



President's Message

We have navigated our neighborhood group meetings and monthly meetings through heavy rains, snow, ice, and more rain and snow. We now hear the chirping of birds, the daffodils are blooming, our allergies remind us that the trees are budding and the weather is getting warmer. Spring is on the way!!!

It has been a busy first quarter with three monthly meeting presenters who brought information to members about "Straight Pins", "The Art of Smocking", and the "Basics of Buttonholes". More wonderful programs are scheduled for the remainder of this year. The interest survey indicated that members wanted the guild to provide classes that focused on holiday projects, quilting, and purses/bags. We have used that information in planning our classes for the year. Plans have been finalized for the classes and information about the classes can be found in this newsletter and on Facebook.

We thank Teresa Baxter and Carol Webster for volunteering to keep the "Mad Hatter's" Neighborhood group active. They have already planned programs for the year. We are also pursuing the possibility of sponsoring Barbara Cline, a recognized quilter, to come to Roanoke to teach a quilting class and to deliver a lecture presentation for the Guild's September monthly meeting. There is an article about Mrs. Cline in this newsletter where you can learn more about her.

We have had a couple of junior members to join the guild and we want to provide some activities that meet their sewing needs. We have been planning, as a vendor, to have a booth at the Star Quilter's Quilt Show to showcase the American Sewing Guild.

We still have the remainder of this year to go and we want you to be a part of those sewing adventures, too. One of those activities will involve a yard sale, craft fair, and bake sale event. More information is coming.

Happy Sewing,

Lois Atkins, ED.D Retired



Roanoke VA Chapter of ASG
Monthly Meeting Education Program Schedule 2025

<i>Meeting Date</i>	<i>Guest Speaker</i>	<i>Program Topic</i>
January 9th	Lois Atkins, Ed. D. ASG President	"Pins" Choosing, Placing, & Purpose
February 13th	Jessie Derey Red Bud Smocking Guild	"The Art of Smocking"
March 13th	Lois Atkins, Ed. D. ASG President	"Buttonholes"
April 10th	Lynne Holdren ASG Member	"The Unexpected" Fun & Games
May 8th	Victoria Millar ASG Member	"Machine Applique"
June 12th	ASG Members	Holiday Crafts
July 10th	No Meeting	Vacation Bible School North Roanoke Baptist Church
August 14th	TBA	TBA
September 11th	TBA	National Sewing Month Celebration
October 9th	Carol Lyn Webster ASG Member	"Costuming"
November 13th	Kimberly Middleton, ASG Member	"Leather"
December 6th	No Monthly Meeting Holiday Luncheon De- cember 6 th	Holiday Luncheon Com- mittee



2025 ASG Sponsored Classes

The Roanoke VA Chapter of ASG is sponsoring a series of classes for sewers of all levels: Beginner to Advanced



May 10, 2025 Pillowcases
Registration Deadline: April 30, 2025



June 14, 2025 Bowl Cozies
Registration Deadline: May 30, 2025



July 12, 2025 Christmas Trees
Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

August 9, 2025 Quilted Travel Bags
Registration Deadline: July 30, 2025



September 13, 2025 Jelly Roll Bags
Registration Deadline August 30, 2025



October 11, 2025 Christmas Stocking
Registration Deadline: September 30, 2025



Class Fee:

Roanoke ASG Members \$40.00 + Pattern (if required)
Non-Roanoke ASG Members \$50.00 + Pattern (if required)
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul
4909 N Lake Dr.
Roanoke, VA 24019

Contacts: Baxtergirl56@gmail.com
atkinslois91@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asgroanoke>



You can register by emailing one of the contacts and mailing your check to Mrs. Teresa Baxter 2325 Sorrel Lane Roanoke, VA 24018. Supply list will be mailed once registration is completed.

