



INSPIRED TO *Sew*

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



Rhonda and Cousin Tom
Library of Congress

Recently I was in Washington DC to attend the Creative Arts Business Summit. Once again this dynamic event left me energized and focused to promote sewing. While in DC, I was hoping to revisit the famed cherry blossoms, but they were too chilly to make an appearance. So what's a gal to do? I grabbed my cousin Tom for a tour of the magnificent Library of Congress. Inspiration galore! I was especially captivated by the dome over the famed Reading Room. The repetition and the rhythm of the designs were certainly inspirational for me. How I would love to translate those designs into machine embroidery or even a quilt.

Inspiration can strike at any time. For Gail Yellen, inspiration frequently surfaces during that sweet time as she drifts into sleep. Lori Van Maanen finds inspiration with *Girls in the Garden*.

What inspires YOU to sew? How about chevrons? Seems at every turn I see chevrons. Chevrons in quilts, fabric, fashion, home dec, paper, wall paper, logos, dinnerware and now on this e-zine cover. What's the fascination with chevrons? I don't know. I just know that I love the design and created a photo collage for fun. Enjoy reading this issue and share it with your friends! Sew SCHMETZ!

Rhonda

Rhonda Pierce
Marketing Director & Publisher
SCHMETZneedles.com

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What Inspires
YOU to Sew?



There's an App for That!



Sewing
Star

Gail Yellen

GP
gailpatricedesign

Issue 5



Gail Yellen — *Gail Patrice Design*

Gail Yellen lives in Glastonbury, CT. She has a BA in English and an AS in Dental Hygiene from Northeastern University. She practiced dental hygiene for 20 years in one office and loved (almost) every minute and patient! So how did she become one of the most popular sewing teachers in the country?

Although Gail loved sewing since she was a teen, she didn't begin to think of it as an artistic expression until about 15 years ago when she took a sewing class at a local sewing machine center. It was a transformative day in her life. She spent so much time at the store soaking up every tidbit of knowledge, they asked her to join their staff. Eventually she began to design class projects and garments and her "accidental career" began.

A friend had a summer gallery in Islesboro, Maine. Gail created some artsy jackets to sell and they sold out quickly. Gail created a line of jacket and skirt patterns with simple, flattering lines that provide a perfect backdrop for a wide variety of embellishment techniques, and **Gail Patrice Design** was born.

Gail loves teaching hands-on serger technique classes and sewing machine embellishment classes. Her students always asked, "Do you have a book?" She finally decided to write a book — ***It's All About Embellishment!***, published in 2012. The book is based on her hands-on workshop. Gail says you don't need to be an expert sewer or own a top of the line machine to do the techniques. It's geared for all sewing levels. She loves experimenting — sometimes ideas pop into her head just as she's drifting off to sleep (who knows from where) and she jumps up to write them down or actually go into her sewing room to "play."

For many reasons, her favorite sewing project is the first ***Collage It! Counterpoints Jacket***. Gail says, "My mother died in 2008 and I saved her beautiful tone-on-tone collection of sweaters with the intention of



It's All About Embellishment! and Cosmetic Surgery



Teaching at Sewing & Stitchery Expo

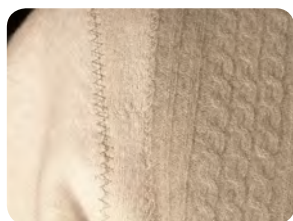


Gail with friend & helper, assistant, Pam Schneider

Gail Yellen— Continued



Collage It!
Counterpoints Jacket



www.gailpatrice.com/

doing “something” with them. After felting them, I combined them in a collaged jacket design. The jacket was a learning process that has undergone numerous revisions and improvements. Shortly after the jacket was finished, American Sewing Guild announced its 2009 contest — **ReMake, ReUse, ReStyle**. The jacket met all of the contest guidelines — how often does that ever happen with a finished project? Sent in the photos, filled out the entry form and it was one of the Top 3 winners! This jacket is dear to my heart and is always a crowd favorite at sewing events.”

Teaching **40 Techniques Every Sewer Should Know** on Craftsby has connected Gail to sewers all over the world! She loves receiving questions and comments from around the globe. “I believe in consulting with an expert if I’m not sure of the best answer. Rhonda Pierce is my ‘go to’ expert on a needle question, and I would never use anything but a SCHMETZ needle.”

