DREAMS and SEAMS

American Sewing Guild

Vol. 1 No. 6

American Sewing Guild -- Wichita, Kansas Chapter

November/December 1999

Words of Wisdom

By Denise Dias, Chapter President

Have you begun to sew for the holidays? I started sewing in late September to make some special gifts

for Christmas. I have completed a few and hop to keep a steady pace until I am done. It is still not too late to sit down with a cup of coffee

d decide what you can make to give. My suggestion would be to make a list. Once you have decided what

to make you can assembel those materials in a plastic zipper bag. That way you can have everything together when you have some time to sit down and work on your project. Don't try to make projects that are too complicated. Simple gifts are usually the best. Thinking a project through

really can save you some grief in the end. Some simple but great gifts could be: a fleece throw, socks, hats or pullovers. Don't forget table linens, like placemants and napkins, they are quick to sew and so lovely to have. Maybe an organizer is more

your style, there are some great ones that you can sew in a jiffy. Well, do you get the picture? Make you holidays special with something special that you

(Continued to page 7)

Next Meetings:

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 7
Holiday Party
& Gift Exchange

meeting 1:30 & 7:00 P.M. at Sedgwick Co. Ext. Center 7001 W. 21st Street North

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 4
"Sew In"

(Unfinished & Problem Projects) meeting 1:30 & 7:00 P.M. at Sedgwick Co. Ext. Center 7001 W. 21st Street North



<u>Featured in September and October</u>

Tips from National, Enjoying Cake, and Storage Ideas

"Thank You" to **Denise Dias**, our Chapter President, for leading the September meeting on "What's New in Fabric and Textiles". She was aptly assisted by **Debbie Young** and **Sondra Schmittgens** on their presentation of new ideas and information collected at the National Convention in Kansas City. The meeting was enjoyable and enlightening as well as a great celebration with the cake served in honor of our Chapter's 1st birthday.

Our regular October meeting was held at California Closets, 650 N. Carriage Parkway, Suite 50. Kathleen Michelbach, owner/designer, presented a program on "Organizing Your Sewing Room." This store is an organizer's dream come true. Neat and interesting ways to store everything around the house, even your sewing supplies and stash. Kathleen visited with us about the many neat ways to store all of our "stuff" and also showed

us some new gadgets to make our lives much easier. All of her products are tested by herself and her staff, before she puts them out on the showroom floor. She admits that not every gadget makes it to the sales floor, but believes in all the products that they now carry. If you missed the meeting, it is worth the time to stop by and see the many fabulous treasures in this shop. Kathleen inspired us to get organized and make room for more. fabric, of course!

Getting To Know You. . .

Aurelia Lobban. Historian/Librarian: Hi, I'm Aurelia Lobban. I moved to Wichita a year ago in August and was looking in the paper when I saw the message about a sewing meeting. Amy Marlo was a great speaker for the Guild and with Denise and the Extension Office as a meeting place it sounded like a great way to renew my interest in sewing and actually get some sewing done. Being asked to be involved in the library reminded me of 8th grade and being asked to help in the school library. I enjoyed that and have enjoyed what I've been able to do so far, although I look forward to the library growing and being more accessible.

My first sewing memory was needle and thread sitting on my bed probably in 2nd grade. My first machine was a toy-size, but really functional, machine in 5th or 6th grade. My training was partly 7th and 8th grade "home ec" and partly my mom. She and I have had a lot of fun at the Sewing Expo in Seattle sponsored by the Washington State University. It sounds similar to the convention except there are no hands-on workshops, and the entry fee in considerably less. There are tons of interesting work to see and lots of famous names having seminars.

I think Wichita is really lucky to have the Extension Office as a resource and the sewing classes at such affordable prices.

On Sondra's standard questions:

- 1.) Do you like Vogue or Butterick? I like Vogue more. But most of the patterns I've bought for myself in the past few years have been small pattern companies like Lyla Messinger, My Favorite Things by Leslie Gladman, and recently, a jacket pattern by Country in the City.
- 2.) Linen or permanent press? Linen
- 3.) Sewing or Chocolate? Unfortunately I'd probably pick chocolate. (Maybe that will change, I hope.)
- 4.) Always backstitch? Not quite, but most of the time.
- 5.) Favorite notion? French curve for drafting patterns, especially when you need different sizes on top and bottom.

