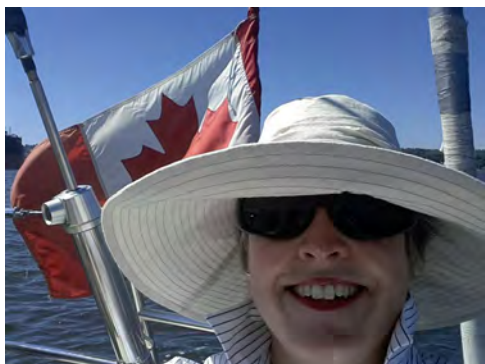




INSPIRED TO *Sew*

*A glimpse into the creative heart of today's
most talented sewing & quilting artists.*



Rhonda "Sailing Away" on English Bay, Vancouver BC.

In Vancouver BC snuggled into a comfy bed, I heard the call of seagulls through the open bedroom window. In Ashland, OR I marveled at kids giggling in the swimming pool outside my hotel room. In Seattle, the sounds of the city were muffled by fog and mist. Sounds, sights and situations from 11 days on the road, *My Great Northwest Adventure* was a world apart from my Midwest living ... and pictures galore I took. It was hard to select only a few favorites for this issue.

I love to travel meeting sewing friends along the way. Last month I met the vivacious Mary Fons at the Shipshewana Quilt Festival in northern Indiana. Chatting in the fresh country air over a slice of freshly baked Amish pie, I recognized a creative soul blazing her own trail while igniting the quilting bug in newbies of any age.

Further north in the Detroit area another fireball drives her passion for fashion. Janet Pray orchestrates the most progressive sewing show with classes, vendors and contests that draw sewing fans from across North America.

Mary and Janet, two dynamo ladies sharing their respective passions in their own special ways. I know you will love reading Rita Farro's interviews with both trailblazers.

Sew SCHMETZ!

Rhonda

Rhonda Pierce
Marketing Director & Publisher
SCHMETZneedles.com

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Quilt Cover: **Night Sky by Mary Fons**

Interviews by: **Rita Farro**
www.Ritasewfun.blogspot.com

What Inspires
YOU *to Sew?*



There's an App for That!





Mary Fons

Mary Fons —

A Writer Who Grew Up Under a Quilt

Mary Fons refers to herself as “a writer who grew up under a quilt.” She co-hosts “Love of Quilting” on PBS alongside her mom, popular quilter and educator Marianne Fons.

In 2010, Mary created *Quilty*, a weekly online program for the beginner quilter (New Track Media, now F+W Media). Today, there are over 200 episodes of *Quilty* available at QNNtv.com, as well as a bi-monthly magazine. *Quilty* magazine, of which Mary is the editor and creative director, is available nationwide at bookstores, quilt shops, and via auto-ship and digital subscription at www.heyquilty.com and www.fonsandporter.com. Each issue has more than a dozen projects aimed at the beginner quilter.

Mary’s quilts are frequently featured in *Love of Quilting* and *Quilty*. She lectures and leads workshops across the country, has written her blog, PaperGirl, since 2006, and her first book, ***Make + Love Quilts: Scrap Quilts for the 21st Century*** is out now from C&T.

So, who is Mary Fons? What inspires her? In a recent PaperGirl post entitled “The Question Must Not Be Asked,” Mary writes:

I will always prioritize writing. Always. If I’m not writing here, I’m in my journals. If I’m not in my journals, I’m reading, the other half of writing. There’s time every day for one part of this endless, bizarre, oft-fruitless, occasionally ecstatic process of mine and I refuse to be told there isn’t. I can’t help it. I actually can’t. Without the writing thing in my life, I feel nothing short of impoverished. And when I feel like that, well, no one gets anything at all — not on time, not late, not anything.

Born and raised in rural Iowa, Mary lived in Chicago for twelve years where she worked as a theater artist and freelance writer, writing for books, magazines, syndication, and educational companies. This summer, she moved to the heart of New York City, “for love,” as she says in her blog, found at www.maryfons.com/blog.



Mary Fons



Mary’s First Book
Available Now

Mary Fons — Continued



Lights, Camera, Action . . .



