a Shop Near You

Featuring The Spool of Thread Sewing Lounge

by **Tricia Sherman, The Great Canadian Shop Hop**

photos by Sonja Callaghan

Producer/host of The Great Canadian Shop Hop, Tricia Sherman has been an avid quilter for over 20 years. She has experienced many facets of the craft, including owning a long- arm business, part-time work in a quilt shop, and teaching. Her involvement with QNNtv.com opened up the opportunity to develop The Great Canadian Shop Hop videos to promote quilting in Canada.

Working on the show has provided a forum for Tricia to travel across the country filming, teaching and meeting other quilters. A quilter's dream if there ever was one!

www.greatcanadianshophop.com

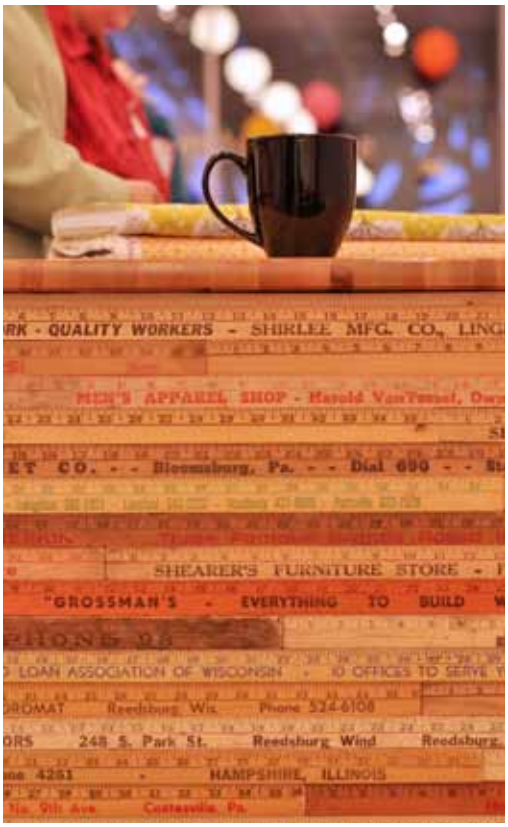
Lili Nedved and Henry Sinha, shop owners

When I joined the Modern Quilt Guild, I was introduced to a new concept. A Sewing Lounge. I was immediately interested and discovered that a Sewing Lounge was a large area filled with sewing machines and worktables. Reminded me of the home economics room in high school. You have the option of renting a sewing machine at a very reasonable price, or just renting the space and bringing your own machine. I chose the last option and spent a pleasant day machine quilting on a large table. It was marvelous way to get work done and still be able to chit chat with the other ladies renting machines.

Although space does not allow for a huge inventory of fabric, Lili Nedved and Henry Sinha- owners of Spool of Thread - still manage to offer a nice selection of bright fabrics, thread and supplies. A selection of patterns is also available to stimulate your taste buds for future projects. Sewing lounges are cropping up in several major cities including: London, England; San Francisco; Melbourne, Australia; and now Vancouver. Check online to see if there is one in your area.

Tricia: *What is a sewing lounge?*

Lili: Spool of Thread Sewing Lounge is both a modern fabric store and a place for sewists of all levels to come and learn a new skill.



Tricia: *Do you consider yourself a quilt shop?*

Lili: We really love sewing and creating, and we're constantly inspired by the different projects that our customers work on. We've seen everything from quilts to garments, home and personal accessories. As a result, we think of Spool of Thread as a sewing store that provides unique materials and sewing classes in Vancouver.

Tricia: *Why did you decide to open a sewing lounge in Vancouver?*

Lili: Both Henry and I are inspired by mid-century design. Previously, I was

a handbag designer and I would always receive compliments on the different quilting cottons I used in my designs. We decided to open Spool of Thread to be a source for bright, modern fabrics that many love, and share them with the Vancouver sewing community.

Tricia: *Have you been to any other sewing lounges before?*

Lil: We have visited many sewing stores across North America, big and small. We love Portland, Oregon and one of our favourite shops to visit is Bolt when we are there.

Tricia: *What kind of clientele were you expecting and what kind of clientele do you have?*

Lili: We were expecting fabric lovers of all ages. We indeed have clients that range from teenagers to retirees.

Tricia: *Are other sewing lounges associated with a quilt guild like you are with the Modern Guild?*

Lili: We felt a certain kinship with the Modern Quilt Guild, being new ourselves, as I'm sure is the case in other cities. There is a natural synergy between the Modern Quilt Guild and Spool of Thread in fabric used and inspiration for quilts.

Tricia: *Have there been any surprises since you opened that you weren't anticipating?*

Lili: We were not expecting our inventory to grow so quickly. The demand has definitely fueled our creativity for new fabrics. We are very much looking forward to adding some new designers we know our customers will be excited about. People come to Spool of Thread to enjoy our social sewing environment. Our open concept allows sewers to feel like they are part of something larger than a sewing room. It's a chance for people to see sewers and be seen sewing, and we think that's pretty cool.

Visit Lili and Henry's website at www.spoolofthread.com for more information.