Debbie Young, Historian/Librarian (Interviewed by Chapter Secretary Sondra Schmittgens): Debbie was born and raised in Michigan. In 1971, she married her beloved Gordy and moved to California. She has two grown sons. Debbie's mom started to teach her to sew at about age 10. She showed her how to sew simple clothing for herself.

Debbie's sewing career took a bit of tumble in high school Home Economics. She flunked her class, not because of a lack of skill, but an excess of attitude. She finished her assigned blouse in about 3 days instead of the allotted 3 weeks. The instructor made her take it apart and remake it several times after which Debbie received an A+. In frustration, Debbie threw the blouse in the trash in front of her teacher. "Then I went to see the principal, whom I knew well," says Debbie. She got her grade moved up to a B, but that was the best the principal could do, because "my attitude was pretty bad."

In California, Debbie had her own drapery business for 15 years. She says she has made anything you can think of (don't ask). She has made everything (Continued to page 5)

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Inserts (8 ½" x 11") \$30
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The Deadline for the January/February issue will be December 7. Send your info. in writing by that date to: Marcia Davis, 1020 N. Pinecrest, Wichita, KS 67208 or E-mail: Gbmhh@aol.com

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Mark Your Calendar NOW

PROGRAM SCHEDULE UPDATE

Thanks to **Becky Wondra**, our Guild's Education Chairman, we have some wonderful programs scheduled for future meetings. All meetings will be held at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center, 7001 W. 21st Street North at 1:30 and 7:00 P.M. You won't want to miss any of them. . . Check out the following:

November 2

"Winter Ideas"

Presented by Kechi Quilt Shop

December 7

Holiday Party & Gift Exchange Bring a finger food (with recipe) and a \$5 gift for the exchange.

January 4 "Sew In"

(Unfinished & Problem Projects)

Presented by Denise Dias, Guild President

February 1

"Upgrades in Interfacing for Quality Garments"

Presented by Bev Seyfert, Sewing Center

March 7

"Machine Embroidery"

Presented by Martha Flanagan, FACS Agent from Cherokee Co.

March 10 & 11 Fabric Swap 2000

(Note that this will be a two-day event in 2000. Times to be announced!)

The Top 10 Things I've Learned to Appreciate as the Husband of an A.S.G. Seamstress

by Greg Schmittgens
Husband of the Chapter Secretary, Sondra Schmittgens

- **10.** Spending a day at the Boeing surplus store, because -- "They might have something cool for a jacket closure."
- 9. The loving tone of -- "That's raw silk, you stupid b*****d!!!"
- **8.** Proper first aid procedures for a sewing needle puncture -- "Save the fabric! Don't worry about me!!!"
- 7. Fabric box storage techniques more zealously guarded than the secrets of the Shaolin Priesthood.
- 6. Shirley Adams is the Ansel Adams of sewing.
- **5**. Green it isn't. It's forest, kelly, turquoise, emerald, the entire teal family. . .
- 4. Shirley Adams is not the Grizzly Adams of sewing.
- 3. The opening time, closing time, layout, and sales staff of every fabric store in a seven county area.
- Going to a 'chick flick' and finding out it's not the actors or the script. It's the costumes. ("Doesn't that blouse make you want to weep?")
- 1. Basting has **nothing** to do with the Thanksgiving turkey!



We will hold our Holiday Party at the December meeting on Tuesday, December 7, at 1:30 and 7:00 P.M. Make sure you bring a gift (\$5) for the exchange and a finger food (include the recipe) to share. The Winter Sewing Challenge items will be on display, and we will be voting for our favorite one at that time. This should be a "fun" and busy meeting. Mark your calendar NOW!!!