President Challenge Card 2025

- ___ Submit one article for publication in the Chapter's Newsletter
 - ___ Recruit one new member _____
 - ___ Recruit one new advertiser _____
 - ___ Share a Show & Tell at least four times during the year
 - ___ Complete one UFP (Unfinished Project) and Share for Show & Tell
 - ___ Share a craft idea for the holiday at the July Monthly meeting
 - ___ Attend one or more classes sponsored by Roanoke ASG
 - ___ Present a program at a monthly meeting
 - ___ Lead a project at a Neighborhood group meeting
 - ___ Chair or Co-Chair a committee
- Member's Name _____ Total Challenges met _____
Submit Card: [Nov. 13, 2025 Monthly Meeting](#)

Online Fabric Shopping: Resources & Practical Suggestions

ASG website March 7, 2025

You will find this to be a very informative article that includes a listing of online fabric stores along with features of the best online shops.

National Quilt Month

National Quilt Month took the Roanoke Sewing Guild to the “Star Quilter’s Quilt Show held on March 28th and 29th, 2025. What a wonderful new experience for the guild. We took this as an opportunity to promote the Roanoke VA Chapter of ASG. We displayed the quilt from the 2024 president’s challenge, along with displays featuring a variety of items that were created by members. We also wanted to recruit new members. Therefore, we offered a notion roll filled with notions to everyone who joined the guild during the quilt show. We also prepared small gift bags to give away. In order to learn more about the experience, you will have to wait for the next edition of “Sewing Under The Star”.



Barbara Cline is Coming to Roanoke September 11, 2025



She will teach one of her three hour quilting classes during the day, where you will learn how to make a one block quilt, and she will deliver a lecture the evening of September 11th during the Roanoke VA Chapter of the American Sewing Guild’s monthly meeting. Details regarding class registration, fees, time, and location will be announced once finalized.

About Barbara Cline:

Barbara Cline a renowned Quilting educator. She has over 40 years of experience in quilting and teaching classes. She worked at The Clothes Line (now called Patchwork Plus) from 5th grade until she got married and started her family. Barbara has six quilt books published by C&T Publishing. She currently teaches classes at local shops and gives lectures, trunk shows, and classes nationally and internationally. Barbara loves to design and piece wall hangings and quilts from her home in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. She has enjoyed entering and placing in the Paducah quilt contest New Quilts from Old Favorites – Seven Sisters and Dresden Plate. The Paducah Quilt show, Quilt Odyssey, Mid Atlantic Quilt Festival XVII, and Hoffman Challenge has displayed one of her wall-hangings. For more information, visit delightfulpiecing.com.

CAB Elections Yes, it's time to begin the election process for 2026

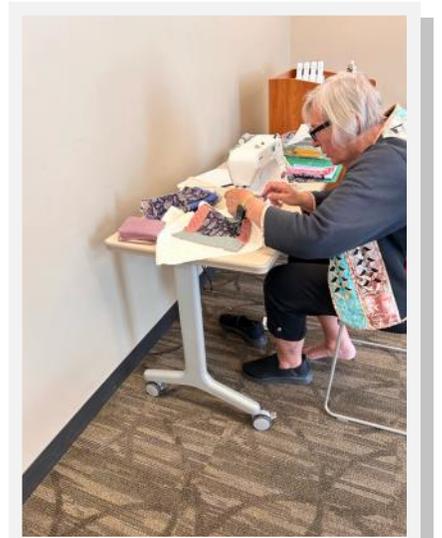
Chapter elections shall be held in accordance with the ASG By-Laws in the Policies and Procedures Manual (P&P) for ASG Chapters, and the Roanoke ASG Chapter's Standing Rules that are not in violation of the P&P. The election is held in October 2025.

The nominating committee chair, a member of CAB not running for re-election, will be appointed by the President and two additional Chapter members will be appointed by CAB. The required elected CAB positions include President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Roanoke CAB has included the Vice President as an elected CAB position. Nominees must be a member of the Roanoke ASG Chapter and the presidential candidates must have served one year as a CAB member. The Chapter needs your leadership, creativity, and enthusiasm. Consider serving as a CAB officer.

