



Seattle ASG Newsletter for February 2024, Volume 26, Number 2



FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?

The sewing process has always excited me. Pick a pattern, dream about which fabric to use, make the pattern my own with changes, and then sit in my sewing room and create it. The other part of sewing has not really excited me that much and that is repair work or alterations.

Should I sew from scratch (brand new) or can I change something in my closet and get a new look?

What to do? Did you know that the “in” thing today is thrifting, and *repair*, *remake*, and *recycle*? I volunteer at the ReStyle for Ryther store in Ballard, which has been in existence for 50 years supporting Ryther. Sales there have doubled in the past 5 years because thrifting is now something everyone seems to be doing. I’ve asked shoppers about their purchases, and they comment, “It’s made so well”, “It doesn’t fit but I’m going to alter it”, “It has a small stain, and it’s just what I want. I will hide it with embroidery or a patch then it will be perfect.”

Many times, we think sewing must be a major project but that’s not really the case. Sewing comes in many forms—repairing, remaking, and recycling what we have.

Must tell you I’ve joined in thrifting and the *remake* group. While volunteering I spied a beautiful wool coat with gorgeous, appliqued designs on it. I recognized the manufacturer from years ago and knew it had been a very expensive “art” coat. It was looking for a new life. So, I bought it even though it was too big, took it apart, and had it dry-cleaned. It is in my sewing room waiting for the fine tuning of the pattern. Also joined the *repair* group. My favorite pair of blue jeans got a hole in the knee. I know jeans full of holes are in fashion but not my thing. I decided to *repair* the hole with sashiko and it looks great plus I still have my favorite pair of blue jeans.

What brought this change of heart? A presentation made this month at the North Seattle NG by Sophia Carpenter on mending and recycling garments. Her presentation showed how mending and recycling can be done by everyone, it’s fun, and it’s portable. She brought samples of her work, and all were inspired. A new Special Interest group might form focusing on Repair, Recycle, Remake.

Aren’t we fortunate to be able to work our magic with our thrift store finds or favorite piece of clothing that needs some creative sewing!

Guess we should go to our closets and look at what’s hanging there with a different eye.

Check those closets

Cathy Katte



LINKS TO CHAPTER AND ASG WEBSITES

Greater SeattleASG 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



ASG NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024 – SAN FRANCISCO

2024's in-person annual conference will be in San Francisco **June 27 – July 01**. Here is your opportunity to celebrate all things sewing, quilting and embroidery. The conference is open to members and the public. If you love sewing, you'll love the creativity, ideas, ingenuity, and fun!

You will have access to Education classes, shop the vendor exhibit hall, and enjoy fellowship with like-minded sewists at get-togethers, the annual fashion show, and ASG sponsored tours.

ASG's in-person conference offers daily educational opportunities in the form of workshops, seminars and lectures. Meet popular sewing instructors offering classes ranging from stash management, fitting and alterations, hand sewing, embellishments to serger sewing—every level of sewing skill.

Check the National site (www.asg.org) to sign up to attend, make hotel reservations, and sign up for classes.

Soon you will be able to sign up to attend, make hotel reservations at the conference hotel, and sign up for classes. Keep checking the National site of ASG (www.asg.org) for more information.



Hari Kuyo – Japanese Needle Ceremony

Sewists around the world have special rituals that are observed and unusual ways of doing things “just because.”

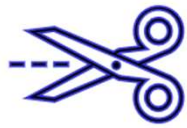
The needle, either hand or machine, is an intricate part of every sewists supplies. And those needles break or become so bent they are unusable. What do you do with your unusable needles?

It was during my trip to Japan that my friend told me about the Hari Kuyo ceremony. This is a special ceremony honoring the needle. Hari means needle and Kuyo means memorial. It is celebrated February 8th in the Kanto region and December 8th in the Kyoto Prefecture and Kansai region. Other names for the ceremony are Needle Mass and Pin Festival.

Sewists in Japan recognize all the broken/bent needles that occurred in the past year in this is a very solemn ceremony over 400 years old, which is held in a Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine. Each participant brings some used needles and places them into a block of tofu or konnyaku. By sticking your needles in soft tofu, you ensure that the needles’ last task is an easy one. You express your thanks for the pins and needles in helping you create, pray for your work in the future, and ask for more skill using your needles. Another reason for Kuyo was the belief that the “spirits” of the object (needles) could take the form of ghosts and place a curse on the user. But the Kuyo ceremony pacifies the spirits. This ceremony brings together designers, dressmakers, kimono manufacturers, fashion students and ordinary housewives. Traditionally, no needlework was on the day of Hari Kuyo.

