

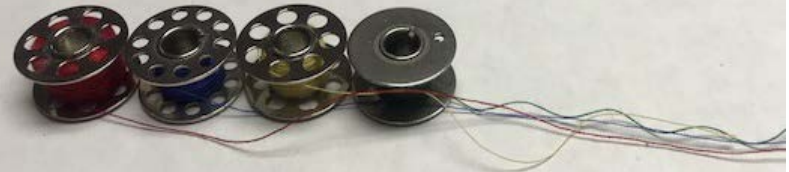


# KENTUCKY

## MASTER CLOTHING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/master-clothing-volunteer-program>



### *Bobbin' along with Marjorie*

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Newsletter

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The MCV steering committee met in June to finalize plans for the fall training. We are excited about the class offerings and hope you will be as well. A list of classes can be found later in the newsletter. Mark your calendars for Oct 21-25. The training will once again be split into two sessions with an overlap on Wednesday for area sharing, hand sewing classes and the silent auction. Online registration will take place August 1-15 for those that sent their annual reports in. We will have details about the 2020 challenge that we hope everyone will be excited about. See you all there!

I completed my 24<sup>th</sup> and final state 4-H Fashion Revue during Teen Conference last month. I'm happy to say that the numbers of participants is slowly rising and has surpassed those from previous years. If you haven't already and want to see photos from the Fashion Revue, like the Kentucky Fashion Leadership Board Facebook page.

The world of sewing is ever evolving. If you are like me, you are never tire of talking and learning more about our obsession with all things fiber related. Where do you go for inspiration? Where do you go to see the latest trend? Where do you go to get your sewing "mojo"? Have you tried listening to podcasts while sewing? Often times, my sewing is done in the solitude of my basement or sewing room. I've discovered that I can learn and be inspired while sewing on some of my mindlessly projects. Podcasts are like listening to talk radio but you can choose the topic you most enjoy. I have several sewing podcasts that I like to listen to. Check out *Clothes Making Mavens*, *Self-Sewn Wardrobe*, *While She Naps*, and *Love to Sew*. And *Talking FACS* for all things Family and Consumer Science related – hosted by our own Jennifer Hunter right here at the University of Kentucky!

*Marjorie M. Baker*

Marjorie M. Baker, M.S.

Extension Associate for Clothing and Textiles



## SPOTLIGHT



**Carol Blair**  
**Northern Kentucky Area**  
**Class of 2006**

I learned to sew at my mother's knee at the age of nine. She was the best making clothing for five daughters. I wanted to learn everything I could. We had a treadle machine. Back then we were sewing on feed sacks. They were pretty and made out of cotton. I also made a couple of skirts. I kept sewing as I loved every bit of it. I took sewing in junior high from a Mrs. Johnstone. I thought she was a pretty neat lady to know all about sewing and teaching it to a group of 35 girls. By the time I turned 12, I was hooked and it would last the rest of my life. I joined the Master Clothing Volunteer program in 2006 and I just love teaching the little 4-H girls to sew. To see the expressions on their faces when they finish a project is something else. I really enjoy teaching anyone that wants to learn. I made a pattern for a want-to-be designer about seven years ago. The designer didn't even know how to sew. Of course, I told her she should learn. She lives in Florida and I have not heard from her. I hope she made it. I taught my two sons to sew and mend some of their jeans and sew on buttons. I am also teaching my granddaughter to sew. She makes all of her PJs when she needs new ones. A lot of things have changed in the sewing world and I think everyone should keep learning everything new that comes out about sewing. We don't live in the dark ages anymore so I encourage everyone to keep learning just like I do.

My husband and I have two sons and three grandchildren. Our oldest son, Dennis has degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Computerized Integrated Manufacturing. His daughter Leah, is studying to be a criminal profiler and wants to work with the Pennsylvania State Police. Her brother Ian, is still in high school and I'm hoping he goes into engineering like his dad. Stuart, our youngest is an accountant. His daughter Rowan is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and wants to be a veterinarian. My husband was a plastics engineer and retired at 59. Ladies – don't let your husbands retire early! I was an electronics tech. Interesting fact: I made some resistors and other parts that went with Neil Armstrong on the first moon landing mission, fifty years ago! I've lived in seven different states before settling here in Kentucky. However, my home will always be Pennsylvania and my first love is teaching sewing to all who want to learn.