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaison between Chapter and ASG national headquarters Keep the Chapter in good standing Preside at all Chapter meetings and CAB meetings Represent the Chapter at local and national events and activities Exercise financial responsibility for the Chapter Ensure good communication Encourage participation of Chapter members Work with the treasurer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the responsibilities identified for the President Presides at meetings in the absence of the president Taking over duties if the president is unable to complete the term There is no presumption that the vice-president will become the next president 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create the minutes of CAB meetings and Monthly Chapter meetings Preside over meetings if vice president or treasurer cannot preside Respond to all correspondence received by the Chapter Certify minutes of CAB meetings, certify election results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves as financial officer of the Chapter Presides over meetings if the president or vice president cannot preside Is in line to complete a presidential vacancy if there is no vice president. Sign checks & reconcile monthly bank statements Verify expense reimbursements Make monthly financial reports at CAB and Monthly meetings File necessary financial documents with National to keep the Chapter in good standings

Mad Hatter's

This March 19, Teresa Baxter, taught Spring Quilt as you go placemats at Raleigh Court Library. The next meeting is April 16 at Raleigh Court Library, 10:00AM to 1:00PM where they learn how to bind their placemats with mitered corners. Anyone who would like to give a program, contact Teresa Baxter at Baxtergirl56@gmail.com or 540-314-2941 or Carol Webster at clewebster61@gmail.com or 540-309-1960. Future projects are fieldtrip TBA, iron caddy carrier, large dish cozy, armchair sewing station, and Christmas something.



Choosing & Using Straight Pins

The most important aspect of pins is making sure the pin choice is appropriate for and will easily slide through the fabric. The pins listed below are just a small representation of the variety of pins that are available to sewers today.

Quilting pins are made especially for pinning through many layers of fabric and batting. Quilting pins are usually 1 ½ to 2 inch.

Ball Point pins were created especially for knits. The point is rounded so it slips between the loops of the fabric and doesn't pierce or pull the yarn.

Dressmaker all- purpose pins: Referred to as our flat head pins; 1 1/16 - 1 ½" pins are appropriate for all sorts of garment sewing. They can be pressed over with an iron, but they are difficult to see when used to secure busy and textured fabrics.

Applique/sequin pins are ½' to ¾' are best for applying appliques, trims and sequin because you can position several pins close together. Longer pins tend to overlap awkwardly.

Plastic pins come in various sizes and colors. The shape and color of the pins stands out and are easy to see. Plastic pins and irons are not good working buddies.

Glass Head pins are fairly easy to see and won't melt when touched by an iron.

PINNING

⇒ Use Parallel Pinning when cutting

⇒ Place the pins **parallel** to the seamline

1. Fabric is smooth and free of wrinkles
2. Fabric is laid out on a flat surface
3. The grainline is straight
4. The fabric is not lifted when pinning

When sewing, use perpendicular pinning

1. Place your pins **perpendicular** to the seam.
2. The pins are positioned so they can easily be removed

before going under the presser foot.

3. Slide the pins out of the way as you sew, this technique allows one to continue sewing with fewer stops.



Perpendicular pinning



Parallel Pinning

Resources

- "Pin Primer" SewStylish, Spring 2010 pp. 32-34
- "How to Pin" Howard, Pamela Threads No. 124, pp. 22-23
- "A Pin For Every Purpose" Carol Laflin Ahles, **Threads No. 120** pp. 24-28
- "How to Use Pins the Right Way" Susan Khalje, **Threads No. 158**
- Jo-Ann Fabric & Craft Store Free "All About Pins Guide", 2012

What is TAG?

In August 2012, the American Sewing Guild announced a new junior membership.

This initiative was called “TAG” **Teach Another Generation**” and ASG Chapters were encouraged to embrace the initiative:

- ◆ To pass along the sewing knowledge and skills of ASG members to our youth because they will be replacing us as the next generation of sewists
- ◆ Because young people want to learn to sew
- ◆ Because we want sewing to continue growing
- ◆ To promote sewing as an art and life skill
- ◆ To provide an affordable opportunity for young people interested in learning to sew

From 2013 to 2017, the Roanoke ASG sponsored a TAG program. Youth met monthly to learn sewing basics. The group was one of the neighborhood groups called “The Sewing Stars”. Recently there has been a rising interest in learning to sew from moms, dads, wives, husbands, girls, and boys within the Roanoke community.

The Roanoke Chapter has been discussing how best to address the rising interest in *learning how to sew*. In 2024, the sewing guild sponsored a series of six classes for beginners to advanced sewers and has scheduled another series of classes for 2025. We see this as a starting point leading to a possible monthly neighborhood group for beginning sewers where basic sewing skills are taught and projects made using those learned skills.

