

SEW Happy!

Volume 26 Number 2

April/May/June 2019

American Sewing Guild

The American Sewing Guild is a nonprofit organization for home sewers. ASG's purpose is to provide information, education and programs for its membership and the community. Our chapter serves Sonoma, Napa and Marin Counties.

Information on meetings, programs and membership is available at asgsantarosa.org.

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LESLEE BUDGE: "CREATING TEXTILES WITH WAX AND DYE— AND A LITTLE MORE"

Date: Saturday, April 6, 10:00 a.m. Come at 9:30 to socialize.

Business Meeting: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, [5475 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park](#)

Batik is the process of decorating cloth, usually cotton, using wax and dyes. Today in Java Indonesia this technique has risen to a high art form. African wax cloth had its origin in Javanese batiks. In this presentation Leslee will share photos and fabrics from Indonesia and Africa. While in Indonesia, she also traveled on the island of Sumatra where young women learn to embroider on a treadle machine. She will show examples of their work.

President's Message



Hello everyone!

I hope everyone has been staying dry with all the wild weather we have been having.

In the interest of transparency I'd like to let everyone know that the cost of our space for meetings and Sit and Sews has gone up and as a result we are looking to do some fundraising so that we can continue to offer the quality speakers and programs you all have come to expect from our chapter. The funds to provide these things come from you, our members. This money comes from our donation table at meetings, the coffee jar, membership renewals, as well as future endeavors your CAB has in the works (including the Tea, sewing lessons to new sewers, consultations with Cheryl to get your dress form to perfectly match you and many more!) So please be on the lookout for these new engaging opportunities.

(Continued on page 3)



JUDY FISHER: MY JOURNEY TO WEAVING MY OWN FABRIC

Date: Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. Come at 9:30 to socialize.

Business Meeting: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, [5475 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park](#)

Judy Fisher has been enamored with fibers and fabric from a young age. She had reached a place where she designed and wove her own fabrics and created clothing from what she made. That was until the 2017 Tubbs fire destroyed her home, her studio, all of her equipment and her life's work. Was Judy able to rebuild her life and her studio? Did she resume the direction she was previously traveling with her art? Or did the fire veer her off in a different direction? Come listen to Judy's journey and learn about where she is today.

President's Message cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

Looking ahead, I'd like to let everyone know that we will be hosting our own Tea in November. Last year we didn't get enough sign ups in time to book a room so this year we've booked the church. We will also be having many raffle items available in an effort to raise money for the chapter.

So please invite your friends! We are hoping to make this a large and profitable event for the chapter. And if you have something you'd like to offer as a raffle or silent auction item please don't hesitate to contact Leslee Budge, who is coordinating the Tea. I myself have made a basket full of handmade spa products to donate.

Furthermore, we are still in need of a Retail Liaison so please, if you have any interest, contact one of your CAB members.

Lastly, I'd like to welcome Annalise to the CAB. She has volunteered to take over our Secretary position.

Thank you to all of our CAB members and chairpersons for all the hard work you do behind the scenes. I sincerely appreciate it.

Best,

Alyssa Lucille



LYRA BOBO: Make the Most Flattering Garment Styles

Date: Saturday, June 8th, 10:00 am.

Come at 9:30 to socialize. **** Date change from our normal 1st Saturday of the month due to scheduling conflict.****

Business Meeting: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Cross and Crown Lutheran Church,

[5475 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park](#)

Would you like to learn how to make more flattering garment style and fabric choices? This presentation will help you make more informed selections which suit your life style and flatter you most. Join me for a detailed slide presentation that will help you understand the visual impact minor changes in garment lines, proportion, texture, color and silhouette can make!

[More Info Here](#)

Upcoming Events

April Events

Date	Start Time	Event	Location
Friday, April 05, 2019	10:00 AM	This 'n That Neighborhood Group	Rancho Grande Card Room, 5099 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Saturday, April 06, 2019	10:00 AM	ASG Monthly Meeting	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, April 06, 2019	12:30 PM	CAB Meeting	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, April 06, 2019	1:00 PM	After Meeting Sewing	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, April 13, 2019	9:00 AM	Sit and Sew with a Pro	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Friday, April 19, 2019	10:00 AM	Fit and Sew in Marin Special Interest Group	California Sew & Vacuum, 1435 4th St., San Rafael, CA
Saturday, April 20, 2019		No Sit and Sew this weekend	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Friday, April 26, 2019	10:00 AM	This 'n That Neighborhood Group	Rancho Grande Card Room, 5099 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Monday, April 29, 2019	10:00 AM	Sew Together Neighborhood Group	Village Sewing Center, 506 Lewis Road Santa Rosa, CA 95404

