

PANORAMA
RICE LAKE, WISCONSIN

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Sew what?

by Ruth Erickson, Chronotype staff



Area guild answers needs of community

There's a common thread that winds through the membership of the Northwoods Notions Neighborhood Sewing Guild of Haugen.

That thread is the desire to meet new people, learn new skills, share an interest in sewing and contribute to the community through sewing projects.

In the 2 1/2 years since its start, the group has stitched its care and concern into community projects and is open to ideas for more ways to help.

So far the guild members have made baby gowns, caps and receiving blankets for the Pregnancy Help Center of Rice Lake; drawstring bags that others have filled with essentials for patients at the Veterans Hospital in Tomah; shawls for the elderly at nursing homes and assisted living centers; and teddy bears for children in traumatic situations.

When a request was made for a donation for a benefit for a young man with cancer, the guild donated two pillows.

Its biggest project thus far is the making of a

queen-size quilt for the Ryan and Connie Adkins family, who will be moving into a Habitat for Humanity home in Haugen this spring.

Other projects on the group's to-do list are fidget lap quilts for people with Alzheimer's disease and comfort caps for people going through cancer treatments.

While the sewers don't always hear back from those their handmade creations go to, they are pleased just to know that their items are being put to good use.

On occasion, they get thank-you notes that spur their needles into more sewing projects.

Staff at the Pregnancy Help Center wrote, "Thank you so much for the beautifully handmade baby gowns, hats etc. They will be very much appreciated by our new moms. God bless you for your care and love of his little ones."

Another PHC note stated, "Thank you so much for the receiving blankets you made for us. They will be perfect for the layettes we give to our clients. Thank you for thinking of us."

Terry Warren, director of the Barron County Habitat for Humanity program, was not even aware of the Habitat quilt project that has been in the works over the winter months but was delighted to learn of it.

American
Sewing
Guild

Western
Wisconsin
Indianhead
Chapter

Quilt in the works for Habitat family

The biggest team effort yet of the Northwood Notions Neighborhood Sewing Guild is this queen-size quilt that is near completion and will be presented to the Ryan and Connie Adkins family, who will be moving into a Habitat for Humanity home in Haugen this spring. Guild members, from left, are Anna Romportl, Sylvia Hebel, Sue Wold, Lucille Evertsen, Sharon Thrumbel, Vicki Spencer and Barb Menarek.

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Religion

Informational gathering set on house churches

The public is invited to an informational gathering on the house church movement in the United States on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the home of Jeff and Maria Gilbertson, 2434 10th Ave., Chetek. A free lunch and child care are provided.

The Gilbertsons are past missionaries with Youth With A Mission for over 20 years and home church practitioners for 5 years.

According to Christian re-

searcher George Barna, "One out of five adults attends a house church at least once a month," notes the Gilbertsons. "Learn more about this growing trend of believers who have left the traditional church as we know it to simply meet in their homes, just like what we read about in the New Testament."

Those interested are asked to RSVP by calling 859-6246 or e-mailing "thegilbertsons@hotmail.com."

Guild ...

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sewing for years and years and years," she said. "I took my sewing machine out of retirement after I retired. The things I'm learning are things I've never heard of. It just amazes me what they come up with."


Sisters Barb Menarek of Chetek and Sylvia Hebel of Rice Lake belong to a knitting group in Menomonie as well as the sewing group in Haugen.

"I just joined last September and I've learned so much. I love it," said Hebel, whose specialty is making items for Special Dogs, a business that manufactures gear for dogs.

Menarek, who has been sewing all her life, gave a demonstration at the April 13 meeting on how to make a T-shirt without a pattern.

Thrumbel is a newcomer but feels welcome among the long-time sewers. "I just started," she said. "It's good to get out of the house on a Sunday afternoon. It's good relaxation, and we have a lot of fun."

She added, "We're trying to get new ladies inspired. We're trying to get them involved in the guild."

What about men and youths? "Absolutely," replied Thrumbel, a grandmother who taught her grandson how to sew and crochet. "Anybody's welcome." 

Cinco de Mayo dinner to fund mission to Mexico

Youths from Bethany Lutheran Church are hosts of a Cinco de Mayo celebration dinner Sunday at noon at the church at 35 W. Messenger St., Rice Lake.

