



# Stitching Barefoot Cape Fear Chapter

## President's Report:

### 2021 Board Members

Babs Fullerton-President

Ginni Creamer- Secretary  
& Neighborhood Group  
Leader

Ann Carbone- Treasurer

Kendra Brown-Social Media

Dillaine Risley- Membership

Molly Bigelow- Publicity

Claire Malczyn- Community  
Service

Jean Werling- Neighborhood  
Group Leader

Jill Corwin- Newsletter

With my last year of my presidency creeping up on us, per the term limits set by ASG National, it is vital that we have a commitment from someone to take on the mantle in 2023. To that end I feel we need that person to declare themselves soon so they can serve as VP for the my remaining tenure to begin to learn and feel comfortable in the role as our next fearless leader. It's not a tough gig...it's fun even. We are a relatively small guild of friendly folks and no drama.

Seriously. You are a great bunch!

What does being president entail?

I work on ASG things maybe an hour a week...tops. And that was more thru our Covid term. It was definitely the most challenging time but Zoom and park pavilions got us through it and I had a lot of help from members to get it all done. My ASG time is generally lumped into a few hours here and there each month but an average of an hour a week. So what AM I doing?

The secretary and treasurer positions handle most of the National Guild paperwork and it's the president's job to make sure it's done. We have great people in those posts so that's a real easy one! The National Guild provides a clear and simple calendar of when things are due so it's easy to follow.

The president sets the dates and the agenda for 4 Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) meetings a year. This is where we discuss any issues in the guild and/or future plans and such. She also recruits folks to be on the board.

ASG requires that we publish a newsletter 4 times a year. The president writes a report on the chapter and assigns articles to other members. The newsletter chairperson creates the draft from articles supplied by various members and sends it to the president to approve and distribute to the membership.

Neighborhood group leaders run the monthly meetings but it's a plus to have the president attend as well to keep in touch with as many members as possible. I have really enjoyed meeting most of you through our NGs.

If the chapter chooses to have any educational opportunities and/or retreats, the president will be involved in whatever capacity they choose to be. We have folks willing to head those endeavors right now and others willing to help in the future.

In a nutshell...overseeing, communicating and encouraging team work and social commitment.

It's a great gig and couldn't ask for a better group to do it with!

At our October meetings I will present the full list of president responsibilities as prescribed by ASG National. It's dry and straight forward but the above is what I have done the last 3 years.

The ugly alternative is that we disband the chapter at the end of 2022. It would be a very sad event but I see no other alternative at this point.

PLEASE consider serving as president and be assured you will have a lot of help and support from me and your CAB.

Well, that said...do go enjoy some beautiful fall weather and sew, sew, sew!!

~Babs Fullerton

## The Wilmington Neighborhood Group

2021 has been a tough year for the Neighborhood Groups but Yeah!!... along came August and we were able to return inside to Fran's Sewing Center and hold a "proper" meeting. I, for one, felt so much better. So, the first item of business - we took our plan for member demos for 2021 and re-dated it for 2022! We made sure the scissors guy was there (we hadn't seen him in a year!) and we caught up on chatting and the "free" table.

I would be remiss if I didn't say how, even throughout our crazy 2021 meeting (or not meeting) schedule, our ever busy members continued to sew for others. Requests for masks, cooling scarves, blankets, pillows for little ones adult bibs and aprons for teachers at Ashley High School and other needed items came in, our members spooled up their thread and sewed, sewed, sewed. As always, I am so proud of all of you and your giving spirit. You never disappoint.

The Wilmington NG will be looking at and working on Fall and Holiday clothing, quilts and home dec. in the coming meetings as well as our monthly questions and sew and tell. The diversity of this group provides much sewing inspiration to those who attend.

## ASG Cape Fear Chapter Fall Sewing Retreat



Our Annual Fall Sewing Retreat for 2021 will be held from Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Islander Hotel and Resort on Emerald Isle.

We anticipate Twenty-One of our members will participate in this fun sewing experience! We have held over Twelve (12) Spring and Fall Sewing Retreats and each one is a fun and unique sewing experience.

We always encourage members to try it!

If you ever have any questions about the retreats, please contact Ginni Creamer (910-617-7132) or Jean Werling (910-616-0168)

## **Come “Holiday” with Us!**

The Cape Fear Region ASG Chapter will hold its Annual Meeting and Holiday Party on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at the Cape Fear Hospital. The Annual Meeting will start at 11:00 am and the Holiday Party will be from noon until 3:00 pm. We will cater a lunch with dessert. We are currently accepting donations for our raffle tables. And don't forget a handmade item for our ever popular “Naughty Santa Game.” This is our annual Chapter celebration for the year 2021!

Come join and bring your Holiday Cheer!

## **Fashionistas Meetings**

On August 16, we started back at Coastal Sewing inside! It was a great start to the remainder of 2021. We had fun talking, sharing and being inspired by everything sewing offers.

The meetings for the rest of the year will be some simple topics to get us back in the sewing groove.

September – Have you made anything from a sewing book or from a class you took? Show us what you made...or plan to make. I know I've bought a magazine or sewing book intending to make “all the things” only to realize months later, I haven't started any of them. We need some new ideas to get our sewing mojo started again. What are some of your favorites for good directions, great videos, simple but fun to sew? Maybe some of these books and magazines you keep for inspiration or to make something similar. . .share with us. Bring in the book with you!

