

## CLUB

# Rip 'N' Sew members a busy bunch

The Rip 'N' Sew Club is hosting an open house 1-4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 22 and 23, on the upper level of the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center plaza, 19803 N. R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Besides holiday sewing, there is a lot going on at Rip 'N' Sew. Members are finishing up Christmas gifts as well as many non-holiday activities.

John Teixeira, who does community outreach for the Fire District of Sun City West, spoke at Rip 'N' Sew's general meeting in December. He explained and demonstrated how to use an automated external defibrillator. He also answered questions about the fire department, the department's ambulance insurance and department policies.

Several members also shared how use of an AED had saved a loved one.

Machine instruction is ongoing at the club. New members need how-to instruction on the club's Janome sewing machines. Returning members often need refresher classes on those machines plus the sergers. Eva Weisberg teaches newcomers how to use the sewing machines and runs a monthly refresher class. April Sliva taught a serger refresher class this month.

And before members can use the heavy-duty or embroidery machines, a lesson is required. Cindy Stedman teaches heavy-duty sewing machine lessons and Barb Ruzic instructs use of the embroidery machine.

Not all the lessons are for machine use, though.

Beverly MacGregor taught a class to make a snap bag, which holds small items in a purse. Sue DeLucia and Jackie Iverson taught a class on rotary cutters and how to use basic rulers.

Robyn Reynolds and Joan Hardy taught a window mesh project bag class during R&J's Saturday Surprise. The class was so popular, Reynolds and Hardy repeated the class the next week.

Eleven members began the winter round of mystery quilting with Jackie Iverson as their leader. Participants get weekly clues for their creations but won't know what they are making until later. The first week's clues produced four- and nine-patch pieces in several color combinations. Over the next several weeks, these pieces could be combined with other units to make up blocks. Or, they could end up as sashing or part of the border. That's one of the mysteries.

Iverson used the new television in the Rip 'N' Sew classroom to share photos from the Quiltville Open Studio Facebook page and a video from "Just Get it Done Quilts" on cutting. This is the 2022 mystery introduction page that has lots of information about the Bonnie Hunter mystery: [quiltville.blogspot.com/2022/10/chilhowie-quiltville-mystery.html](http://quiltville.blogspot.com/2022/10/chilhowie-quiltville-mystery.html).

Terese Farrar, co-leader with Darlene Allen of Quilts for a Cause, delivered 14 quilts to Brookdale Camino Del Sol, a memory care residence in Sun City West. The staff gave the delivery a wonderful reception and an unexpected offer of fabric donation from one staff member. At one of Quilts for a Cause's twice-monthly work sessions, Evelyn Simek showed how she created several quilt tops from fabric she found in a free-to-take bin at Rip 'N' Sew. She snagged several sets of fabric originally meant to be pillows. She used the pillow panels and added some of her own fabric to create quilt tops.

Among those who sew, there's an old joke that goes: "The one who dies with the most fabric wins." Sometimes, however, those who sew decide to part with some of their stash.

That happened recently when Rip 'N' Sew was host for a member-only Stash Sale. Members could sell anything related to sewing — fabric, notions, tools, patterns, completed projects, unfinished projects, etc. Buyers also had to be Rip 'N' Sew members.



Evelyn Simek holds one of the quilt tops she made from fabric originally meant to make pillows. On the table behind her is another of her quilt tops that began as pillow panels. (Submitted photo)



June Boyer, left, completed her window mesh project bag, and Lynn Craig started on a second one during the first session of R&J's Saturday Surprise. (Submitted photo)