

# sewNEWS

August/September 2014

the trusted sewing source

**10 FREE  
Full-Size  
Patterns!**

**COOK IN  
STYLE WITH**

**2 Cute  
Aprons**

**MANAGE BULKY  
SEAMS WITH EASE  
& Create a Sturdy  
Denim Tote**

**Sew  
Your  
Perfect  
Pants  
STEP-BY-  
STEP**

**C'mon, get  
Scrappy!  
DECORATE**

sewnews.com

US \$5.99



#BXBGHB \*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*R-046  
#959040000053533# 1406 A/M16  
JL2 SEM1 A/S14 0038 #344 #382992  
NATALIE FLEISCHER  
2450 HARDIN RIDGE DR  
HENDERSON NV 89052-7084

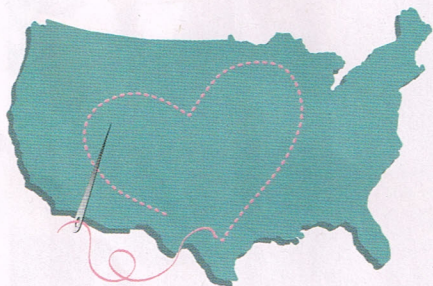
**32 TIPS FOR PRECISE PRESSING (P. 20)**





### Sew Across America

It's that time again! Gather some sewing supplies and a few good friends and travel to a sewing expo near you. Tons of events are happening throughout Aug. and Sept.—turn to “Clippings” on page 80 for a list of some of our favorites. And check our Facebook page to see where the *Sew News* editors are traveling this summer and fall—we'd love to meet you!



### DEAR READERS,

I love to hear from you, and it's especially heartwarming to hear when *Sew News* has touched your life in a positive way. I recently heard from Natalie Fleischer, a long-time reader who was prompted to change her life after reading one of our articles in '08. The article was “Giving Back,” and the charity mentioned was ConKerr Cancer, our current charity sewing initiative for 2014. Natalie was so moved that she started the Las Vegas chapter and still runs it today. She organizes Pillowcase Parties with local businesses, works with community leaders and does whatever she can to bring smiles to the faces of ill children through sewing. Her story is truly remarkable—read more in “Sew Your Support” on page 18.

The true joy of sewing is when someone reacts exuberantly to our handiwork. It's that feeling of accomplishment that fuels us while we rip out stitches, resew a seam and reposition askew appliqués. We know that no matter what happens in the process, we'll end up with something that will bring happiness to ourselves, such as a new wardrobe staple, and to others, such as a thoughtful handmade gift.

A great wardrobe staple is a well-fitting pair of pants. Often pants seem intimidating to sew, and that's why we're hosting a Sew-Along with the Clover Slim Pants by Colette patterns. Sign up online (read the details on page 77) and follow along each week for expert tips and tricks for completing these pants flawlessly. Plus, don't miss the videos that accompany each lesson at [sewnews.com/blogs/sewing](http://sewnews.com/blogs/sewing).

We always need a good gift idea no matter the season, and this issue is full of them. “Super Bowls” are fun ways to use up scraps and can be made in different shapes and sizes. “Backpack Buddies” are great back-to-school trinkets. And the aprons in “Flour Power” are great for wedding, shower or birthday gifts.

I hope you love this issue and it inspires you to make people happy by sewing: children in need, friends and family and, of course, yourself.

Ellen March,  
Editor-in-Chief

### What's Next?

The Oct/Nov *Sew News* is just around the corner. Learn how to alter a dress form to reflect your figure; work with super plush fabrics; alter patterns for a better fit and more! Don't miss this issue when it hits newsstands on Sept. 16.



# OPERATION CONKERR CANCER



ConKerr Cancer has inspired many people to get involved in sewing pillowcases for children in need. *Sew News* first published information for how to get involved in 2008, when reader Natalie Fleischer was inspired to give it her all and make it her life's mission to start the Las Vegas ConKerr Cancer chapter. Here's an account of her story to further inspire you to put your sewing machine to good use.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE by Natalie Fleischer

Over five years ago, I read an article in the Aug./Sept. '08 *Sew News* entitled "Giving Back" about ConKerr Cancer, "a case for smiles." I had always sewed and this article prompted me to meet with the ConKerr Cancer coordinator in Rhode Island, where I lived at the time, to find out what was involved. The goal of creating and donating bright, novelty pillowcases to youngsters battling cancer and other serious illnesses is the motivation behind the organization and each of its chapters.

I decided to find out how to start my own chapter when I moved to Las Vegas. Our chapter began with a delivery of only 50 pillowcases to a local hospital in June '09. The Child Life Specialist was overjoyed to receive them. How wonderful it was to let a child choose their very own pillowcase to use in the hospital, and then keep forever. Each youngster received a case every time they came for treatments. Now, our Southern Nevada chapter delivers to four hospitals, a pediatric hospice, a childhood cancer center and many programs under the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation umbrella.

We've delivered more than 12,000 cases since that first delivery five years ago.

Volunteers help with washing, pressing, cutting, sewing, bagging and making the deliveries. Some help out in their homes; some come to monthly Pillowcase Parties we host in quilt shops; some help at special events. Church groups, elementary and middle school students, sewing clubs, community service groups, and even scout troops have become involved with our chapter (1).

One of the real joys of ConKerr is sewing with children in the hospital (2). They choose a pillowcase body and a cuff for their case. The older kids actually run the machines, and younger ones push



"WHAT I NEVER EXPECTED WAS to be taken on a journey where the road would be paved with not only fabric and pillowcases, but also amazing folks, both young and old, who could share their sewing skills, good humor, and compassion for each other and for ConKerr kids."

> **To send completed standard-size pillowcases to a hospital in need, visit [conkerrcancer.org](http://conkerrcancer.org). Click on the links for Conkerr Regional Directory to find a pillowcase drop-off site near you and connect with a local coordinator.**

the pedal while volunteers sew. Have you ever tried to stitch a seam on a machine when the machine suddenly powers up at 50 MPH, and then stops short? Or asked a child to stop only to have him continue to stomp on the foot pedal? He probably has an IV in his arm or tubes coming out of his nose. Whichever the





case, you can't help but love the kid who almost sewed your fingers together. And, for the moment, they feel like a regular kid who's simply making a pillowcase—and having a lot of fun doing it.

Our support includes a local dry-cleaner that washes and presses our fabric. Our plastic bags are donated by a packaging company. The Palm's Resort has a "Cabanas for a Cause" campaign every summer where non-profit organizations are chosen to participate. The reservation fees for cabanas on that day are donated to the charity. Hard Rock Café/Strip has partnered with us since '10 with two major fundraisers, including a marathon Pillowcase Party (3). Raffles, silent auctions and information about the non-profit are a great way to spread the word and raise awareness about childhood cancer.

Our involvement with area businesses, such as Kohl's, provides us with the funds necessary to buy fabric and supplies to continue fulfilling our mission of a pillowcase for every child undergoing treatment. All ConKerr chap-



ters are most appreciative of fabric donations, monetary donations and volunteers who make it happen.

We're aware that families of children diagnosed with cancer are trying to hold their lives together and, at the same time, deal with serious medical issues. When we receive a note of thanks from a parent, it tells us that our pillowcases make a difference. The photos we get of a child resting on one of our pillowcases assure us that we are, indeed, ConKerr Cancer, "a case for smiles" (4).

➤ **September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.** Join in ConKerr Cancer's MOPS (Miles of Pillowcase Smiles) campaign to help toward the goal of donating 44,000 (the number of kids being treated for cancer in North America) pillowcases in September.

