Smocking Arts Guild of America  
Yankee Chapter  
Cumberland, Rhode Island

March, 2018 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: March 12, 2018
Doors Open at 6:30 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 miles to Hillside Road.

PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE FOR MARCH

As we look forward to the coming of spring, we are reminded this is an opportunity for renewal and growth - renewal of our commitments, and an opportunity to learn and undertake new challenges.

Show and Share is always an important part of our meeting and hopefully we will see some completed projects, including spring themed items you may have done previously. It’s always great to see bunnies, chicks, and the smocked Easter eggs that our talented members have created.

This month’s program is on Sashiko, a type of embroidery that we have not covered before in our programs. Hope you can join us!

See you on the 12th!
Pat & Jane

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FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: MARCH PROGRAM INFORMATION

Our March Program will be an introduction to Sashiko stitching. Your project will be two hexagonal coasters made of denim, which is the traditional background fabric used for Sashiko.

Your kit will include: two denim hexagons plus batting and backing for each, authentic Sashiko thread, and complete instructions and patterns for the project. You’ll have five different stitching designs to choose from. Your kit will be $5.00.

Please bring the following items to the meeting if you have them at home. If you don’t have these items, we will have extras for you to borrow. (1) A “long darner” type sewing needle. It should be long and thin but have an eye large enough to accommodate the equivalent of three strands of floss. We will be using authentic Sashiko thread which is larger than floss, but only one strand is used for the embroidery. (2) Dressmaker’s carbon paper for tracing. It must be the kind of carbon that washes out with water. Check the package! (3) A Hera marker or tracing wheel. (4) Paper scissors and small embroidery scissors.

A Little Background:

Sashiko is an ancient form of embroidery which originated in Japan. However, it’s not easy to find information about how to do it! Here are a couple of informative websites that I found.

This first is a great source of background information. Various parts of the site have not been updated in quite some time (including her teaching schedule) but it does give the “basics”: http://www.designbyaika.com/

This site also has a few tutorials on how to do Sashiko: http://www.embroidery.rocksea.org/hand-embroidery/sashiko/

In actuality, I found the best Sashiko instruction on YouTube. Here are a few resources:

1. My first choice video (which happened to lead me to the coaster patterns) was produced by Quilters’ Newsletter TV. Search YouTube for “Simple Sashiko with Beth Bradley.” This video is very informative and well-produced, with great explanations and close-up video of the stitching. It’s about 18 minutes long.

2. Blair Stocker, Wise Craft Handmade. This is a series of four videos originally recorded on Facebook live (each one is about an hour long). Blair demonstrates four Sashiko stitches and uses them to create four different coasters.

3. Sashiko, Part 1 – Hand Technique. From Fons & Porter, part of the Quilty series with Mary Fons. Mary teaches a more modern version of Sashiko here, using regular floss and not keeping with any traditionalist Sashiko techniques. This video is about 8 minutes long.

Hope you can join us in March to explore the art of Sashiko!

From the Department of “Things We Already Know”!

Sewing can improve your mental health, and even help with PTSD. Very interesting article! http://www.sewdaily.com/uncategorized/sewing-for-mental-health-how-sewing-can-improve-your-mood
February Show-and-Share

Marie Cobleigh showed her pattern weights, which she used tonight to cut out her Cell Phone Plop—and finished it before the meeting ended! What a showoff! Marie also told us about a workshop she had attended in Florida at the shop “Sew Worth It.” The shop will be sponsoring a special 3-day retreat, and Marie will keep us posted with the details. (Their website is www.sewworthit.com/.)

Ruthann Sisson showed her cute little zippered pouches.

Donna Costa showed samples of our March project, the Sashiko Coasters, along with a sample of April’s project, the Smocked Eyeglass/Scissor case. In addition, Donna showed her pincushion made from a chicken feeder (yet another idea found on Pinterest!).

Sharon Simoneau showed her Valentine Wall Hanging and an adorable baby quilt with “Minkie” on the back. Sharon also made seven (yes, 7!) quilts from her husband’s shirts to give to their seven children. The two quilts Sharon brought featured the cutest snowmen!

Nancy Beauregard showed her tiny doll dressed entirely in a hand-knit outfit, including a dress, panties, booties and a hat. She bought the pattern and the mini doll from Mary Maxim. She even made a little cloth basket to hold the doll.

For those of you who love to make little Wee Care items, this website has an index of free patterns that you can use:

Website Features Links to Wee Care Patterns

https://www.pinkhollybushdesigns.com/single-post/2017/01/04/Wee-CarePreemie-Sewing-Pattern-Round-Up

A Wonderful Resource from Country Bumpkin!

Oh, how we miss Australian Smocking & Embroidery magazine! But at least Country Bumpkin has given us access to this great resource... an index of all the beautiful projects featured in those terrific magazines. Find a design by designer, or technique, or size. Then you won’t have to go through all your magazines to find something that you know is there! (Although, it does make for a nice relaxing afternoon’s work!)

http://smockingindex.com/projects.php?

Reminder—Service Projects

Although we are still collecting bonnets, they will not be going to Women & Infants until further notice. Sandi Thurston will be taking those donations to the hospital where she works.

We will continue to collect the Foster Kids Bags and, in addition, isoltette covers for the NICU. These covers are used over the isolelettes (on the outside of the unit) so they can be made of any fabric, as they are not actually touching the babies. Quilted, fleece, knitted, and crocheted covers are acceptable. The usual size is either 40” x 40” or 36” x 40”.

All donations of bonnets, isolate covers and foster kids’ bags are considered to be a part of our service projects for this year. Therefore, you will receive one (1) extra door prize ticket for each item donated.
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 Information:
Hostesses for March
If your last name begins with the Letter N through the Letter S, please bring the goodies this month!

2017-2018 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 (Member Donations)
Door Prizes: Nancy Beauregard
Scrapbook/Photographer: Donna Costa
Newsletter: Sue Smith
Hospitality: Linda Agresti
Sunshine: Sandi Thurston
Service Project: Karen Ouhrabka
Archivist: Archivist:

MEETING TIME:
This year, we will make a valiant effort to start our meetings ON TIME, so that we will have enough time left to complete our monthly programs! The doors of the Community House open at 6:30 p.m., and our meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Please make every effort to be here on time if at all possible! Thank you.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2018:
April 9, 2018
May 14, 2018
June 11, 2018

Spring Issue of Classic Sewing is Available!!
The new and lovely Spring issue is now in Barnes & Noble and Jo-Ann Fabrics! I will be doing a full review next month (AND bringing a finished project from this issue to show-and-share, believe it or not!) but if you’re looking for something cute to make for Easter, run and get a copy now!

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, DON’T FORGET TO SIGN IN AND PICK UP YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKETS!
We also have a new Attendance Sheet this year. Please check off your name on the sheet and indicate how many items you brought for any of our service projects.

NEXT MEETING: March 12, 2018

WHAT TO BRING:
- Sewing Supplies (see Program Info)
- Completed Foster Kids’ Bags & Other Service Project Items
- Dessert if you’re assigned
- Show-and-Share Items
- Easter and spring-themed Show-and-Share (even if we have seen it before!)