Keeping Track

President’s Message

Happy Fall! It seems as if the fall weather is finally here. I hope everyone is staying safe from the fires, and not being impacted by the PG&E power outages.

I hope everyone is getting some sewing time in. I haven’t had much time since the school year has started back in September. The teacher I work with is on maternity leave, and I was asked to substitute teach for her until the end of January. So a lot of my free time is being filled with work items. I’m still working on the outfit a month for my niece’s doll. November will be a fuzzy hoodie with jeans, and I found some turquoise sparkly UGG style boots to go with it. Turquoise is her current favorite color. December will be a smocked dupioni dress. I hope to have that ready to go in time for the November meeting for show and share. I’m also hoping to make me a dress to wear to Matt’s work holiday party. I’ve done a lot of on-line looking, and haven’t found anything I really like. I just need to get past a few fitting issues, then I’m ready to go. I’m planning on using the Cashmerette Upton dress as a starting point. Hopefully, my vision will match the finished result.

I’m looking forward to the tea in December. Please make sure to get your RSVP’s in. Further information is the next page in this newsletter. And we also have the Textile Tour at the DeYoung museum to look forward to in February or March.

Hope to see everyone at the November Meeting.

Maggie
hardenmaggie@gmail.com

Calendar
November 19, 2019
Smocked Cuff for Thread Spool
December 8, 2019
Holiday Party
January 2020
Wee Care Gown Sewing and Pressing
February 2020
Wee Care Gown Pleating Pleat sampler for Plaid Smocking
March 2020
Wee Care Gown Smocking
Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to

Paula Sager on December 9th, Jill Efting on December 16th, and Ingrid Chan on December 19th.

Happy Birthday, Ladies!

If you would like to receive birthday greetings, please let Reba know the month and day of your birthday.

Refreshments for our Meetings

2019
November 19: Maggie
December 8: Holiday Tea Party

Thank you in advance.

Catherine
cljungquist@yahoo.com

“Christmas Tea and Smocked Textiles”

Cable Car Cablers, the Bay Area chapter of the Smocking Arts Guild of America, is hosting “Christmas Tea and Smocked Textiles” on Sunday, December 8th, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Newhall Manor (circa 1897)
1615 Floribunda Avenue
Hillsborough, CA 94010

Cable Car Cablers are welcome to invite a non-member (age 5 and up) who is interested in the needle arts. This Christmas Tea is an education outreach program for our Chapter.

Please RSVP by Monday, December 2nd to christie.bilikam@gmail.com or (650) 248-3026

Looking forward to seeing old and new friends.

Christie
christie.bilikam@gmail.com
Programs

November Meeting – Ingrid will start us smocking a Smocked Cuff for a Thread Spool designed by Tawn Hunka. Print out the SAGA News, Nov 2017 issue, pages 4 and 5 for instructions (included in this newsletter, with permission, on pages 4, 5 and 6). **Pre-work: Pleat up Satin Batiste or fabric of your choice using a 1-inch spool as a measurement guide.** Bring your pleated fabric, 1-inch spool, Christmas color threads of your choice, needle, scissors, and print out the instructions and lighting if needed. Optional: gold, red, or green seed beads and beading needle. [I prefer using 5 times the circumference of the thread spool instead of 3 times the circumference, so there are more pleats. Cut a 15” by 2” of fabric, then press flat. Fold both edges in ½” to the center of the 2” width of fabric. Press so you have 15” by 1” folded piece of fabric. The fabric is doubled. I used 5 needles on my pleater. Carefully pleat per the instructions. I smock as I go and decide where to end the smocking, and cut off the excess fabric leaving a few pleats to join the edges.]

No December Meeting – Thank you to Christie for coordinating the CCC Christmas Tea for December 8, 2019, 2-5 PM at Rue du The.

January, February, and March 2020 Meeting – In January, we will focus on construction for one or two Wee Care gowns. The goal is to complete the smocked Wee Care Gowns by mid-May to enter them into the San Mateo County Fair. Please let Irene (and CC: Ingrid) know whether you will make 1 or 2 Wee Care gowns, size, and preferred white or pastel color, by January 2, 2020, so the fabric can be prepared for the January meeting. Participants should bring their sewing machine, foot, and cord with matching thread/bobbin, and scissors, so the gowns can be sewn and pressed. Also, please let us know if someone can bring one iron and one ironing board. At the February 2020 Meeting, please bring your pleater, pleater needles, wooden dowel, scissors and threads to pleat your Wee Care gown. We will also be pleating a sampler for the plaid smocking. Bring 10” x 44” piece of solid color cotton fabric to pleat. At the March 2020 Meeting, we focus on smocking the Wee Care Gowns. Bring your favorite smocking pattern.

Happy Smocking!

Ingrid
EDITOR’S Sampler

Another SAGANews year has come to an end and the fourth issue completed. It doesn’t seem that long ago I was looking at spring projects for the first issue of the year and now I have been photographing Christmas ornaments! Time flies when you are having fun!