Welcome to Our New Members and Renewals

NEW MEMBERS:			
Moore, Bertha	777-1783	20 Circle Ct.	Mulvane, KS 67110
RENEWALS:			
Beaver, Marilyn	788-5615	1011odine Dr.	Derby, KS 67037
Bolt, Coralyn	682-5467	4015 Hammon Dr.	Wichita, KS 67218
Chrisco, Ruby	788-0807	111 Ohio St.	Derby, KS 67037
Dunn, Mary	262-3538	1207 Bitting	Wichita, KS 67203
Emery, Linda	788-4123	1426 Dry Creek Cir	Derby, KS 67037
Garren, Marsha	722-6348	629 Tippecanoe	Wichita, KS 67209
Gray, Belle	743-6123	2316 W. 30th St. South	Wichita, KS 67217
James, Barbara	776-2920	312 E. Osage	Rosehill, KS 67133
Kroeger, Barbara	636-5590	4013 Sweet Bay	Wichita, KS 67226
Miller, Dolores	722-7472	1441 S. Fieldcrest St.	Wichita, KS 67209
St. Clair, Anne	684-5989	2714 Boulevard Plaza	Wichita, KS 67211
Scadden, Barbara	682-3402	329 St James	Wichita, KS 67206
Schmittgens, Sondra	943-9813	2111 W. Douglas	Wichita, KS 67213
Schneider, Shari	524-1999	3719 W. Marie	Wichita, KS 67211

Excited, Delighted, Motivated and Sewing On!

by Luana Barnes, Guild Member

Wow!!! Wasn't Shirley Adams' seminar great? Along with many Sewing Guild members and potential members, I attended the seminar and left inspired. I was buzzing with ideas and exciting things to try.

So what did I learn? I need three times the storage area I currently have. My sewing area is much too small and will soon be expanded to a room all its own. And, each day simply must be longer or maybe I could quit my day job and use Shirley's bookkeeping system. Perhaps the "money saved plan" really would pay my bills.

Which of her ideas am I most excited about? I loved the snap-on collars and dickies for jackets. What great wardrobe expanding accessories. And weren't they beautiful? Her basic patterns with all the different pieces for variations should make more of my sewing time available for embellishment — that looks like the fun stuff to me — instead of spending so much time fitting patterns again and again. Her coats without patterns really look like fun. It was interesting and reassuring to hear her talk of things I already do and have done for years. I haven't ever saved and used thread ravellings and at this point doubt that I will — though stranger things have happened.

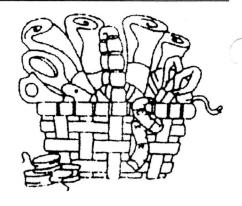


Fabric fat quarters and rules will need to be purchased for \$2.00 at the Guild meeting. The fabric is 100% cotton in a snowflake design by Debbie Mumm. You may make any item that you choose. The article must be completed and the entry submitted to **Denise Dias** at the Extension Office or **Shirley Binder** at Prairie Quilts in Parklane by Friday, December 3.

The winner will be chosen by "People's Choice," and they will receive an Ott-Lite® which retails for \$79.99. This light is wonderful for sewers as it is a great source of natural light.

Don't miss out — make sure you enter the Winter Sewing Challenge today!

Sue Carpenter, Norma McCray, Denise Dias, and all the people on the committees earned a great big thank you



and pat on the back for an event that took place without a hitch. There were goodie bags and door prizes for everyone, plenty of good food for lunch, lots of friends, and enough ideas to keep my sewing fresh and new for years to come!

As I finish this I wonder – how many of us who attended this seminar spent the weekend sewing??? *I did!!!*

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Ever wonder what all the fuss is about when it comes to sewing? Come to our seminar and learn some wonderful techniques for no-fuss, successful sewing. Not only will you learn how to sew coverhems, rolled hems, chain stitches and more, you'll also learn how to achieve exciting new looks using specialty sewing feet. Open up your sewing projects to a whole new world of creativity. Sign up today!



