

2018 CONFERENCE INSTRUCTOR BIO



1. Sandra Betzina

Sandra Betzina owned a sewing school, wrote a sewing column and hosted her own sewing show for six years on HGTV. She currently designs patterns for Vogue under the Today's Fit line, and has just released a new book, "All New Fabric Savvy." (www.powersewing.com)



2. Julianne Bramson

Julianne Bramson is a textile artist who loves the bias cut. Using bias along with shibori, ice-dye, indigo, and botanical printing, Julianne creates uniquely interesting garments with movement and flattering fit. She has written several articles for *Threads* and teaches about textile art and bias-cut garment design all over the country. Julianne co-authored "Bias Cut Blueprints," a geometric method for clothing design and construction.

(www.fashioninharmony.com)



3. Kandi Christian

Kandi L. Christian, MBA, is a well-known instructor of classes both in the US and England. She has authored fifteen books on sewing. She frequently writes articles for major sewing magazines. Kandi has been a featured speaker at sewing events throughout the US. She was also tapped by the BBC as an expert seamstress for their TV show "While You Were Out." (www.sewtimeless.com)



4. Ruth Ciemnoczolowski

Ruth Ciemnoczolowski has sewn since the age of four and loves sharing her love of sewing with students. She is a frequent *Threads* author, winner of 2015 Fashion competition at the American Sewing Expo and is a three time winner of the *Threads* Challenge at the Association of Sewing and Design Professional.



5. Nick Coman

Nick has been a lifelong sewer and this passion for sewing has carried him into a career as a Surface designer and Professional pattern maker. Nick has a degree in Fashion Design from FIDM in Los Angeles California and is the owner of Dragonfly Threads, a private studio for custom clothing. He also keeps a busy schedule traveling to shows, teaching pattern making, fitting and surface design along with business partner, Chase Wong for Dragonfly Dyeworks.

Nick has been published in *Sew News*, *Threads* (co-author), and *Machine Quilting Unlimited*. One of his gowns appeared in *Brides* magazine. Nick is also the co-author of a book about surface design. (www.dragonflydyeworks.com)



6. Connie Crawford

Connie is a licensed designer for Butterick Patterns and a member of the ASG Sewing Hall of Fame. In 2016, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Sewing & Design Professionals.. Connie is owner of Fashion Patterns by Coni that specializes in patterns for mature figures in sizes 8-20 and 1X to 6X. Connie has been a production patternmaking/designer in the Los Angeles fashion industry and taught patternmaking and fashion design classes at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising. She is a nationally recognized lecturer, fashion specialist, educator, and author of several DVD's, sewing and pattern textbooks some are sold worldwide in 5 different languages.

(www.fashionpatterns.com)



7. Rae Cumbie

Rae Cumbie is the Creative Director at Fit for Art Patterns which offers patterns for modern wardrobe basics that focus on fit and include artful design options. She coaches sewers of all skill levels, in classes and on her blog, to stitch up a fun and comfortable wardrobe and design more creatively. Catch her blog, *Sew! Let's Get Dressed* at fitforartpatterns.com for everything from basic sewing education to artful inspiration. (www.fitforartpatterns.com)



8. Louise Cutting

ASG Sewing Hall of Fame 2014 and Outstanding Teacher Award for 2008 are just two of the awards Louise has received.. She is a contributing editor for *Threads* magazine, creator of Cutting Line Designs Patterns, and eight Industry Insider Technique DVDs. Her One Seam Pant pattern has sold over 74,000 copies. Louise was head of Fashion Design Department at Prospect Hall College and The Art Institute and taught Interior Design at Marymount College. Louise is an internationally known speaker, author of many articles and patterns featured in numerous magazines and numerous television appearances. (www.cuttinglinedesigns.com)



9. Lee Fletcher

Lee Fletcher completed college courses in Home Economics Classes in Textiles, Pattern Drafting and Tailoring. She helped her mother in her embroidery, dressmaking and alterations business. Lee has been publishing patterns since the early 1980s and currently publishes Pat-e-Patterns. Lee is a Sulky of America Freelance National Educator and has taught in Korea and the United States. (www.pat-e-patterns.com)



10. Jacque Goldsmith

Jacque's sewing philosophy is simple: Create home sewn garments with a ready-to-wear look. Her love for sewing began as a child at her mother's side. She propelled that love into over twenty five years in the apparel industry and shares her knowledge with humility and humor. Jacque keeps her love for sewing alive with one eye on her sewing machine and the other on Seventh Avenue.