May Events

Date	Start Time	Event	Location
Friday, May 03, 2019	10:00 AM	This 'n That Neighborhood Group	Rancho Grande Card Room, 5099 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Saturday, May 04, 2019	10:00 AM	ASG Monthly Meeting	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, May 04, 2019	12:30 PM	CAB Meeting	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, May 04, 2019	1:00 PM	After Meeting Sewing	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Friday, May 17, 2019	10:00 AM	Fit and Sew in Marin Special Interest Group	California Sew & Vacuum, 1435 4th St., San Rafael, CA
Saturday, May 18, 2019	9:00 AM	Sit and Sew with a Pro	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Friday, May 24, 2019	10:00 AM	This 'n That Neighborhood Group	Rancho Grande Card Room, 5099 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Monday, May 27, 2019	10:00 AM	Sew Together Neighborhood Group	Village Sewing Center, 506 Lewis Road Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Upcoming Events

June Events

Date	Start Time	Event	Location
Saturday, June 01, 2019	[All day]	ASG Monthly Meeting is Next Week!	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Friday, June 07, 2019	10:00 AM	This 'n That Neighborhood Group	Rancho Grande Card Room, 5099 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Saturday, June 08, 2019	10:00 AM	ASG Monthly Meeting	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, June 08, 2019	12:30 PM	CAB Meeting	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, June 08, 2019	1:00 PM	After Meeting Sewing	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Saturday, June 15, 2019	9:00 AM	Sit and Sew with a Pro	Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5475 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA
Friday, June 21, 2019	10:00 AM	Fit and Sew in Marin Special Interest Group	California Sew & Vacuum, 1435 4th St., San Rafael, CA
Monday, June 24, 2019	10:00 AM	Sew Together Neighborhood Group	Village Sewing Center, 506 Lewis Road Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Friday, June 28, 2019	10:00 AM	This 'n That Neighborhood Group	Rancho Grande Card Room, 5099 Snyder Ln, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

