December, 2015 Issue
This Month’s Meeting:  Monday, December 14, 2015

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, then about 2 miles to Hillside Road.)

2015-2016 Officers

President
Sandi Thurston
1 Cottonwood Lane
Westport, MA 02790-4982
508- 636-7505
sandrathurston@outlook.com

Vice-President
Donna Boucher
PO Box 236
Foster, RI  02825
401-397-0236
stillsparkin@juno.com

Secretary
Kathy Dacey
19 Rendell Road
West Roxbury, MA 02132
617-325-7079
kiodacey@gmail.com

Treasurer
Pat Tarpy
50 Pequot Road
Pawtucket, RI 02861
401-333-4587
pattarpy@hotmail.com

Newsletter
Donna Costa
200 Post Road, Unit 606
Warwick, RI 02888
401-781-0506
donnacosta33@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Yankee Friends,

Wow here it is December!! I now understand what my grandmother used to say to me: "When you get older time passes by too quickly." It sure does!!  Definitely not enough time in the day to do all the sewing I’d like to do!! LOL 😊

I like the Yankee swap…it is one of my favorites! I love to see people swap their gift but don't like it when it's me! So make or buy a handmade ornament and come to our meeting for a nice fun relaxed time! Or just come visit us and chat with your friends.

I'm very happy we all liked Debbie Glenn's pocketbook which we will start in February.  There will be no meeting in January as quite a few of us are going to Sewing at the Beach. Donna says she will send us a newsletter anyway!

Merry Christmas and happy healthy new year to all!
   Love,
   Sandi

JANUARY 11TH MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Please Note:  After discussion at the October meeting, it was decided that we will cancel the January 11th scheduled meeting due to the conflict with Sewing at the Beach.
SHOW AND SHARE: NOVEMBER 2015

Sandi Thurston showed her cute “Elf Quilt”; she is making two of these! Sandi also showed her reindeer applique (a Jan Kerton pattern) and a pocketbook in blue fabrics.

Donna Boucher showed her “Once Upon a Time” quilt top featuring appliques of many Disney princesses. So adorable! Donna also showed her project from Valley Forge, a pillow with the embroidered initial “D”, which she reported had been scorched by the iron but was saved by using Oxy-Clean! Donna also showed her embroidered towels, destined to be Christmas gifts for friends; her Stitchers by the Sea project, an ornament created from a Judith Marquis pattern; and her completed embroidered notebook cover, also a project from Stitchers.

Donna Costa showed two versions of the “May Wong’s Itty Bitty Bishop” dress pattern from SAGA News May 2013 issue, which is designed to fit on a 5” Berenguer doll. The first was an all-white creation with pink smocking; that dolly’s booties, hat and underpants were hand-knit in baby-weight white yarn. The second version was in Christmas fabric with green smocking, with the panty pattern in the magazine made in the same fabric. That dolly had a hand-knit hat and booties too, both of which were knitted using six-strand embroidery floss. Donna also showed a grey cowl in very chunky (Size 7) yarn that was created on the Zippy Loom; a crochet basket with a liner made from In-R-Foam Plus covered with fabric; a cell phone holder made from a dollar-store plate stand; and a set of four potholders and a dish scrubby which will be Christmas gifts.

Jane Beehr showed her gorgeous Amulet Bag, which was created as the nametag for the EGA Annual Seminar.

Ruthann Sisson showed her cute smocked collar on an equally cute stuffed teddy bear.

SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

We received the following bonnets in November:

- 42 fleece and knit Fabric Bonnets
- 4 knitted bonnets
- 3 smocked bonnets

Thank you everyone!

YANKEE CHAPTER MEETING DATES 2015-2016

2016:
January 11 (Meeting Cancelled)
February 8
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13 (Yard Sale)
BOOK REVIEW
By Donna Costa

Sew Organized for the Busy Girl: Tips to Make the Most of Your Time & Space
(23 Quick & Clever Sewing Projects You'll Love)
By Heidi Staples
Publisher: Stash Books, 2015; 112 Pages, Softcover; $22.95 (Amazon’s Price: $15.30)

I hesitated before buying this book, as it appeared to be for a beginner sewer, and geared toward a younger demographic than yours truly! But the projects convinced me, just because they are so darned cute.

