Smockers Falderal? Hardly. We clever smockers in attendance at Cable Car Cablers October meeting solved most of the major problems facing stitchers today. It is my pleasure to be in the company of such talented stitchers. I often enjoy cruising websites related to stitching, fine fabrics and laces. This includes the website for the Berkeley, California shop, Lacis. Reading about the Sarah Douglas smocking exhibition opening in March 2014, I noticed, when comparing dates on two different pages of the website, one page noted the opening of the exhibition as March 8 while the other page listed the opening date as March 18. A question to info@lacis solved the mystery. The correct date for the opening of the Sarah Douglas exhibition at Lacis is the March 8th.

As a child I loved summer vacation. I loved the flexibility in daily schedule and opportunity to try new things. This past summer I taught machine sewing to 10 year old girls. Last month I taught high school girls to sew on a variety of machines. Their charity project was to make wildly colorful pillow cases for the patients at our local children’s hospital. What a generous way for these young women to use a Saturday. Most had never sat at a sewing machine before. About to press her foot down on the power for the first time, one confided “I feel so nervous.” I assured her that I still feel that way when I undertake each new sewing project. Not nervous but excited about the creation of something out of flat piece of fabric. Perhaps wood carvers feel this way when handling a chunk of wood. Perhaps artist who work with clay experience something similar. It is worth pushing past this initial hesitation when a stitcher about to try or start something new.

2014 may include some field trips for Cable Car Cablers. I am imagining a trip to the deYoung textile collection which I have heard is world class, but have yet to see. The Sunnyvale Lace Museum has a noteworthy collection of infant and children’s wear - most probably worth a look. We are fortunate to live near Stanford University and its Cantor Museum of Art. I have seen some of the textiles at the Cantor but feel there are perhaps more squirreled away. There are so many activities to look forward to in 2014, starting with the Sarah Douglas exhibition. We will have the opportunity to discuss all of these at our annual Christmas tea party the first Saturday in December. I look forward to having all your joyous Christmas spirits in my home.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all.

Christie
Wee Care

It's been a very busy time for everyone and between preparing for the holidays and SAGA Convention, the Wee Care inventory has not changed much over the last couple of months. Hopefully, members working on gowns can quickly finish them up and bring them to a meeting. I can then soon make a delivery to the Stanford NICU.

Our November workshop has added to our inventory of unfinished gowns and bonnets. We were a small group of seven, but a very productive group and we cut out and made up kits for 20 pleated gowns and 6 bibbed gowns.

As well, Fran took on the task of drawing out bib patterns for embroidery to be used on bibbed gowns that we will cut out throughout this coming year. She completed over 3 dozen bib patterns that we will circulate for embroidery work at our next meeting. Thank you to Jill, Fran, Lucie, Gladys, Beverly and Sue for joining me.
All this work on gowns means there is plenty of inventory for smocking and stitching so I would ask that if you can, please take a kit or two at the next meeting to work on. Thank you to all the November workshop participants who took kits and bibs home to complete. As well, thank you Kathy Mundt for calling me to arrange for a mail out of smocked gown kits. This was easy and very inexpensive to do so I hope it inspires other members who can't make it to meetings to do the same.

We have over 50 completed blankets on hand and as soon as we can match at least 20 of those with a finished gown and bonnet, I will arrange a delivery to the hospital. Working together, we can continue to provide this special touch for grieving families.

Denise
Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to Paula who celebrates on December 9th,
to Jill who celebrates on December 16th, and to Ingrid who celebrates on December 19th!
Happy Birthday to Catherine who celebrates on January 9th!
Happy Birthday ladies!

Christmas Tea

This year’s Christmas Tea will be held on Saturday, December 7th at the home of Christie Bilikam starting at 1 pm.

This year we are going to again continue with the tradition of a sewing themed RAFFLE BASKET. Please bring a gift for the basket and we will raffle it off among the attendees at the tea!

Bring a tea food item to share with the group. There will also be a cookie exchange, just bring however many you wish to take home.

Christie is at:
783 Garland Drive
Palo Alto, CA  94303-3604
Phone: 650-322-7305

From 101, exit Oregon Expressway, travel west to Ross Road (one block before Middlefield) and turn right. Christie’s house is at the intersection of Ross and Garland.

From 280, exit Page Mill, travel east. Page Mill becomes Oregon Expressway after El Camino. One block past Middlefield, turn left onto Ross Road. Christie’s house is at the intersection of Ross and Garland.