Talking of fun, I was able to be at the second SAGA Retreat in St. Louis and was pleased to be able to meet and talk to a lot of First Time Attendees as well as catch up with some friends I only see once a year or sometimes once every few years. I love being a member of SAGA and having friends who enjoy the same type of work and understand my language (and I don’t mean my British English!). It is easy to sit at a meal table at a SAGA event and even if you don’t know anyone else at the table, you have so much in common you are soon talking like old friends. We need this type of interaction every now and then. It helps get the creative juices flowing and I always leave with a head full of wonderful ideas. Sometimes too many ideas, but at least I can plan projects for my future sewing enjoyment.

The word ‘project’ leads me to our Christmas ornaments. Thank you to Tawn Hunka and Cindy Peterson for sharing their work with us. Both ladies have shared some quick and easy designs you can use to make ornaments for friends and family and maybe even make ahead for next year’s Trees for Troops donations. These simple ornaments are also stash busters—using some of those Christmas fabrics you have in your fabric collection that you bought to make something else with but haven’t done so yet (yes, we all have some of those, don’t we?).

Project also brings to mind next year’s Convention in Winston-Salem and with that the Design Show, the details of which are in this issue. It is never too soon to start planning and working on your entry.

Our Artisan Achievers for 2017 know all about projects and completing them. Congratulations to the ladies who have completed their chosen levels this year and I hope that they will start work on the projects for their next level and that some more of you in the programme will join them as achievers next year!

This issue also contains the Annual Reports from the Board and Committee chairs, the financial audit as well as some items about the SAGA Retreat in St. Louis.

And one more project for you all to complete—an easy one—is paying your SAGA dues! If you don’t renew you will miss out on receiving SAGANews as well as the many other advantages of being a member.

Smock On!
Julie Stilwell
SAGA News Editor

Remember, SAGANews is your membership magazine and open to all ideas and comments from members and any such views or opinions presented in this magazine are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the organization.
Supplies used
- 1 inch antique wooden thread spool—Coates and Clark
- Satin Batiste
- DMC™ stranded floss color #321
- Beads from Hobby Lobby
- Spring from Lowes
- Ribbon

1. Measure inside height of spool—from top lip to bottom lip and double that length.
2. Measure circumference of spool and triple that width (depending on fabric used may need more/less).
4. Fold top edge down half way/fold bottom edge up to meet top edge.
5. Pleat number of rows that fit within the width.
6. Pull out pleating threads from edges approximately 1/4 - 3/8 inches.
8. Smock a simple design on the front.
9. If smocking in the round be sure to match up design and leave enough embroidery floss to finish design.
10. Block smocking and remove guide threads.
11. Finish design to bring full circle, but do not tie off floss.
12. With right sides together, stitch seam in valley of pleats.
13. Pull floss taut and tie off on wrong side.
15. Slip smocked cuff over spool.
16. If needed use double sided archival tape to hold cuff in place.

Design
1 step 1/2 space waves

Assembly of Thread Spool
Supplies
- Spring—Lowes-compression spring 7/32 x 1 5/8 x .015
- beads or charms
- Ribbon

1. After smocking is complete, slip cuff over thread spool. (Photo 1)
2. Gather all supplies needed in one area. (Photo 2)
3. Cut compression spring about 1/2 length of spool height using wire cutter.
4. With small needle nose pliers, bend each end of spring into a hook on which to attach beads. (Photo 3)
5. Attach bead or charm to top of spring and allow spring to drop into spindle hole of spool. (Photo 4)
6. Using needle nose pliers, reach into spindle hole and gently pull bottom end of spring out.
7. Attach bottom bead or other decorative charm to the hook of spring and allow to recoll into spindle hole.
2019 SAGA Convention in Addison, Texas

SAGA’s 40th Annual Convention celebrated the “Ruby” Anniversary in Addison, Texas. On Tuesday, Sept 17, 2019, I signed up for the pre-day Fashion field trip. The first stop was at the Texas Fashion Collection (TFC) located on the Denton campus of the University of North Texas (1155 Union Circle #305100, Denton, Texas, 940-565-2732).

Annette Becker, the TFC director, gave us our tour. She showed us the environmentally controlled storage room that contained more than 20,000 examples of couture and historically significant fashions. Clothing was hung on special padded hangers. Several mannequins were dressed in period clothing, so we could see the details on the garments.

The collection also contained minority clothing from different countries including jewelry and head pieces.
Later, Annette showed us some clothing that would spark our interest. A beautiful embroidered man’s green velvet jacket with embroidered buttons had many beautiful details.

Ralph Rucci designed this women’s suit in 2000 which feature an interesting buttonhole in the shape of a plus sign. Annette learned that the embroidery around the buttonholes were bullions. A gray suit had interest curved design lines and slanted welted pockets.

Annette showed us a 1958 pink taffeta cocktail dress that was hand smocked. Even the inside contained smocking.
Our 2nd stop was to visit the First Ladies of Texas Historic Gown Collection located at the Texas Woman’s University. This collection originally started in 1940 as a state project by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Gowns were from all of the Texas First Ladies dating back to the Republic, before Texas attained statehood. The gowns are rotated every so often. Adele Baron Lubbock’s gown was the most interesting and features red birds and blue and red half-moons on her gown. Laura Bush’s gown was the most beautiful with beautiful embroidery on the bodice and sleeves.