The first 30 or so pages of the book cover very basic stuff, such as creating a sewing space that works for you, choosing your storage systems, putting together “project bags” so you can hit the ground running when you’re ready to sew, and how to fit sewing into your schedule. The remainder of the book is full of projects – 23 of them, as the subtitle says. My favorites were the “Nine-Patch Pocket Pillows” in various sizes, from a small pincushion with an adorable little pocket for your scissors, to a larger style with a pocket for a child to tuck in a favorite book. Other projects include the Double-Zip Clutch, which is shown as a stationery holder and also in a repurposed version that holds little toy cars with a mini racing mat (such a cute little-boy gift!); the Sleepy-Time Friend Kit, which includes a child-sized tote bag and a little stuffed buddy to carry inside, along with his/her pillow and blankie; a Chevron Table Runner; an Envelope Clutch shown in two sizes, one as an art pack and the other as a manicure kit. There are a couple of quilts, and a hexagon pillow using English paper piecing. Another cute project is the Girl Friday Sewing Case, made to contain your sewing essentials and a small, take-along project.

The instructions and illustrations in the book are very cleanly styled, with lots of white space on the pages so everything is not crowded, and the print is large enough to read easily. (Some books get a little too “arty” for my taste and cram everything together in tiny, light-colored print… not this one, thankfully!) Overall, I think the book is a great value for the price, with useful projects and a whimsical but easy-to-understand vibe. Not just for the young folks!

CHOCOLATE CHIP CREAM CHEESE BARS
Submitted by Sandi Thurston (From Taste of Home)

Prep: 20 Minutes
Bake: 20 Minutes + Cooling
Yield: 2 Dozen

Ingredients:
1 package German Chocolate Cake Mix (18.25 oz.)
1/3 cup canola oil
1 egg
Filling:
1 package (8 oz.) reduced-fat cream cheese
1/3 cup sugar
1 egg
1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Directions:
In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, oil and egg. Set aside 1 cup for topping. Press remaining crumb mixture into a 13x9-in. baking pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until set.

For filling, in a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add egg; beat well. Spread over crust. Sprinkle with chocolate chips and reserved crumb mixture.


“Lower in fat and calories than you might ever guess, these sweet bars couldn't be easier to whip up, boast a great chocolaty flavor, and make a fun, quick dessert to bring to parties or serve to company! Jennifer Rafferty - Milford, Ohio"
DECEMBER PROGRAM INFORMATION: HOLIDAY PARTY & YANKEE SWAP!

At the December meeting, our annual “Yankee Swap” will be the featured event. Here’s a quick reminder of the rules.

Anyone who wants to participate in the swap should bring a wrapped, handmade ornament. It does not necessarily have to be made by YOU - but should be handmade. All participants will pull a number. As your number is called, you get to pick a wrapped ornament. After opening your gift, you can swap for any other ornaments which have already been opened. At the end of the swapping, the lucky Number One gets to choose any ornament as her own!

If you don’t wish to participate in the swap, please come to the meeting and enjoy the delicious appetizers and desserts supplied by our Board members.

OUR SPRING PROJECT – THE DEBBIE GLENN SMOCKED BLOCK PURSE!

Thanks to a suggestion by our wonderful President Sandi, in the spring of 2016 we are planning to make the gorgeous Smocked Block Purse as a chapter program.

Jane Eskelund has volunteered to order the patterns for us, and she needs to know how many copies to purchase from Debbie Glenn at Love & Stitches. **If you were not present at the October meeting, please let Jane know if you need a pattern before she places the order – in other words, as soon as you can!** Please call her at 508-761-5421 or e-mail rtprov@gmail.com. If you already have the pattern, you’re ahead of the curve on this project!

