



Seattle ASG Newsletter for Jun 2023, Volume 25, Number 6



FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Do you have a sewing buddy to help keep you on track? I do and I am SOOOO grateful for the support. What makes a good sewing buddy? First, this person (or people) must be sympatico—and laugh when you laugh, cry when you cry and want to be a positive influence in your life. Secondly, the friend must have some knowledge and be willing to try and to learn new things. Sharing the frustrations, trial and gains is good—if you are truly all going forward. Third, the buddy must be honest—and a bit tactful—to successfully guide you past bad decisions. Somebody who can say “I would skip that mustard color if I were you; it does nothing to enhance your skin” for example. Or someone who will point out that the front of your pants looks fabulous, but there is a pesky drag line in the rear... So, you need a sewing buddy but are at a bit of a loss where to find one. Easy peasy. ASG! This chapter has almost 250 members to choose from. You can meet these wonderful sewing pals in Neighborhood Group meetings, at the PICNIC in the PARK coming this summer, at retreats, online in ZOOM sessions... Make it point to greet a stranger (to you) and ask them what their best sewing skill is. Compliment someone’s outfit—she probably sewed it herself. Speak up in a group and ask a question about something that has you puzzled. In no time, you will find yourself with not just one sewing buddy, but a whole platoon of them. Then smile, relax and prepare for a lot of fun with sewing buddies and just maybe BFF’s for life..

Carolyn Pauw Barden

“Keep it straight People!”



Grainline must ALWAYS be straight and parallel to the selvage. Well, except when it isn't. If you understand the rules, you will know when it is possible to break the rules—and, more importantly, when it is really, really risky to do so.

First of all—woven cloth has vertical fibers (warp) and horizontal fibers (weft). These sets of thread ought to be square to each other. Sometimes they are not because of some mishap in the factory that off-grained them. Knits have vertical rows of stitches that spiral so while their verticals may be vertical, the horizontals will always have a bit of a tilt. You might be able to stretch, press and alter the off-graining of a woven, but a knit is much harder to make straight. Ditto with denim or other twill weaves. You might just have to live with the variance and that is normal. Just be sure that the pattern is lined up with a true vertical.

That leads me to the “straight of grain” marking on a pattern. This may be the center front fold or it may be a double ended arrow. Normally, these go on a true north-south axis. The straight grain is akin to the thing that skiers and snowboarders call “The Fall Line”. This is defined as the fastest way from the top of the mountain to the bottom, ie. The route your body would take if you fell at the top and slid the whole way down. A garment cut with the correct straight of grain hangs evenly and doesn't skew to one side or the other. This is normally a good thing. But—is vertical grain the only one you can use? Oh, no. You can cut your pieces on the horizontal (crosswise) grain if you want to. Woven fabric generally has a bit of stretch on the crosswise grain, and you can take advantage of that fact. The third alternative is Bias grain, or shifting 45 degrees from vertical. Bias is challenging to sew and sometimes challenging to wear because it is never stable and shifts all over the place. This motion is why designers of high-end fashion love, love, love a bias cut. Go look at Vionnet or Halston. You will quickly understand.

A really fun way to play with grainline is to do stripe samples. On the cheap, you can take colored pencils to photocopies of the sketches on your pattern. See what happens if you create a seam where none existed before, and change the direction of the stripes. Sideways, angled up, angled down...WHEEE, such freedom! Then get yourself some cheap muslin and make doll-sized samples. Make one A-line skirt with the grainline parallel to the center fold. Make another with the grainline parallel to the side seam. Make a third with the grainline evenly split between the center front (now a seam) and the side seam. I really like the third option since the skirt just swirls better that way. Cut another skirt on the bias. Curse a bit as you sew up the wiggly seams. (Oh, make the seam allowance as much as two inches, not just 5/8 when you do this for real, as you may need more circumference for a bias skirt to look good.) Once you have some tiny samples done, try something full sized with the same techniques.

If this is just too much trouble, buy a Tilton pattern—they have already done much of the work for you. In any event, grainlines are very important, but also a bit flexible, once you understand how they behave.



