A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Yankee Friends,

Happy Mothers’ Day! Sorry I missed you all last month, but I had a bad cold and it just seems to linger. Hadn’t been sewing since I was not feeling the greatest, but now I’m better and it’s so nice to be smocking again!!

Many thanks to Jane Connelly for doing our program last month. Hope to see all of yours in all the different colored threads!

I also hope you have all sent in your SAGA membership dues in order to belong to our Yankee Chapter. I thought I had sent mine in, and received an e-mail the first week of April… oops, when I looked in my checkbook I found out that I hadn’t sent my dues after all. So I hope you are all not like your President! Please forgive me for being a bad example. I will make sure I pay next year before January… I get so excited about SATB that I forget!

I’m hoping for some warmer weather to get out in my gardens and weed! Hope to see you at the meeting!

Sandi

SURPRISE! Those bins are outta here!

We were surprised at the last meeting to find that construction had already begun on the new handicapped-accessible bathroom at the Community House, thus necessitating that all of our bins of books/magazines and other assorted stuff had to be removed! A million thanks to everyone who took home a bin (or more). At some point we’ll make a list of what ended up with whom, and figure out a plan for the future of our library.
OUR MAY PROGRAM: Collapsible Thread Catcher Taught by Kathy Dacey and Jane Connelly

Just look at this awesome thread catcher! For the diligent student, this project can be completed at our meeting! If you chat away, you won’t finish, so come ready to focus… if you do, you will be able to take home a completed, absolutely adorable thread catcher!!!

This is the perfect take-along accessory when heading out to class with one of our fabulous SAGA teachers - or a lovely gift for a friend who sews or knits. Kathy will have a variety of fabrics to choose from, and all the supplies needed to finish this easy, yet very helpful project. A sewing machine will be available to use. Please bring your regular sewing supplies also.

Your estimated kit cost will be $6.00 (still not quite firm at press time!). This will include the wooden hoop and fabric to make the thread catcher along with printed instructions.

Come ready to have a good time!

SHOW AND SHARE – APRIL!

Donna Boucher showed her bathrobe in hot pink pinwale corduroy, made from a pattern by Autumn Leaves. Donna also showed her Stumpwork Dandelion created in a class with Jan Kerton at SATB 2015. In addition, Donna brought her fabulous T-Shirt Quilt, made from music-oriented T-shirts collected by her husband’s nephew and his wife at various concerts. Donna even quilted this huge quilt on her domestic sewing machine!

Marie Cobleigh finished her beautiful Purse Reticule from our November workshop! Marie also showed her flip-flop placemats, and a three-piece sewing set of machine cover, accessory bag, and thread catcher, made “in-the-hoop”.

Karen Ouhrabka showed a knitted Easter hat for her new grandbaby; a serged eyeglass case; and a Connie Palmer smocked dress that she started at Sewing at the Beach, which featured rick-rack and piping at the hem.

Donna Costa showed her completed Easter Bunny Wall Hanging. Another item shown was the “Bionic Gear Bag”, a pattern by “Ripstitcher”, which is available online in .pdf format. This bag is designed with many pockets, both zippered and open, and it’s meant to hold every sewing supply you could possibly need for a class! It has a matching, snap-in dish (similar in shape to the fabric microwave bowl holders Donna had brought to a previous meeting) and another coordinating zippered case called the Dumpling Dish.

Thanks for all the fabulous show-and-share this month!
BOOK REVIEW
By Sandi Thurston

Whimsy Flowers & Trims: Sewing Embellishments with Ribbon & Fabric
(Includes a full set of punch-out Whimsy Sticks)
By Kari Mecca
Published by KP Craft, 2014
Paperback; 128 pages

Kari Mecca’s newest book is on sewing embellishments with ribbon and fabric. It shows great detail with a lot of pictures on how to make twisted star medallion, double daisies, roses, pinwheel medallions and more!!

I didn’t realize how many different flowers you can make with ribbon trims and fabric. I definitely will use this book soon for my Maddie!!

If anyone wishes to borrow the book let me know… you are welcome to!

BOOK REVIEW
By Donna Costa

Sewing to Sell: The Beginner’s Guide to Starting a Craft Business – How to Sell Locally and Online (with 16 Bonus Projects)
By Virginia Lindsay
Published by C&T Publishing/Stash Books, 2014
Paperback; 152 pages

Even if you’re not interested in starting a sewing business on Etsy or at local craft shows, this book is a useful resource.