11. Marla Kazell

Marla Kazell has created beautiful couture garments in her custom clothing business for more than 35 years, focusing on fit and fine construction. Her love of sewing comes through in her classes and workshops which she teaches in Lake Oswego, Oregon and across the country. Marla's patience, humor and easy manner helps students learn in a relaxed atmosphere. She has also shared her expertise by writing for *Threads*, *Notions* and *SewNews* magazines. (www.marlakazell.com)



12. Judy Kessinger

Judy Kessinger traveled nationwide for Hancock Fabrics, designed costumes for national and international figure skaters and created a fast and easy way to conquer fitting problems with two Master patterns and workbook. Sewing is easy – Fitting makes garments come alive to compliment the body instead of just covering it! Judy has taught countless women the tricks of looking trim and feeling fantastic by simply fitting themselves properly. (www.fitnice.com)



13. Linda Kubik

Linda Kubik is a designer and sewing educator who also weaves. She has taught weavers to sew since 1991 and originated many of the handwoven sewing techniques now frequently used. She's provided countless home sewers the opportunity and joy of sewing handwoven fabric. Linda wrote "Sew Something Special," sewing with handwoven fabric, in 1996. She completely revised and updated it in 2007 and 2015. She currently has 17 designs in her pattern line, Elements. (www.lindakubik.com)



14. Cheryl Kuczek

Cheryl LOVES to sew and founded the indie sewing pattern line "Paradiso Designs" of handbags, clothing, and home accessories. Her creations are a fusion of modern eclectic with a vintage twist. The Paradiso focus is unique sewing techniques to pair pleather and hardware details into designer-like handbags and inventive clothing patterns that work for all sizes, petite to plus, based on one's measurements. (www.paradisodesigns.com)



15. Susan Lazear

Susan Lazear is a Professor of Fashion at Mesa College in San Diego where she teaches a variety of fashion courses including patternmaking, draping, textile design, etc. Susan designs wearable art, unusual fine art crafts and is a computer graphic artist. In addition to her teaching she combines her skills in the creation of a line of software for sewers and textile artists under the Cochenille Design Studio name. She has taught computer and design workshops around the world. (www.cochenille.com)



16. Pamela Leggett

Specializing in pattern fitting and garment skills, Pamela Leggett has developed a fun and informative teaching style that's available in her patterns and DVD's. Her desire to help women make flattering garments led her to create Pamela's Patterns, which have fitting solutions and adjustments built-in. Pamela is the instructor for Palmer/Pletsch Workshops in PA and CT. She is the author of two DVD's and a book, "Sewing Essentials – Serger Techniques" with Taunton Press and an online Craftsy class. Pamela has guested on Sewing with Nancy and Canada's The Shopping Channel. She is a frequent speaker for ASG groups around the country. (www.pamelaspatterns.com)



17. Ellen March

Ellen is the Community Content Director for the sewing division of F + W Media, including *Sew News*, *Creative Machine Embroidery*, *Sew It All*, *Sew Daily* and *BurdaStyle*. Ellen has appeared on a number of television shows spreading her love of sewing including DIY Network's *Uncommon Threads*, the Marie Osmond show on Hallmark and was the host of *Sew It All* on PBS for nine seasons. (www.sewnews.com)



18. Mary McCarthy

Mary McCarthy is the owner of a successful sewing and design company and teaches Tailoring and Couture at Sanford Brown College in Orlando, FL. She leads workshops on how to start a successful sewing business, and her work appears in *Threads* magazine. She is also a Palmer/Pletsch Educational Associate and has authored three books on sewing techniques. To learn more about her classes and workshops, go to www.marymccarthysews.com



19. Marsha McClintock

Marsha McClintock is owner of SAF-T-POCKETS Patterns where she creates patterns suited for travel or every day. She has taught for the past 14 years at the American Sewing Guild conferences and at sewing shows across the US and Canada. Her sense of humor and knowledge make for fun and informative classes. Marsha also organizes and guides groups of women on sewing adventures to New York annually for the ASG. (www.saf-t-pockets.com)



20. Linda McGehee

Having acquired an interest in sewing at a very early age, Linda has been teaching a variety of sewing techniques through her business, Ghee's, for 37 years. Very much a machinist, Linda likes to show her students how easy it is to acquire professional results when you know the proper techniques. She has designed numerous handbag and garment patterns. Her award winning books make stitching easy and fun. She travels the globe teaching at stores, guilds, and conventions, as well as makes TV appearances. (www.ghees.com)



21. Sandra Miller

Sandra Miller is an enthusiastic sewer who has also taught writing classes for many years. She combines her interests by constructing prototype garments and writing pattern instructions for Cutting Line Designs pattern line. She writes articles and films DVDs for *Threads* magazine. Sandra lectures and teaches hands-on sewing classes at sewing expos, sewing stores, and guild meetings across the country.