April 2019

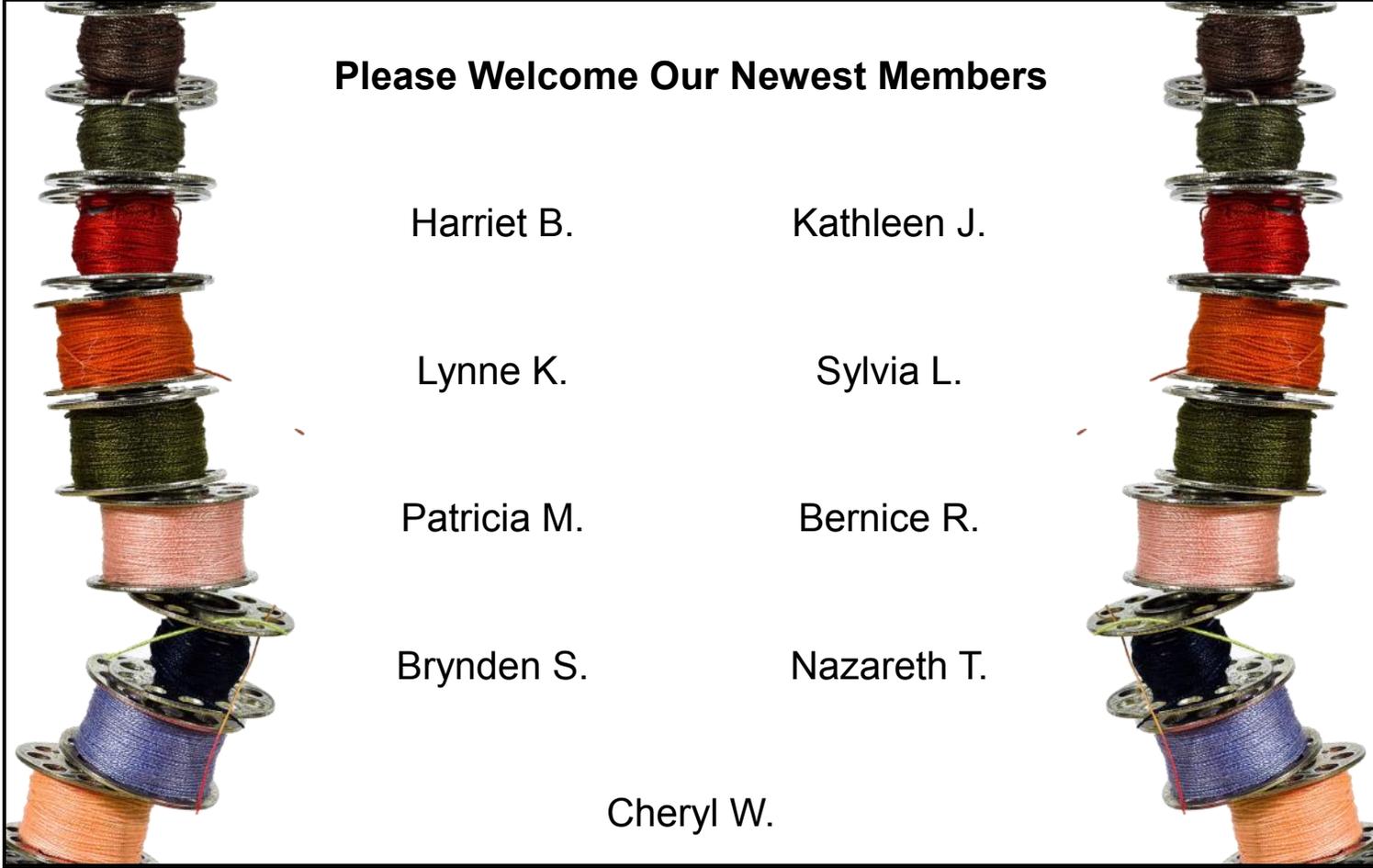
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 10a-1p This 'n That Group	6 10a-12p ASG Meeting: Leslee Budge 12:30p-2:30p CAB Meeting 1p-4:30p After Meeting Sew
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 9a-4:30p Sit and Sew with Ginny Winter
14	15	16	17	18	19 10a-12:30p Fit and Sew in Marin Group	20 No Sit and Sew this weekend
21	22	23	24	25	26 10a-1p This 'n That Group	27
28	29 10a-2p Sew Together Group	30	Notes:			

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 10a-1p This 'n That Group	4 10a-12p ASG Meeting: Judy Fisher 12:30p-2:30p CAB Meeting 1p-4:30p After Meeting Sew
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 10a-12:30p Fit and Sew in Marin Group	18 9a-4:30p Sit and Sew with Ginny Winter
19	20	21	22	23	24 10a-1p This 'n That Group	25
26	27 10a-2p Sew Together Group	28	29	30	31	Notes:

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ASG Monthly Meeting is Next Week!
2	3	4	5	6	7 10a-1p This 'n That Group	8 10a-12p ASG Meeting: Lyra Bobo 12:30p-2:30p CAB Meeting 1p-4:30p After Meeting Sew
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 9a-4:30p Sit and Sew with Lyra Bobo
16	17	18	19	20	21 10a-12:30p Fit and Sew in Marin Group	22
23	24 10a-2p Sew Together Group	25	26	27	28 10a-1p This 'n That Group	29
30	Notes:					



Please Welcome Our Newest Members

Harriet B.

Kathleen J.

Lynne K.

Sylvia L.

Patricia M.

Bernice R.

Brynden S.

Nazareth T.

Cheryl W.



Thank You to Our Renewing Members

Kaaren A.

Marsha A.

Karin B.

Laura C.

Myrna D.

Barbara Ann D.

Becky E.

JoAnn F.

Linda G.

Johanna H.

Maureen K.

Karen K.

Janice L.

Marie N.

Janice O.

Rebecca P.

Karen S.

Madeline S.

Rebecca S.

Jean T.

Connie W.

Kathy W.

