Holiday Greetings

President's Message

Blessings! This is the time of year we all think about it but, in reality we are all blessed everyday. We have tremendous talents as we create many things. Sewing is just one of the talents we possess. Many of us came to sewing via our mothers. How lucky to have had that part of our mothers in our lives. Others have had friends who spurred us on to create. Good for them! It is so fun to see what each of us has done with our talents. Some smock beautiful garments for the children in our lives. Some like to do project kind of things and pass them on to friends. Others enjoy doing charity items. Our own Wee Care is a prime example of that. Each item is lovingly crafted and passed on to someone in need. I know those parents feel blessed that someone took the time to think about their baby in a very rough time in their lives.

I have been the recipient of many creative projects and treasure them. Each year for 40+ years I have had my ornament party. Each person brings a hand made ornament for exchange. In the early years many persons felt challenged by their creative efforts but, everyone came through it and now we get to see and exchange some wonderful ornaments. They are amongst the most treasured on my tree. Some of the people that made them are no longer with us which makes their ornament even more treasured.

The holiday season is upon us. It is, in fact roaring up. I can hardly believe 2014 is almost closing the door and that 2015 is near. I think about what I have created this year and realize it is never enough. I must strive to get more done in 2015. My charity projects await…piled up fabrics for multiple items to complete. It gives me great pleasure to work on them and pass them on to deserving people who have very little or who are experiencing untoward events in their lives.

Zoey, my God daughter, made her maiden voyage to the American Girl store in Palo Alto. She picked out Isabelle for her 5th birthday present. She is thrilled! We had such a great visit and lunch. Of course it was a mega bucks experience but who cares? It was fun and I feel blessed that I have her and Tyler, her brother in my life. Now, of course I will have to keep Isabelle in outfits! Another sewing challenge for 2015.
I hope many of you will be able to attend the Christmas tea at Rosemary’s. It is always a fun time and just goes to show you “girls just want to have fun”! We always get some wonderful creative items to eat. It is fun to see what items people choose to include in the basket. I was the lucky winner last year and it was so fun to get a variety of things. I already have my contribution planned…it is something everyone needs but hasn’t necessarily bought for themselves! Ha! The cookies are the best idea yet! My husband loves the idea. He is always unsure when I leave with them but, I reassure him I’m bringing just as many back home as a variety for him!

I am looking forward to Las Vegas. The classes should be published soon. I am hoping they are some fun ones. You know me…always ready for a road trip! If anyone has an idea for favors please let Margaret or myself know. We won’t have to do so many as usual so, put your thinking caps on and get creative!


Irene

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!

Lacis

The smocking exhibit at Lacis ended on October 4th. All of the items that were loaned for the exhibit have been packed up and returned to their owners. A special Thank You to Catherine and Margaret for working tirelessly with Jules, Erin and the Lacis staff to bring to life a fabulous display of smocking and fabric manipulation. Thank you also to the Saturday volunteer members.
Wee Care

We are off to a great start this year. I’m pleased to confirm that we have scheduled the meeting room at the San Mateo Hospital for three further workshops over the coming months. We held the first workshop on October 11th (more about that below) and it was a tremendous success. The other workshops are planned for the following Saturday dates:

January 10th - 9am to 2 pm
April 11th - 9am to 2 pm
July 11th - 9am to 2pm
*Brown bag lunch

Emails regarding needed supplies will be sent out prior to the individual workshops.

The worker bees who joined me at the workshop in October, namely Irene, Beverly, Lucy, Lois, and Ingrid, cut out 33 gowns and bonnets! Most of these were pleated that day and have been matched with a blanket, or blanket materials, to complete a layette set ready to finish. I will bring these kits to each meeting and would be glad to mail a set or two to members who can't make it to a meeting but, would like to smock up a gown. Love to smock, hate to finish? We have people for that. Return your smocked gowns and we will pass them on to a finisher.

We also have 12 completed layettes in inventory and I'm waiting to double that before I make a delivery to Stanford Hospital. Hopefully, that will come together over the next few months. I know we are all busy this time of year and I sincerely appreciate any work you are able to do on our Wee Care community project. As always, the staff at Stanford have expressed their sincere gratitude and praise for the beautiful work you do.

Thank you for your contributions of materials, time and most importantly, your talents! You are awesome!