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Cynthia Guffey Guest Speaker

Kansas City Guild Held Appreciation Seminar That Was Truly Appreciated

by Aurelia Lobban, Historian/Librarian of Wichita, Kansas Guild

I was lucky enough to be able to attend a lecture by Cynthia Guffey in Overland Park, Kansas, sponsored by the Kansas City Chapter of the

American Sewing Guild on October 16. The first part of the lecture was about fit, especially on pants. Cynthia's first suggestion was a familiar one, place an elastic band around your

waist. The next idea may be a new one, place a piece of tape with a vertical line on it on your side seam, the tape also is marked horizontally every two inches down from that waist until you each the largest measurement or hip line. An important measurement to determine if you have a high hip (or how high it is) is to measure from the waist down the side seam to the floor (sans shoes), on the left and right and compare. She also has you measure from center front to the floor (to determine the waistline slope from the side seam) and from center back to determine the same. Most of us slope up in the front and down in the back. By measuring horizontally at every two inches from side seam to side seam across the front and across the back you will allow enough room for the tummy in the front and hips in the back. Her other strong recommendation was to use the European method for crotch length in front and back. The formula is 55% back crotch length and 45% front crotch length. For example, with a total crotch length of 31 (that is including the desired ease) the back crotch length would be 17 inches and the front crotch length would be 14 inches. She said Burda patterns usually had the 55/45

ratio on the crotch length. Her other recommendation was to use a flexible ruler to get the shape of your backside to use when drawing the back crotch

Guffey suggested, "Use the European method for crotch length in front and back. The formula is 55% back crotch length and 45% front crotch length."

length. You'll definitely need a helping hand to get these measurements taken accurately, but they go a long way towards getting a pants pattern that fits. She recommends at least two darts in the back – more if you have a flat seat.

Cynthia also strongly suggests making pair of muslin pants (or gingham check). For example, some of the women at the seminar had made muslin samples and one of the women had a funny little angle thing happening in the lower leg which Cynthia said you couldn't have predicted from the measurements. She took a little pinch of the fabric and pinned it so the pants leg hung straight of grain again. She said you would just take the same pinch on your pattern. When you work with your pattern, she suggests that you mark the center of the leg so that the straight of grain is in the center of the leg and if you need to make adjustments you aren't going to throw the grain off the leg.

Cynthia Guffey was able to create very impressive, elegant designs on her garments with machine embroidery. She suggested that you might want to have your card designs photocopied so you aren't overly influenced by the colors that they are shown in. For example she had a waist inset piece with tone on

tone embroidery in grey. The card she used for the flower was the poinsettia, surrounded by a wing needle pattern to frame it. I definitely wouldn't have

realized it was a poinsettia without her telling me. When she does machine embroidery, she used tape to center the design on the piece bigger than the hoop will be. If something goes wrong, you can

still resume or re-center the design and be lined up. She said she had that happen to her when she left the machine working and the hoop had come loose. Fortunately with the tape to realign her hoop the stitching could be perfectly finished. She suggested looking at expensive ready to wear; she had seen a cotton blouse with giraffes embroidered in an overall pattern and then accented at the collar points, cuffs, and pocket. She created the same look but used a seal pattern. She had also embroidered over grosgrain ribbon weaving, and fabuleather, and created an elegant looking single motif on a faux fur cuff. She also let her sense of humor show on one of her denim jackets. She's a fan of a puppet named Madam. When she saw a Johnny Carson show interviewing Madam, she collected a quote, "Hey Baby, can I buy you a car?" which was Madam's answer to Johnny's question, "How do you pick up men in a bar?" Cynthia used the quote with an embroidered car on the cuff. She also suggested just playing with your embroidery machine.

This was a great seminar, and I hope more of us from Wichita can carpool to seminars like this in the future.

Holiday Gatherings Gift Bags

Designed for VIP by Leslie Beck

Supplies For Large & Small Gift Bags

Top band - 1/3 yard Accent strips - 1/4 yard Santa print - 1/2 yard Bottom band - 1/3 yard Ties - 1/4 yd

General Instructions

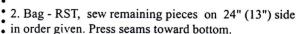
Use 1/4" seam allowance.
RST - Right sides together.
Quantities of strips & pieces to cut are same for both.
Small bag sizes to cut & sew are in parenthesis ().