Gail gets sparks of inspiration everywhere, but when asked to pinpoint one, she quickly said, “other sewers. The wellspring of creativity that flows from sewers is endless and the generosity of sharing knowledge equals it. Pinterest has become a source of visual images and I love creating new ‘Boards’. Rummaging through my fabric stash is always an inspiration for me — as well as my button collection. Sooner or later, I incorporate everything into garment embellishment motifs.”

“Sewing has brought so many things to my life. At home it’s my “me” time — therapeutic, meditative and creative. Teaching and sharing my knowledge is an instant and very satisfying connection with new friends.”

— written by Rita Farro





Chevron

In the last year from my trip to the Sewing & Quilting Expo Show to International Quilt Show, chevron has been popping up in colorful ways spelled as chevron. We've seen chevron as a V-shaped pattern, upright or upside down. It's a trend that many quilters are around, I'm sure you too. home dec, signage

rons

travels to the Modern Quilt
Quilt Market to Original
a recurring design keeps
ways — the chevron, also
 Webster Dictionary defines
 pattern. Whether used
 see chevron patterns as
 ers have embraced. Look
 see chevrons in fashion,
 e, logos and more.





What Inspires
YOU *to Sew?*



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Lori Van Maanen



Lori Van Maanen — *Girls in the Garden*

In the summer of 2006, Lori Van Maanen stumbled upon a few sewing and decorating blogs, which led to many hours at the computer. She was hooked on the format, and she thought blogging would be a great way to keep track of her sewing projects. She could look back on her posts and use the information to improve her next garment.

Lori lives and works on her Missouri family farm, and is very involved in the family's agricultural business. She works full time at their livestock market — so time to sew can be an issue. And she had to think long and hard about making the commitment to writing her own blog.

She knew her area of blogging would be mainly sewing, but didn't want to limit herself by putting sewing in the title. One day, while weeding her flower garden with her daughters, she looked at them and the name of her blog came to her. **Girls In the Garden.** As the mother to four girls, it was perfect — close to her heart.

Although Lori does all kinds of sewing — her passion has always been fashion sewing. With so many girls in the house, there is always an occasion or event requiring a new outfit. Lori is inspired by fashion magazines, fashion blogs and Pinterest. Once she gets an idea for a garment, she likes to search Pinterest for variations and details to make it her own.

Lori is fortunate to have a dedicated sewing space — but it's in an unfinished basement, tucked under the plumbing pipes and behind the furnace. She doesn't really have a "stash" of fabric (maybe 10 yards on hand at any one time). When she is inspired to make a garment, she goes online to buy the fabric. The Mood Fabrics website is her favorite place for fashion fabric — so it was a huge honor to be invited to become a part of the Mood Sewing Network in January, 2013.

When asked about her favorite sewing inspiration, Lori said, *"When the twins were babies, I took a smocking class. My favorite magazine was **Australian Smocking and Embroidery** and each month I would find at least one dress to make. One issue had these smocked black corduroy coats with leopard faux fur — and I was hooked on those coats. It is a wonder I didn't*



Lori with Girls - and boys - in the Garden



Flower Girl Dress



Lori Van Maanen — Continued

wear out my magazine just looking at them. AS&E offered kits with everything but the pattern, so I checked the kit price and the exchange rate. With four young girls, money was tight and it took me a week of debating if I should buy not one but two kits. In the end, I did order the coats and never regretted the purchase. I made the coats a bit bigger and since the shape was flared, the girls were able to get three winters' wear.

The most recent thing I was inspired to sew was my leopard trench coat. I saw several leopard trench coats on Pinterest. I found the perfect fabric at Mood and had the perfect Vogue pattern. I have worn this coat many times, it just goes with everything and it is one of those 'feel good' garments."

Your best sewing advice?

*Whenever I am having a problem, the first thing I do is rethread my sewing machine and change the needle. That solves the problem 90% of the time. And don't forget to change the needles in your serger, too! My go-to sewing book is Sandra Betzina's **Fabric Savvy**. It is an excellent reference book and I often refer to it. I only use SCHMETZ needles, and I ALWAYS have a good supply on hand.*

What does sewing bring to your life?

I cannot draw or paint but I can take a piece of fabric and turn it into a garment. Sewing is my creative outlet and it gives me such fulfillment and joy with each garment I make. Sewing has also brought many friendships with women both near and far.

Lori's blog: www.girlsinthegarden.blogspot.com/

Mood Sewing Network: www.moodsewingnetwork.com



Smocked Black Corduroy Coats



Leopard Trench Coat

— written by Rita Farro





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