October – This will be a fun sew day (with machines) to make Arlene's fingerless gloves. All supplies provided. We will also discuss some 2022 meeting plans. Bring your ideas!

November – We are planning a field trip to Mulberry Silks in Carrboro. Plan to join us. Details to come.

December – No regular meeting as our chapter holiday party is scheduled for December 4 and is a very fun event.

## **Pamela Leggett Workshops**

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Pamela Leggett is finally coming back in June. 2022! Watch your email in January for more details and (limited) registration. She will be doing her Perfect T-shirt and Pants! It's been a 2-year wait, but we are ready!

## **Our Featured Member - Marye Howard**

### **Three bags full: what makes dynamic charity sewist Marye Howard go?**

Sewing for others in need is a strong objective for the Cape Fear Chapter of ASG. Nearly all of us sometimes come to meetings with a bundle of port pillows, chemo scarves, toys, blankets or other items. But month after month, Marye Howard shows up with piles of goodies. In August, at our first indoor meeting since pandemic lockdown began, Marye brought a laundry basket overflowing with children's clothes and a pile of blankets. We just couldn't help breaking into spontaneous applause. What cute little rompers and dresses! What lovely blankets! How did she DO this?

Marye's sewing story reflects a lifetime of staying busy in service to others, while finding time to do some things for herself.

"My Grandmother taught me to sew," she says. "She had become the 'mother' to her family at age 13, when her own mother died," Marye explained. "She took lessons either from an organization like 4H or maybe the Grange. She made tailored shirts and suits for her husband and did upholstery work and draperies, so she earned income from her skills."

Marye lived just down the street from her Grandmother, and learned on her Singer machine. When Marye went off to college at State University of New York in Plattsburgh, she bought a Viking sewing machine. Marye married in her Junior Year, and while her husband continued his Air Force service through Vietnam for a year and a half, over a period of 13 years she became the Mom of three sons and a 2 daughters, and spent more than 30 years teaching third grade and remedial math in Plattsburgh, New York.

And Marye kept sewing - clothes for herself, and costumes and clothes for her children and even for children in her classes. She took some classes to learn more about garment sewing. "I really don't know how I did it," she says. "It was a whole different life."

After Marye and her husband relocated to North Carolina, Marye found new ways to unleash her dynamic sewing energy. "I first discovered quilting at Angel Wings in Southport. Later, she visited Fran's Sewing Circle in Wilmington, and expanded her 'arsenal' of equipment. Today, she has equipped her two sewing rooms with two sergers, an embroidery machine, 3 Viking sewing/embroidery machines, a small model longarm machine, and a Brother Scan & Cut Machine, plenty of accessories, and of course, much too much fabric.

Is that all?

Oh no. No, it's not. Hand work is also part of Marye's days. She knows how to knit, but prefers crochet. "I'm left handed," she explains, "but my Grandmother taught me how to knit right handed. I taught myself how to crochet left handed, and it's much easier for me. It's also easier to correct mistakes!" For the past 18 years, she and a crochet group she started have made premie hats for her daughter and friends newborns and then for other babies.

Marye's sewing interests have continued to evolve. She has done some sewing to sell, both at an artisan booth in Sea Grove, NC, and on her own Etsy site. "I sewed all kinds of things: purses, dresses, quilts" but the allure of sewing for profit hasn't lasted. "I enjoyed sewing for the Sea Grove booth, but that eventually closed. I found the Etsy site demanded more from me in investment and promotion. I'd rather be sewing!"

Quilt commissions have also been a great learning experience for Marye, if sometimes frustrating. "I got a tumbling blocks quilt right on the third try," she says. "I finally found a pattern that worked for me."

What is Marye doing these days? The mounds of sewing for others we celebrate with along with special items for herself and family members-some adorned with beautiful embroidery.

Like many of us, Marye has accumulated a stash that goes beyond her sewing rooms into extra bedroom closets. "I am trying to sew down," she says. "I know I have a lot more fabric than clothes - donated fabric, precuts, and fabric I've bought."

Right now, Marye is working to 'sew down' all the flannel in her stash to make warm donation blankets. She has also powered through a lion's share of some high quality knitwear fabric donated to our chapter for making children's clothes from infant through primary grade sizes.

"I shop for patterns on sale. Some at about \$1.99," she says. "I like variety in my work, and I look for simple styles. I know how to do zippers, but I like to make things that are easy for kids to pull on." She takes care to use French seams wherever possible, to extend durability of her finishes.



At the same time, Marye enjoys making embroidered items and doing her quilting herself, mostly using pantograph patterns with her longarm machine.

"Sewing is my passion and my sanity," she says. "After I take care of housework or whatever needs doing in the morning, I go into the sewing room." Usually she sews for three or four hours, and does some hand work in the evening.

Bravo Marye! - we all look forward to seeing how you turn that stash into lovely things for others and for your own home!







**ADS:**

Beautiful vintage National sewing machine in a beautiful tiger oak table.  
Still threaded when found.  
Includes patterns and miscellaneous supplies.

If interested contact Babs Fullerton for sellers info.

[barbarafullerton@mac.com](mailto:barbarafullerton@mac.com)

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