Smocking Arts Guild of America
Yankee Chapter
Cumberland, Rhode Island

March, 2016 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: March 14, 2016

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.)

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Yankee Friends,

Here it is March already! Wow! My granddaughter Maddie just had her first birthday on February 27th!!!

Don't know if anyone has been to the SAGA website, but Theresa Ellenwood is teaching us an adorable wee care gown smock-along project!!

Many thanks to Donna for copying the pattern for me, as I don't have a printer- maybe someday.

So I hope to make one for service project for convention, then we can win the preemie wee care basket!! LOL 😊

I'm so happy that I have finished my SATB projects this year. Wow!! Guess the long winter nights have been put to good use!!

Just received the SAGA booklet with convention projects. I would like to send another basket to represent us and help out SAGA. If you have anything you would like to donate, please bring it to meeting so we can get an early start on making a nice basket!!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting. I miss my friends!!

Sincerely,
Sandi

26th Annual Art Show and Sale – April 8, 9, & 10, 2016

Arnolds Mills Community House
75 Hillside Road, Cumberland

"Meet the Artist Night"
Friday, April 8 – 7 to 9 p.m.
Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday and Sunday, April 9 & 10 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Featuring watercolor, oils, photography, ceramics, and multi-media works by local artists.
Our March Program: An Easter Surprise!

Sandi decided that we needed an Easter-themed project for this month’s meeting! Please bring your regular sewing and smocking supplies to the meeting. A kit will be available (anticipated cost is $3.00-$4.00).

The actual design is a surprise, but it may involve something egg-shaped, and smocked!

Debbie Glenn’s Smocked Block Purse – Program Postponed until April!

Next month, Sandi Thurston will start us off on our Smocked Block Purse program. This will give us an opportunity to review the pattern and gather our materials. This is planned as a two-month project so we’ll be working on the purse in May as well. After that, it’s June, and time for the Yard Sale!

Craftsy Website Now Features an Heirloom Sewing Class!

The wonderful website Craftsy (www.craftsy.com) sponsors many online classes on lots of topics including sewing, needle arts, and cooking. Last month they began offering a new class called “Heirloom Sewing: Essential Techniques” taught by Susan Stewart (formerly a Martha Pullen instructor). The class features 9 lessons on various topics including lace shaping, entredeux, tucks & pintucks, Shark’s teeth, Madeira applique, cathedral lace windows, and smocking. The cost of the class is $49.99; however, if you sign up to receive Craftsy’s promotional e-mails, they do offer frequent discounts (often as much as 50% off!).

Once you purchase a class from Craftsy, your access never expires – the class is yours forever, and you can watch as many times as you’d like, on your computer or tablet (both iPad and Kindle have a dedicated Craftsy app). This class has been rated 5 out of 5 stars by Craftsy students!
MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

All memberships to SAGA were due by December 31, 2015.

If you have already paid your dues, PLEASE bring proof of your paid membership to the March meeting. We must have this information on file in order to remain part of our National SAGA organization.

Thank you!

Free Pattern: The Pixie Basket!

Heidi Staples, a/k/a “The Fabric Mutt”, has designed this adorable little project, the Pixie Basket. It’s the perfect size for holding small notions, and your sewing friends would LOVE to receive this as a gift! Heck, even your non-sewing friends could find a use for a Pixie Basket – maybe a convenient holder for jewelry, or bathroom stuff, or just about anything that needs to be “contained” in a pretty way! If you have an hour, you can make a basket. Get the instructions here:

http://fabricmutt.blogspot.com/2016/02/the-pixie-basket-tutorial.html

Photo from The Fabric Mutt Website

BOOK REVIEW

By Donna Costa

Sew & Stow: 31 Fun Sewing Projects to Carry, Hold, and Organize Your Stuff, Your Home, and Yourself!
By Betty Oppenheimer
Publisher: Storey Publishing; 2008; 192 Pages, Softcover; List $16.95 (Amazon’s Price: $12.79, Kindle $9.99)

I read the digital version of this book through my local library. The book concentrates on what the author calls “practical” projects, which are arranged within the book in order of complexity, starting with very simple, flat shapes and progressing into more complicated items. The author talks a lot about designing your own projects, using the admittedly very simplistic designs in this book as a jumping-off point for your own explorations. I did feel that there was a strange dichotomy throughout the book, because the patterns wouldn’t attract more experienced sewers (who are presumably ready to jump into designing their own individualized projects), yet there were not enough diagrams/drawings for a sewing beginner to follow what was being done to create the projects. The author’s tone throughout the book is very warm and encouraging, which is a plus.

The first chapters cover the usual introductory information on basic sewing machine skills, choosing fabrics, sewing tools, types of seams, gathers, binding, etc. Then the projects begin, with things like a hammock, a shower curtain, a lumber tote, a simple apron and after-swim wrap. After that, things with pockets are featured, like a knitting needle tote, a tool roll, and a visor organizer. The next chapters include various types of bags, sacks and totes, a shoe caddy, cushion cover, carry-along seat, dog bed, bedroll, and lunch bag. Nothing innovative or unusual, just good basic patterns for useful things.
NEXT MEETING – March 14, 2016 – What to Bring:

- Sewing & Smocking Supplies
- Dessert/Refreshments
- Show-and-Share Items
- Service Project Items
- Donations for Door Prizes

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 REMAINING MEETING DATES 2016

April 11
May 9
June 13 (Yard Sale)

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, DON’T FORGET TO SIGN IN AND PICK UP YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKETS!

Yankee Chapter SAGA
c/o Donna A. Costa
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