) ladyjulia75@gmail.com

Fair Coordinator: Alice Stevens, [907-863-1662](tel:907-863-1662) akalice49@gmail.com

Sewing Tips & Tricks from Rae

Are you put off a bit about making professional looking collars? Check out this blog post “Sewing Super Sharp Collar Points on Shirts” I’ve used both methods mentioned and prefer the Thread Tail method which is applicable to any points on garments & works like a charm. blog.closetcorepatterns.com

AGAIN, I also highly recommend the “Express Collar and Collar Band” sewing method in Nancy Zieman’s book, Sewing Express, pages 15-19!

Recipe favorites and pictures from the Fall Retreat

<https://savorylotus.com/creamy-sweet-potato-bacon-chowder-dairy-free/>

Creamy Sweet Potato Bacon Chowder (dairy free)

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 25 mins

Total Time: 35 minutes

Yield: serves 4

5–6 slices bacon (sugar free bacon for Whole30 compliant)

2 tbsp butter, ghee, or coconut oil for completely dairy free

1/2 onion, diced small

2 cloves garlic, minced

3 cups of homemade broth (find recipe [HERE](#))

2 medium/large sweet potatoes, diced small (about 4 cups)

1 bay leaf ([like this](#))

1/4 tsp dried thyme ([like this](#))

1/4 tsp dried dill ([like this](#))

2 cups thinly sliced kale, tough ribs removed (I used Dino kale)

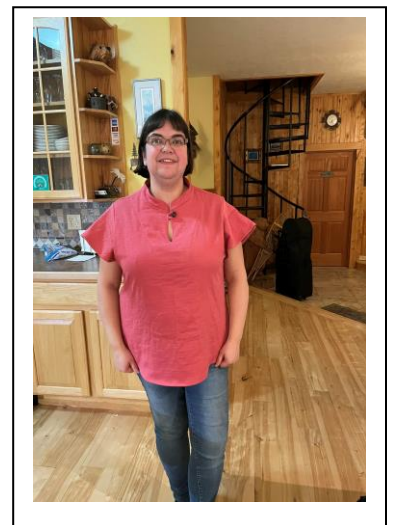
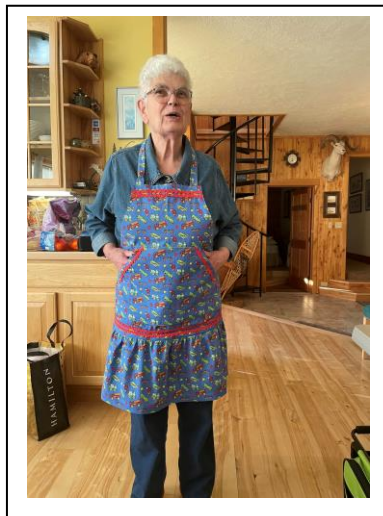
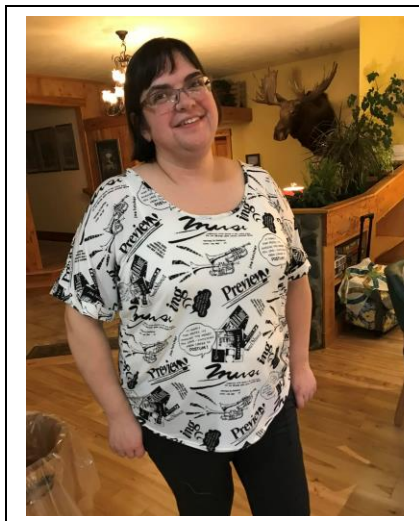
1 cup full fat coconut milk ([where to get BPA free coconut milk](#))