Of course, there are tips on tools to buy and how to set up your sewing space, choosing quality fabrics, and sewing multiples of a particular design. Pricing and packaging are also covered, and there are short interviews with a few sewers who are making a living from their craft. But the best part of this book are the included projects, which are all useful items. They include an adorable craft apron, a classic insulated lunch bag, place mat and napkin set, drawstring backpack, quick and cool grocery tote, tablet sleeve, kid-sized trimmed messenger bag, baby bib & burp cloth, great big tote bag, reversible pillow covers, and zipped pouch. There’s even a very easy to make small quilt, perfect for a beginner project.

I have already made two projects from the book, the Two at a Time Oven Mitts (which I will definitely be making multiple times for holiday gifts later this year!) and the Slouch Bag, an easy and stylish purse that can be modified and personalized in many ways.

Priced at less than $18.00 on Amazon, this book gives you plenty of projects for less than the price of a couple of patterns! Definitely worth it. 😊
Gift Corner – DIY Purse Organizer

Here’s a brilliant idea – a purse organizer made from a potholder and a few plastic zipper bags! I can definitely see myself making these from fabric scraps and a bit of batting...maybe in novelty prints geared toward the recipient’s interests!

http://www.practicallyfunctional.com/diy-purse-organizer-from-a-hot-pad/

The Antique Pattern Library

I’m not sure if we have featured this website in a previous newsletter, but it is quite fascinating!

http://www.antiquepatternlibrary.org/

From the website: “This ongoing project is an effort to scan craft pattern publications that are in the public domain, to preserve them, so we can keep our craft heritages in our hands. Most of these scans have been graphically edited to make the images easier for craft workers to see, and to reduce file sizes. They are available, for free, to anyone who wants them, for educational, personal, artistic and other creative uses.”

What a treasure trove! There are so many beautiful and unusual things to see, and you can download full publications free of charge and use all of these lovely antique patterns.

Check out the Antique Pattern Library and prepare to be inspired.

FICTION BOOK REVIEW!!

By Sandi Thurston

A Seamless Murder: A Magical Dressmaking Mystery
By Melissa Bourbon
Paperback; $7.99 (Kindle $5.99)

This is not a sewing book but a mystery! I enjoyed it, and the author gave a lot of sewing hints throughout the book. She reminded me of myself, sewing for friends and picking out material that reminded her of them. I thought about some of my Yankee friends while reading this! If you like mysteries, I think you would like this book. I let my Mom borrow it and she loved it too! I bought her next book and will let you know how I like that one also!

[Editor’s Note: Sandi’s book is actually the sixth in a series of “Magical Dressmaking Mysteries.” They are available in bookstores and also on Kindle or Nook devices.]

Best Wishes to Nancy Zieman

I hope that SAGA will join the rest of the sewing community in sending best wishes to Nancy Zieman of Nancy's Notions and, of course, the Sewing with Nancy television show. Nancy recently announced on her blog and Facebook page that she had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer). She is now considered cancer-free but will be taking quite a bit of time off this year for rehabilitation and therapy on her new (as she put it) “partially bionic leg”. She has cancelled most speaking engagements and will have other sewing experts fill in on the TV show for the time being.

If you haven't yet read Nancy's autobiography Seams Unlikely, do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of her fascinating book. Her life story is full of challenges, medical and otherwise, and yet she made a career for herself in the industry, becoming a “sewing role model” for many of us. I had the privilege of meeting Nancy at an event several years ago, and I was so struck by her poise, charm, and wicked sense of humor! We wish her a speedy recovery.
Interesting Idea!

This looks like a great little easy project – a handy trash bag for the car made of vinyl!

I actually have never used fusible vinyl and did a little research on it. I found a package of 2 yards at Nancy’s Notions that costs around $12.00, which I thought was pretty reasonable (and would be enough to make more than one of these bags). Here’s the free pattern, designed by Elizabeth DeMoo of Brown Bird Designs:

http://www.modabakeshop.com/2015/04/car-trash-bag.html#more-30053

SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

Pat Deaett provided an update on the results of our Service Project so far this year:

- Knitted Bonnets – 94
- Crocheted Bonnets – 8
- Smocked Bonnets – 22
- Blankets – 1
- Flannel Gowns – 3

We’re doing very well for a small group, but we really should try to increase the amount of smocked bonnets, don’t you think? And our knitted bonnet total will definitely be decreasing now that Norma will no longer be able to attend our meetings. 😊 So please ladies – do what you can!

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!

DOOR PRIZE DESIGNEES FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR:

May: Sharon Simoneau
Pat Deaett

June: N/A (Yard Sale)

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

Yankee SAGA Upcoming Meeting Dates & Programs

May 11: Collapsible Thread Catcher
June 8: Yard Sale & Silent Auction

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, DON’T FORGET TO SIGN IN AND PICK UP YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKETS!
NEXT MEETING – May 11, 2015 – WHAT TO BRING:

- Sewing Supplies and Kit Fee for the Program
- Refreshments (if you are assigned)
- 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
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