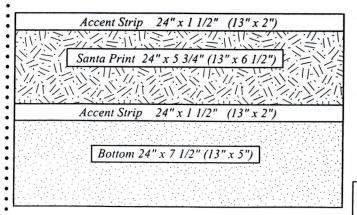
Cutting Instructions

Top band - one 24" x 8" (13" x 8") piece Accent strips - two 24" x 1 1/2" (13" x 2") strips Santa print - one 24" x 5 3/4" (13" x 6 1/2") piece Bag bottom - one 24" x 7 1/2" (13" x 5") piece Ties - one 2 1/2" x 32" (2 1/2" x 28") strip



- 1. Top band RST, sew 8" side to make a tube. Press seam open.Turn.
- A. Wrong sides together, raw edges even, fold tube in half & press. Baste raw edges with 1/8" seam allowance.





A. RST, matching raw edges, fold pieced unit in half lengthwise. Sew down side and across bottom. Press seams one direction.

B. Flat bottom - RST, bring bottom and side seam together as shown. Stitch across fabric, about 1" in from end. Make sure bottom seam is going the same direction. Turn right side out.



Large gift bag finished size 11 1/2" x 17 3/4"

Small gift bag finished size - (7" x 17")

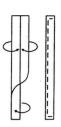
3. RST, slip top band over pieced bag. Matching seam lines and raw edges. Sew to top of pieced bag.



A. Press seam allowance to bottom. Topstitch in place, on accent strip, 1/8" from seam line.



4. Tie - Wrong sides together, fold in half lengthwise. Press. Open. Bring raw edges to center crease. Press and fold in half, lengthwise. Topstitch. Sew tie to side seam, adjusting position to fit gift size. Knot or pink ends to finish.



We hope you enjoy making the gift bags. Every effort was made to insure all instructions are accurate and complete. We are not responsible for human error, printing mistakes or oversights.

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The Votes Are In & Counted!



We would like to thank all the Board members and Committee Chairs who made this first year a real success for our Guild. We

have sincerely appreciated all your hard work and look forward to many, many years of sewing enjoyment through our combined efforts as a Guild.

The following will be installed as the new Board and Committee Chairs:

President
Vice President
Membership Chair
Newsletter Chair
Retail Liaison Chair
Special Events Chair
Historian/Librarians

Hospitality Chair Publicity Chair Charity Chair Denise Dias
Shirley Binder
Lois Welch
Marcia Davis
Feryl Giesen
Sue Carpenter
Aurelia Lobban
Debbie Young
Aletha VanCamp
Malynda Perkins
Sandra Zarnikow

Thank you for agreeing to serve our Guild and remember, "We're all in this together!"



Words of Wisdom. . .

(Continued from page 1)

have sewn. Giving of yourself is the greatest gift of all.

A couple of other thoughts. . . Shirley Adams was wonderful. Everyone really enjoyed her talk and now needs some time to spend with their sewing machines. I know I was so excited that I went home and cut out a jacket. I amt rying to incorporate some of her techniques into my sewing. She has so many neat ideas, it is hard to remember all of them.

Don't forget that it isn't too late to enter the sewing challenge. An Ott-Lite® would be a wonderful Christmas gift for anyone. If you are interested in a fat quarter, see me and I will getyou one. They cost a mere \$2.00.

Sew Happy Holidays, Denise

ĎÓĎĎĎĎĎĎĎĎĎĎĎĎĎ Slow Cooker Apple Cobbler

Teresa Lang, Guild Member & Sg. County Ext. Agent Put in the slow cooker and sew all day!

YOU NEED:

4 medium tart apples

1/2 c. sugar

dash rind and juice of 1 lemon

5 Tablespoons butter or margarine

3/4 c. natural cereal with nuts and fruits
Grease sides of a 3 1/2 quart slow cooker lightly with
oil. Core, peel and slice apples; place in slow cooker.
Add sugar, lemon rind, lemon juice and cinnamon.
Combine butter and cereal. Add to slow cooker; mix
thoroughly. Cover. Cook on LOW for 6 to 8 hours or
HIGH for 2 to 3 hours. Serve with vanilla ice cream or
whipped topping, if desired.