The dinner is a fund-raiser for those planning to go on a mission trip to Mexico this summer. Served will be tacos, enchiladas and other Mexican cuisine.

Tickets, available at the church office, are \$8 for ages 11 and up, \$4 for ages 4-10 and free for those under 4 years old.

Auctioneer will be Don Ruedy. Auction items may be viewed online at "www.gbgm-umc.org.chetek" or starting at 5:30 p.m. on the evening of the auction. Those unable to attend the auction may bid on a piece of artwork by calling Joanne at 924-3280.

Nu-Tu-U garage sale set at Chetek Lutheran

The public is invited to a Nu-Tu-U garage sale on Friday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chetek Lutheran Church, 1419 Second St.

On sale will be clothes, household items, plants and crafts. Barbecues, pie and coffee will be served. Thrivent Financial is sponsoring this fund-raiser.

Dinner almost sold out but all invited to auction

The public is invited to attend a fine art auction on Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chetek United Methodist Church, 300 Stout St.

The event is part of a fine dining event at Chetek United Methodist Church, but just four tickets, selling for \$15 each, remain for the 6 p.m. dinner.

All proceeds benefit the church's addition building project, and all auction purchases are tax deductible.

Area artists from last summer's Courtyard Art Gallery in Chetek have donated pieces of their work for the auction.

They include 10 pieces by watercolor, collage and acrylics artist Patricia Mayhew Hamm of Chetek, two watercolors by UW-

Barron County professor emeritus of art and master of ceremonies Don Ruedy of Saronna, two photographs by Linda Ruedy of Saronna, three pots by master potter and retired Rice Lake High School art teacher Bruce Kaupanger of Rice Lake and two pieces of jewelry by Menomonie goldsmith Robert Giede.



Mayhew Hamm art on auction

Auctioneer will be

Don Ruedy. Auction items may be viewed online at "www.gbgm-umc.org.chetek" or starting at 5:30 p.m. on the evening of the auction. Those unable to attend the auction may bid on a piece of artwork by calling Joanne at 924-3280.

Trinity of Birchwood presents workshop on the end times

Trinity Lutheran Church of Birchwood invites the public to a workshop titled The End Times—What the Bible Has to Say on Thursday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., preceded by a continental breakfast at 8 a.m.

Leading the workshop will be Harry Wendt, Bible scholar and president of Crossways International. He will lead participants through the books of Daniel and Revelation, comparing and contrasting what these books teach as it relates to what is happening in the world.

A freewill donation will be accepted at the door. To register, call 534-3224.

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*2007 survey – Market Research Class, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College



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Guild ...

Continued from Page 1

"It's a wonderful, heartfelt way to welcome a family into their new home," said Warren.

She said an appropriate time to present the quilt to the family would be at the upcoming open house and dedication of the house although no date for the welcoming has yet been set.

INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

Northwoods Notions is one of four neighborhood groups that is a part of Western Wisconsin Indianhead Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, based in Eau Claire and chartered in 2001.

Chapter meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church on Rudolph Road in Eau Claire. Each meeting starts with a short business meeting and features an educational program.

"The educators are people from the area who bring their own special expertise to us," said Mary Hintzman of Menomonie, a charter member and past president of the Indianhead Chapter. "As an example, we've had a lady come who is a judge at county fairs. She talked to us about what she looks for and showed us some examples of her sewing. We've had people on fabric dyeing, sun dyeing of fabric, button collections, quilting, heirloom sewing, welt pockets and more."

The chapter has hosted regional and national speakers and on an ongoing basis does community service projects benefiting children at risk, local hospitals and

police and fire departments.

Six quilts titled "American Spirit" were made and distributed by the Indianhead Chapter to area police and fire departments commemorating Sept. 11, 2001.

The Indianhead Chapter also makes memorial quilts for families in the area who have endured the death of a son or daughter serving in the military and fighting the war on terrorism. One of those quilts was recently given to Chris Wetzel of Rice Lake in honor of her late son, Paul Sturino.

"We have community sew nights where we sew hats and mittens for those in need, and we've given boxes of fleece blankets to local humane societies. We sew comfort hats for oncology units in Menomonie, Eau Claire, Black River Falls and Chippewa Falls," Hintzman said.

She added, "There is an annual national charity item that all ASG chapters participate in each year. This year it is an "ouch pouch" for people who have had mastectomies."