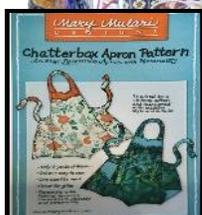
December Potluck & Apron Contest



Our December meeting was our potluck holiday gathering and featured a seasonal apron contest. As usual, the food was delicious and we had a great time visiting and chatting. Pictures (left) **Marilyn J.** and **Jody H.** have a conversation prior to the festivities. (below, left to right) Contestant **Janice L.** in her apron. She says, "I love my coffee in the morning so my apron was about what makes me happy. I had a great time taking the two coordinating fabrics and making an apron that was fun and reversible since I am not always the neatest cook. Love the pockets." She she used the [Chatterbox pattern by Mary Mulari](#). **Leslee B.** models the apron that won her the prize for the Best Upcycled Apron. She took an existing apron and added a sign created on her embroidery machine proclaiming the garment a Christmas apron. **Carole H.** won a prize for the Jolliest Apron with her red apron featuring winter panels. (bottom right) New member **Sachiko K.** attended her first ASG



Pictures courtesy of Gigi K.



added a sign created on her embroidery machine proclaiming the garment a Christmas apron. **Carole H.** won a prize for the Jolliest Apron with her red apron featuring winter panels. (bottom right) New member **Sachiko K.** attended her first ASG

(Continued on page 10)



December Potluck *(Continued from page 9)*

& Apron Contest cont'd.

event. Pictures (top to bottom, then left to right) What a feast! Everyone thoroughly enjoys all of the goodies brought by the members. During show and tell, **Sylvia L.** shows off a doll whose dress she crocheted. A picture showing the details of the doll's dress appears in the



bottom left corner. **Rebecca P.** made her apron for her volunteer job at a food bank. She likes to have seasonal aprons when she is there to make the patrons feel more festive. **Marilyn J.** treated her apron fabric to make sun prints. On a trip to Hawaii, she placed the fabric on the lawn and placed ferns and branches of palm leaves that a gardener had trimmed from a number of trees. Not too long after, she had a beautiful piece of yardage. Her apron only took half the fabric so she'll wait for another idea for using the rest of it. **Bertha P.** wanted to make an apron that gives her a lot of coverage because she can get messy when she cooks. She also needs pockets. She decided to go with a Christmas theme since she and her hubby were hosting dinner for 25 people. "I chose a fabric with cardinals and cute words like 'peace', 'cozy comfort', and 'time to gather' thrown in there. I wanted something I could accent with red too. I added the border on top."



January 5th meeting - Janice Langan: Fitting Pants



Creating
Great Fitting Pants
is a process
Not an event!
Janice

At our first meeting of 2019, **Janice Langan**, a Certified [Palmer/Pietsch](#) Instructor for over 30 years, gave us a tutorial on how



to fit pants. She put us at ease by first telling us that our bodies are just like everyone else's bodies in that they don't match the pattern. "Patterns are a guide only" and we need to adjust the pattern to fit our bodies. She proceeded to explain the steps of pants fitting using her sister (pictured top left and center left) as her model to create a pair of perfectly fitting pants that we gushed over. Her number one tip was to keep the grain lines perpendicular to the hip line.

Business Meeting: **Leslee B.** talked about the [ASG Sacramento Chapter's](#) summer retreat at Lake Tahoe and encouraged all of us to attend. **Marguerite L.** announced that [Sarah Veblen](#) will be conducting a three-day clothing workshop at her studio, [Tailor Tacks and Pins](#). **Lyra B.** announced that the [SRJC Fashion Studies](#) Fashion Show will take place on April 28th at 1:00 but she encouraged us to arrive early to get seats. As a fundraiser, [Belle Notte](#) will be selling their overstock fabric during the event with 50% of sales going to the Fashion Studies program. And we met new member **Kathy W.** (pictured bottom left) and new Sit and Sew instructor [Emily Melville](#).

Additional pictures this page: (bottom right) several members visit prior to the meeting .

(Continued on page 12)



January 5th meeting - Janice Langan: Fitting Pants cont'd



Photos courtesy of Carole H. and Cheryl K. Reporting by Cheryl K.



(Continued from page 11)

Show and Tell: **Carole H.** made a quilted holiday table runner that she is using as a wall hanging in her home. **Judy F.** made this apron for our December Potluck and Apron Contest ([see page 10](#)) but could not attend the event. **Alyssa Lucille L.** made this circle skirt from linen purchased at the SRJC costume sale and chiffon purchased at [The Legacy](#) resale store that supports the Sebastopol Senior Center. The entire project cost less than \$20.

Additional pictures this page: (under page title) **Kathleen J.** and **Vonnie A.** visit prior to the meeting. (Just above text) The members are captivated by Janice's presentation.