Mary with Mom, Marianne Fons



The Colorful Webinar - Sign Up Now
www.shopfonsandporter.com

Mary started quilting in earnest seven years ago while recovering from a life-threatening health issue. Though she started quilting when the modern quilting movement was beginning, Mary's quilt style is not modern, but "traditional with an updated palette."

When buying fabric, Mary applies what she calls "the Dress Test." She asks herself, "If this fabric were a dress, would I wear it?" If the answer is no, the fabric is bypassed. She loves every fabric she buys, therefore, no fabric sits long. Mary makes big quilts and tries to use as many fabrics as possible in each. She does not use just one color of pink, but rather twenty shades or more, as in her Pink Waves (2010) quilt. Mary loves to make scrap quilts and likes to add a rogue fabric or color just for the thrill.

Having an influential mom in the quilt world has been a mixed blessing. While certain introductions were made more swiftly as a result of her last name, Mary's struggle has been to establish herself as distinct from her mother's style and name while showing the sincere respect she has for all her mother's contributions and for the art of quiltmaking as a whole. What has never been in question: the love and true camaraderie she and her mom have with each other. "You can't fake that," Mary says of her and her mother's rapport on public television. "We really do love each other and love working together – always have."

Mary recently started a monthly webinar series, *Color Me Quilter*, where each month, she examines using a different color in your quilts. Webinars continue to gain in popularity for quilters who want great instruction from the comfort of their own homes. Mary's series is attracting fans already for its fun, engaging approach to selecting fabrics for your next project. Go to www.shopfonsandporter.com to purchase a "ticket." You can watch the webinar live as it happens or buy it later as a download to watch at your convenience.

www.maryfons.com

— written by Rita Farro

On the Road Again



Mt. Hood, OR



Harry & David, Medford OR



Carol & Jan, Fabric Depot



Fabric-holic at Fabric Depot



Shakespeare Theatre, Ashland OR



Shakespeare Theatre, Ashland OR



Medford, OR



L'Opera, Vancouver BC



Ashland OR



FRYE Museum

The Great North

Traveling for more unusual for me. So, 11 days for teaching visiting distributor machine dealers awesome scenery n

My Great North

Enjoy a few A special thanks I met along the Washington and

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Seattle Art Museum, Seattle WA

West Adventure

More than 3 or 4 days is an extended trip of sewing SCHMETZ classes, fabric shops, and seeing some beautiful scenery. This adventure naturally evolved into a West Adventure.

Here are some of my favorite pics. I shared them with all the friends I met on this way in Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver BC.

Sharon



Ashland OR



Sabine, Pfaff on Granville, Vancouver BC



Granville Island, Vancouver BC



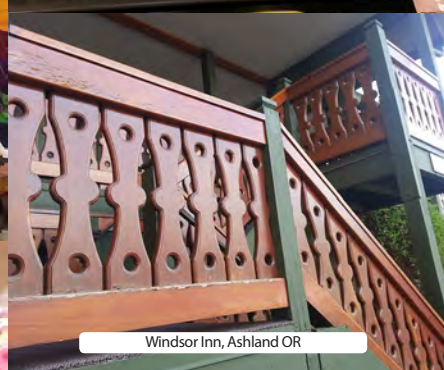
Cantik Batiks



Fabricana, Vancouver BC



Tina Discovers an Out-of-Print C&T Book



Windsor Inn, Ashland OR



English Bay, Vancouver BC



Sharon, Cadot Textiles



Blumenthal Button Cupcakes





What
Inspires
YOU
to Sew?



The American Sewing Expo™, Inc

Janet Pray



Janet Pray — *A Passion for Fashion*

American Sewing Expo is the largest independent sewing expo in the United States. Janet Pray, President of ASE, says, *"We work all year to have the most exciting sewing show possible. No matter what your sewing interest is — fiber arts, fashion sewing, quilting, needle arts, sewing for children, home dec, or crafting — ASE has the latest in products and education."*

ASE has an exciting vendor floor for shopping and make-and-takes and classrooms for seminars and hands-on sewing workshops. Three stages on the show floor have ongoing free demonstrations and style shows. But perhaps the most exciting, unique element to the American Sewing Expo are the CONTESTS.

