

Editor's note: The focus of this section of Notions includes all generations of young sewers, right up through the Millennials. It is designed to inform members about projects, books, activities, etc. that will inspire these groups, as well as report on chapter programs and individual efforts of ASG members that reach out to these groups.

A CHARMIN' STORY

Waco, Texas Chapter: For the last four years, the Waco Chapter (now folded into the Austin, Texas Chapter) has teamed up with the District 8 County Extension Agencies and hosted a 4-H Fashion Retreat. It lasts from 9:00 am Saturday to 11:30 am Sunday. Every year we separate the girls into teams and do some kind of design project.

ASG member Vanessa Bozonelo had sent me a Web site that showcased beautiful toilet paper wedding dresses. The site, www.cheap-chic-weddings.com, has hosted a toilet paper wedding dress contest for four years. The site showed winners and other entries from the last two contests. I was so intrigued that I suggested that this be our design challenge for the coming retreat.

The rules for the contest state that the dresses can only be made from toilet paper, tape, and glue. So those were the rules we imposed. On an afternoon several weeks before the retreat, using my 12-year-old daughter Casey as the test, two of us joined her to see if we could make a toilet

paper wedding dress in an hour; which is how long we were planning to give the girls. We also wanted to see exactly how much toilet paper we were looking at for these dresses. Casey is modeling the one we came up with in the far left photo, which took 3½ rolls of toilet paper.

For the retreat, each girl brought four rolls of toilet paper; we supplied tape and glue. The girls broke up into groups of four and were given their assignment. With squeals of delight they were off, each group heading to a different room, to safeguard their designs. The moms were hot on their heels but we called them back and said, "Let's see what they can design working with each other." There was some mumbling that maybe they needed a little guidance, but we held fast. An hour later the girls came out with wonderful designs. In fact, we were all tripping over each other trying to get photos! I think you will agree these gals did not need any direction from any adult. We were so excited about the dresses that I contacted Cheap-Chic-Weddings and asked if they would like to see what they had inspired. They were thrilled and are designing a special page on their site for the girls' designs. The girls loved this challenge and asked if they could do it again next year. But we have something new in mind!

—Terri O. Glover

Editor's note: See Sew for the Gold, page 36, for information about Terri's adventures and next year's contest.

DANCING DELIGHT

Portland, Ore. Chapter: As part of our chapter's efforts to reach out to the non-sewing community, we offered to teach students at a local dance studio how to make a simple wrap ballet skirt. Seven dance students joined JoDee Endicott, Dotty Yackle-Kay, and me at the Center for Movement Arts on a Saturday, eager to make their personally styled and fitted dance skirts. The students brought fabric and ribbon, and some even brought along sewing machines from home! They tried on a sample circle wrap skirt to estimate how much larger or smaller, longer or

shorter their finished skirt should be. Then they cut out their fabric, using the try-on



skirt as the template, and making cutting adjustments to fit their measurements. They finished the edges of their skirts with either a serged edge or a rolled hem on a standard machine without a rolled hem foot. Ribbon was then zigzagged to the top of the skirt. The whole process took about 45–60 minutes per student, and they were very pleased with the results. In addition to having a custom-made ballet skirt, they also learned about how to measure for fit, and became more familiar with using a sewing machine. It was such a popular event that the studio has asked us to offer this again.

—Barbara Ferruzzi, chapter president