We are looking for our next generation of sewists!



Roanoke Virginia Chapter of the ASG Presents:

Sewing Under the Star

Advancing Sewing as an Art and Life Skill

Lake Stitches

Third Friday of the Month 10AM-2PM

Moneta/Smith Mountain Lake Library

13641 Moneta Rd., Moneta, VA 24121

Lake Stitches Meeting Announcements appear in your email each month. These include a description of the project and a supply list. Our projects vary between garments, handbags, and home décor items and are generally in the beginner to advanced-beginner range. We welcome visitors.

We made eight baby blankets in January for our Chapter's charitable sewing initiative. In February and March, we were working on the Chaise Lounge Cover Sling, and our April-May-June schedule appears below. If you have any questions or plan to attend a meeting, please email vsmillar@gmail.com.

April 18 Seat Cushion Cover

May 16 Simple Summer Skirt

June 20 Laptop Sleeve

How Did You Step Into The Wonderful World of Sewing?

Let me give you some background to my story. We would always get a Sears and Roebuck Christmas Catalog which was a big deal in our house with three little girls. Each of us would take turns marking the pages of what we wanted. There were a lot of bent pages in that catalog and loose pages that were ripped out by the time Christmas came. I figured out very quickly if I marked fewer pages than I would have a better chance of getting what I wanted.

The year I started sewing I was eight years old, and I found a kit of precut Barbie clothes. It came with fabric precut to the correct pieces, instructions and notions. I only marked that page and sure enough I received it for Christmas. I was so excited I could make my own Barbie clothes. I carefully read the instructions several times and started hand sewing the clothes. Have you ever tried to turn a Barbie leg in her pants? It's a bit of a struggle. My grandmother told our neighbor about my struggle. Together they decided that she would teach me how to sew them together on a sewing machine. The neighbor was very creative with a needle. After working with her, I created sewing projects to earn my sewing badge in Girl Scouts. By this time my grandmother discovered my new talent and she decided to purchase a new Singer sewing machine, which was very expensive for her. But thinking ahead, she knew I could make and repair my sisters clothes which would save money. I made all their clothes through high school including their formals for dances.

By eighth grade, I could put in a zipper and make buttonholes. This led me to Mrs. Elliott, my middle school Home Ec teacher. She was such a caring teacher and made a big impression on me. One day she asked my grandmother if she could take me home to help her clean. She saw such a potential in me that she gave me a trash bag to clean out her fabric storage cabinet and told me to fill it. A second bag replaced the first and then she said anything that I wanted to take, I could have, and I took it all. I decided then and there I wanted to be a teacher just like her.

Needlecraft has been a part of my entire life, and keeps me sane. Do ever get so caught up into a sewing project that you forget to eat, look up and it's nighttime? I have sewn for volunteer work, hired to sew privately, and for my family, but mostly I sew for the joy.

Do you ever find joy in sewing or any other aspect of your life? I hope you do.

Teresa Baxter

Community Stitchers

By Bobbie Rust

Community Stitchers meet the second Tuesday of each month (10:00am- Noon) at Bobbie Rust's home. *Charity Sewing* Contact Bobbie at aug59@aol.com

At the February and March meeting, a small group of members met and made a total of 16 gowns for Carilion Hospital Forget-Me-Not baby bereavement project. We currently have a total of 20 completed gowns. Our goal for the year is 50 gowns. We are well on our way to meeting our goal. In February, we met at Sally Rodgers' home and enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by Sally and a great apple pie made by Karen Olichwier. It was a wonderful opportunity to sew, eat, and talk sewing. At the April meeting we will meet at Bobbie Rust's home and make walker bags. Come Join Us!!

Next Meeting Dates: April 8, 2025; May 13, 2025; June 10, 2025

Skills and Thrills Neighborhood Group

This month, Skills and Thrills took on the challenge of muslins—and emerged victorious! With those conquered, we're ready to embrace the next sewing adventure: collars and sleeves.