Denise
September Meeting: Lavender Sachet
At our September meeting, Fran Forsythe taught us how to make a small lavender filled bag using silk dupioni and flowers. The bag makes a lovely hostess gift for the approaching holidays. A big Thank You to Fran for making kits for the meeting and showing us how to make these lovely items. The best part is it was all done in one meeting as you can see from the picture.
October Meeting: Scissor Holder

At our October meeting Margaret Church-Ish led us in completing a scissor holder that fits around your neck. We used decorative ribbons that Margaret pre finished the ends and stabilized the insides. We then hand stitched the side edges to finish. Thank You Margaret for pre kited items and the great idea. Again we had a finished item to take home.
Member Led Projects
Our **January** meeting will feature Lois Murdoch teaching Huckweaving. We will be assisting Lois in de-stashing her workroom. We will be providing a kit with toweling. A list of any further supplies will follow closer to the meeting date.

**Stash Bash**
We are planning a Stash Bash for our March meeting. This is fair warning to get things organized, measured and labeled in anticipation of your spring cleaning. This is always a fun event and the funds raised go to the chapter’s education fund.

**SAGA Mystery Ornament Smock Along**
Be sure to check out SAGA’s Facebook Page or website to join and follow the smocking steps for a mystery ornament. Instructions are at [http://www.smocking.org](http://www.smocking.org)

**The End of an Era**
It is the End of an Era…something like 18 years! Through out the years, many of you have attended sewing gatherings sponsored by our sister group, Berry Good Smockers. We have all had fun and learned new skills from some very talented teachers. We have forged friendships with other members that through the years have had us looking forward to seeing them and checking in on their current and on going creative projects. Unfortunately for us, St Mary’s property is being sold and will be closing as of August 31, 2015. It is sad for me as I just love to go there to relax and sew with friends. I have, over the years, gotten many projects accomplished there. If you want to attend any planned events there, you still have the January and June Sit and Sew dates and the August Artisan Academy date with Vaune and Cindy Foose. They are listed on our events page.

I feel sad for the staff. They have been wonderful to us over the years and keep us happy and well fed. Their chili rellenos are the best! I just hope the property will somehow stay in a public venue and that it is not being sold for someone’s mega gated compound! I will be going to Santa Barbara in January and hope to get more details.

In the mean time, Vaune is looking into other places to be able to continue our sewing gatherings. If you know of any or hear of any place that would be of value please let her know. Until then, my road trips to Santa Barbara will be short lived…bummer!

*Irene*
Christmas Tea

Please join us for our annual Christmas Tea at the home of Rosemary Lake, 2910 Belmont Woods Way, Belmont. The tea will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 1-3 p.m. Please RSVP to Rosemary at lakevineyards@att.net or 650-595-8428.

Please bring a tea treat to share. If you would like to participate in the cookie exchange, please bring the equivalent amount of cookies you wish to exchange and take home. If you would like to participate in a raffle basket please bring something for the basket. Members who contribute to the basket are entered to win. The drawing will be held at the tea. If you would like to participate but cannot come to the tea, please bring your items to the November meeting or give to another member.

Driving directions:
From the North on 101:
101 South to 92 West
92 West to Ralston Ave. exit
Left on Ralston at exit and go through several lights to Hallmark Drive.
Right on Hallmark Drive and take first right, which is Belmont Woods Way.
Go left as you enter Belmont Woods Way.
Parking spaces are available throughout the development.

From the South on 101:
101 North to 92 West and follow directions as above.

From the North on 280:
280 South to 92 East
92 East to Ralston Ave. exit.
Left on Ralston at exit and follow directions as above.

From South on 280:
280 North to 92 East
92 East to Ralston Ave. exit.
Left on Ralston at exit and follow directions as above.

El Camino from the North or South:
Take Ralston Ave. West all the way up the hill past Ralston Middle School and take a left on Hallmark Drive and follow directions as above.
Smock Across America
Las Vegas - February 26-March 1, 2015
Chicago - July 16-19, 2015
Valley Forge - October 8-11, 2015
See SAGA website for details
www.smocking.org

Sit & Sew in Santa Barbara
Next year:
January 9-13, 2015
June 26-29,30?, 2015
http://www.vaune.com

Artisan Academy in Santa Barbara
with Vaune and Cindy
for those who plan ahead!
August 19-24 2015
August 17-22 2016

Johnston House Holiday Boutique
November 1,2,8,9 2014
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Half Moon Bay, CA
http://www.johnstonhouse.org

River City Quilters’ Guild Quilt Show
Sacramento
November 14-16, 2014
www.rivercityquilters.org

Road to California Quilt Show
January 22-25, 2015
Ontario, CA
www.road2ca.com

Stitches West
February 19-22, 2015
Santa Clara, CA
http://www.knittinguniverse.com/WEST

The Lace Museum
The annual ornament sale starts November 8th
and runs through January 10th concurrent to the
“Treasure From the Collection” exhibit.
http://thelacemuseum.org/Display.html

Refreshments
November    Irene
December    Christmas Tea
January     Margaret
February   Sue
March      Rosemary
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Meeting Location
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San Mateo, CA 94403

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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.