January 19th Sit and Sew

GINNY W. was our Pro at the first Sit and Sew of 2019. We had a large group attend the meeting showing off their varied projects. Pictures (top to bottom, left to right) **Abigail Z.** is a visitor who found us and signed up via Eventbrite. She sources cashmere from thrift stores and recycles them into graphic quilts like the one in the upper left. **Barbara C.** spent her time doing some mending and making a bra that she cut out at last summer's retreat but hadn't gotten to work on until now. **Celeste W.** is taking a Burda class from Lisa Marie Mamorelli at [Meissner Sewing and Vacuum](#). Her coral bargello fabric was purchased years ago in Los Angeles. It's a really fine cotton knit. The [Burda pattern](#) Celeste is using appears below her picture. **Brynden S.** is one of our newest members who is making her first-ever project, an apron pictured below. She also found us on Eventbrite and is taking advantage of Ginny's expertise to teach her to sew. **Annalise D.** is our new Secretary. She is holding a moulage that was fitted by Ginny. Annalise's goal is to make a .pdf pattern to sell on Etsy. **Marsha A.** is trying out her new 1963 Singer Featherweight which she picked up at a garage sale for \$10. An avid collector, Marsha is

(Continued on page 14)



January 19th Sit and Sew cont'd.



interested in how women's history parallels sewing. (This page, top to bottom and left to right) **Sandra W.** and her daughter **Lynn K.** (another new member) take a break to pose for me. Sandra is taking a year-long class from [Susan Khalje](#). She is making this pencil skirt from a [Linton tweed](#) she bought at the factory in Scotland. It will be underlined in silk organza and lined in silk. **Phyllis M.**



awaits her turn to have her muslin fitted by Ginny. It is from the vintage [Vogue pattern](#) pictured at the left. **Susi L.** is piecing fabrics onto a muslin base to make the [Sewing Workshop](#) Peony Vest for her sister. **Mary G.** is cutting out a [Sewholc pattern](#) for a classic shirt. **Maria L.** is altering a shirt from Forever 21. As a relatively new sewer, Maria relies on Ginny to help her with strategy on her projects. **Linda G's** granddaughter **Kieffer** attends our Sit and Sews to learn to sew, getting help from Ginny. While Kieffer is making a blouse with a pleat in the back, Linda works on a cosplay Jimminy Cricket costume for her son.



Pictures and reporting courtesy of Cheryl K.



February 2nd Meeting - Cheryl Kaul: Padding Up a Dress Form



Our February presentation by **Cheryl Kaul** (pictured center top) was both informative and entertaining. Cheryl gave us several



options for padding up a dress form, emphasizing that it is better to use a smaller form that is similar to your skeletal frame, padding it up to add the flesh. She taught us two ways to help match our forms to our shapes. The first is to use two L squares rubber banded together to make giant calipers to measure ourselves. The second is to take a picture of you and another of your form and superimpose one over the other making the top one translucent. (pictured left 3rd from top) This allows us to see exactly where the two do not align.



Remaining pictures: **Rebecca P** and **Judy F** (left, 2nd from top) share a laugh before the presentation. **Carrie H** and **Phyllis M.** (bottom center) visit during the socializing time.

Show and Tell: **Nancy S** (bottom right) showed off her Rosie the Riveter costume that she made. Read the full story on [page 21](#). **Lyra B** (pictured bottom left) made her kimono jacket out of a reversible double gauze fabric from a

(Continued on page 16)



February 2nd Meeting - Cheryl Kaul: Padding Up a Dress Form cont'd

(Continued from page 15)



Pictures courtesy of
Carole H. and Cheryl
K.

Japanese manufacturer. It was cut as one piece except for the contrasting bands down the front and on the sleeves. She also showed us her finished bed size quilt titled Harvest Moon (pictured top left.) It was an

exercise in sewing curves using a pattern by [Karla Alexander](#). Lyra had it quilted by checkbook by Joni Bellinghausen on a long arm machine. Lyra's third show and tell item was the smaller quilt that is part of a [Pointless Sisters](#) challenge called Earth, Wind and Fire (pictured center top) and celebrated her firefighter son. It uses a luminous background technique from a book by [Gloria Laughman](#) and is covered in black silk organza to give it the effect of looking through smoke. It was completely sewn on a machine. **Terri H.** (bottom left) shows off the ponte knit pants she made using a [Jalie](#) pattern. She also showed us the quilt made of squares that her mother embroidered and she is quilting (pictured middle left.)