So, respect those tired, well used needles that “gave their life” for you. Thank them for helping you create that work of art or mending job. Without those needles you could not have done the work.

Cathy Katte



EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Nancy Nix-Rice on Prints Live on Zoom in March and April

Nancy Nix Rice

Prints Part I: Selecting Flattering Prints



We're excited to bring you two presentations by Nancy Nix-Rice this spring. Nancy literally wrote the book on style, color and wardrobe development. Her book – **LOOKING GOOD Every Day** (Palmer/Pletsch) – is enjoyed by countless every-day women as well as being the textbook for wardrobe consultants at FIT in New York and City College of San Francisco. She blogs about style and wardrobe development at nancynixrice.com/blog.

Nancy travels extensively, presenting workshops on wardrobe development for national conferences and women's groups around the country. Her sessions regularly sell out at ASG National Conference and at Sew Expo in Puyallup.

Nancy will not be travelling to Puyallup this year, so we're fortunate to host her virtually for two, related but independent classes on prints. The first, **Prints Part I: Selecting Flattering Prints** will be held on Saturday, March 9, 10-11:30am on Zoom.

Have you ever fallen in love with a print and sewn it up, only to discover it doesn't look right on you? Nancy can help. In **Prints Part I: Selecting Flattering Prints** you'll learn what to look for (and lookout for) when selecting print fabrics so your choices not only complement but enhance your unique personal characteristics. You'll learn about color temperature, value, and contrast, body scale, facial structure, fashion personality, textural elements and more. Nancy's 12-point checklist guarantees you'll sew and wear only the **RIGHT** prints. Don't let the wrong prints wear **YOU**.

As an added bonus registrants in Prints Part I will have the opportunity to email Nancy a photo of themselves and up to 6 prints from their fabric stash for possible inclusion and discussion in her presentation. To take advantage of this opportunity you will need to be enrolled by February 28 and submit your photos NO LATER THAN February 29. (Complete details will be provided to those registering). Class fee is \$30. Registration closes on Thursday, March 7 at 6pm.

Nancy will present **Prints Part II: Combining Prints – What Works and Why** live on Zoom on Sunday, April 14, 2-3:30pm.

If you've ever wanted to use more than one print in a garment but have been unsure what goes with what then this is the class for you! Nancy will discuss what to consider when combining different print fabrics within a garment to create an eye-catching and cohesive look. You'll come away inspired, confident and ready to sew!

**Prints Part II:
Combining Prints
- What Works and Why**



Class fee is \$27.50, Registration closes on Friday, April 12 at 6pm.

Both sessions will be recorded and available to registrants for three weeks after the class date.

Registration Details:

Prints Part I: Selecting Flattering Prints

Saturday, March 9, 10-11:30am

Platform: Zoom

Class Fee: \$30

Register BEFORE February 28 to submit photos to Nancy

Registration Closes: March 7, 6pm

Registration Link: <https://buy.stripe.com/9AQbL9bwI1EzfuMeVp>

Prints Part II: Combining Prints – What Works and Why

Sunday, April 14, 2-3:30pm

Platform: Zoom

Class Fee: \$27.50

Registration Closes: April 12, 6pm

Registration Link: <https://buy.stripe.com/00g8yX58kbf93M400w>

Spring Retreat 2024



If your idea of pure bliss is uninterrupted sewing time with friends, taking breaks to walk and enjoy the view, nap, or read a book, (bonus no cooking, no dishes) come join us for our 2024 Spring Retreat! Gather up your sewing supplies, fabrics, patterns, and sewing machines and head to Dumas Bay. We have 14 single rooms reserved, each with a private ½ bathroom.

Date: Friday, April 5th – Sunday April 7th, 2024

Time: 9 am Friday - 4pm Sunday

Cost: \$390

Location: Dumas Bay Centre
3200 SW Dash Point Rd
Federal Way, WA 98023

Registration begins now!

Registration is easy, just click this link <https://buy.stripe.com/14k2azbwlcjdbew5kA> or log into our website <https://seattleasg.org>. You will find the payment link and all additional information about the retreat under the **Members tab-Chapter News**. If the retreat is full and you would like to be put on a waiting list, email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org.

Changes from prior years:

Sewing Space- If you have attended retreats at Dumas Bay in the past you may remember that the sewing space was divided in two, some had a view of the Sound and others did not. This year we are moving to Eagleview room. It is a large room on the other side of the front desk area, everyone will have a view.

Once registration is complete, Fran will send out an email requesting dietary requirements. Dumas Bay offers a continental breakfast, which includes a hot dish, muffins, pastry, cereal, etc. They use a catering company for lunch and dinner food services. Meal service includes

Dinner on Friday, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday, Breakfast and Lunch on Sunday. Please note we are no longer allowed to bring snacks into the sewing or meal area, but you can have snacks in your room.

