



Time to Say Goodbye

There are many ways to celebrate a retirement and to say goodbye. Some might choose a gathering of close family and friends, a big party, or perhaps a quiet goodbye. I've decided to say goodbye to you—my loyal viewers, readers, and customers—with a personal note.

My retirement came as a shock to my family and me. As some of you may know, I was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer, in March of 2015. Another primary cancer—breast cancer—was found four months later. I was treated with surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation through May of 2016. During this time, my staff, friends and I continued to produce *Sewing With Nancy* shows, some creatively repackaged, and other brand-new episodes. My amazing team worked diligently to help me with the book-writing process, develop new products, and keep me up to speed. We skipped a few beats, but not too many.

Earlier this year, my husband and I celebrated our 40th anniversary and vacations were enjoyed. Then, life changed. A scan in July showed that one of the cancers had metastasized and additional treatments would not be helpful. It was a devastating day, realizing that my life and my career, as I had known it, would end.

During these last six weeks, I've been having meaningful conversations with family and friends—a bittersweet time. My staff and I have been working on rearranging my business, Nancy Ziemann Productions (I sold Nancy's Notions to the Tacony Corporation in 2003), determining how to wrap up *Sewing With Nancy*, and figuring out how to continue our valuable partnerships with Wisconsin Public Television—mainly Quilt Expo, which will continue.

I recorded new *Sewing With Nancy* shows right up to my diagnosis. You'll find 15 new episodes this season, with reissues of programs to fill this season. Plus, my hope is that the *Sewing With Nancy* series will continue to air for years to come. The last episode that we recorded is entitled, "I Sew For Fun," a show on team sewing with kids ages 5-9. My granddaughters will be featured; I marvel at this miracle.

It is not easy to say goodbye, especially since the terms were totally unexpected. I have learned during these past weeks to concentrate on my faith. You may not share my beliefs; I respect that, yet I would not be true to myself if I did not state the verse that I am focusing on during this last journey. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all you do and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

I am finding great peace today, knowing that I can thank you for your many years of dedication, viewership, and friendship. I have had a great and long career, starting Nancy's Notions in 1979 and *Sewing With Nancy* in 1982. We've recorded 36 seasons of *Sewing With Nancy*, which totals 910 shows. (The first and last seasons did not have the customary 26 episodes; only I have been keeping track of the number!) I have been blessed with working with quality, amazing people.

So, with a heavy, yet humble heart, I thank you and say goodbye.

Your friend,
Nancy