Annalise D. (pictured at left 3rd from the top) showed us the coat she made using [Papercut Patterns \(a company out of New Zealand\) Sapporo Coat](#). She had to cut the pattern down to her size using the skills she learned in [Emily Melville's](#) flat pattern class at SRJC. Even though the pattern is not true and the seams do not match, it was worth the effort because the coat is easy to wear and Annalise wears it everywhere.

February 16th Sit and Sew with Ginny

Pictures and reporting courtesy of Cheryl K.



Ginny W. (bottom right) was our Pro at our February Sit and Sew. I happened to catch her with my camera as she taught us how to make triangle bound button holes (pictured to Ginny's right) which she learned from [Bobbie Carr](#). **Phyllis M.** (top left) cut out a shirt. She had Ginny fit the muslin at January's Sit and Sew. Phyllis also recovered a neck roll chewed by her dog. Look closely at the picture and you will see that the pink neck roll is stuffed with a skein of yarn. How resourceful! **Maria L.** (left, 2nd from top) was working on pants from **Janice L's** [Palmer/Pletsch](#) class. **Donna P.** (same row) is making a vest using a pattern by Judy Muller who conducted a workshop at [Moonlight Quilters](#) in 2015. (bottom row) **Rebecca P.** shows off the shirt she made for Valentine's Day using a [Connie Crawford pattern](#). Rebecca hasn't sewn clothing in woven fabrics for some time, usually keeping to knits. She is also trying to master her rotary cutter. **Marsha A.** is learning to use her sloper created by **Vonnie A's** company [Software Tailoring](#). She has the pattern rolled up onto a foam tube to keep it from getting wrinkled. **Barbara C.** is continuing to work on the bra she started last month. Below her is a picture of a pattern weight Barbara made as a fundraiser for ASG when she was president. They were in a basket that members bid on. **Leslee B** won that particular basket and those weights. The instructions to make the pattern weights can be [found on our website](#). (Next page pictures, top row) **Annalise D.** is using a [Burda](#) coat pattern but is changing the raglan sleeves to be similar to ones she saw by Fendi. She is also inspired by a coat she saw on

(Continued on page 18)



February 16th
 Sit and Sew
 with Ginny Winter
 cont'd



(Continued from page 17)

Project Runway (drawing pictured to Annalise's right). The Burda pattern has the sleeve seam on top but, since Annalise wants to use a plaid fabric, she is changing the seam to be on the underside of the sleeve so that matching the plaid will be a non-issue. **Mary G.** is working on the shirt using a [Sewholc pattern](#) that she started at the last Sit and Sew. **Kathleen J.** took the [Fashion Analysis class at SRJC](#) and made a muslin for a garment. She is now constructing that garment in fashion fabric. (middle row, left to right) **Leslee B.** models her new pants. She used her own pattern which she perfected over the years and recently made perfect in **Janice L.'s Palmer/Pletsch** pant fitting class. **Linda G.** is working on a shell out of rayon fabric given to her by **Darlene W.** **Margaret K.** had a fitting for the Eureka pant (by [Fit for Arts patterns](#)) at the [ASG Conference](#) last July. She made a muslin and was waiting for Ginny to make any final adjustments. **Susi L.** is working on a jellyroll rug. She uses a seam roller from [Violet Craft](#) (pictured below Susi) so she doesn't need to press seams open. Susi also had these sewing machine cleaners by [Quilt in a Day](#) in her tool kit. Sit and Sews are a great place to see peoples tools and gadgets. (bottom left) **Kieffer** has reached a milestone and is making her first pair of pants. She purchased the [Collette pattern](#) from [Stitchcraft](#) in Petaluma. (not pictured) **Cyndi S.** Is making a shower curtain in a fabric that matches the paint color picked out by her husband.



Editor's Note: The BBC graciously gave us permission to reprint this article. However, they do not have rights to the pictures that accompanied the original article and could not give us permission to use them. I could not secure permission from the rights holders so other pictures have been substituted. The article with the original pictures can be found at BBC.co.uk. Also, we changed the British spelling of words to American to please our spell checker.

100 Women: The women who sew for NASA

By Mary Halton

Without its seamstresses, many of NASA's key missions would never have left the ground.

From the Apollo spacesuits to the Mars rovers, women behind the scenes have stitched vital spaceflight components.

