

Stitchin' News

What's in store at Always In Stitches

1808 E. Conner St., Noblesville, IN

www.AlwaysInStitches1.com

Jan. 31, 2012

Janome educator tells classes 'Have fun'

Janome educator Nancy Fiedler had hours of terrific advice when she was with us for classes Jan. 16-18.

Everyone who attended learned something, even Kathy Zook and Stephanie Coy-Lykes, our sales specialists who have had special training from the company.

Her sensible advice is worth repeating and is something all of us need to hear.

- There are no quilting police; everything doesn't have to be perfect.
- Slow down.
- Be generous with your fabric. Don't work with 2 inches when using 4 inches will make the project easier.
- Have fun!

We've already made a request for Nancy to return in the fall for more free classes. We'll keep you posted on when they are scheduled.

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BEAUTY SLEEP

Family's kindness gives ill kids cheery pillows

Eight children battling life-changing illnesses will find some cheer in their hospital beds, thanks to Diana Rainwater's sewing talents and the generosity of her children, Wyatt and Fawn.

Diana made eight pillowcases as part of Always In Stitches' service project for ConKerr Cancer. As she sewed the happy and bright print fabrics, her grandchildren sat patiently on her lap or next to her.

Wyatt especially liked the case made with traditional green and tan camo accented by fighter jets. He liked it so much, he wanted to keep it.

But when he learned that a sick child would get to use it if he took it to Always In Stitches, the 7-year-old boy was happy to make the donation.

ConKerr Cancer started when Cindy Kerr's son was diagnosed with cancer in 2002. She made pillowcases to make him smile and brighten his room at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, explains the nonprofit's website, conkerrcancer.org. He loved it, so she made pillowcases for other oncology patients.

When AIS first introduced customers to this service project, the goal was to donate 300. We've topped that number, but continue to accept donations and love to hear stories like Wyatt's.



Build a set of knitting needles with interchangeable tips

It's easier and less expensive to have a whole set of knitting needles than you may think.

Consider buying interchangeable needles, recommends Penny Little, our knitting specialist.

With this system, you buy different sizes of tips that fasten to a single, reusable cord. Tips are available in sets with wide-ranging sizes and individually so you can pick and choose which sizes you buy.

A very small tool is used to tighten the tip securely to the cord. It's an easy piece to lose, says Penny, who recommends knitters attach it to their key rings.

Several kinds of interchangeable needles are available in the Yarn Department, and a sales specialist would be happy to help you find just what you need.



More convenient hours added
10-8 Tuesday and Thursday
9-4 Saturday
10-5 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Score Soup-er bargains, help blitz area hunger

Don't leave home without some canned goods on Feb. 5. We'll be collecting food for a local pantry as we host a Soup-er Sale. For each can you donate up to 10, we'll give you a Soup-er Buck to use on that day's purchases.

In addition, we'll have special prizes for everyone wearing a team jersey, will give away door prizes every hour and are discounting all clearance items a deep 75 percent. The shop will be open from 1-6 on this Sunday only.

Bring your friends – and your food donations – to join our World Championship-style fun.



BOUND TO PLEASE

Turning Twenty blocks make great beginner projects

Even for beginners, the "Turning Twenty" series of books will have you creating beautiful quilts quickly.

All the patterns are fat quarter friendly; large quilts use 20 fat quarters.

And, says shop manager Capi Saxton, you will have the fewest amount of scraps you can imagine. The blocks are large, which reduces sewing time.

Unique turns of the blocks make eye-catching designs. Capi made 5 or 6 quilts and no two look like the same pattern.

Find the "Turning Twenty" series among the books displayed near fat quarters in the center of the shop.

Cut back on your prep time

Take the drudgery out of cutting so you have more time to create.

Always In Stitches has an AccuCut Grande Mark machine that makes strips, blocks and some really cute designs in much less time than you can do them by hand.

It can be used in the store for \$5/hour, and we prefer that you reserve time on it in advance.



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Help wanted:

Part-time pieceworkers

A new, local designer is hiring quilters who like to do hand piecing and would like to earn some extra money for working part time in their own homes.

