Happy Spring to everyone! I don't know how Spring managed to sneak up upon us but, it has happened. All those winter projects I was going to get done are linger as time marches on! Last December, I was going to make myself a list, so I wouldn't get off track however, that did not happen. Here I am with more ideas than ever and way behind on my charity sewing.

Because of my delayed trip to Zambia, I will get to do Bunnyfest this year on May 22. It is so much fun to see people and their rabbits. They bring them in all sorts of ways. Last year there was one couple with two Flemish giants nestled in a double stroller converted for their rabbits. I was amazed they didn't just hop away. Not only were they settled in but, friendly for a pet on the head. Another lady had her friendly mini Rex in a basket with a flower headband around her ears. I whipped up a total of 39 fleece/flannel cuddle blankets and 6 quilted/cotton crate covers for our booth to sell. Like every animal fan, people buy them for their pet. I have time to use to whip up some boutique items as well. We did well last year with profits, of course, to the bunnies. You can read more at www.therabbithaven.org

London was fun and the wedding quite interesting. In England you can have a civil ceremony but not unless it is held in an approved venue and presented by an approved civil wedding person. Needless to say, your buddy with an internet marrying license cannot perform in your backyard in England! The weather for England was actually quite dry except for the few showers at night however, it was cold! It was 37-41°F and numbing for this California girl. I was grateful for my silk unders, my long New York winter coat, and my hot water bottle. We went from our friends house in London to their house in Kenilworth where it was windier and therefore colder. We bundled up more. My husband, who rarely even wears a coat, added a sweater, scarf and wool hat to his outside wear. We explored castle ruins and a Victorian house. Two days after we got home it snowed in Kenilworth. We did a tour of Windsor. I wanted to specifically see the Queen Mary doll house. It alone was worth the trip not to mention the rest of the castle. The Queen was in residence but, alas no tea invite. I did get to do a short trip to Liberty and managed to get two half meters of cotton. There was a special exhibit of Liberty fashions through the years at the...
fashion museum. I had a husband free afternoon in Harrods. I got to check out the smocked children's clothes selling for quite a few pounds. So many places to still explore; I guess I have to return.

I hope everyone got their wool ball for embellishment to be returned at the May meeting. You can enter it in the fair because fair turn-in is the week after our May meeting. This is a fun project to get creative. If you missed the handouts, contact Margaret or myself and we will get one to you. Happy creating ahead!

My Zambia trip is on course. Because of illness on the part of one person and his party of five scheduled in May, I got an email while in London to see if I would go in July instead? Actually better for me as it leaves me time to get more things done. I need 4 vaccines to go and have had 3 of them. The last for pneumonia. It whooped me out for about 36 hours. I've recovered and on I speed. Drugs for headache, generalized joint discomfort and my hot water bottle for my arm all helped. I hope number four doesn't put me off so much. I want to get sewing on some purses to take with me. Please check out www.sewpowerful.org. They are the organization from Seattle area I will be traveling with and the ones who started the co-operative. I feel so lucky and blessed to be able to participate in this mission.

Thank you to those who were able to come for Wee Care workshop on March 19. Thank you to all those who emailed back their abilities to attend or not, as it made it easier for me to plan what we were able to get done. We got 20 gowns ready and they all got pleated at our March meeting. If you live away and want one or more to smock please let Denise or myself know. We will be glad to send you supplies or just a gown. Please note, we know not everyone likes to do completion work, hats or blankets. Wee Care is grateful for what you can and will do. We have others who like the completion process so please don't be shy for what you can or like best to do.

I have not yet had a chance to study the Virginia convention offerings in the most recent SAGAnews. Not wanting to take a machine, I’ll be looking at hand classes only this time. Not driving this year. Don't want to leave my pigz that long. If I do decide to go I will fly and rent a car to check out the area.

I hope you are all working on your fair items. I should be home doing that but, I am off again. Off in April to a wedding near Seattle. The bride is the daughter of my childhood friend. I will also be visiting another friend from high school years who moved to Lummi Island in the San Juans..

Everyone, stay well, sew like crazy. Please work in some Wee Care time. Enjoy every day we have as a special one ..... they are a gift. Cheers!

