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## Georgia Library Spotlight: North Cobb Regional Library's Sewing Basics

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# GLA SPOTLIGHT

## North Cobb Regional Library's Sewing Basics

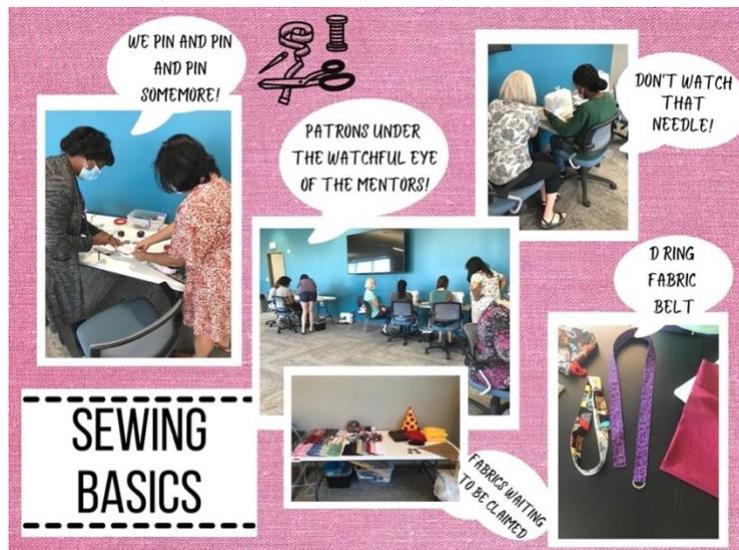
This past September, the North Cobb Regional Library's first makerspace machine sewing series, titled Sewing Basics, was off to a splendid start. It was a four-part program that taught patrons the basics of threading a sewing machine, loading a bobbin, changing out a needle, and making four simple items.

Session one taught patrons to get comfortable with their machines, to sew straight seams, and to learn about seam allowances, back stitching, and turning corners. Patrons put their newfound skills to use and made flannel hand warmers that were filled with basmati rice. Everyone completed their projects and gained confidence.

Session two taught the difference between knits, weaves, and fabric weight. Patrons recognized the difference between cotton versus fleece and picked out what pattern of fabric they wanted to make into pillowcases. Next, instructors taught ironing the right way, using a rotary cutter, and measuring fabrics using the cutting mat. Everyone completed their pillowcase project and went home excited with plans on how they would use their new pillowcases.

Session three introduced interfacing to the patrons. Using the skills learned from prior classes, patrons measured and cut fabric to make D-ring fabric belts. This was a more challenging project because of the 1/4-inch seam allowances and turning the belt inside out. The session went past the allotted time, but everyone finished their belts. Senior Library Assistant Vidhya had to get in on the excitement and made one for herself, too!

Session four gave patrons an option of making an origami drawstring bag, a snap-close spectacle case, or a pizza pillow. The teen patron picked the pizza pillow, and everyone else picked the drawstring bag. Instructors watched proudly as the students made amazing origami bags and used all the skills they learned over the past three weeks.



The series was a great success with daily demands from patrons asking when the next session would be offered. The group was truly multigenerational—spanning four generations—and the instructors were both library patrons and North Cobb staff. Almost all the fabric that was used were donations. It was a very enjoyable series for both the patrons and the instructors. Sewing Basics will start again in January 2022 as a monthly series.

To learn more, go to <https://www.cobbcounty.org/library/locations/north-cobb-regional-library>

*Vidhya Jagannathan is a senior library assistant at Cobb County Library System*