

ASG SEWING HALL OF FAME

MEET: PATI PALMER

2008 Sewing Hall of Fame Honoree

At ASG Conference 2008, during the Saturday evening dinner gala, a stunned Pati Palmer was inducted into the ASG Sewing Hall of Fame. On hand to share in the excitement of the event was her daughter, Melissa Watson. Melissa, along with Allyce King (daughter of Cindy Cummins, the author of this issue's cover story), co-hosts the DIYStyle vodcasts and has created a line of patterns for McCall's. Talk about following in Mom's footsteps!

And those are pretty impressive footsteps. Pati has been involved in the sewing industry for more than 37 years. She was an educator for the Armo Company and corporate home economist for Meier & Frank department store, a Portland, Ore. Mecca for sewers in the 1970s. While there, Pati ran a highly successful sewing school, which ultimately launched her career as an entrepreneur. She teamed up with Susan Pletsch to write her first book, "Sewing Skinner Ultrasuede." The next year, they published "Mother Pletsch's Painless Sewing with Pretty Pati's Perfect Pattern Primer," which offered great information delivered in a lighthearted tone. Several more books followed, along with an ambitious career conducting sewing seminars throughout North America and Australia. She did this for 15 years, traveling 26 weeks per year, before establishing the Palmer/Pletsch International School of Sewing in Portland, Ore. where she now trains consumers and sewing educators. Since 1991, over 600 sewing teachers have been trained there, many of them graduates of the Palmer/Pletsch Certified Sewing Instructor (C.S.I.) program.

Pati is president of Palmer/Pletsch Publishing. She has authored 10 sewing books, edited/published 20 more books, 11 how-to DVDs, and created



Pati is congratulated by her daughter Melissa (above) and by ASG Board Chair Joan Schaffner (below left) and Executive Director Margo Martin.



eight Palmer/Pletsch sewing notion products.

She is also a successful pattern designer. She began this segment of her career with Vogue Patterns, but in 1980, McCall's picked up her line and she has been designing for them ever since. Her 1980 "8-hour Blazer" for McCall's sold one million copies in one year and was later featured in an exhibit at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City entitled "Dreams on Paper."

Pati has been a media-savvy advocate for sewing, appearing on TV shows such as "Live With Regis and Kathie Lee" and "Good Morning, Australia," and has had her books and patterns featured in *Family Circle*, *Australian Stitches*, and *Vogue* magazines, as well as all the major sewing publications.

Earlier this year, Pati received the Trends in Action corporate award from Consumer Trends Forum International (CTFI) (www.consumerexpert.org) for her role as a consultant on the creation and development of the DIYStyle Web site and vodcast.