Smocking Arts Guild of America
Yankee Chapter
Cumberland, Rhode Island

May, 2014 Issue
This Month’s Meeting:  Monday, May 12, 2014
Doors Open at 6:30 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, then about 2 miles to Hillside Road.)

2013-2014 Officers

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May Hostesses:
Rosalie Nocera
Lynda Whittemore

Remaining Meeting Dates for This Year:

June 9 – Yard Sale!!

Basic Sewing Machine Maintenance Tips
From www.sewcanshe.com

Here’s a short article on basic maintenance for your best friend – your sewing machine!!

http://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/2013/12/3/basic-sewing-machine-maintenance

And some troubleshooting steps for when your best friend is acting up!

http://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/2013/8/26/sewists-troubleshooting-steps-for-the-frustrated-sewist

Whether your machine is a newfangled model or an oldie-but-still-goodie, you can always find some useable tips and information to keep her running smoothly!
He's a Prince of a Boy!

Thanks to William & Kate for dressing little Prince George in the height of fashion – a smocked suit!

And speaking of boys....

Do you sew for boys? Here’s another link passed along by Kathy Dacey: “The Mega List of Boy Sewing Patterns”!

Just about everything you could possibly want to make for a boy is on this list. (Please note that most, if not all, of the items on this list are downloadable patterns that have an accompanying charge; these are not freebies.)


French Bias Piping Tutorial

Thanks to Kathy Dacey for passing along this information. Learn to do beautiful French bias piping:

http://www.fromthesehands.net/tutorials/2012/5/16/french-bias-piping-tutorial.html

Needlebook Tutorial

By nanaCompany

I just adore this cute little needlebook! It’s yet another small project that is very easily completed yet gives a great sense of satisfaction. Check it out here:


YANKEE CHAPTER
PROPOSED 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 - ???
Scrapbook/Photographer - Nancy Beauregard
Hospitality - ???
Sunshine - Del Burd
Service Project - ???
Archivist - Karen Ouhrabka
Door Prize - Rosalie Nocera
Yard Sale - Ruthann Sisson & Karen Ouhrabka
FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Our May Program!
From Kathy Dacey

Kathy Dacey will be leading a program on a cute "smocked" dress, using a smocking system which involves no pleater! Please bring a piece of fabric which is approximately 18 inches wide and at least 10 inches long. This can be a practice piece, or something you definitely want to put in as an insert. If you know you want to use it for a child's garment, you can bring the entire piece - this design is best used in a simple A-line dress, as a design feature in a yoke dress, or inserted tuxedo-style into a basic, simple dress.

The smocking can be dressed up by using beads or pearls, or by using small buttons. This is a very quick, yet clever project, which has limitless design possibilities. The finished garment is perfect for a sundress, as we are HOPEFULLY heading in to warmer weather! It also can be used for an older girl's garment, if done on appropriate fabric.

Plain fabric would be best. Second best would be something with obvious vertical lines on it. An overall print, with no lines worked into it, would be inappropriate.

Show & Share – April 2014

Donna Boucher showed her Susie Gay dress and bonnet in pink and white, created in a class at Sewing at the Beach with Susie Gay. Donna also showed her “Molly Dolly Dress” (on her Molly doll!) made of Ulster linen fabric with pulled-thread work. Also displayed were Donna’s coasters made in a recent program taught by Kathy Dacey.

Rosalie Nocera showed her cute little bag from a make it-take it session at the Worcester Sewing Expo. She also showed her booties and bonnet with special ribbon braid trim. Rosalie had lost the instructions for this trim but found out that Google is our friend! She was able to locate a complete tutorial with photographs so that she could complete these projects. Rosalie even showed a necklace she made using the braided ribbon technique.