One of them is Lien Pham, a literal tailor to the stars - working in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's shield shop to create thermal blankets, essential for any spacecraft leaving Earth.

It may not sound glamorous, but Lien does work with couture materials.

The Cassini mission, her first project at NASA, went to Saturn cloaked in fine golden insulation for durability over its 19-year journey.

Your shoes have more in common with interplanetary spacecraft than you might think - thermal blankets are created on the same industrial sewing machines as footwear, and then laced onto the spacecraft so they don't come loose during launch.

Growing up in Vietnam, Lien "never dreamed" of working for NASA, least of all sewing for the space agency.



But when her family fled the country in the late 1970s after the fall of Saigon, she found herself in the US, needing to make enough money to support six siblings.

The family bought two sewing machines and began to sell clothes from their home, sewing by night.

"We did dresses, blouses, shirts, and other things. We got paid maybe 50 cents per garment," she tells 100 Women.

Working a day job at a lingerie company, once a week Lien went to electrical engineering classes.

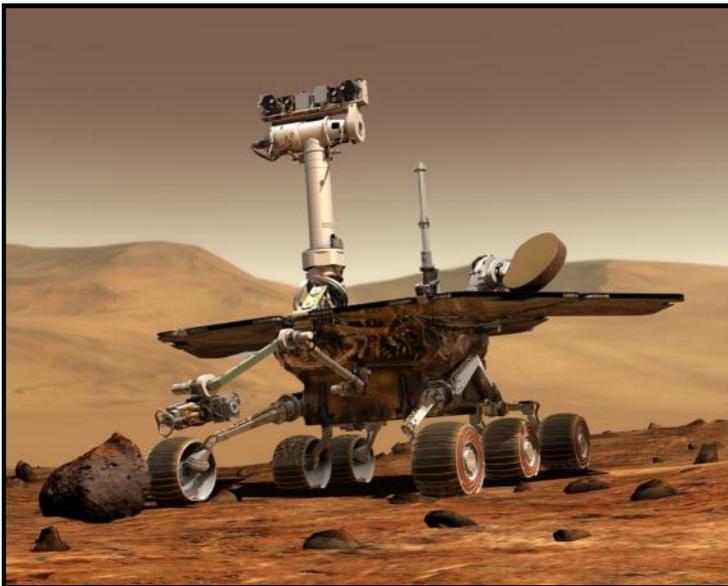
At that time, engineering was a booming business in California. And NASA was hiring.

Lien's friend recommended that she apply for a job at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and in 1994 she started work at the space agency - on the cabling team for the Cassini mission to Saturn.

The intricate job of connecting all the separate scientific instruments on the spacecraft to a central power supply was very demanding - it took her team three years.

"Just like a sewing factory is mostly women... cabling is mostly women because we're good with

(Continued on page 20)



100 Women: The women who sew for NASA cont'd.

(Continued from page 19)

our hands," she says.

The thermal blanketing team, or the shield shop as it's known, is a small group made up mostly of women. They carefully stitch together over 20 individual layers - some just 1/1000th of an inch thick.

Each blanket is patterned, measured and fitted, like the finest suit.

"It's all tailored," Lien explains, "all hand made."

NASA hires women with sewing experience for a reason. When engineers couldn't figure out how to work with Teflon - the non-stick material that coats many saucepans - they were at a loss.

Lien suggested folding the edge of the material and sewing it like a hem, as she would with a shirt at home.

It worked.

Lien is the latest in a long line of women whose crafting skills have been vital to NASA. During the Apollo program, which sent the first humans to the moon, employees at defense contractor Raytheon were employed to "weave" the software for the spacecraft.

Referred to as the "little old ladies", many of them were in fact young women, threading copper wires through tiny magnetic loops to create the individual ones and zeros of program code. Their role in this time consuming and incredibly precise process was largely invisible to the outside world.

Similarly, the seamstresses of lingerie brand Playtex pioneered new sewing techniques to create the Apollo spacesuits. Working to unprecedented levels of precision, and often late into the night, their innovations made human spaceflight possible.

Much like the hidden figures of NASA's aeronautics research facility, many of their stories go untold.

However, for Lien, the work itself is a dream come true.

"I would look up at the sky when I was little, and I thought it would be nice to touch one of those stars. But then I came here and got to build something that would go there."

"Never in my imagination could I have believed that."