Day Timers- Last year we had requests from those that live in the South Sound area to have a day time only rate (not staying overnight). Once we satisfy our minimum requirement for overnight guests we will open up registration for day time only. The cost for day time only is \$25 per day, plus coffee/tea service and meals if requested. Please email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org to be put on a 'I am interested list'. Payment will be due within a week of receiving an email notifying you that a spot is available.

For those that would like an alcoholic beverage, BYOB, we are purchasing a banquet permit for Friday and Saturday. Voluntary contributions to offset the cost of the permit will be collected at the retreat.

Cancellations- Cancellations are allowed by Dumas Bay, for one or two people, up to March 1st, if we have the maximum number of people register for the retreat. If we have a limited number of people register cancelling may not be possible. We understand that sometimes life gets in the way, if you need to cancel, we will try to find someone to take your spot so that we can give you a refund. If we cannot find someone to take your place, and it is after the final cutoff date per our contract, we will be unable to refund you. If you need to cancel, please let us know ASAP so we can offer your spot to those on the waiting list. To cancel email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org and text or call her at 425-231-4426.

If you have questions, please email Fran at retreats@seattleasg.org.





LAUGH A LITTLE

The 3 stages of life:

Wanting stuff.

Accumulating stuff.

Getting rid of stuff



Lost, Wants to Go Home!

Found, a lovely raincoat at the annual meeting. I'm sure someone is wondering where it went. It was posted with photo on the website (Members Chat).

This reversible jacket (iridescent green/black) no label or name. Call Cathy Katte to arrange for pick up. 206-829-0212.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

Emily Farris Bellevue

RETURNING MEMBERS WITH MILESTONES

Pamela McCrae 5 years
Jane Koura 10 Years
Clair Ramsey 10 Years

New Neighborhood Groups

A NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: REPAIR, REMAKE, RECYCLE

Sophia Carpenter, 1/28/2024



When I find or make an article of clothing that I love, I love hard. I'll wear the piece over and over and over. If it has pockets, they are used frequently and roughly. If it's a shirt, food usually gets on it. All of this wears down my beloved clothes. The corners of my pockets get pulled, the crotch of my pants always wear out too soon, shirt fronts get food stains.

Therefore, I mend.

I love mending and altering clothes. **Take my favorite pair of pants for example.** Believe it or not, they started out a solid black. I found them in Bellingham's lovely secondhand textile shop, Ragfinery. They were comfortable and sleek, but as I wore them, I noticed small things I wanted to change.

First, I wanted them a bit longer. So, I used up some scrap fabrics and fun little lace bits and made some patchwork rectangles. I inserted them in the middle of each pant leg, at slightly different levels.

Then, the crotch got a tear along the seam. I added a gusset to help reduce tension and cover any worn sections. This iteration lasted a while, but only had one pocket, which left me feeling a little lopsided.

Finally, the crotch wore out again. I added patches and darned the needed areas. I took the time to also add a new pocket. There were also a few small holes/tears (when I was darning I accidentally sewed some parts I shouldn't have, and had to cut it free!), so I added some yellow patches – some are decorative and some are functional!

Each iteration of these pants bring me more and more joy. They're fun! They use scraps of sentimental or beautiful fabrics and let me use the shorter pieces of lace I adore but can never use in new projects. Each addition makes the pants more unique to me and my aesthetics.

Another example is my light overcoat. This piece was my first attempt at sewing a shirt! I copied a button up I liked then lengthened the design. Realizing that for the first time, I alone controlled the size of my pockets, I took the biggest chunk of leftover fabric and made pockets that fit large hardcover books! In the warmer season, I wear it daily for as long as I can before I'm forced to put it in the wash. It started out fresh and new, but soon had wear points that needed fixing. I've used it to experiment with mending: adding patches, darning, practically reweaving some parts along the top of my pockets. I found Sashiko to be very satisfying and used it all over! Each new tear was an opportunity to try something new, add fun decorations, and to show my coat some love.

Mending and altering is the perfect entry to a life of sewing. Think about it: Not everyone wants to make their own clothes from scratch, but everyone already has clothes they wear. I bet everyone has at least one article they want to fix or change- maybe a knee that's busted, pants that are a bit too tight, a shirt that's a bit too loose, elastic waistband than needs replacing, patches or decorations to add – the possibilities are endless. Everyone has something they could mend, and it's often easier to try out sewing on a busted pair of jeans than on a whole new project. Besides, what's the worst that can happen? the article already needs fixing, so you can't make it much worse.



