Smocking Arts Guild of America
Yankee Chapter
Cumberland, Rhode Island

May 2019 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: May 13, 2019
Doors Open at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting Begins Promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting on the second Monday of each month, September through June, at the Arnold Mills Community House, 75 Hillside Road, Cumberland, R.I. Directions: Route 295 to Route 114 N (formerly Exit 11, now Exit 22), then about 2

PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE FOR MAY

Hi Ladies,

April showers bring May flowers? Based on the amount of rain we have received, we are all ready for many, many flowers and some sun. Hopefully the weather will turn soon. The good news is that with the poor weather, we’ve had more time to work on indoor projects. Hopefully that includes some creative items that you will bring to Show and Share.

We are still looking into providing a teacher and a workshop class for the fall. To make this happen we need enthusiasm and commitment from our members. Having a teacher come to Yankee gives us an opportunity to enhance our techniques at a reasonable cost without having the added expense of travel. More information on this will be coming soon.

This month we will continue working on our smocked eyeglass cases. Of course, we are sure that several members have completed theirs and will bring them to the meeting! Next month we’ll be making the scissor fob. Thanks again to Donna and Ruthann for coming up with a wide variety of programs and techniques for the year.

Don’t forget to bring your completed service projects, items for the door prize, refreshments if your last name is on the list, and of course YOU!

This is the month you may receive a call from a member of the Nominating Committee. Our chapter is only as strong as our members. If you are asked to take a position, please say “yes” or request one that may not be as time consuming.

Although our meeting will take place after, we wish you all a Happy Mother’s Day, whether you are a mother or a daughter.

Jane and Pat
THE MAY DOWNLOAD: THIS IS THE STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW!

If you read nothing else in our newsletters, please read this monthly download which will be a regular feature!

- Remember to bring your Smocked Eyeglass Case kit and your supplies!
- Remember your Service Project and/or Door Prize donations.
- Also, we thank all of you who are donating $1.00 to our monthly door prize collection. Although our door prizes are donated, collected funds are put to good use toward defraying program expenses and the cost of teachers.
- We are assigning hostess duties alphabetically again this year, so please check the last page of this newsletter to see if you are responsible this month. Thank you!

MAY PROGRAM ….. EYEGLASS CASE CONTINUED!

We will be continuing to work on our Smocked Eyeglass cases in May. If you were unable to purchase a kit in April, we have plenty left! ($3.00 per kit)

Bring your regular smocking supplies and don’t forget your kit if you’ve already bought one. Ruthann and Donna will assist with any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

PRODUCT REVIEW: Sulky Stick ‘n Stitch

I’m not sure if this is actually a new product, or something that I’ve just discovered. Here’s a description from the Sulky website:

“Stick ‘n Stitch™ is ideal for hand embroidery, cross stitch, punch needle and quilting. It is also useful for transferring a design for machine applications like quilting, monogramming, thread sketching, or as a template for computerized machine embroidery. It is as easy to use as 1-2-3 - print or copy your design on Stick ‘n Stitch then remove the backing, stick on fabric and stitch, then rinse away when finished! These 3 Sulky branded products: Sticky Fabri-Solvy™, Stick ‘n Stitch™, and Stick ‘n Carve™ are all the SAME product, packaged differently for different uses and markets.”

The package I purchased has 12 printable sheets in regular 8.5” x 11” size. You simply choose a design to print and feed the sheet into your printer (if you don’t have a home printer, a copy shop would be able to do this for you). After printing, cut around the design, peel off the paper backing, and stick onto the fabric you want to embroider. Once the embroidery is done, wash off the stabilizer. I did what the package suggested and hit the piece with a stream of water using the sprayer from my kitchen sink, and just like that, it was gone. My printer is a very simple inkjet model and the ink did not run onto the fabric, although they recommend you do a test with your printer just to be sure that there will be no problem with ink running onto your embroidery.

Update: I used this product on white Moda 100% cotton for a hand embroidery piece. It seemed to stick on really securely at first, but soon after beginning work the corners of the design started to pop up and would not stay firmly attached. I had to take the piece to my sewing machine and stitch all around the design so it would stay put. The Stick ‘n Stitch has a little of a plastic-y feel to it, and I needed to switch to a much sharper and thinner embroidery needle in order to get the stitches through the stabilizer and fabric (and use a thimble, which I abhor, to shove the needle through). The first few stitches were great, but then the needle really started to gum up and get sticky, which caused me to have to stop and pull off the gunk and goop. Honestly, the jury’s still out as to whether this actually saves time in transferring the design, only to spend more time on the “back end” cleaning the needle and stitching while building my biceps! Maybe a different brand or type of needle would help but who knows?!
APRIL SHOW-AND-SHARE

(NOTE: Usually I write up the Show-and-Share right after the meeting so my memory doesn’t fail me (much), but this month I didn’t. So, if I have forgotten any important details about your masterpieces, please forgive me!).

Sandi Thurston showed two finished quilts, one in red and green for her brother, and the finished butterfly quilt for her mom. Another fantastic quilt was created for her son, who is a fireman (and was voted “First Responder of the Month” in April by the Westport Fire Department!). Sandi also showed a little pink and white dress created in Susie Gay’s class at Charles River. She added beads to the dress for that little special something.