22. Hisako Nakaya

Hisako Nakaya is the owner of Professional Sewing Supplies. Her business has sold the original chalk marker, Chakoner, and high grade sewing notions for the past 33 years. She recently retired from teaching apparel design at Seattle Central Colleges after 38 years. Her love for teaching has inspired many graduates to work successfully in the fashion industry.



23. Marilyn Neel

Marilyn Neel combines image with her expertise of clothing construction. She is a Certified Image Consultant through the Association of Image Consultants International (AIC) and has helped women with self-image for thirty years. She has held various CAB positions and co-leads the Fit and Style neighborhood group. She writes weekly fashion tips, *Wear It Well Wednesday*, available on her website. (www.expressiveimagesolutions.com).



24. Judy Neukam

Judith Neukam is best known in the sewing community for her work with *Threads* magazine where she was the Executive Editor. She wrote and performed in all the Teach Yourself to Sew DVDs, coordinated the annual Design challenge to the Association of Sewing and Design Professionals, and directed DVDs for many sewing stars. She was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from ASDP.



25. Maris Olsen

In my former life I masqueraded as a software developer, technical writer, and even as a program manager for a major software company. But those were all just temporary roles until I began my true calling: sharing my passion for sewing with others. These days you will find me sewing dresses, pants, coats, bags, and most frequently, *shirts* for someone in my family. (www.sewmaris.com)



26. Vaune Pierce

Vaune Pierce is a nationally known teacher and author. She started smocking over 25 years ago, which led to teaching, and has classes in smocking, construction, embroidery, and fine machine sewing. She has trained at the Imperial Bordados, in Funchal, Madeira, and has taken classes from the Royal School of Needlework. She has her own line of patterns, Creative Couture, and has had articles published in *Threads*, *Classing Sewing*, *Creative Needle*, and *Sew Beautiful* magazines. She is also the owner of Vaune, which carries fine fabrics, laces and Swiss embroideries. (www.vaune.com)



27. Janet Pray

Janet Pray is an author, pattern designer and entrepreneur who enjoys teaching the world to sew in person as well as in her popular online classes through craftsy.com and sewbetter.com. Janet is also the recipient of such prestigious awards as, The Lifetime Achievement Award, by Association of Sewing and Design Professionals in 2012 as well as the ASG Sewing Hall of Fame award in 2017. (www.islandersewing.com)



28. Mary Ann Racheau

Mary Ann Racheau, spent 8 years as Costume Technician for Cirque du Soleil's KA, 14 years as Seamstress for Siegfried & Roy and 6 years as Costumier for the ballet and opera. She has achieved the "Master Certified Sewing Educator" award (SDTA), "Trained Sewing Instructor" (SEA) and Quilting Teacher Certification (Kaye Wood). She teaches all subjects related to sewing, costuming and quilting.



29. Peggy Sagers

Peggy Sagers holds a degree in fashion design and fashion merchandising from Brigham Young University. Having drafted patterns professionally on a freelance basis by numerous manufacturers in the Dallas area, Peggy created her own pattern line, Silhouettes, in mid-1990. Her patterns incorporate B, C, and D-cup sizing as well as proportional lengths, which are unique in the pattern industry. She currently spends her time taping videos available through her website. (www.silhouettepatterns.com)



30. Sarah Veblen/ Monica Walker

Sarah Veblen is a custom fashion designer who now focuses on teaching. Dedicated to promoting the craft of garment-making, Sarah teaches from her studio in Maryland, online at PatternReview.com, and as a guest lecturer across the country. Her years of experience in fitting led to author her book, "The Complete Photo Guide to Perfect Fitting." She has written for *Threads* and *Sew News*, and has a new series of *Threads* DVDs. (www.sarahveblen.com)

Monica specializes in teaching fitting and patternmaking. She's certified to teach and fit the Fit For Art Eureka! Pants that Fit pattern. After years of studying with Sarah Veblen, she now often assists in Sarah's hands-on classes at ASG conference and in Sarah's studio. A member of the Association of Sewing and Design Professionals, Monica loves introducing sewers of all sizes to proper fit for flattery.



31. Katrina Walker

Katrina Walker's sewing and machine embroidery expertise is featured in most sewing magazines including *Threads*, *SewStylish*, *Stitch*, *SewNews* and *Creative Machine Embroidery*. Her classes for Craftsy, Taunton Workshops, BurdaStyle, Craft University and Craft Daily have enrolled thousands of students worldwide. She is a Pfaff Ambassador, and when not spreading the love of sewing, she is raising her own natural colored wool for her Spoiled Sheep yarn. (www.katrinawalker.com)