Excitement is building for the big reveal this summer, and we can't wait to show off what we've been working on. Trust us, it's going to be something special!

Next Meeting

Date: April 26th

Location: Raleigh Court Library

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

We'd love for you to join us! Whether you're a sewing pro or just curious about what we do, come hang out, chat, and see if this group sparks your creativity. You might even be inspired to join our next project!





Roanoke Virginia Chapter of the ASG Presents: Sewing Under the Star

Advancing Sewing as an Art and Life Skill

Membership

You may come to two monthly meetings as a guest. To become a member, register on the national ASG website, www.ASG.org or fill out the membership form on page 13 of this newsletter and send it to the address on the form. Annual membership dues are \$60. National membership dues include Roanoke chapter membership, quarterly issues of this newsletter, "Sewing Under the Star", national communications and access to advertisers' discounts.

Facebook

We have a Facebook page and need contributors to find content and make sewing related posts. When you visit our page, take a moment to Like our page, Like our posts, and Follow us.

To find us, search Facebook for @asgroanokeva or point your web browser to <https://www.facebook.com/asgroanokeva/>

Photography at Meetings & Events

Permission to publish members' photos in our newsletters, websites and Facebook is assumed unless the president is notified otherwise in writing.

Courtesy

We have a good time being together at our meetings and we ask that you be mindful of others by muting your phone and keeping distractions to a minimum.

General Monthly Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month except December
Meeting time 6:30pm-9:00pm

Place: North Roanoke Baptist Church 6402 Peters Creek Rd. Roanoke, VA 24019

Meeting Cancellation Policy

Chapter Monthly Meetings will be cancelled due to inclement weather when Virginia Western Community College evening classes are closed or cancelled. Weather conditions are not the same in all Roanoke Valley locations; therefore we ask that you make decisions that are best for you.

The Chapter Advisory Board (CAB)

1st Thursday of each month

Meeting Time: 10:00am-12 noon **Place:** Raleigh Court Library

2112 Grandin Rd. SW Roanoke, VA 24015

All Members are invited to attend.

Please notify Lois Atkins if you plan to attend atkinslois91@gmail.com

ASG Roanoke CAB

President: Lois Atkins
atkinslois91@gmail.com
(540) 818-5209

Treasurer: Teresa Baxter
540-314-2941
Baxtergirl56@gmail.com

Secretary: Karen Olichwier
owier1@bluetiehome.com
540-989-1441

Newsletter: Melissa Elkins
alofus1025@gmail.com
(540) 314-1768

Membership:
Carol Webster
clewebster@gmail.com

Education/Programs:
TBD
TBD

Retail Liaison: Karen Olichwier
owier1@bluetiehome.com
540-989-1441

Publicity: Lynne Holdren
lholdren@comcast.net
540-994-0742

Hospitality: Joann Lindholm
willisje@cox.net
540-776-0038

Fundraising:
TBD
TBD

Christmas:
Mariah Edelin-Gough
sunshine-news@asgroanoke.org

Sunshine News: Gail Catron
sunshine-news@asgroanoke.org

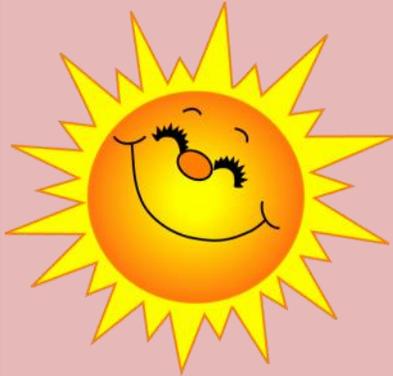
The American Sewing Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to people who believe sewing is a rewarding and creative activity. A vital and growing group, dedicated to advancing sewing as an art and a life skill, the ASG is committed to:

- Promoting and supporting strong chapter and membership vitality within the organization;
- Publicizing, promoting, and stimulating interest in sewing activities and the ASG;
- Collaborating and/or forming partnerships with other organizations for programs that are mutually beneficial;
- Expanding ASG community service efforts; and
- Maintaining ASG as a financially viable organization.



To the members who have renewed their Memberships!

To all of the January, February and March Sewing Peeps! May all your wishes come true.



Do you know someone who needs a little sunshine in their life?

