

Our Christmas Party last Tuesday was wonderful! Elisabeth Chism and her elves had beautifully decorated the Fellowship Hall -- the Church staff told us they had never seen it look so good! Our Christmas tree had about 90 handmade ornaments that everyone brought and exchanged -- thanks to Janice Malone. Lynn Harris coordinated a very successful fundraiser -- tickets for the "buckets" raised about \$1300 and the live auction raised about \$1000. Many thanks to all of you and our local retailers for your marvelous donations and generosity. These funds will be used for our educational and community service activities next year. The buffet was so delicious -- I have had several ladies ask for recipes. So, please send me your recipe (either email or regular mail) and we'll put them on the website. In particular, if you brought a green pea and shoe peg corn cold salad recipe, one member wants it RIGHT NOW! So, please, please send it to me as soon as you can.

There are no meetings for the remainder of the year, so enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.

2012 is starting out with lots of activities -- special speaker (Feb), fitting retreat (Jan), Floriani seminar at Singer (Feb), Thread seminar at the Rio Grande Chapter (Jan), Peggy Sagers conference (Feb), and our wonderful group meetings. **To help keep track of all that's coming up...check out our new spiffy website www.asg-corporuschristi.com** . Ledell Adair is our webmaster and has put in some terrific features, such as the SmileBox for the Parade of Creative Talent. Our goal is that the website will always have the most up-to-date information.

There are also some **location changes** -- the Saturday group will meet next year at the Ronald McDonald House on 3402 Fort Worth and the Port Aransas Style group will meet at the JELM center, which is behind the Community Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to Marcia Curtis at the Stitch Witch and Donna at Donna's Alterations for letting us meet in their facilities this year.

The January group meetings are:

January 3 -- Community Service sewing at the Stitch Witch

January 10 -- Tuesday group at the Parkway Presbyterian -- Printing to Fabric is program; Stash Bash in the afternoon. For the Stash Bash, you bring items (fabric, notions, patterns) that no longer inspire you, "ticket" them with your name, price, yardage, etc (I can send you tickets as an email attachment), and then everyone shops at the Stash Bash.

January 17 -- Community Service sewing at Singer

January 19 -- Port Aransas Style Group

January 28 -- Saturday group at Ronald McDonald House -- Body Mapping with Elisabeth Chism

January 31 -- Odem Group at Public Library -- Anti-ouch pouches

Sharon Davis, our Program Coordinator, needs your help and is asking.... One of the programs we would like to present in 2012 will be on cutting implements. If you have someone who is knowledgeable on the subject and would be willing to present a program at our March meeting, please contact Sharon (jdavis17@stx.rr.com or 299-5157). The program should include how to correctly use specialty scissors, which size rotary cutter is right for the project, how to care for and maintain your cutting arsenal, and other information to get great results in all your sewing projects that require fabric cutting. Sometimes it's what you think you know that keeps you from learning a better technique. She would also appreciate any ideas on other topics.

In addition, two special events are scheduled for January and February. We will only have one special speaker next year, which is Pamela Leggett in February. The CAB felt that the members wanted time to practice what we learned this year, rather than have more speakers.

- **A Fitting Retreat with Marilyn has been booked for Jan 26-29** (Thursday-Sunday morning) at Camp Zephyr in Sandia (www.campzephyr.org). At the retreat Marilyn will work with anyone on any pattern, even if you didn't attend the earlier classes. This is the only event for Marilyn Elliott in 2012. If you are interested, please let me know since we need a minimum of 10 people to hold the event (max of 20). Your room/meal is \$164 for the 3 nights/9 meals in a semi-private room. Private rooms are available at \$209. Marilyn's fee is \$90 for the three days. We also have a day camper option at \$5/day and \$7/meal, plus Marilyn's fee (which is \$35 for one day and \$70 for 2 days). This retreat is only for fitting with Marilyn, not general sewing. Call (563-3336) or email me if you are interested, need more information, or want to register. Like our other retreats, you need to pre-pay. Marilyn's \$90 fee is due at registration and the room/meal fee is due by January 10th (our Tuesday meeting). These amounts are non-refundable unless someone takes your place.
- **Pamela Leggett is our special speaker for next year. She will be here on February 22-24 (Wed-Fri).** The lecture on Feb 22 will be on serger techniques in the morning and sewing knit fabrics in the afternoon. On February 23 and 24, she will teach us her techniques to make bias and pencil skirts with a comfortable elastic waist. She will teach both skirts and you select which one you want to make. The same class (20 ladies max each day) will be given on both days. The lecture includes a box lunch from Jason's and is \$25 for members (\$35 for non-members). The skirt class is \$25 for members (\$35 for non-members), plus the pattern, and you bring your own lunch. Betty Surprenant is coordinating this event. If you are interested in signing up for the class, contact Betty at betty_surprenant@sbcglobal.net or 991-2546.

Other Announcements:

- The Rio Grande Chapter will have Suzy Seed, a national Sulky Thread Educator, on Saturday Jan 28 from 9-4 pm. The program is called Thread Play and the price is \$25 for ASG members plus a \$30 kit fee. Non-members are welcome at \$40 for a ticket, plus the kit fee. They are limited to 25 participants. If you are interested, contact Diane Parry at bparry@rgv.rr.com
- Floriani Seminar at the Singer Sewing Center on February 3,4. The 3-hour seminar is \$30 and space is limited, so contact Susan at 991-5151 to register. The same seminar is given both days. Each attendee will receive a free package of Floriani items. Susan also has the Frixion pens (that erase with heat) in a variety of colors.
- Peggy Sagers' Education for the Textile Arts (ETA) Conference is on February 11-12 in Dallas at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The platinum package is \$149 which includes 2 nights at the hotel, 2 class days, and access to the vendor hall. It is possible to take 11 classes in this 2 day period. For more information, go to Peggy's website www.silhouettepatterns.com and click on the conference.

Enjoy the holidays!... Jean