We have a table at the
Sonoma County Fair
so we can tell the world about the
ASG, Santa Rosa Chapter

Dates: August 1-11

Shifts are 3 or more hours between 11:00 am & 10:00 pm

Please sign up for a shift or two.

**You will be talking to interested people
about our organization.**

**If you wish you can also
demonstrate a sewing skill.**

Contact Alyssa Lucille if you can help.

Editor's Note: In these pages we've heard from our members who sew square dance costumes, wedding gowns, mu'umu'u, cosplay costumes and many more items. At the February 2nd Monthly Meeting, Nancy S. showed off the Rosie the Riveter costume she made and told us a little about her life as Rosebud. I was enthralled so I asked Nancy to share her story with us so that those of you who did not attend the meeting would hear her story.

Rosie the Riveter

From an interview of Nancy S. by Cheryl K.

I am a Rosebud because I'm the daughter of a Rosie the Riveter. I belong to [The American Rosie the Riveter Association](#) and I have attended some of their conventions. I made my Rosie costume as part of that role. It took me two years to make and get it to fit properly



Nancy with a veteran who bailed out of flaming B17 and was POW until the end of World War II



Nancy with the Vets in Vettes at the Petluma Veteran's Day Parade.



so that it was comfortable to wear all day without having to adjust it repeatedly. The costume is historically accurate, though I wish it were less so. I find the button closures on the pants cumbersome; I wish I had installed a zipper with a fake button closure on top. Also the shoulder straps that button at the waist in the back are impossible for me to work. I often have to solicit help after a bathroom break.

My mother was a Rosie who worked in a defense plant near Cleveland, Ohio during World War II. I believe she was a machinist because she gave me these stainless steel lockets she made during her breaks. But she is only part of the reason I became a Rosebud and joined the Rosie organization and made my Rosie costume.

My dad was a Member of the [Pacific Coast Air Museum](#) and I accompanied him to meetings. I became active and joined an oral history team. My background is teaching history and government to high school students and I believe children learn best from the mouths of the people with first-hand experience, those who were there. So we interviewed WWII vets about their experiences and transcribed the interviews. Many of the vets were reluctant to talk citing that they did nothing special, only their jobs. The Rosie costume was a way to honor the vets and approach them so they feel comfortable talking about themselves and their experience. Wearing a Rosie outfit gives an opening to talk to the vets. It's my sales gimmick! Vets act differently because of the outfit. We now videotape these interviews as part of the [Library of Congress Veterans History Project](#).

Veterans aren't the only ones fascinated by my Rosie outfit. I'm constantly being asked to pose for pictures with kids and/or planes and/or veterans. Also other organizations appreciate my Rosie costume. I've appeared with the "Calendar Girls" who also dress as Rosies or Red

(Continued on page 22)

Rosie the Riveter

(Continued from page 21)

cont'd

information on which war he served in. These appearances become a recruiting opportunity for the Veterans History Project because lots of veterans and WWII women watch the parade.

By my membership in The American Rosie the Riveter Association and my work with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, I am honoring a generation that sacrificed so much for our country. It was not only the veterans but the women who heeded the call by the government. They did war work in fields that were not traditionally considered women's work. It was because of the immense firepower the U.S. provided to the Allies that won the war. It was the women who did this.

FYI May 25 will be a Memorial Day event at Montgomery Village Shopping Center. They always honor vets that time of the year, so this year, our oral history team will be bringing 36 veterans we have interviewed. Each will have table space for their memorabilia and to meet the public. There is music, food and a P 51 Mustang flyover followed by a "Missing Man " formation fly over. I will be there dressed as "Rosie". Great time for the youngsters to meet the veterans and learn about the wars.



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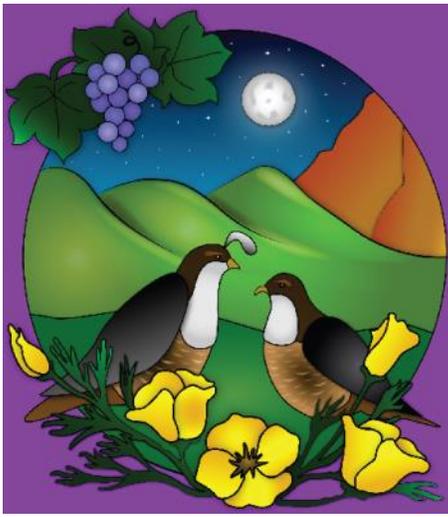
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