

# Alex Anderson Shares Sewing Wisdom With Villagers

Top Quilter will give interactive lectures at New Covenant United Methodist Church.

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## THE VILLAGES

Internationally known quilter Alex Anderson is bringing her sewing expertise to The Villages.

"If we would have a goddess of quilting in the world, it would be Alex Anderson," said Ruth Strocchia, vice president of the Quilting Guild of The Villages, which is hosting the event.

Strocchia, of the Village of Hadley, has been sewing for 2 1/2 years, and she said Anderson quickly became her go-to teacher.

"When I wanted to know something — like how to applique — it was before I joined the quilt guild, and I was doing things on my own," she said. "I went to a quilt store, and they said, 'You buy Alex Anderson books.'"

In 2008, Anderson was awarded the Silver Star Award by the International Quilt Festival, which is given annually to a quilter whom they say "has made a sizable and positive impact on the quilting industry and community."

But she remains modest about her abilities.

"I'm a 'B-plus' quilter," she said. "There are quilters who are far more skilled than I am."

Anderson learned how to sew from her best friend's mother in sixth grade, and her love grew from there.

In high school, Anderson said her dyslexia led to some trouble with academics, so she'd sometimes work around it with her sewing. For a project on Greek mythology, she sewed a goddess's dress.

Anderson didn't make her first quilt until college, when she said one month before graduation, she realized she was a credit short.

She asked one of her professors with a background in textiles if she could finish a quilt that her grandmother had started in the 1930s for



Submitted photo

The Quilting Guild of The Villages will present three interactive lectures with internationally acclaimed quilter Alex Anderson on Tuesday in The Villages.

## ALEX ANDERSON

**When:** 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday

**Where:** New Covenant United Methodist Church, 3470 Woodridge Drive

**Cost:** \$20

**Details:** Tickets must be purchased before the event through The Villages Box Office at 352-753-3229 or [thevillagescenterainment.com](http://thevillagescenterainment.com).

the credit, and the professor agreed, she said.

After graduation, Anderson thought she would go into weaving, but a few factors led her elsewhere.

While taking a workshop on French tapestry weaving in San Francisco, Anderson found out she was pregnant, and making a baby quilt seemed like a natural next step. At a time when quilting was blossoming in the Bay Area, a quilt shop opened up and she applied for a job.

"It was being in the right place at the right time," Anderson said.

Anderson built her business up from there. After writing her first book, she rose to fame while appearing on HGTV's "Simply Quilts," though she

almost turned down the offer.

"I wasn't interested," Anderson said. "I went home, and my husband said, 'I've never seen you back away from anything.'"

She starred on the program for more than a decade. Now, she develops online programming for a global audience at

[thequiltshow.com](http://thequiltshow.com).

"Simply Quilts' brought a lot of people into the fold in the United States," Anderson said. "Now, we're reaching people worldwide, and it's very, very exciting."

Anderson said that though she hasn't always loved appearing on camera, she

shares her passion with others because she knows how much quilting means to her and to those who pick it up.

"I love the art. I love the craft," Anderson said. "The people that fall into the craft, they're just passionate about it, and I think it's because anyone can do it, really, and the creative aspect of it is just unlimited."

Anderson will give three interactive lectures Tuesday at New Covenant United Methodist Church, 3470 Woodridge Drive. She will discuss topics such as "Studio Solutions," for which she visited quilters' studios for tips on organizing sewing spaces.

"That's a fun one because it's very voyeuristic,"

Anderson said.

She will also hold a book signing afterward.

Anderson said the Quilting Guild of The Villages is nearly twice the size of any single guild she has worked with before, and she is enjoying the experience so far.

"They have been remarkable to work with in the preparation," Anderson said.

The event is open to the public — tickets are \$20 and must be purchased before the event through The Villages Box Office — and Strocchia said she can't wait to share the experience with others who have a passion for needle arts.

"Anyone who is a quilter or is interested in becoming a quilter, this is the place to be," Strocchia said.