The job

- Make pieces for models for new quilt designs by Rosewood Manor.
- Work with ¼" to ¾" hexagons using the English Paper Piecing method.
- Help create miniature quilts, which someone else will finish to create the models.

Qualifications

Experience necessary. Non-smoker and non-smoking homes only, please.

**For more information,
please call Karen,
(317) 574-9186**

Dear Lola,

I finished my sweater only to find out the bodice is too short and the sleeves are barely long enough. Anything I can do with it – other than find a tall, short-armed friend?

– Puzzled

You've asked the right knitter, Puzzled. We sheep know about long arms and short bodices! Why not add a knitted or crocheted decorative edge? If you don't have a pattern for these, there are many books that have instructions.

Start a little love

On Valentine's Day

We're able to offer two more quilters (and potentially another three) the opportunity to be part of the Love Letters BOM. Participants can start picking up their fabric Feb. 14.

This six-month project uses the Etchings Collection by 3 Sisters to make a 65x83 quilt. It features twelve 17 ½-inch quilt blocks. Six unique blocks are each made twice. It is designed for intermediate to advanced quilters.

The cost is \$24.95 monthly, which includes a pattern and fabric for two blocks.



AIS classes and events add skills, fun to your life

PENNY KNITS

Times and days vary

\$10 per 2-hour session

All knitters are invited to learn or improve knitting skills. See the calendar for scheduled days or call to schedule a private 1-hour lesson for \$10. Simple "fix-it" questions may be answered before or after classes and all day Friday.

LET'S DO LUNCH TRUNK SHOW

Now-Feb. 15

Share in one of life's simple pleasures from Atkinson Designs. Beginner-friendly tote bags and table runners use fat quarters, charm squares or fabric strips.

BEGINNING QUILTING CLASS

10:30-12:30 Feb. 4

\$40 plus supplies

Second of 2 classes. Learn quilting basics while making a small wall hanging.

Instructor: Ruth Middleton

SOUP-ER SALE

1-6 Feb. 5

This event combines great deals with a way to help stock local food pantries. For each can of food (up to 10 cans) you bring in, get \$1 off your day's purchase. We'll blow out the clearance department with 75 percent off. Hourly prize drawings, special gifts for those wearing the jersey of their favorite team and more. You don't want to miss this event and all the fun we'll have.

QUILTSMART LONE STAR

10:30-1 Feb 7 and 21

\$20 per session plus supplies

Learn to make a Lone Star wall hanging the easy way with QuiltSmart Interfacing.

Instructor: Kathy Zook

PIECE AND QUILT TABLE RUNNER

5:30-7:30 Feb. 7

\$20 plus supplies

Have fun making this quick table runner.

Fabric choices determine the occasion. Beginner-level class. Instructor: Ruth Middleton

LOVE LETTERS BOM

Begins Feb. 14

This is the day you've been waiting for! Pick up your first block any time after this date. Happy piecing!

UNIVERSITY OF AIS

2-2:30 Feb. 15

Registered participants attend monthly classes, receive great instruction and free gifts. This month's topic: How to measure and miter corners

EMBROIDERY CLUB

1:30-2:30 Feb. 18

\$30 registration fee

This club will meet on the third Saturday every other month. At each session we will share new machine embroidery products, have students show and tell, discuss the monthly topic and award door prizes. Class space will be limited, so sign up soon.

FREE MOTION QUILTING

1-3 Feb. 18

\$30 plus supplies

Learn basic designs and techniques to make your quilt top pop. Your own sewing machine and darning or free motion foot required.

Instructor: Susan Cook

FAT QUARTER QUILT

10:30-1:30 Feb. 25

\$30 plus supplies

Not sure what to do with all those fat quarters you've been collecting? This class is for you! Make a quick and easy quilt top. Great beginner class. Instructor: Ruth Middleton

KNITTING BOM

2:30-3 Feb. 25

\$10 per month, including pattern

You need only one skein of yarn per month to complete an afghan by Christmas. Select your own yarn, Cascade 220 recommended. Instructor: Penny Little