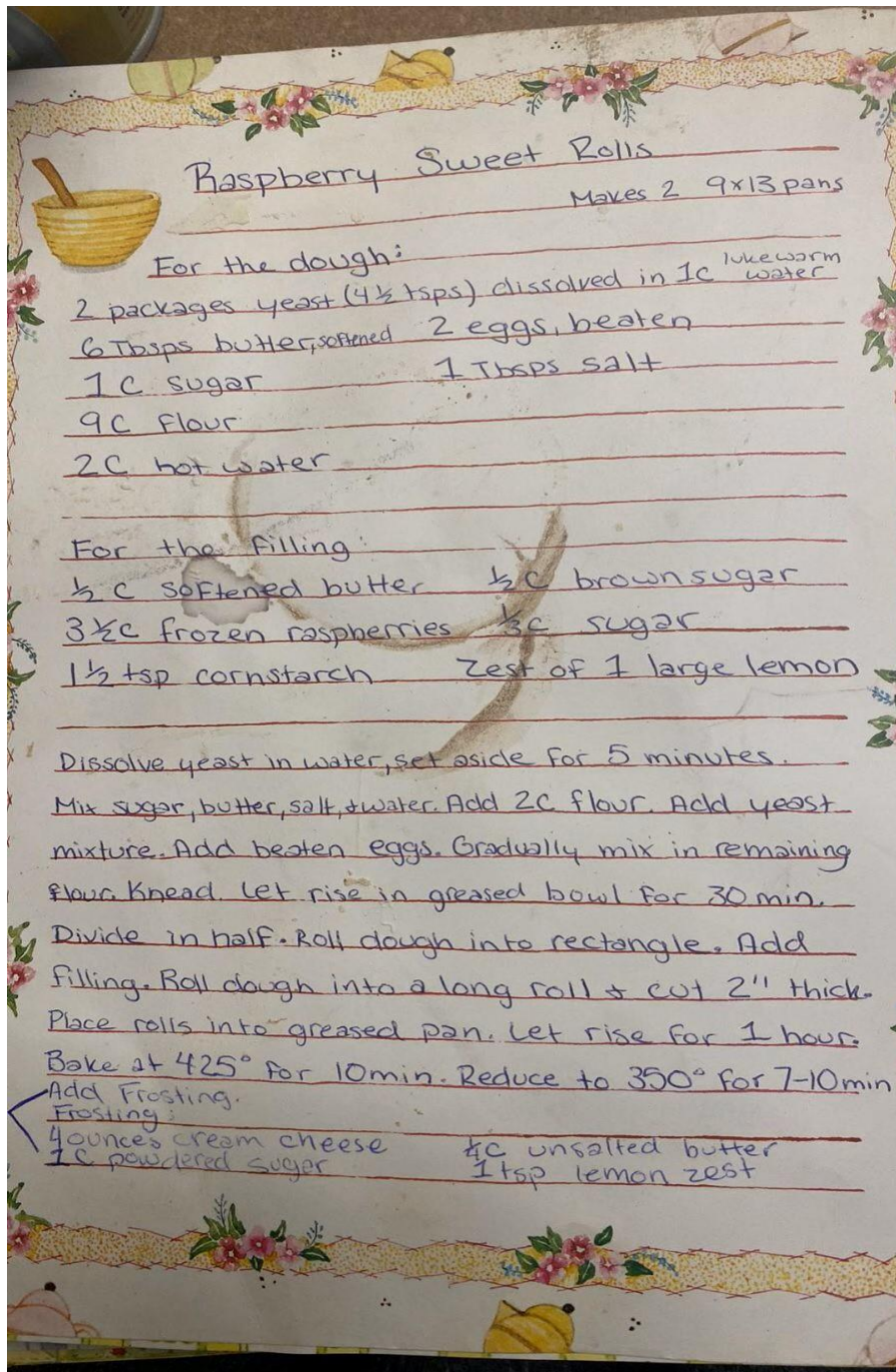
salt and pepper to taste

fresh parsley for garnish

Instructions

1. Cook bacon in a large skillet until well done and crispy. Set aside.
2. Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons of fat of choice (butter/ghee/coconut oil) in a large pot. Add onions and cook until translucent and beginning to brown. Add garlic and cook another 30 seconds.
3. Add broth, sweet potato, bay leaf, thyme, and dill. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer (covered) until potatoes are tender, about 12-15 minutes.
4. Stir in sliced kale and cook until wilted and bright green. Add in coconut milk and season with salt and pepper.
5. Serve immediately, garnished with chopped crispy bacon and parsley.





Thank you for reading all the way to the end!

Happy Sewing