Cynthia Guffey's Tip:

When shrinking cording or rattail, warp it around and tie it to a towel before laundering. That way you don't end up with a mess in the washing machine or dryer.

Getting To Know You. . .

(Continued from page 2)

from baby clothes to drapes. A true gourmand of sewing.

Debbie's biggest sewing challenge was remaking a dress that her dog had eaten. "Thank God he started at the hem, I was able to turn it into a blouse." (The dog died shortly thereafter of purely natural causes.)

Now it's time for the five questions: Choosing between Vogue and Butterick she chooses Vogue (better lines, more tailored).

Between Linen and perma-press? *OH! Linen*. Would she prefer to sew or eat chocolate? "No contest, I'll sew. . . but actually I can do both simultaneously."

Does she always backstitch a seam? Heck, no. . . who has time?

And the last question. What is her favorite sewing notion? "Steam-a-seam, no my rotary cutter, no my scissors, no my..." (you get the idea).

"Thank You" to Those Who Helped

by Sue Carpenter, Guild Special Events Chair

If you missed the Shirley Adams seminar on Friday, October 8, you missed a wonderful, fun and informative time. Shirley presented us with enough ideas to last most of us a lifetime and sent us all home wanting to do nothing but sit down and create. Those who attended were well pleasled with "goody" bags they received, the food was good, and the door prizes were GREAT! The only comment we heard about the food was that The evaluation sheets hadonly good comments and everyone was in favor of doing another seminar next year. Lots of sewing Guild members offered to ehlp in one way or another and everyone's efforts made this seminar such a tremendous success. As Special Events Chairman, I would like to thank those who either worked during the seminar or furnished cookies. They were: Luana Barnes, Marilyn Beaver, Shirley Binder, Barb Blackman, Phyllis Calvert, Ruby Chrisco, Anne St. Clair, Chris Ealey, Marcia Davis, Denise Dias, Geryl Giesen, Sara Hutchison, Teresa Lang, Aurelia Lobban, Norma McCray, Dolly Nickell, Barbara Scadden, Sondra Schmittgens, Lea Singleton, Doris Tomlin, Lois Welch, and Jeanie White.

I am sure there were others and if I didn't mention your name, please accept my apology. If you missed our seminar this year, please plan to attend next year. We don't have a date set yet, but it will be in the Fall of 2000. As soon as we get a date set, we will try to let everyone know so they can get it on their calendar.

At the recent Shirley Adams seminar, the Guild purchased a complete set of books from the 17-series of Shirley's "The Sewing Connection." As an added personal highlight, Shirley autographed each book. What a wonderful addition to our Guild's library. Make sure you check them out!

"Thank You" to Those Who Supported Us

The following list of supporters donated items to used in "Goody Bags" or as door prizes for the recent Shirley Adams seminar. Our Guild is truly appreciative of all their help. Remember to write a "thank you" for the door prize you won. Those donating were:

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NOVEMBER 11

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THANK YOU!



DISTRICT WOOL CONTEST

The 1999 Make It Yourself With Wool contest for our district will be held Saturday, November 6, at Butler County Community College in El Dorado. If you haven't already entered this contest, it is too late to do so for this year. It is not too late, however, to attend the public style revue which will be held that day at 2:00 p.m. in Building 1500, 901 S. Haverhill Road in El Dorado.

Sponsors of the contest are the Kansas Sheep Council, Kansas Sheep Auxiliary, Kansas Sheep Association, Farm Bureau, and Midwest Sewing Center.

Why not attend and then plan on entering the contest next year. The prizes are wonderful and who wouldn't want to sew with naturally warm, lucious wool?

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"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring except for the seamstress of the house."

Don't let this happen to you! Make all those holiday gifts *early* and then you'll be able to spend important time with family and friends.

Remember all our advertisers and wish them "Happy Holidays" when you are in their store doing your holiday shopping.

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