Our last stop was at the Denton Courthouse square. We had lunch on our own, did a little bit of shopping and ate handmade ice-cream at Beth Marie’s Old-Fashion Ice Cream and Soda.
On Wednesday, September 18, 2019, Phyllis Brown taught Carolyn: A Smocked and Embroidered Diaper Shirt. This is a very cute shirt with embroidery on the collar and sleeve caps and smocking on the bodice.

On Thursday, September 19, 2019, Judith Adams taught Duckling Delight. Cute yellow picture smocking ducks paraded around the bishop top. Matching blue pants coordinated with the bishop top.

During lunch, Anna Marie Phelps from Peanut Butter and Jelly Kids described the construction of the Azalea Trail Girls’ dresses (http://mobileazaleatrailmaids.com/) that she designs and constructs. Each year, 50 High School Junior students are selected as Mobile, AL state ambassadors/Azalea Trail Maids. They go through two levels of the interview process. They must be smart and poised and be knowledgeable about the city landmarks and history.
(See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azalea_Trail_Maids for more about the Azalea Trail Maids.)
Once selected, each maid learns which pastel color (yellow, blue, green, lavender and peach) extravagant southern bell shaped-style dress color she will wear. Only one maid will wear a pink pastel dress. She is the queen.

One year, Ann was the queen of her court, and Anna designed and made her ruffled and machine embroidered dress, gloves with monogrammed initials, machine embroidered bloomers with huge pockets to hold ice bags to keep her cool while walking in hot weather, an embroidered umbrella with ruffles, and garment bag.

Anna starts with showing different designs, ruffle designs, and embroidery for Ann to select. Construction takes many months, with several fittings and adjustments. Hundreds of yards of ribbon and fabric are used to make the ruffles. Anna uses horsehair under the bell-shaped skirt and to shape the ruffles. Once the dress is finished, Anna taught Ann how to dress and undress in this big dress, how to walk, and how to sit down in a lady like fashion. There’s a big celebration once the dress is completed. A special presentation was made to family and friends.

In the evening, we viewed the Design Show and Show & Share items. This year, Kim Gimblette achieved a SAGA Masters in Embroidery. She displayed her men’s white Linen shirt, a Blue Shawl with Heirloom lace design, jacket, and a few other items. Congratulations to Kim for accomplishing the 1st SAGA Masters in Embroidery!

On Friday, September 19th, Phyllis Brown taught me “For the Love of Needles”. We learned how to embroidered bullion roses and bud, the outline or stem stitch on the Navy and White linen. Later, we learned how to construct the Needle case.

In the afternoon, we had fun shopping at the SAGA Retail Market.
On Saturday, September 21, Judith Adams taught the A Cozy Time for Tea. We learned quite a few smocking stitches. I learned how to smock lace on to the pleated linen.

In the evening, the SAGA Annual Banquet was conducted. Kathy Pennock and I sat together with a few of Sandcastle members to enjoy their company and the dinner. New SAGA Officers were elected. Chris Sykes from Southern California will continue her second term as our SAGA president, and Cynthia Gilbert is our Region V representative.

Many raffle tickets were put into the Cable Car Cabler’s Raffle basket. The $50 gift certificates from Vaune Pierce, Farm House Fabrics, and Martha’s Heirlooms attracted a lot of attention. Ingrid donated a 2 in 1 Tailor Board/Clapper and an Iron Caddy. Jane O’Brien won our Raffle basket.

Cynthia sent CCC a thank you note for our CCC Raffle Basket. The proceeds from the Raffle baskets helps funds the SAGA education programs.
During this convention, over 800 Wee Care items were donated and many beautiful ornaments made for the troops.

On Sunday, September 22, Jeannie Baumeister taught “Rosebuds for Baby”. We embroidered many different types of rosebud. Some even had buttons.

Next year our national SAGA convention will be held in Pittsburgh, October 6 to 11, 2020, at the Double Tree by Hilton, Pittsburgh, Green Tree. Mark your calendar!

**Designer's Challenge 2020**

The theme for Designer's Challenge for the 2020 Design Show in Pittsburgh: "Entries must be a garment using your favorite Vintage pattern (1990 or earlier), Thrift Store find, or Family Heirloom as inspiration. You must create a newer version updating to a current or futuristic design". A picture of the original inspiration MUST be included! Don't forget you need to include one or more of SAGA's four areas of study (EMB, FHS, FMS, and/or SMK). This is just the theme for Designer's Challenge, not the entire Design Show! You can still do your own designs in the other categories (EMB, FHS, FMS or SMK). Deadline for registration is June 1, 2020!

**Happy Holidays and hope to see you in Pittsburgh next year!**

_Ingrid_
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Meeting Location
The Cable Car Cablers meet the 4th Tuesday of the month, except for December this year. Meetings start at 7 p.m.

San Mateo Medical Center Hospital
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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.

The article deadline for the January/February 2020 issue of Keeping Track is:

December 31, 2019 to Reba
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