Irene
Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to Gloria who celebrates April 4th, to Denise who celebrates April 9th, and to Kathy who celebrates April 30th. Happy Birthday to Lucie who celebrates May 10th. Happy 60th to Lynn who celebrates on June 12th and Happy Birthday to Irene who celebrates on June 28th. Happy Birthday ladies!

Wee Care

Thank you to Gladys, Jill, Maggie, and Irene who attended our March 19th Wee Care Workshop. We made good progress on construction of gowns for smocking. The gowns were pleated at our March meeting. Denise will kit them for distribution. Remember that you can do any part of the process, smocking only or finishing only.

Denise made a delivery of Wee Care items to the Stanford NICU in March. The Wee Care items were quite appreciated and they are stored under lock and key so that they don’t disappear and can be found when they are needed.

Jill won the quarterly raffle. Congratulations Jill!

There is no current Wee Care Workshop scheduled, so please be working at home. We can look into scheduling another workshop when our busy spring months are over. Denise will be looking into obtaining additional nice to smock fabric as our current inventory is getting low.

Pleater Available

Reba is in touch with someone who has a 16 row Read pleater available. Please contact Reba if interested.
Margaret’s Report

HAPPY SPRING! YAY DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME!
Thank you Vickie Day and Mary Schumacher for arranging the availability of the classroom space for all of our upcoming meetings and events. This great space is a luxury not many groups are able to enjoy.

March Meeting
A new member challenge was unveiled at the March 22nd meeting to give us all the opportunity to create something fabulous from another unusual source in time for the San Mateo County Fair. If you wish to participate but were unable to attend the meeting, please contact me to save you a starting kit. Finished challenge items are due at our May meeting.

April Meeting
This is the date for our annual Stash Bash. It allows us to clear out our sewing room a bit and add to the chapter coffers at the same time. It’s easy to participate, pull out the fabrics in good condition you wish to pass along, measure and fold or roll, attach a paper slip with yardage and content information to the fabric along with a price. Patterns, complete needlework kits, books and other sewing related items are also welcome.

May Meeting
Bring your completed challenge item to show the group and since fair items are not due until May 31/June 1, you can show and share and still have it be entered in the fair. The remainder of the meeting will be a sit & stitch. Think: smocked Wee Care.

June Meeting:
Bring your fair items for show and share, so we can admire them up close and personal.

Margaret
Jane Briscoe Workshop
August 6th and 7th

Cable Car Cablers has been fortunate to receive a SAGA grant to help fund a workshop with Jane Briscoe on August 6th and 7th this year.

We are offering two 6 hour classes, Italian Smocked Pin Cushion and Mock Crazy Patch Pincushion. They will advance our aptitude in both smocking and embroidery while we learn fine points working on small, personal sewing items. A sewing machine is not required for either class but will be needed for finishing at home.

Class maximum is 25 people. The cost is $75 per person for 2 days and includes the kits and class fees. This workshop is open to chapter members only. Sign up will begin at our April meeting.

Class projects with pictures can be found on Jane’s website:
http://www.janebriscoeheirlooms.com/italian_smocked_pincushion_sm.jpg
http://www.janebriscoeheirlooms.com/mock_crazy_patch_pincushion.htm

Member Update
Fran in the North
Fran has almost completed her move back home to Powell River, British Columbia. If you would like to send her a note, her email address remains the same at forsythe.f@gmail.com

For snail mail, you can temporarily use:

Fran Forsythe
C/o Norma Smith
Gunther Road
Box 21
Powell River, BC V8A 4Z2
CANADA
Spring Time Tea
Jill Efting has graciously invited us to gather at her beautiful home for our annual Tea and SAGA Trunk Show on Saturday, June 4th at 1 o’clock in the afternoon. Jill asks that you bring your favorite teacup and be prepared to share why you brought that cup. As usual please bring food for the tea. Jill will be sending out directions closer to the date.
Lace Museum

Bridal Exhibit 2016

On exhibit January 15 through June 25, 2016, at The Lace Museum, 552 S. Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA

“From This Day Forward” features wedding gowns and accessories from 1905 to 1985. Handmade bobbin lace, needle lace and modern machine laces are used for lingerie, fans, gloves, bags, gowns and veils. Open 10-4, Tues-Sat. and 7-9 on Second Fridays. For details visit: www.thelacemuseum.org or call (408) 730-4695

From This Day Forward: A look at 20th Century Brides

Some twentieth century brides selected spectacular gowns for a once-in-a-lifetime moment. Others, like their practical Victorian grandmothers, chose a best dress: a day suit or cocktail dress that could be worn again and again. Examples of both are featured at a new exhibit at The Lace Museum in Sunnyvale through May, 2016. Exquisite hand made and machine made lace is featured on the gowns, veils, gloves, shoes, handkerchiefs and other accessories that made up a proper wedding trousseau.

A special case features lace accessories made as gifts for modern brides by members of the Lace Museum Guild.

Visitors are encouraged to bring or send a photo of their own wedding gown (or of other family members’ gowns) for inclusion in a book of gowns to be on display throughout the exhibit. Photocopies or printouts are OK. Do not bring originals as the photos will not be returned. Include the date and place of the wedding.

Our gift shop features many lace-related items and books. For information on classes and other events, visit www.thelacemuseum.org.

San Mateo County Fair

Cable Car Cablers will host an information table at the San Mateo County Fair on Sunday, June 12th. Please note this the finalized date, we will not be there on Saturday, June 11th as was previously discussed. Christie has the sign up list and will be distributing tickets. You must give her a self addressed stamped envelope, so that she can mail you your ticket and parking pass. Please bring display items for the time you are at the booth. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the annual event at a perfect price – free.

Volunteer List

12-1 pm Sue and Margaret
1-2 pm Vickie and Denise
2-3 pm Christie and Rosemary
3-4 pm Carol and Irene
4-5 pm Ingrid and Gladys

Direct any question you may have about the fair to Christie.
SAGA Convention 2016
Convention this year will be held in Hampton, Virginia September 20-25, 2016. Schedule and registration information are in the February issue of SAGAnews and online. Registration opens on May 15th.

San Mateo County Fair
June 11-19, 2016
San Mateo Event Center
Important Dates
Tuesday May 10, entry forms due by midnight
Tuesday May 31 2-8 pm entries received
Wednesday June 1 2-8 pm entries received
Monday June 20 2-7 pm pick up your entries

Check it out!
http://quiltskipper.com/2015/08/13/frixion-pens-all-you-need-to-know/
Do you like to use Frixion pens to mark your fabric? This website has a good article on them.

Oscar de la Renta: The Retrospective
de Young Museum, San Francisco
March 12-May 30, 2016
http://deyoung.famsf.org/exhibitions/oscar-de-la-renta-retrospective

Contra Costa Quilt Show
Concord, CA
April 2-3, 2016
http://www.gqccc.org/quilt-show/
Shamelessly promoted by guild members
Reba and Irene

Refreshments
April  Maggie
May  Sue
June  Solly
July  Catherine
August Christie
CABLE CAR CABLERS OFFICERS

President
Irene Thomas 415-823-5918
wabbit91@earthlink.net

Vice-President
Margaret Church-Ish
415-846-7609
margei@comcast.net

Secretary
Gloria Barkis (408) 264-0340
gbbg@att.net

Treasurer & Membership
Cindy Cohan 650-349-9146
c_cohan@hotmail.com

Newsletter
Lynn Cope Conroy 650-728-1424
lynncc@me.com
Irene Thomas 415-823-5918
wabbit91@earthlink.net

Hospitality
Catherine Ljungquist
(415) 525-1915
cljungquist@yahoo.com

Wee Care
Denise Kelly 510-339-3758
sewcrazydek28@gmail.com

Librarian
Irene Thomas 415-823-5918
wabbit91@earthlink.net

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Meeting Location
The Cable Car Cablers meet the 4th Tuesday of the month, except for November and December. Meetings start at 7 p.m.
San Mateo Medical Center Hospital
222 W. 39th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

SAGA Contact Info
Region V representative
Chris Sykes
regionfive@smocking.org

SAGA
PO Box 150917
Nashville, TN 37215-9998
Telephone: 817-350-4883

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.