Donna Costa showed two projects created from kits purchased at last week’s Worcester Expo. One kit was a stacked pincushion featured in the booklet “Moda Candy – Oh Sew Sweet”, 18 projects made from Moda Fabric’s precut candy squares (each packet contains 42 - 2” squares of fabric); the name of this fabric collection is “Little Black Dress”. The other was a triangle shaped box made with a Peltex center. Donna also showed two items donated for door prizes: a microwave bowl holder (so you don’t burn your hands on hot soup or oatmeal bowls!) and a reusable Swiffer replacement made with fleece and used dryer sheets – the ultimate in recycling and “green chic”!

Marge Savage showed her completed smocked Easter Basket with many cute embellishments, and also her adorable bunny made in a class at the community house. We plan to have the same instructor for our November program and will make a snowman about the same size as Marge’s bunny!

Edith Brousseau also showed her completed Easter Basket, which was chock-full of all the smocked eggs she has made over the years! Edith also showed her gorgeous girl’s dress which is Gail Doane’s pattern in the Susan O’Connor party dress book, in spring green with green gingham trimming and a beautiful smocked belt.

Karen Ouhrabka showed her completed Kari Mecca girl’s dress with a matching doll dress too! Karen also displayed a bunch of lovely sample garments that she had purchased at the Martha Pullen school last February, including one outfit that she was proudly wearing.

Lynda Whittemore showed a group of cute projects including burp cloths, a Christmas table runner and mug rug, a Valentine’s Day door decoration, a nutcracker placemat, a lion onesie, and a Wee Care gown.
Magazine Reviews! From Kathy Dacey

*Sew Beautiful Issue No. 154 & Sew Beautiful Favorite Heirloom Sewing Designs*

It will be painful to lose Sew Beautiful, as it is the last remaining magazine which focused on heirloom sewing. This is a lovely issue, with many adorable photos of patterns made up beautifully. I really enjoyed the "Sweet Summer Dreams Nightgown", which also had a matching dress made up for an 18" doll. The shadow work was elegant and sweet. Debbie Glenn has an adorable set of baby outfits, one for a girl and a matching one for the boy, featuring little dogs on them, and I really loved the tug boat embroidery on a little boy's one piece romper. There are excellent directions in the back to help you duplicate these garments. It will be a sad day to get the last issue of this magazine.*

Also currently available at Joann's Fabrics (Editor’s Note - at Barnes & Noble too) is a special issue put out by Sew Beautiful called "Favorite Heirloom Sewing Designs". This is the 2014 Summer Issue, and costs $14.99. Joann's no longer honors their coupons for magazines, so it will cost the full $14.99. I did feel that this publication was well worth the cost - it is a lovely magazine which has many, many design ideas, along with a pullout pattern section. It includes patterns for two absolutely adorable diaper shirt and pants for both a girl and boy, which, to me, made this well worth the cover price. The next article is another adorable diaper set, in a pattern done by Debbie Glenn. Debbie works her machine magic, making this darling outfit special with the addition of simple, yet elegant, tucks going down the front. The instructions for the continuous thread to eliminate the thread ending at the bottom of the tuck are very clear and concise. The directions for the shell hem are also excellent.

The best article in this issue was the one by Debbie Glenn - "Stacked Success" about how to improve your picture smocking. This article was fabulous - clear as a bell, great illustrations, fabulous tips and everything you need to know to achieve perfect picture smocking. A bit of extra attention to the details, and the right preparation will result in a gorgeous garment! Debbie outdid herself with this article - all the more reason to add this issue to your permanent library. There are additional garments by Jeannie Downs Baumeister, Cheryl Davidson, Wendy Schoen, Amelia Johanson and Paige Alexander (among others), which are lovely, inspiring and make for very enjoyable reading. I highly recommend purchasing this publication if you keep a library of books and magazines for inspiration and information. Don't wait too long, as this is a special limited-edition publication. **

Some Comments from Your Editor

*Editor’s Note: According to Sew Beautiful’s Facebook page, existing subscribers will receive Sew News magazine for the remainder of their subscription term. I’m not so sure that the ladies who paid for SB will be happy with this substitution. Sew News has turned into a very thin magazine without much substance, having none of its former glory – at one time it was pretty much the only sewing magazine out there. In any case, it’s certainly not anywhere near the quality of SB. Just my opinion!

