



JUNE COOK'S SEWING NEWSLETTER



June 2008



Dear Sewing Friends,

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The Story of a Sewing Guru!

She grabs her purse and heads to the garage. She enters the car and revs the engine before backing out of the driveway and down the street. Traveling down the expressway she exits a few blocks from the fabric store. Traveling a few blocks down the street and parking she quickly exits the vehicle and heads into the store where she gathers a little fabric here, a pattern there and a few more yards over there. Flashing a hundred at the employee she heads out the door and enters the car once again. Traveling down the block, onto the expressway, back down the street, into the driveway and coasting into the garage she exits the car. With her purchase in hand and as if she were wearing blinders she by-passes the kitchen, avoids seeing any dust or things out of place and heads off to her sewing room. She grabs the scissors and begins cutting. Cut, cut, cut, snip, snip snip. Now to the sewing machine she goes. She zooms a seam here and another one there. A few clips and a few more seam to sew. Zoom goes the sewing machine once again. She cuts a few hanging threads and Ta Da!! A finished project!

Don't you wish it really was that easy. Or maybe your projects do go that well. I must admit that mine do not. Even after I have declared a project finished I am still known to go back and fix this or that to make it hang just right. That is what I did one day this month. In past newsletters I had pictures of my new shower curtain. I loved it but one rule of fabric that I ignored was to hang it a few days before hemming. So I found myself not so happy with the finished project after a few weeks.

Then there were those cute miniature quilts that I made last summer. They were adorable until gravity and humidity interfered with their hanging against the wall. They tended to flop forward and curl in. So being tired of the flaws I spent a day fixing the minor problems. I removed the shower curtain hem and let it hang a few hours before hemming it once again. The small quilts had an extra rod pocket added to the bottom where I inserted a piece of wood to give weight and keep the quilts straight. Small problems, easy fixes but it can be the difference between handmade and homemade. As Pam Damour, the "Decorating Diva," says, "Homemade is great for cooking but not for sewing!" So for those who get discouraged with sewing because of all the time a sewing project can take or when a project doesn't turn out initially the way you may want, remember that it happens to all of us and that's what seam rippers are for. Don't start sewing without one!!

Happy Sewing!!

June Cook

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Coming In September 2008

The Latte Quilt—Back by Request



The Latte Quilt

(I can hardly believe it. Several women have requested that I bring back my classes for the Latte Quilt.)

Many of you have seen the Latte Quilt book and have wanted to tackle the project but were intimidated because it was not written for the Viking machine. The Latte Quilt is an adventure in combining machine embroidery and decorative stitches. This is an excellent class in which we learn about hooping and placement, double and triple needlework, three-dimensional embroidery, combining decorative stitches and 8-way stitching. In this class we will be making a square a month. Each block will take two – 4 hour sessions. Cost of class is \$20.00 per 4-hour class session. **Watch for dates in upcoming newsletters this summer!!**



New Class at Smith-Owen Sewing Center

A Square of Moulin Rouge”

Two class sessions to complete quilt top.
Homework required.
June 4 and 11
Time: 9:30—1:30
\$20 per each class session



Polished To Perfection

This is your chance to polish those unfinished projects to perfection or in other words to completion. I will be available to help you finish your Latte Quilt, Block Party Quilt or Heirloom Sampler Quilt squares or help you finish constructing the quilt. Every Wednesday in August I will be available from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm to help you complete those unfinished projects. Come to one or all, whatever you need to complete your project. When signing-up for this class please let us know which project you will be working on or polishing to perfection.



The Latte Quilt

Dates: August 6, 13, 20 and 27

Time: 9:30 am— 1:30 pm

Class Cost: \$20 per class session



Block Party Quilt



Heirloom Sampler Quilt

Expanding My Knowledge of Sewing



This past month I had some opportunities to expand my knowledge of sewing that I would like to share with you. First I had the opportunity to attend a class with Margaret Moorhead who is a Jenny Haskins licensed teacher and is often a contributing writer in Creative Expressions Magazine.. In the class we learned how to make piped prairie points along with appliqué embroidery The class was sponsored by the American Sewing Guild, Holland Chapter. It was delight to be able to attend a class and learn a new technique!

Pam Damour was a guest speaker and offered a class at Smith-Owen Sewing Center last year in April. Unfortunately I was unable to attend due to a conflict in my schedule. This past month a friend of mine loaned me Pam's DVD's covering such things as The Perfect Pillow, Magic Miters, Hems and more, Secrets of a Decorator Workroom and Sensational Swags and Jabots. As some of you know my college degree is in Interior Design so sewing for the home has always been of interest to me and I always welcome learning newer and better ways to make things look "handmade" as opposed to homemade". These videos have challenged me and I would like to try some of Pam's techniques in my future home decorator projects. Often the tricks are in the tools. If you are interested in learning about Pam Damour, her videos and other helpful products she uses in her decorator studio go to www.pamdamour.com. It is always fun to learn and be inspired.



Class Sign-Up Information:

To sign up for my classes at **Smith-Owen Sewing and Quilting Center** call the store at **616-361-5484**. Smith-Owen is located at 4051 Plainfield in Grand Rapids.

To sign up for my classes at **Quilted Memories** call the store at : **231-893-0096**. Quilted Memories is located at 9919 US Hwy 31, Montague.

To arrange a class for a group, please call June at 231-780-1249.