Lacis

As you know the Lacis exhibit is coming in 2014. The actual dates are March 8 to October 4, 2014. The SAGA events will be held March 13, 14 and 15. More information on that to follow as the events are set up. There are also plans by Lacis for classes through out the exhibition. In the mean time....we need your help for the set up. The set up dates are February 10 thru 15. If you would like to volunteer for any time during that week, please let Catherine know and she will sign you up.
Exploring Button Making with Gary Clark

The Embroidery Guild of America sponsored the 2013 International Teachers Tour featuring three International Teachers, Gary Clarke of Tasmania, Australia came and taught in San Mateo. Gary Clark is noticed for stitching on organza and layering stacks of organza to obtain a 3D embroidery effect.

As part of Gary’s tour, I took his button class at Always Quilting on September 24, 2013. Gary showed us his method of making buttons. (His method reminded me of spiral-graph when I was in grammar school.) A template guide is used to help stitch the spiral graph pattern by connecting the alphabets in a certain order. Why not put few spiral graphs on the same button? Wide, Medium, and Narrow spirals; Narrow, Medium, and Wide spirals; or two spirals give you a different design. For more information on the 2013 International Teachers Tour visits: www.egausa.org.

Once we figured out how to make spiral graph patterns. We selected the buttons that we wanted to learn how to stitch. Of course, I enjoy the most challenging button patterns! I wanted to figure out how to make a Spiral Button using the detached buttonhole stitch. Ending the last few detached buttonhole stitches was a challenge. Colonial knots were added to the center of the design.

I learned the Russian Chain Stitch which uses the lazy daisy stitch is groups of three. The Russian Chain Stitch can be stitched straight or in lovely curves. Straight stitches added to the edges and Colonial knots fill the open areas.

Another interesting stitch is the Lily stitch. Loose tension is important in this stitch. At first, I pulled too tightly on the Lilies and they looked like tassels on the tops of corn. After Gary’s critique, I eased up on my tension considerably to stitch four nice Lilies. I can see the difference. Now, I can make Lilies or the tops of corn!

Next, I tried some square looking buttons, and did some other button variations.

A very enjoyable creative button class with Gary Clark!

Ingrid
Lynn went to Paris. She got home two days ago and is very, very jet lagged. Irene just got home from thirty six days and 5,554 miles on the road. She’s tired too. Getting the newsletter out this month is about all we can manage. We’ll tell you about our travels next time. Till then, something for you to look at:
Lattice Smocking Class

In August of this year, Ingrid taught a preview of her velvet lattice smocking class to the Cable Car Cablers in preparation for an upcoming class at Lacis:

Convention Roundup

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Sarah Douglas Collection at Lacis
Catherine Ljungquist is spearheading the curating group for the Sarah Douglas Collection at Lacis. You can reach Catherine via email: cljungquist@yahoo.com or cell phone: 415-525-1915.

International Gem and Jewelry Show
November 29th, 30th and December 1st
San Mateo County Event Center

Velvet Lattice Smocked Pillow Class at Lacis
Saturday, November 16th, 2013
Taught by our very own Ingrid Chan!
Sign up through Lacis (510) 843-7290

Bay Area Bead Extravaganza (Babe)
November 16th and 17th
Oakland Marriott Convention Center
This is a great show, beads only!

Road to California Quilt Show
January 23-26, 2014
Ontario, California
www.road2ca.com

Stitches West
February 20-23, 2014
If you hope to take classes, the time to sign up is now!
http://www.knittinguniverse.com/West

Upcoming CCC Events
The Cable Car Cabler challenge for 2014 is to embellish a padded hanger and enter it into the San Mateo County Fair. Hangers will be made available to members beginning with our July 2013 meeting.

At our 2014 June meeting, members will have one vote for their favorite embellished hanger. The winner of the popular vote will receive $25!

San Mateo County Fair 2014
2014 is the Year of the Horse. Two special horse themed prizes will be awarded at the fair. $50 in Quilting and $25 in Non-Quilting. Why not incorporate a horse into smocked item and double your chances of winning a special award?

Refreshments
November  Gladys
December    Christmas Tea
CABLE CAR CABLERS OFFICERS

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Vice-Presidents Gloria Barkis 408-264-0340 gbbg@att.net
               Margaret Church-Ish 415-846-7609 margei@comcast.net
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Meeting Location
San Mateo Medical Center Hospital
222 W. 39th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

SAGA Contact Info
Region representative Elaine Berry
                  regionfive@smocking.org

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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, communication and quality workmanship.