Donna Costa showed a navy short-sleeved blouse with tulip flower print, made from a knit fabric obtained at one of our Yankee yard sales (Butterick #6187, a Connie Crawford pattern). Also shown was a flounced short jacket (Simplicity #8172) in two color-coordinated fabrics which Ruthann had graciously gifted. (*See funny story about this below.) Donna’s last item was a short-sleeved version of the basic tunic from the book The Tunic Bible, created with $2.00 worth of knit fabric from Walmart. Thrift is the name of the game!!

Karen Ouhrabka showed her cute little hat with a unicorn topper, a pair of fingerless gloves, and a round potholder featuring Anita Goodesign embroidery.

Susan Rogers showed her knitted topsy-turvy girl doll and told us some very interesting information about the history of those dolls.

Pat Tarpy showed her completed Rotary Cutter Bag (which apparently gave her no end of trouble—sorry, Pat!). Also shown was her terrific adult version of the Gail Doane jacket which we created in a class last year. Again, this wasn’t an easy finish for Pat, but it’s finally ready to wear, so…. victory!

Denise Laprade showed her completed Rotary Cutter Bag too!

Jan Dupere (former member and guest at the meeting) showed lots of little mug rugs, a sewing tray with a scissor case, needle case and other accessories, and a matching cup cozy and mug rug. Jan also showed some jewelry and pins made with antique buttons.

Mary Morse showed a set of coasters she had created and mentioned that she had visited The Fabric Place basement store. (Next to Mary’s name in my notebook, I had written “emotional support beagle” which is probably the funniest thing I’ve ever found in my notes in all my years of show-and-share write ups!)

Thanks for bringing all this great show-and-share!!

*Editor’s Note: I picked up the Summer 2019 Issue of Classic Sewing this week and paged all the way through to the women’s section. Lo and behold, right there on Page 109 - IT’S MY JACKET PATTERN! Holy cow, I’m ahead of the curve for once in my life, how cool is that!!

FOSTER KID BAGS UPDATE!
Thanks for your continued support of our efforts. We received more donated fabric in April so will have a few more kits to distribute in May. We appreciate your enthusiasm!!
SAGA Mission Statement

"The purpose of the Smocking Arts Guild of America is to preserve and foster the art of smocking and related needlework for future generations through education, service, communication and quality workmanship."

Hospitality Info for May

If your last name begins with the letter S through the letter W, feel free to bring a delicious dessert this month!

When you arrive at our monthly meetings, don’t forget to sign in and pick up your door prize tickets! Please check off your name on the attendance sheet and indicate how many items you brought for any of our service projects.

2018-2019 Yankee SAGA Board

Co-President: Pat Tarpy
Co-President: Jane Beehr
Vice-President: N/A
Treasurer: Pat Tarpy
Secretary: Sharon Simoneau
Membership: Marie Cobleigh
Program: Donna Costa & Ruthann Sisson
Door Prizes: (Member Donations)
Scrapbook/Photographer: Nancy Beauregard
Newsletter: Donna Costa
Hospitality: Sue Smith
Sunshine: Fran Karwoski
Service Project: Sandi Thurston
Archivist: Karen Ouhrabka

Want to try a new recipe?

It’s been quite a while since we’ve had a recipe in our newsletter, but this one is so delicious I can’t resist printing it! Here’s the story: A friend of mine “hacked” the recipe for Applebee’s Three Cheese Chicken Penne (a very popular dish that her family loves; that’s the restaurant’s version pictured above). She gave me her recipe and then I made my own tweaks, so I’ll give you both versions below. Let me know if you try it!

Three Cheese Chicken Penne (Applebee’s Hack!)

Ingredients:
1 lb pasta
1 jar alfredo sauce (15 oz.)
2 packages Perdue (or similar) “Short Cuts” Cooked Chicken
8 oz. bag “Italian Blend” Shredded Cheese
2 cloves garlic, chopped
3 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped OR 1 can diced tomatoes
1 TB Basil (found in the refrigerated spice section)
1 TB EVOO (Extra Virgin Olive Oil)

If using plum tomatoes, seed and chop, then mix with the EVOO and basil. OR if you’re using Donna’s hack, just mix the can of diced tomatoes with the EVOO, basil and chopped garlic. I leave all the liquid from the canned tomatoes in my recipe because I felt it was a bit too dry without the extra liquid.

Warm the alfredo sauce and cook the pasta.
Chop the chicken into smaller pieces (if desired) and then sauté the chicken with the chopped garlic. If you’re using Donna’s hack, just sauté it with a little extra EVOO (the garlic has already been added to the tomato mixture).

Add the warm chicken, pasta and sauce to a very large bowl (seriously, the largest bowl you have because this recipe is huge) and then add 1 cup of shredded cheese. You can add more cheese if desired. Toss the mixture until the cheese melts, then add the tomato mixture to the bowl and toss again.

Now eat! The only downside to this recipe is the number of bowls and pots you need to make it, but believe me it’s worth the trouble of washing them afterward. Enjoy!

Donna C.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2019

WHAT TO BRING:

- Your smocking supplies and eyeglass case kit... or $$$ to purchase a kit if you don’t have one already.
- Refreshments (if assigned)
- Show and Share
- Service Project Donations
- Door Prize Donations