## *In Remembrance*



**Susan Koenig**  
**Bluegrass**  
**Area**  
**Class of 2004**

It is with great sadness that we let you know that our friend, Master Clothing Volunteer, Susan Koenig, sustained a fall from a second story deck on June 26 and passed away in surgery later that evening. Susan was a Clark County volunteer and one of the original six committee volunteers who started the Jabez Quilt Seminar 16 years ago. Services were held July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

# INTERFACING

## ***Sewing is Alive and Well: Who is Sewing and What are they Making?***

This was the topic that I was asked to speak on a few months ago to a group of professionals with backgrounds in Family and Consumer Sciences. Many of the ladies had learned to sew in their younger years but had not pursued it as a continuing interest. As Carol Blair stated in her Spotlight, sewing is continuously changing and new things come about. This was what I wanted this audience to be aware of and they were quite surprised and enlightened. I thought I would share with my readers here some of what I introduced to them about today's world of sewing.

First, a little history. According to "Blueprints of Fashion – Home Sewing patterns of the 1940s" and prior to WWII, 50 percent of US women knew how to sew but by 1944 that number shot up to 82 percent and Singer established that by September of 1943 there were 25 million sewing machines in US homes. This was the time when Home Economics classes were added to school curriculums and department stores enlarged their fabric and pattern sections. Who remembers going to J.C. Penney store to buy patterns, notions and fabric? I guess I'm showing my age, but, I have those memories!

The home sewing boom waned when mass produced clothing became cheaper to buy than those sewn at home. By the late 1970s to early 1980s, there wasn't a lot of excitement when it came to sewing. I'm so glad I was not aware of this trend at the time!

However sewing is seeing a revival. It is part of an overall movement to make things with our hands and know where our clothing and other items come from. "Farm to Table" is another example seen with this movement. Saving money is not a motivator as it once was, but the quest to have something custom fit and one-of-a-kind is worth the added expense. Sewing can be an expensive hobby with the cost of machinery on top of the cost of quality materials – if you can find them. It's also considered a luxury of the "privileged"

who have the time and resources to devote to this creative outlet.

The pattern market has also changed or evolved with the technology of our times. What used to be referred to as the Big 4 pattern companies (Vogue, McCalls, Butterick, and Simplicity) are all now owned by the CSS company. Ten years ago this would not have been possible as it would have been seen as a business monopoly, which the federal government's justice department would not have allowed. However, with the rise of the "Indie" (short for Independent) designers and the digital age, the legacy pattern companies have lost ground in the marketplace.

What are the Indie designers doing that the Big 4 have failed at?

- Today's sewer is less likely to have the same skills that their counterparts from decades ago had. They require patterns that "teach" the skills, the new sewer wants to be shown how through videos and sew-a-longs.
- Today's new sewing enthusiast, sometimes referred to a "sewist" shops from home and gets instant downloadable patterns. Simplicity and McCalls have had downloadable patterns since 2006 but their system was cumbersome to use (Printsew.com)
- Podcasts, Blogs, Facebook, and Instagram! Almost all of the successful Indie designers have a blog or some way of connecting with their customers on a personal basis. Sewists want to be social – they like getting to know the designer and seeing how others have used the same pattern. Instagram is the platform that many use for this. Add a hashtag (#) to a pattern name or number in the search and it brings up others with the same hashtag.

- Indie companies often appeal to niche audiences that mainstream companies cannot.

Indie companies have succeeded in creating a product that attracts new people to sewing that builds confidence, skills, connections, and instant availability!

And so, to answer the original question: Who is sewing and what are they making? The niche audiences include a wide variety of sewing interests such as Cosplay, reproduction costumers, those that want to give back through community service, machine embroidery, quilters, etc. Organizations like the American Sewing Guild and Master Clothing Volunteers are promoting sewing as a continuing art and life skill. It's all of us!



### Save 15% with JOANN 4-H Rewards!

Current and lifetime members, parents of members, volunteers and 4-H staff can **save 15% off total in-store and online purchases every day with 4-H Rewards.**

JOANN will give a minimum of 2.5% of every eligible transaction to support 4-H programming.