Members of neighborhood groups are welcome to attend any of the chapter's regular meetings or special events.

The chapter past president, who is originally from Birchwood, said, "Several of the Northwoods group attended a chapter meeting in Eau Claire that offered a program called Grand Sew and Tell and entered items in the event. Sue Wold was one of the winners in one of the categories."

She added, "Some of them also attended a workshop on April 5, where we had two nationally known teachers who spoke in the morning and then led a hands-on



Teddy bears with comfort to share

This row of teddy bears, brought to life by the members of the Northwoods Notions Neighborhood Sewing Guild of Haugen, is waiting to bring comfort

to children in traumatic situations. Any nonprofit organization that could use these furry critters are encouraged to contact one of the guild members.

workshop in the afternoon." The spring event was titled Let Your Creativity Grow.

The chapter events allow neighborhood group members to enjoy the camaraderie of people from around the area with like sewing interests and to bring new projects and ideas back to their respective groups.

AMERICAN SEWING GUILD

The American Sewing Guild is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to people who believe sewing is a rewarding and creative activity. It is made up of 130 chapters and nearly 1,000 neighborhood groups.

The guild's mission is to advance sewing as an art and life skill. It welcomes members of all skill levels and different walks of life.

Guild members have opportunities to increase their confidence and expand their skills by taking advantage of discounts for sewing-related materials and tools, attending an annual conference and receiving Notions magazine.

More information on the national guild can be found at "www.asg.org" and more details on the Western Wisconsin Indianhead Chapter can be found at "www.asgwwi.com."

SEW MUCH CAMARADERIE

Northwoods Notions formed in October 2005 at Capra's Sewing Center in Rice Lake.

Charter members recall that 17 sewing enthusiasts from the Rice Lake area—from Birchwood to Barron—showed up. Indianhead Chapter members showed some of their projects and answered questions about the national guild.

Sue Wold of Rice Lake, who worked at Capra's, arranged that first meeting. "I just wanted to see if there was an interest in Rice Lake," she said. She has been quilting for 18 years and currently has a special interest in fiber art quilts.

Vicki Spencer of Rice Lake said she has sewn all her own clothes since high school but joined the group to get the spark back again. "I'm getting more



Show and tell, look and feel

During the show-and-tell portion of the April meeting of the sewing guild, Sue Wold, seated, shows the butterfly design that she is putting on a shirt. Guild members informally gather around each others' projects, get a feel for them and ask an array of questions. Standing, from left, are Lucille Evertsen, Anna Romportl, Vicki Spencer and Sharon Thrumbel.

enthused now," she said.

With many of those attending from the Haugen area, neighborhood group meetings were moved to the Haugen Senior Center and later to the Village Hall. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. during the winter months and the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. during the summer months.

The guild's summer schedule starts Tuesday, May 13, and all interested are invited to visit.

Members are paired up, with two in charge of planning two meetings, each including a time of show-and-tell, a demonstration, sharing of upcoming events and refreshments. There are no dues, but a red can is put out for free-will offerings.

"We like to keep it nice and simple," explained Sharon Thrumbel of Haugen. "It doesn't cost anything and you come when you can."

In addition to the monthly meetings, the neighborhood group put on a display last October at the Dairy State Bank in Haugen to increase awareness of the group. They have occasional work sessions to finish a project or

road trips to attend quilt shows or chapter events around the area.

The guild accepts donations of sewing supplies on an ongoing basis and is grateful for items like fabric, patterns, batting, thread, needles for crocheting or knitting or accessories like buttons, appliques, ribbon and lace. Those who have items to donate should contact Anna Romportl at 234-4620.

"I don't care to sew anymore but I love to quilt," said Romportl, who lives in the Haugen area. She sewed many dresses for her six daughters when they were young and now makes a quilt for each of her grandchildren.

Lucille Evertsen of Birchwood also makes quilts for her grandchildren and brought one she just completed to the April meeting. "I just decided to get in the car and come to a meeting," Evertsen said of how she got started. "I like to sew. Everything we do is fun to do. You don't have to be an expert seamstress."

Marian Stodola of Haugen got involved from the start. "I joined because I've been away from

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Wrapped up in their projects

Shown here modeling fleece shawls the Sewing Guild made for some area nursing homes and assisted living facilities are, from left, Sharon Thrumbel, Nancy Blechinger and Sue Wold.