The exact dates of the purse program haven’t been decided yet; possibly February/March. You will be required to bring your own fabric and supplies. Stay tuned for future newsletter articles on this program and, in the meantime, admire the photo below and dream about what your own Smocked Block Purse will look like when completed!

PINCUSHION FROM A RECYCLED TUNA CAN!

This is such an old-fashioned way of making a pincushion! It reminds me of those crocheted tuna can covers my grandma used to make – the ones that looked like a little chair – anybody else remember those? Anyway, here are the instructions for the tuna can pincushion:

MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET

Ladies, our booklets were sent out a little prematurely last month and do contain some errors. We’re in the process of getting corrected information together, and it will be published in a future newsletter. We ask that you make the corrections in the booklets you have been sent so we don’t have to reprint them. Thanks and sorry for any confusion.

PREEMIE BONNETS, WEE CARE PROGRAM, ETC. – OUR SERVICE PROJECT

There was a lot of lively discussion at our October meeting regarding our service project, which I will try to sum up here. Please feel free to send me an e-mail if any of this sounds incorrect.

Our nurse members told us that the tiny preemie-sized bonnets are not as welcomed at the local hospitals as the larger sized bonnets – especially the smocked ones. This is due to many factors including the IV lines which are sometimes in the preemie babies’ heads. Also, there are larger populations of normal-sized babies than preemies, and most of those preemies are at Women & Infants. However, we donate to many other hospitals with regular nurseries and not necessarily NICU units. Also, hospitals with larger ethnic populations may be able to use more colorful bonnets, so don’t worry that anything is off-limits as far as fabric or yarn is concerned.

National SAGA’s service project concentrates on Wee Care preemie bonnets and gowns, which are most often used as bereavement garments. It was mentioned that SAGA usually asks specifically for white garments which are non-denominational.

Basically, what this discussion brought forth is that whatever you want to make can be put to good use! If you like making the knit or fleece bonnets, just use the pattern we provided and enlarge it a bit (say, 1” on each seam) and it will fit a regular-sized baby. If you enjoy making smocked bonnets, make those larger as well – Ruthann (who has made plenty of smocked bonnets) suggests cutting your fabric 7” wide by 36” long and then using the pattern which was provided. If you knit or crochet, simply use a regular baby-sized pattern as opposed to the preemie size.

If Wee Care is your passion, please continue to make tiny white bonnets or gowns. We will hold onto those items and donate them at future SAGA conventions.

There is an opportunity for everyone to participate in our Service Project, so please help out by doing whatever you can! If you have questions, just bring them up at the meeting, and someone will surely be able to help!

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, DON’T FORGET TO SIGN IN AND PICK UP YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKETS!

LIBRARY UPDATE

The library was discussed at the October meeting. The following list shows where our library materials ended up once they were removed from the Community House. There is not yet a resolution to this issue.

Jane Eskelund has 2 bins (condensed from 3) and a clothing rack
Pat Tarpy has 3 bins
Kathy Dacey has 1 bin
Donna Boucher has 1 bin

Carol Lanni is waiting for a response from the local library. Ruthann also volunteered to check with her friend who works at the Carolina library.
NE\textsc{xt MEETING} – December 14, 2015 – WHAT TO BRING:

- A wrapped handmade ornament
- Dessert/Refreshments (Board Members)
- Your Chapter Dues if not yet paid
- Show-and-Share Items
- Wee Care Bonnets
- Donations for Door Prizes

WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO TEACH PROGRAMS THIS YEAR! If you’re willing to help out, please contact CINDY LAMBRECHT as soon as you can. Her e-mail and phone number are in your membership booklet which was provided this month along with your newsletter.

NOTE TO BOARD MEMBERS:
If for any reason you are unable to attend to your assigned duty at a meeting, please do the following: (1) arrange for someone else to substitute for you, and/or (2) call our President, Sandi, to let her know so that she can in turn arrange for coverage. Thank you!

Yankee Chapter SAGA
c/o Donna A. Costa
200 Post Road, Unit 606
Warwick, RI 02888