LINKS TO CHAPTER AND ASG WEBSITES

Greater Seattle ASG www.seattleasg.org

American Sewing Guild www.asg.org

Facebook

Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/247194862603864/>

Instagram If you would like to share your work, new techniques learned, or just something your super excited about that you have created, share it with us! Please send 1-3 photos with your name and a brief description about what you did or learned! Two ways to share you can email your submissions to seattleasgsubmissions@gmail.com or you can text them to 425-606-4001



CHAPTER RETREATS



**Summer 3 – Day Retreat
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
July 21st, 22nd and 23rd**

We have reserved the weekend of July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 9am to 6pm each day. This day only retreat is held at **Quilting Mayhem** in downtown Snohomish. You don't need to quilt to attend, in fact at previous retreats held at Quilting Mayhem we had members machine embroidering away. Toddler clothes, baby drool bibs, pjs, skirts, dresses, aprons, quilts, and more all being worked on by our sewing friends. Bring your own sewing machine, projects, and supplies to work on. Quilting Mayhem provides tables, surge protectors, chairs, irons, and ironing boards.

The cost for this retreat is **\$40** for 2 days or **\$50** for all 3 days. If you are registering for 2 days, please email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org to let her know which 2 days you plan on attending (Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday). You can bring your lunch with you or take a break and visit one of the local restaurants.

Registration

Registration is easy, just click the link below. We will take registrations in the order they are received, if we are overbooked Fran will contact you and a refund will be issued. To ask any questions or be added to the waiting list, email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org.

3 Days - Quilting Mayhem Day Retreat, July 21-23, 9 AM - 6 PM (\$50)

<https://buy.stripe.com/9AQ02r8kw1EzgyQ4gC>

2 Days - Quilting Mayhem Day Retreat, July 21-23, 9 AM - 6 PM (\$40)

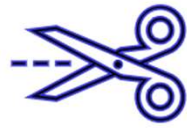
Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday

<https://buy.stripe.com/cN29D10S40AvaaseV>

Note: You can also pay by logging into the ASG website <https://seattleasg.org> and checking under the Events tab.

If you have questions, please email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org or give her a call 425-231-4426.





EDUCATION AND EVENTS



Jeans: Getting Your Best Fit + Tulip Pocket and Hem Details

With Helen Bartley

Saturday, July 15, 1:30pm-3:30pm

Join Helen Bartley via Zoom on Saturday, July 15th, 1:30-3:30pm for a discussion on how to get your best jeans fit by choosing the right pattern size based on your fabric, fit, and style preferences. Learn the basic principles of fitting jeans using the Palmer/Pletsch Tissue-Fitting Method and watch Helen demonstrate each step in making tulip pockets and hem so you can add this popular designer touch and elevate your next pair of jeans!

Helen learned sewing at her mother's knee, has devoted much of her life to it, and is the author of [Fit and Sew Custom Jeans: Classic and Creative Techniques for Modern Patterns](#) (Palmer/Pletsch Publishing, 2021). She studied textiles, fashion design and clothing construction at Eastern Washington University and is now a Palmer/Pletsch Certified Sewing Instructor and corporate educator teaching pants, knits and fit workshops in Portland, Oregon. She served as technical editor for [Knits for Real People](#) and as contributor, garment maker, and model for both that book and the highly regarded [The Palmer/Pletsch Complete Guide to Fitting](#). Her extensive research combined with her education and teaching experience has made her an expert in the best ways to fit jeans and the easiest construction techniques. Helen Bartley knows jeans!

Can't make it on July 15th? A recording of the session will be available to registered participants to watch for three weeks after the event.

Sign up information for the Helen Bartley Class

Space is limited so register today!

Class Date: July 15th

Class Time: 1:30-3:30

Registration link: <https://buy.stripe.com/00geXI30c0Av2I0aEX>

Class Topic: Tulip Pocket and Hem Details

Class price for ASG members is \$25

Non-members may email edu_events@seattleasg.org for registration information.