Mending can be simple. Patches can be sewn on by hand. Sashiko, a very styled version of visible mending is literally just running stitches. There are thousands of videos about how to sew on a button, or fix a tear. It's easy to purchase cheap little emergency sewing kits with a needle, thread and some safety pins – You can have very little experience in sewing and still make functional (if messy) mends.

Mending can also be an artform. I adore the look and feel of visible mending – whether it's hand embroidered patches, Sashiko stitches, or a bunch of iron-on patches, there's a wonderful aura of love that's imparted into the clothes. The mender decided that their clothing was so loved that they wanted to care for it, extend it's life, and add personality to it! To be loved is to be changed – and mended clothes are a wonderfully literal example.

Do you mend? Would you like to learn how? If so, you may want to join a new special interest group starting up in Seattle ASG: **“Repair, Remake, Recycle”**.

RRR is a new, upcoming SI group within the Seattle ASG, led by me (Sophia Carpenter) and Jenny Ives. RRR will be a group focused on all the creative ways people extend the lives of textiles. This includes (but is not limited to!):

- Mending clothes (visible and invisible)
- Altering clothes to fit your body
- Altering clothes to fit your style
- Using existing textiles to make clothes (i.e. bedsheets, tablecloths)
- Transforming old textiles into new creations (i.e. tshirt quilts or braided rugs)
- Alternative sourcing of textiles (i.e. through thrift-shops, yard sales, stash exchanges, estate sales)
- Supporting and promoting community (i.e. going to secondhand shops, fixit fairs, mending meetups, clothing swaps, etc.)

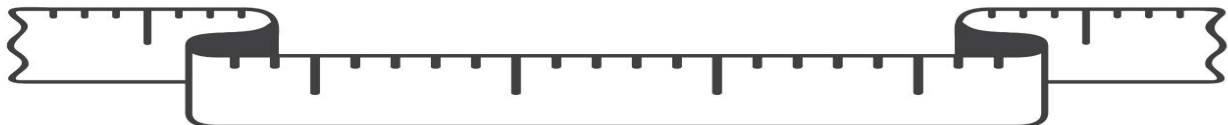
If any of these ideas interest you, or if you have ideas we haven't thought of, reach out! Locations and times haven't been planned yet, so you have time to voice any preferences.

Feel free to email me at sophiacarpenter@gmail.com



Save the Date

- Sew EXPO, February 29 – March 3
- Nancy Nix Rice Class, Prints Part 1- March 9
- Overnight Retreat at Dumas Bay-April 5, 6, & 7
- Nancy Nix Rice Class, Prints Part 2- April 14
- Day Retreat at Quilting Mayhem- June 7, 8, & 9 (2 or 3 days your choice)
- Day Retreat at Quilting Mayhem- August 9, 10, & 11 (2 or 3 days your choice)
- Jacque Goldsmith Class, Forsaken to Fashion: Upcycling- September 7
- Overnight Retreat at Camp Huston- October 3, 4, 5, & 6 (3 or 4 days your choice)
- Annual Meeting – Bellevue Community Center – November 2
- Day Retreat at Quilting Mayhem- November 8, 9, & 10 (2 or 3 days your choice)





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: Barbara O'Steen's Home, 4364 SW Cloverdale St., Seattle

E-mail: westseattleng@seattleasg.org

Whatcom

When: Third Saturday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Where: Quality Sewing and Vacuum, 1125 East Sunset Dr. #120, Bellingham

E-mail: whatcomng@seattleasg.org

West Seattle

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

Where: Barbara O'Steen's Home, (send e-mail for address)

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@seattlease.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 - Cathy Katte president@seattleasg.org

Secretary - Marion Scichilone secretary@seattleasg.org

Treasurer - Cori Hartje treasurer@seattleasg.org

Retreats - Fran Daoust retreats@seattleasg.org

Education – Mary Berg edu_events@seattleasg.org

Historian - Bobbie Kalben historian@seattleasg.org

Membership - Marcia DeKoekkoek membership@seattleasg.org

Group Coordinator Carolyn Pauw Barden ngcoordinator@seattleasg.org

Social Media -OPEN POSITION publicity@seattleasg.org

Special Events - Patty Teubner events@seattleasg.org

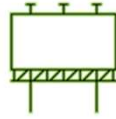
Webmaster -Sophia Carpenter webmaster@seattleasg.org

Newsletter – Kathy Ives newletter@seattleasg.org

Retail Liaison – Jenny Ives retail@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.



Copyright (C) 2023 Seattle ASG. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
20633 NE 66th Place
Redmond, WA 98053

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe