Dear Yankee Stitchers:

To sew or not to sew? That is the question for my family gifts for Christmas! Of course to sew is my answer!! It gives me such joy to watch them open their presents that I made especially for them, their faces with such pretty smiles and "Oh this is my best present! I just love your handmade gift the best!!" That's what keeps me sewing.

What a great time I had at Susie Gay’s class. It was really a nice weekend with all my sewing friends.

I am looking forward to seeing some finished pin cushions in all the different colors of silk duppioni!

I've been thinking of what ornament to make for our Yankee swap. Hope I get number one this year but don't we all hope for that!! It's always a fun meeting for me!!

If we don't see you, here's wishing you all a merry Christmas and happy healthy new year!

Happy sewing,

Sandi
DECEMBER PROGRAM INFORMATION: TIME FOR THE 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.

Reminder - January Program: At our January 5th meeting, we will have a visit from “The Snowman Lady”, Anne Aussant. The price of the January program kit will be between $12.00 and $15.00, depending upon your choice of what to make… there will be 2 or 3 different kits to choose from. The class will start at 6:30 pm SHARP and you will need to bring a sewing machine.

SERVICE PROJECT NEWS!

In October we received 40 knitted bonnets and 6 smocked bonnets. In November, we received 18 knitted bonnets (from Norma & Pat) and 3 smocked bonnets (from Sandi). We also received 3 flannel Wee Care gowns from Donna Boucher. Thanks to all for your continued donations!

Note from Your Editor: Pat Deaett mentioned that one of our hospitals had been very excited to receive the fleece bonnets that I donated a few months back. Those bonnets are extremely quick and easy to make, and the hospital would love to have more of them. I have attached to this newsletter a copy of the instructions and patterns that I used, for anyone who would like to make some fleece bonnets. I think we all have fleece remnants lying around, right? The instructions may look a bit confusing, but just follow along step-by-step and you shouldn’t have a problem. If you do, call or e-mail me and I can walk you through it. –Donna C-

Community House Renovation

Marge Savage mentioned that the Community House intends to undertake a renovation of the closet area soon (not sure exactly when at this point). This means that all of our library materials will have to be removed from the space for a period of time. We requested that members who could temporarily house a bin of our items please let us know; both Sandi and Donna Boucher volunteered, but we are still looking for a couple of additional members to help. Please let Marge or Donna Costa know if you are willing to assist.

Remaining Programs for this Year!

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<td>January</td>
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<td>April</td>
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Edith Brousseau showed two adorable girls' tops made from a pattern in Australian Smocking, one in a navy print and other in gray print, in sizes 6 and 8.

Sandi Thurston showed her completed pocketbook which was beautiful!

Kathy Dacey showed her completed Jan Kerton blanket.

Lynda Whittemore showed her cute onesies with embroidery designs. She also showed a tiny bishop dress which will be donated to Wee Care at Charles River Smockers.

Donna Boucher showed her hubby Blaise's unique boxer shorts (made by Donna's loving hands, of course!), one in Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles print and the other in a print of Bugs Bunny playing basketball.

Donna Costa showed a new acquisition to her doll collection, one of the “My Life” dolls from Wal-Mart. These dolls are the same size as American Girl dolls, but much less expensive, and they have one very nice feature – a vinyl breastplate which goes almost to the doll's waist, and makes sleeveless clothes look much nicer! The doll wore a dress made from a Daisy Kingdom panel, featuring a white background printed with violets. Donna also showed a selection of five chemotherapy caps (adult sized) made for donation to a group called Delaware Head Huggers. (NOTE: If you're looking for a nice selection of knitted hat patterns, check out the following website which is maintained by DHH's founder: http://knittingwithschnapps.blogspot.com/)

Sharon Simoneau showed an amazing *STACK* of quilted items, including wall hangings and more, for just about every holiday and season!

*Thanks for all of the wonderful show-and-share items, and please keep them coming!*

*We love to see everyone's completed (and in-progress) projects!*

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*WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ROSALIE:*

Stitch, Don't Store!

SAGA convention in Florida? Sewing at the Beach next January? Susie Gay workshop? When you get home, do NOT put the projects away, to be worked on later. Because later never comes. Keep them right by your easy chair where you do your embroidery, and work on them one by one. Let your goal be to finish everything you start in a workshop.

What you "store" you will "ignore." How do I know? Recently I decided to go through my storage (I have all my projects in my basement sewing room). After several days, and now with an aching back, I have two large containers full of projects never started or even opened. That's about 60 items! My friends at Yankee will be the beneficiaries.

Although all the projects are still in fashion, it is astonishing to see the dates on them, some back as far as 1995. (One from Ann's Fabrics in Canton.)

I see that I attended the SAGA Convention in 2002, and went to Laura Jenkins Thompson in 2003. But I am ashamed to say that some of their projects were still waiting to be finished in 2014! But those days of delay are over! Let us all resolve: to stitch, not store!

Rosalie
MORE FUN GIFTS TO MAKE!

This nifty project is what I’m making for my cousins this year; it’s a handy little rollup filled with personal and first-aid items to keep in your car for emergencies. I went to the Dollar Tree and bought band-aids, Tums, toothbrushes & paste, little packages of Tylenol and Advil, tissues & small hand sanitizers to fill them with. I love gifts that are cute and also practical. And these are incredibly FAST to make!


If you have little ones on your list, how about this project – a “Busy Bag”! Great for taking on car trips or to the doctor’s office.

http://www.infarrantlycreative.net/busy-bag-tutorial/

How about a new pincushion that looks like an adorable little present? I think we all need to make one of these for OURSELVES! After all, we deserve nice gifts too!

http://emilytaylordesign.com/pretty-parcel-pin-cushion-tutorial/

Sandi’s Delicious Shrimp Dip!

Thanks to Sandi Thurston for sending along this easy holiday recipe!

Ingredients:

1 can tiny shrimp, rinsed with cold water
1/3 cup Hellmann’s regular mayonnaise
1 package Philadelphia cream cheese, softened in the microwave for 40 seconds
3 Tablespoons ketchup
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp lemon juice
2 level tsp garlic powder (this may be adjusted to your liking)

Blend softened cream cheese and mayo together until smooth, and then add ketchup and Worcestershire sauce. Blend well. Then add the garlic powder, 1 teaspoon at a time. Spread over entire bowl then blend it into the mixture well. Add the shrimp and mix together and taste for seasoning. Refrigerate for at least one hour. Serve with crackers and enjoy!

PAT TARPY IS STILL LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP! She has not found this magazine yet!

A couple of years ago, Pat loaned one of her issues of Creative Needle to someone but unfortunately does not remember who – but she would love to have it back! And just in case the loaned copy isn’t returned, **could we all please check our “stash” of Creative Needle magazines to see if we have this issue so that Pat can borrow it?** The cover said something like “The Best” or “The Most Beautiful” Bishop Dress and featured a dress that was blue (or maybe blue-and-white) and has a scalloped hem with a small flower embroidered at the top of each curve. It’s really important that Pat get hold of this magazine…. if you can possibly help, please do!
**Door Prize Tickets & Sign-In Sheets**

When you arrive at each monthly meeting, please be sure to check off your name on the sign-in sheet which will be located on the back table in our meeting room.

The door prize tickets and basket will also be on the table. Please use the honor system to take the tickets to which you are entitled. Remember, it’s one ticket for showing up, and one ticket for each bonnet donated.

We hope this new system will be a little bit easier for our Membership & Door Prize folks!

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**ARNOLDS MILLS COMMUNITY HOUSE HOLIDAY SHOP!**

The annual Holiday Shop will be held at the Community House on Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Holiday Shop features arts & crafts made by local artisans, plus baked goods and fudge. It’s well worth the trip!

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**SPRING TEACHER**

We are considering Kathy Awender as our Spring 2015 special teacher. Please take a look at her website so that you can offer an opinion: [http://www.kathyawender.com/](http://www.kathyawender.com/)

Click on this link to see Kathy’s SAGA Classes:


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**MONTHLY DOOR PRIZE DRAWING(S)**

Reminder: The person who signed up for each month to run the door prize drawings does NOT have to go out and purchase anything for prizes. The members will continue to bring whatever donations they have to the meetings; those items will be given away as prizes. There is no set number of prizes which must be drawn each month – some months we’ll have only one or two, some months more – whatever is donated will be given away!

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**DOOR PRIZE DESIGNEES FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR:**

**December:** N/A (Yankee Swap)

**January:** Jane Eskelund

**February:** Pat Tarpy

**March:** Karen Ouhrabka
Nancy Beauregard

**April:** Edith Brousseau
Cindy Lambrecht

**May:** Sharon Simoneau
Pat Deaett

**June:** N/A (Yard Sale)

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**YANKEE CHAPTER SLATE OF OFFICERS 2014-2015**

- President - Sandra Thurston
- Vice-President - Donna Boucher
- Secretary - Kathy Dacey
- Treasurer - Pat Tarpy
- Membership - Marjory Savage
- Programs - Cindy Lambrecht
- Newsletter - Donna Costa
- Library – Lynda Whittemore
- Scrapbook/Photographer - Nancy Beauregard
- Hospitality – Sharon Simoneau
- Sunshine - Del Burd
- Service Project – Pat Deaett
- Archivist - Karen Ouhrabka
- Door Prize – Rosalie Nocera (with assistance from a rotating schedule of members – see list in newsletter).

Yard Sale - Ruthann Sisson & Karen Ouhrabka

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**Yankee SAGA Meeting Dates & Notes**

2014:

- December 8 (Christmas Party)

2015:

- January 12
- January 5

- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11
- June 8 (Yard Sale)
NEXT MEETING – December 8, 2014 – WHAT TO BRING:

- A wrapped, hand-made ornament
- Refreshments (by Board Members)
- Show-and-Share Items
- Preemie Bonnets
- Donations for Door Prize Committee

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
Fleece Preemie Hat

We had found this pattern through a web search a few years back, and at that time it was available on several websites. The site www.carewear.org has a version of it, but only seems to have the instructions and not the actual pattern. Through some creative searching and a few links on Pinterest, the pattern sheet was located and is being provided in our newsletter. Disclaimer: This is not an original pattern by Yankee SAGA or any of our members. Donna Costa retyped the instructions a bit more neatly than what is currently available online. The original pattern says “Thanks to Donna S. and Carolyn V. for the patterns, samples, and directions.” The origin of the pattern is undetermined.

FABRIC: Use knit fabric with good stretch. Any kind of stretch fleece or knit can be used in this pattern (even ribbed knits).

Step #1: Cut out hat using the pattern. It will look similar to this when laid flat (Step #1 diagram).

Step #2: Fold in half vertically, right sides together. Sew vertical seam to create a tube.

Step #3: Fold hat in half along horizontal fold line. Seam allowance is inside. Be sure to match the seam (a mismatched seam will cause twisting).

Step #4: Reposition seam to the side. Match the four peaks and sew or serge the slanted seam that is by the side seam of the hat.

Step #5: Sew the opposite slanted seam (as shown below).

Step #6: Refold hat so the two sewn seams touch at the peak. Sew the remaining two slanted seams in one line of stitching, going over the peak.

Your hat is done! Turn right side out and fold up a cuff at the bottom.

This pattern can also be used as a chemotherapy cap. The cutting dimensions for adult and newborn/full-term baby sizes are below.
Fleece Hat - Very Small Preemie & Preemie