Gail Catron is your sunshine gal!

(276) 228-4974 or catrongail@earthlink.net

ASG Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Daytime phone number _____

Email _____

How did you hear about ASG?

Send completed form along with your payment to:

American Sewing Guild
9660 Hillcroft, Suite 230, Houston TX 77096

___ New Member . . . \$60

___ Junior Member (New and Renewal) to age 17, or age 22 with student ID \$35

Chapter [Roanoke Virginia](#)

___ ASG Member at Large \$60

___ Renewal Member \$55
(if received before membership expiration date)

___ Late Renewal. \$60
Chapter [Roanoke Virginia](#)

Payment

___ Check payable to "American Sewing Guild"

___ MasterCard | Visa | AmEx | Discover
Account#: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CVV# _____

**PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR ADVERTISERS!**



You can still access all prior issues of Notions Magazine:

<https://www.asg.org/members-only/notions-online/>

If you missed the ASG email, you can see all the posts on the ASG web site, ASG.org

Sew! Want to experience how much fun sewing really is?

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Sewing Machines Classes Notions

3609 Brambleton Ave. (Rt. 221) Roanoke, VA 989-4412

mail@alpinesewingmachine.com

[Facebook](#)

Boone's Country Store

New fabric arrives often Great selection of 108" quilt backing and lots of batiks

Barn Quilts

Homemade bakery items soup, and bread are so delicious you will want to take some home.

Boone's Country Store has been family owned and operated since December 1975 with the third generation now baking. Our bakery products are made from scratch on the premises. Fresh vegetables are grown with only natural fertilizers and sprays. We have meat and cheese from Amish country in Ohio, local eggs, local honey. We offer a large selection of hard-to-find and unusual items along with handmade quilts, baby items and other crafts, bulk foods, and a fabric shop.

2699 Jubal Early Highway Boones Mill, VA 24065
Phone: (540) 721-2478 — FAX: (540) 721-4831
Tuesday—Saturday 9:30-5:30
Extended Hours: Fridays 7:00 from April—December

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Gift Certificates Available

Check our website for upcoming schedule of fun and creative classes for all skill levels!
Sign up for our newsletter too!

MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR QUILTERS!

We Welcome New Members

We are excited that they have chosen to join the Roanoke VA Chapter of the American Sewing Guild

Kayla Baker (youth member)

Kittie Kelley

Nichole Zimmermans

Pam Chambers

Courtney Tolley



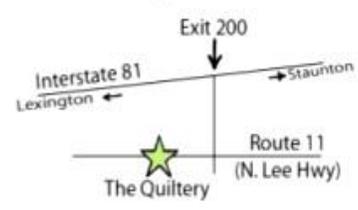
the Quiltery LLC

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 12 noon - 4 pm
 June 19th - Sept 4th

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 Quilting Services

**Monday - Saturday
 10 am - 5 pm**
 540-377-9191

QuilteryOnline.com



5499 N. Lee Highway, Fairfield, VA 24435



School House Fabrics

The old school house in Floyd, VA, has three floors of almost every type of fabric including: pre-quilted fabric, hard-to-find quilting cottons, linens and knits, garments, bridal fabrics, swimsuit fabric, lingerie fabrics, exquisite silks and laces, home decorating fabrics, trims and notions, and much more. A separate building in the back has decorator fabrics and leathers.

Visit us for great fabrics, trims, notions and friendly people!

220 North Locust Street, Floyd, VA
 540-745-4561
 Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Roanoke Virginia Chapter of the ASG Presents:

Sewing Under the Star

Advancing Sewing as an Art and Life Skill

American Sewing Guild Newsletter
Roanoke Virginia Chapter
PO Box 218
Troutville, VA 24175

----- NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR THE YEAR -----

JUNE 16, & SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Sewing Under the Star

Advertising Rates for this Newsletter

Four Issues Per Year

Business Card: \$25.00 Single Issue / \$80.00 Full Year

Quarter Page: \$30.00 Single Issue / \$100.00 Full Year

Half Page: \$40.00 Single Issue / \$140.00 Full Year

Full Page: \$ 55.00 Single Issue / \$200.00 Full Year