If you haven't signed up for this deal, you are missing out and Kentucky 4-H is losing out on revenue that could be coming our way to support the 4-H clothing and textiles program. If you have a smart phone, download the store's app and go to "more" from the menu. Select "Loyalty Programs". You will be instructed to fill in your name and county, among other things. Once your information is complete, you will receive an electronic rewards "card" right there on your phone to use when you make your purchases. It shows up under "Coupons" and it can be used on your entire purchase with exception of those items you use percentage off coupons for. It is as easy as that. If you do not have a smart phone, you can also sign up for the program

on the JoAnn website:

<https://www.joann.com/4-h/>

### 2019 Mid-rotation Training

#### **Class of 2018** (session 1 only)

- Serger Level I instruction - Taught by Bluegrass Area MCVs
- Knit Know How – taught by Mary Averbeck
- Advanced Seams and seam finishes – taught by Judy Hetterman

**Certified volunteer tracks** – Choose one from the following:

1. Sewing tips for unusual/specialty fabrics (kits will be provided that include vinyl) taught by Anne Hillard
2. Tunic class taught by Susan Kipp and Carol Rushing-Carr
3. 4-H STEAM clothing curriculum taught by Jennifer Klee and Mary Hixson
4. Pocket Techniques taught by Brenda Pinkston
5. Waste not, want not - Use your fabric scraps to create "new fabric: and sew a Sustainable tote bag. Taught by Anita Cummins
6. Visible Mending(Session 2 only) – taught by Kathy Hilkey

Hand sewing classes all taught on Wednesday

1. Introduction to Visible Mending taught by Kathy Hilkey
2. English Smocking – how to use a pleater taught by Kelly Mackey
3. Swedish Weaving – taught by Mary Hixson
4. Blanket Stitched Turkey Pin – taught by Mary Averbeck
5. YoYo tractor – taught by Brenda Pinkston

✓ **DOROTHY DO RIGHT** ✓

### Gathering with Fusible Interfacing

Nancy Zieman was an inspiration to all of us. She had so many handy tips and was so generous to share them with her television audience. Even after her death,

PBS continues to air her ***Sewing with Nancy*** program. The following is a tip she shared in a recent program.

We are all familiar with using two rows of machine basting to create a gathered edge. However, if one isn't careful with stitching, it may be difficult to conceal all the threads within the finished seamline. Removing the unsightly stitches is time consuming and tedious. Using the following method will prevent any gathering stitches from showing on the right side!

Start with cutting lengths of featherweight fusible interfacing one inch wide. The cut length should be the length of the fabric to be gathered. Set your machine to a lengthened stitch length. With the fusible side of the interfacing upward, sew 5/8" from the edge along the length of the interfacing. Be sure to leave thread tails at each end. The bobbin thread should be visible from the non-fusible side of the interfacing strip. Sew a second line of lengthened stitches 3/8" from the edge. Fuse the interfacing strip to the wrong side of the fabric edge to be gathered. Pull thread tails to gather fabric to the desired length.



The dark blue bobbin thread is visible on the right side of the interfacing.



Fuse interfacing even with edge of fabric to be gathered. Pull bobbin threads to gather.

## Calendar of Events

**August 1-15** on-line registration open for Statewide Mid-rotation Training



**August 14-25** Kentucky State Fair

**October 21-25, 2019** *Mid-rotation Statewide Training Week*, Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center (week will be split into two sessions)

## Gift Card Holder

Use this gift card holder to give as a gift or use it as a card wallet for your pocket. It's quick and easy to make. Plus it uses up strips of fabric you probably have in your leftover stash!

### Fabric needed:

3 strips of cotton fabric each 1½" x 12½"

### Instructions: All seam allowances: 3/8"

1. Sew the three strips of fabric together side to side forming a 3¼" x 12½" rectangle.
2. Press seams open or away from center piece.
3. Fold one end down with wrong sides together, the length of the gift card – approximately 3½". Fold remaining end up to meet the first end.



4. Turn the fabric over and fold shorter section up over the longer section, the two raw ends are exposed along the lower folded edge.



**After thought:** Interline this with RIFD fabric to keep your credit cards safe.



5. Unfold the longer section (in back) and refold it to cover the shorter section (in front).



6. Sew the two outer edges together leaving the folded end free.



7. Turn right side out through opening. Turn again to enclose all the raw edges. Work corners out to be square and press.

Marjorie M. Baker  
July 2019