**Editor’s Note: I also purchased this fabulous magazine, but in my case the digital edition. I truly love getting all my magazines on my tablet…cuts down the clutter, yet makes all this wonderful information available to me on demand! (I know - everyone’s rolling their eyes right now and saying - here goes Donna the techie again, trying to convert us! 😁) Anyway, I wanted to offer a list of all the patterns that are included in this issue: Build-A-Bib Baby Romper with bib and pocket options in sizes NB to 18 months; Diaper Shirt & Pants Pattern in NB to 12 months; Halter & Capri Pants Pattern in Sizes 3-6; Sophia’s Sun Slip in Sizes 2-10; and the Hidden Yoke Dress in Sizes 12M to 3T. ‘As Kathy said, it’s really a nice value-packed publication; imagine what all of those patterns would cost if bought separately!

I also wanted to point out something that made me giggle. I second Kathy’s kudos about the great article by Debbie Glenn called “Stacked Success” that teaches everything you need to know about picture smocking in a very clear and concise way. However, I must sheepishly admit that some of Debbie’s “bad” examples look pretty good to me; in fact, they look like my picture smocking. Whoops!! 😊
Sewing Magazine Alternatives!
By Kathy Dacey

Since SAGA enthusiasts will shortly be losing Sew Beautiful - which has only one more issue to go - I have been diligent about ordering other sewing magazines. Here are two that I highly recommend.

**Vogue Patterns** - June/July 2014 issue is on the newsstand now. This magazine, which started as a publication to promote purchasing Vogue patterns, has truly expanded into a full-fledged sewing magazine. Every issue has fabulous construction articles - this month I loved the page of "Must Haves" with a cute necklace which states "I have a fabric problem". So TRUE!! The little Task LED light also looks great. The article "Decorative Stitching Demystified" was very interesting - with many, many illustrations of potential combinations - many which can be used on heirloom style garments. The magazine always features garments which are just a little "outside the box" and always has a fitting article with design suggestions. I find the pages where the latest Vogue patterns are made up very inspiring - it is an education to see which fabrics are chosen to make in to each pattern, and all of the accessories they select to finish the look. I have always enjoyed this magazine, and this issue was an enjoyable read.

**Threads** - July, 2014, Issue no. 173 is on the newsstand now. This is the premier sewing magazine - focusing on couture and basic skills all at the same time. I have noticed that they are covering children's garments just a bit more. This month's issue had a great article on collar construction (with a collar band) and an adorable project for holding all of the various rulers we have, which seem to multiply during the night! The articles are always inspiring, and bring to mind something additional which can be added to a simple project to take it from "home made plain" to "home made fabulous". I always find that this magazine is well worth the price of the subscription. *

*Editor’s Note: You can get Threads in a digital edition too. I do!* 😊

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**Whoa!**

If anyone ever tells you that you hoard too much fabric, show them this person’s blog:

http://www.sewwequilt.com/2010/10/welcome-to-my-underwear-drawer.html?m=1

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**Yikes!**

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**Head-Slapping Sewing Tip of the Month!**

Sometimes you see a sewing tip online, and you smack yourself in the head and say – it's so simple, why didn’t I think of that?! And this is one of those moments. Please, check out this blog post passed along by Kathy Dacey. Amazing!!

http://www.makeit-loveit.com/2014/05/sewing-tip-no-more-stubborn-straight-pins.html
Infinity Scarf Tutorial

Here’s a lovely tutorial on how to make a spring-appropriate, lightweight infinity scarf out of six fat quarters!

http://www.theribbonretreat.com/blog/diy-infinity-scarf.html

Clear Your Calendars! Susie Gay is coming to Yankee Chapter on November 8 & 9!

An information sheet/registration form for this event was distributed at the April meeting and is also included with this newsletter. Be sure to send in your checks as soon as possible to hold your place! We will be creating the gorgeous “Purse Reticule” which is Class #127 at the SAGA Convention in Orlando; a photo of the project is below.