Contests are the heart and soul of the American Sewing Expo. No other consumer show in the country even comes close. Janet Pray clearly wakes up in the middle of the night, dreaming of new contests for ASE. For 2014, there will be an unbelievable SIX different contests and/or sewing competitions.

- **Passion For Fashion:** This premier LIVE design challenge event takes place on the show floor during the show. On Friday morning, contestants receive the official "challenge" and are given their "Expo Dollars". They shop the show floor — then design and sew their garments in a designated area. On Saturday afternoon, they do model fittings, and the Passion For Fashion FINALE Runway show takes place in front of a live audience that night.
- **Innovation Generation** is a sewing competition for youthful sewists, age 8-18. The participants are divided into three different age groups — and the audience is delighted with the skills and creativity at the free Innovation Generation style show.
- **Fashion Design in Half Scale** is an online sew-a-long led by ASE 2013 Teacher of the Year,



Janet Pray



Passion for Fashion 2013



Janet Pray — Continued



Joi Mahon
ASE 2013 Teacher of the Year



Janet's Inspiration for COSPLAY 2014



Innovation Generation 2013

Joi Mahon. Participants purchase a kit, including a half-scale dress form. The theme this year is Fashion Icons Through the Ages.

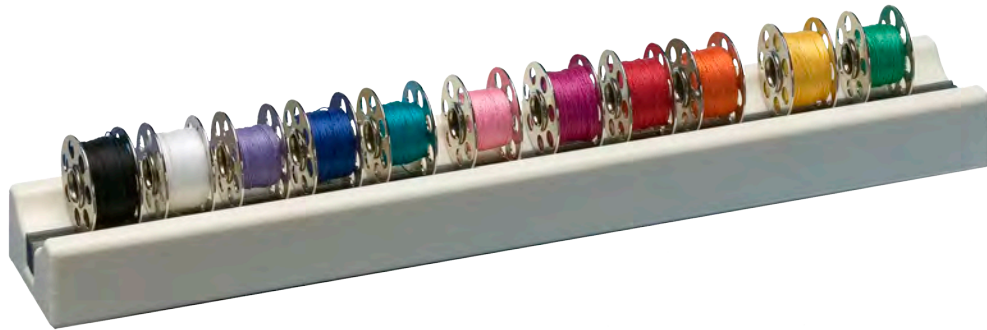
- **Push the Envelope** is the contest where EVERYBODY can participate. The theme this year is Pocket Pizzazz — and entries can be anything sewn. Quilts, garments, accessories, home dec. You just need to include ONE POCKET. The entries will be displayed during the show and winners will be selected after judging.
- **COSPLAY:** NEW this year. The first 100 who arrive in costume on Sunday, September 28 will receive a gift. At 3:00, there will be a contest on the Fashion Stage. The costumes can be any type: Anime, historical, TV, movie, comic book, video game character, etc. — they must be handmade, not purchased.
- **Dream Sewing Room:** Always the exciting conclusion to the American Sewing Expo weekend — attendees have the chance to win a dream sewing room. A sewing machine, serger, table, patterns, fabric, scissors — it truly is a DREAM sewing room.

When it comes to providing sewing inspiration — nobody is doing a better job than the American Sewing Expo. Grab your best friend, or plan a mother/daughter sewing weekend to attend this cornucopia of sewing events. The 2014 show is September 26-28, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan.

Janet says, *"Be sure to check out the page on CONTESTS — because we have something for everybody. And if you are part of a sewing club or a guild — be sure to contact us to find out about the special perks we have for buses or groups!"*

www.americansewingexpo.com

— written by Rita Farro



Grabobbin™ Magnetic Bobbin Holder

This 8" long rack made of white plastic has a round channel that holds bobbins on an embedded magnetic strip. Grabobbin™ anchors each bobbin tightly on its rim. It is easy to see the thread colors and to grab the desired bobbin.

Grabobbin™ is also a wonderful tool for hand quilters and needle workers. Quilting or embroidery thread can be machine wound onto bobbins and kept together on the bobbin holder. Simply pull the thread from a bobbin and watch it unwind in place on the holder! Grabobbin™ puts an end to runaway bobbins and loose ends or tangled threads.

3/4"x1 1/4"x8". Includes one metal bobbin.

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