LAUGH A LITTLE





WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS & MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Members

Dana Smith
Racine Snyder
Ana Fuyertes

Bellingham
Seattle
Bellevue

Spotlight on a Member Kate Stenberg



Where do you now live?

Sammamish

Where do you come from?

Local – grew up in Issaquah

When and where did you begin sewing?

Started in Home Ec when I was about 12. I just recently found the very first thing I sewed – a tote bag that my mother had kept all these years.

Did you have a mentor who taught you?

I have taken many classes over the years from many different and wonderful teachers. For many sewing techniques, there is no one right way to do them – there is only the way that works best for you. Try the different methods offered by different instructors, practice them, and find the way that works for you. I also collect books and can go down a long rabbit hole looking up different ways to do something. And Threads magazine is a great resource as well.

Do you enter contests (regional or national)?

No – I did put my quilts in the local guild's show when I was quilting.

Have you won any awards in the contests you have entered?

I did win some ribbons in the quilt shows.

What other crafts do you practice?

Have done some quilting and some hand embroidery, but mostly make garments.

What do you usually sew?

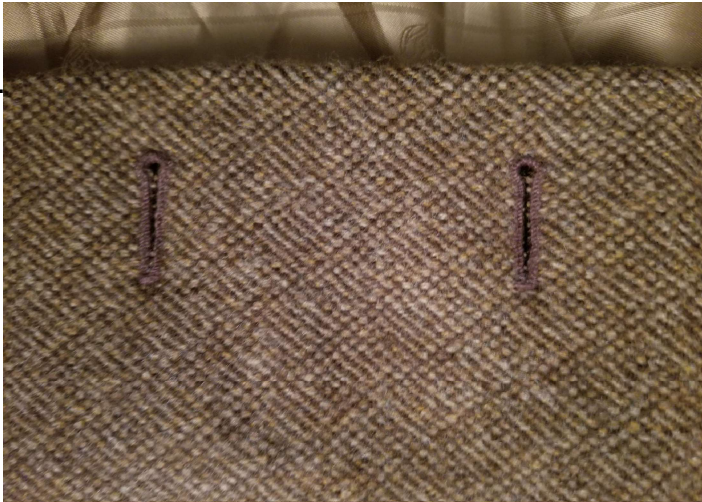
Garments for myself and my husband. Knit and woven tops, shirts, tailored jackets, French jackets, and the occasional ball gown or historical costume.

What are your favorite machines for sewing and why?

Bernina for sewing; Pfaff for serging. I tested many brands when my original Kenmore died (purchased for \$119 on closeout during grad school and then my wedding dress killed it). Only the Bernina would allow me to continuously change the width of a satin stitch on the fly. Other brands had a range of widths, but they did not smoothly grade from one width to the next, instead they created a stair step. So, I've been a Bernina user ever since. When upgrading my machine, I took several pieces of garments under construction and sat in the showroom and sewed for a while with my fabrics, threads, and techniques to find the right machine for me.

What tools do you like and why?

Love my Kai scissors; always looking for reasons to buy more. I also love this dental pick I found at Expo one year with two slightly bent ends, one with a point and one with a rounded tip. I use this for everything from an awl, a guide, picking stitches up from fabric, to positioning threads under the presser foot. And clear gridded rulers – I have several in every length.





What Sewing techniques are you really good at?

Tailoring and couture techniques.

What sewing techniques do you want to learn?

Working on getting better at fitting garments. And I have only ever made a couple pairs of pants. I also want to work on embellishments like beading, pin tucks, and piping.

Do you have favorite pattern companies?

No. I generally work with my basic sloper and add details (neckline, hem, overall silhouette) from a pattern to the sloper. Inspiration and details can come from anywhere, even pictures.

Do you have favorite fabric sources?

Stylemaker Fabrics – they have natural fiber fabrics with some amazing quality. Some of the very best sweater knits I've ever seen.

What keeps you sewing?

Quality, fit, and details of the finished product, and it's just plain fun.

Why did you join ASG?