FROM THE DOOR PRIZE COMMITTEE

Donna Costa donated a great prize: a fabric bowl to hold your microwaved soups or your morning oatmeal, so you don’t have hot hands! The lucky recipient will get a completed fabric bowl along with directions for making one.

For a second door prize, Rosalie will make another fabric bag like the one she made at the Make it/Take it table up at the Worcester Expo. It's a nice size, not really large, yet roomy inside.

So don't miss the May meeting, and make sure you get a door prize ticket.

SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

In April we received a total of 91 knitted bonnets from Norma, as well as 5 smocked bonnets and 2 crocheted bonnets. Thanks to all!

In addition, Kathy Dacey reports that she dropped off a bagful of smocked and knitted hats at the Boston Medical Center NICU (formerly Boston City Hospital). The hospital was very thankful to receive the hats, and also said that they would be happy to receive some hats in a slightly larger size for the bigger children. Let’s see what we can do about that request.

In addition, we have received our annual invitation to the “Thank You Breakfast” from Women & Infants Hospital. This year our Chapter will be ably represented by Jane Eskelund, Nancy Beauregard, Sharon Simoneau, and Karen Ouhrabka.

THE YANKEE YARD SALE: IT’S GETTING CLOSER!

Ladies, you’ve got just one more month to scour those garages, basements and attics, because it’s almost time for our annual Yard Sale in June!

We appreciate sewing-related items most of all, but just about anything that is in good, usable condition is welcome.

We are also seeking top-of-the-line items for our Silent Auction. If you have something you’re willing to donate for that purpose, it would be helpful to contact Ruthann Sisson prior to the event so that she can keep track of how many Silent Auction items we are expecting.

Thanks for your participation in this great annual event!
NEXT MEETING – May 12, 2014 – WHAT TO BRING:

- Your Regular Sewing & Smocking Supplies & Piece of Fabric as Detailed in the Program Report
- Show-and-Share Items
- Preemie Bonnets
- Donations for Door Prize Committee
- Your Nametag and Coffee Mug

Reminder: Please notify Del Burd of any Sunshine Committee needs.

Yankee Chapter SAGA
c/o Donna A. Costa
200 Post Road, Unit 606
Warwick, RI 02888

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, Donna Boucher, to let her know so that she can in turn arrange for coverage. Thank you!

REMINDER: DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!
Please see Rosalie or Lynda.
Yankee Chapter SAGA is hosting Susie Gay November 8 and 9, 2014

Susie will be teaching The Purse Reticle. Susie is an approved SAGA teacher and is the owner of Berryhill Heirlooms in Smithfield, Virginia. She has had several articles published in Sew Beautiful Magazine, Sew News Magazine, Creative Needle Magazine and SAGA News. Susie has also had a booth at National SAGA convention and has taught classes at Sewing at the Beach.

The Reticle Purse is a sewing notion carrier in the shape of a unique purse made out of silk. After untying the cord, the purse opens flat (19 x 20) to reveal a pincushion with attached emery, scissor case, needle case and two long cases to hold pens etc. The cases are embroidered and beaded before being attached to the inside of the purse. The outside of the purse is embroidered with a monogram in silk ribbon and the other side with flowers.

Susie will be teaching several silk ribbon and embroidery stitches and the cord for the side ties. The rest of the purse will be constructed at home with detailed instructions. You can view a picture of the project on her website, berryhillheirlooms.com.

This class is a two day hand sewing class that will take place at Arnold Mills Community House, 75 Hillside Road (off route 114) Cumberland, RI.

The price is $145.00 for two days and includes a complete kit. Please make checks payable to Yankee Chapter SAGA for the full amount.

Name________________________________________________________________________________________

Address_____________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone_______________________________________________________________________________________

Please send checks for the full amount to:

Jane Beehr, 19 Longmeadow Rd., Norfolk, Ma.02056

email questions to: Jane Beehr, smckfrck@aol.com or Cindy Lambrecht, prof75@aol.com