Camaraderie, providing opportunities for others to get together to sew and learn at educational events and retreats.

Anything else you want to share?

I am one of the charter members of the Greater Seattle Chapter and was on the first board. I organized the first retreats and the first After-Expo banquets, and later was the chapter President for four terms.

Save the Date

CTA Sale	June 17
CAB Meeting	June 30
Helen Bartley Class	July 15
Quilting Mayhem Day Retreat	July 21-23
Annual Picnic	August 12



NEIGHBORHOOD & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

You are always welcome to attend any of these groups. Reach out for more information.

Bellevue

When: First Monday of every month, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Where: **Quality Sewing and Vacuum**, 4315 NE 20th St., Bellevue

E-mail: bellevueng@seattleasg.org

Everett

When: Third Monday of every month, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Where: **Quality Sewing and Vacuum**, 1201 SE Everett Mall Way #A, Everett

E-mail: everettng@seattleasg.org

Greater Seattle ASG Zoom

When: Second Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM

Where: Zoom

E-mail: suetripp98@seattleasg.org

North Seattle

When: Third Sunday every Month, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Where: Greenwood Senior Center, 525 N 85th St., Seattle

E-mail: northseattleng@seattleasg.org

Skagit Valley

When: Second Monday of every month, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Where: **Quality Sewing and Vacuum**, 426 E College Way, Mount Vernon

E-mail: skagitvalleyng@seattleasg.org

West Seattle

When: Third Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Zoom

E-mail: westseattleng@seattleasg.org

Day Seamers – Ongoing clothing and fit. ALL skill levels welcome.

When: Fourth Tuesday of every month, 10:30 AM

Where: Carolyn Barden's home, Lake Forest Park (send e-mail for location)

E-mail: dayseamersng@seattleasg.org

Embroidery Group

When: Third Thursday of every month, 7:00 PM

Where: Mary Ann's home, Bellevue (send e-mail for location)

E-mail: maa@allenspace.net

Ronald McDonald Mending Group – On going mending group for Ronald McDonald House. Bring your sewing machine or serger and your enthusiasm! Sit and sew to help those in need. Bring a lunch or buy one next door.

When: First Monday of every month, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: Ronald McDonald House, 5130 40th Ave. NE, Seattle

E-mail: rmhcmending@seattlelease.org

SWAG – Seattle Wearable Arts Group

When: First Friday of every month, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: Zoom (occasional meetings at someone's home)

E-mail: cynthiawriter@gmail.com

Working Women's Couture – Practical Couture for Everyday

When: Fourth Saturday of every month, 10:00 AM

Where: Zoom

E-mail: wwcoutureng@seattleasg.org



KNOW YOUR CHAPTER ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

President - Carolyn Pauw Barden president@seattleasg.org

Secretary - Marion Scichilone secretary@seattleasg.org

Treasurer - Cori Hartje treasurer@seattleasg.org

Retreats - Fran Daoust retreats@seattleasg.org

Education - Maris Olsen edu_events@seattleasg.org

Historian - Bobbie Kalben historian@seattleasg.org

Membership - Marcia DeKoekkoek membership@seattleasg.org

Group Coordinator - Kathrine Dietz ngcoordinator@seattleasg.org

Social Media - OPEN POSITION publicity@seattleasg.org

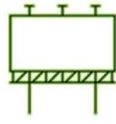
Special Events - Patty Teubner events@seattleasg.org

Webmaster - Cathy Katte webmaster@seattleasg.org

Newsletter – Kathy Ives newletter@seattleasg.org

If you are interested in the open CAB positions, please contact us

president@seattleasg.org



SENSITIVITY POLICY

The American Sewing Guild, Inc. (ASG) is committed to equal access and opportunity for all. To foster the spirit of community within the ASG and between ASG and the community at large, we will demonstrate respect and sensitivity toward one another through word and deed. While representing the ASG or participating in an ASG activity, we will not promote or endorse divisiveness regarding any of the above or any other area that may fall into the category of sensitive subject matter.



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20633 NE 66th Place
Redmond, WA 98053

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