President’s Message

The holidays are upon us. Is anyone doing any special sewing for them? At this point, I am not, so if it isn't planned, it probably isn't going to happen. I miss the planning of holiday outfits. I'd always start out with good intentions, and end up rushing at the last minute. Hopefully anyone sewing this holiday season will not have that problem.

I've been busy with lots of little things that have kept me from sewing. My son moved back in in July, but let his driver’s license expire, so I am back to playing chauffeur. We didn't have a third car for him to drive, so it wasn't a priority. But my husband got a new car, an e-Golf, so we are in the process of renewing my son's driver’s license. Once I'm done with the daily work drop off and pick up, in addition to my work schedule, I hope to have more time. I did get talked into making a quilt. This is quite a new experience for me. I've done a few baby quilts and a t-shirt quilt. A coworker was making one and wanted someone to do it with, so I decided to give it a try. I have learned I do not like to do machine appliqué. I'm also traveling back to St. Louis a little more than usual, due to some issues with my mom's health. I need to be more prepared and have some smocking or other hand work to do at the airport. My flight was delayed two hours on Friday. My goal for the new year is to have a list of projects to start on and stick with.

Don't forget about the San Mateo County Fair. There are several categories to enter this year. I challenge each of you to enter at least one. I hope to do 3 - a smocked garment, a Wee Care item and the bag challenge. Now that I have put it out there, hold me to it.

Hope to see everyone at the November meeting and the Christmas Tea.

Maggie
Maggie Harden
hardenmaggie@gmail.com

Calendar
November 28, 2017
Meeting (after the Thanksgiving Holiday)
Reba Siero - Decorative Paper Snowflakes
December 3, 2017
Holiday Tea
Details to be announced
January 20, 2018 (tentative)
Zippered Bag Workshop
January 23, 2018
Meeting - Lynn Conroy
Introduction to Heirloom Sewing for Women
Programs

Happy Holidays everyone. I can't believe we are well into November and soon into December! I hope you are enjoying fun plans with friends and family for the holidays.

You won't want to miss our November 28th meeting. Reba is going to show us how to make a snowflake decoration with strips of double sided card stock paper. She will be providing all the materials – thank you so much Reba. Come join us and learn how to make these beautiful snowflake decorations. 'Tis the season and I can see my fireplace mantle now with these snowflakes all around.

For December there will be no meeting, but we will be having a Christmas Tea Party at Lois's house on Sunday December 3rd beginning at 1:30. Lois has graciously offered her home for the event. Many thanks to her for her generosity and holiday spirit. Be sure to bring an item of food to share with everyone. If you were interested in participating in the holiday gift basket, please bring a gift item to add. Everyone who brings a gift will have a turn choosing something from the basket. As is our custom, anyone wishing to participate in the cookie exchange is welcome to bring cookies. This is always a fun exchange and a great way to have variety of tasty cookies at your next holiday party.

We are in the process of confirming our meeting dates for 2018 and will have more information on that for the November meeting. Our program for January will be a presentation by our own Lynn Conroy called Introduction to Heirloom Sewing for Women. See the description on page 3.

We are also confirming a weekend Saturday date for late January or early February for a class. We hope it will be Saturday, January 20th. Reba has offered to teach a class on how to make a handy little bag with two zippered pouches. As you can see from the picture on page 3, it's a little bag with many uses and would make a lovely gift for a special someone too. A supply list for the class and costs will be updated soon. An update on class date will be provided at the November meeting.

Happy stitching,

Denise

Denise Kelly
kellydenise135@gmail.com

Fabric Snowflake

Snowflake Variation
Introduction to Heirloom Sewing for Women

We’ve all taken the classes and created beautiful garments for babies and children along with countless samples and techniques. Many of us used to sew for ourselves. This is a talk that will guide you back towards sewing for yourself at the same time incorporating a few heirloom techniques.

I will have a few samples with me and the topics covered will include:
- versatility of a good pattern
- fit considerations
- materials and notions

The talk will be about an hour.

Lynn
Lynn Conroy

Zippered Pouch Bag Workshop

In this workshop, you will be creating a zippered pouch bag. The commercial patterns that I know of are the “Sew Together Bag” from Sew Demented ($12 – 3 zippered pockets) and the “Bionic Gear Bag” from RipStitcher ($13 – 4 zippered pockets). They are sold at several sites, such as Craftsy and Etsy. If you have one of these patterns, please feel free to use it for your bag. The techniques are much the same. I am making kits for a simplified version. It will have only 2 pockets. The kits should not be more than $25 each and will include all the materials required except standard sewing supplies. A supply list will be available soon. More details to come.

Reba
Reba Siero
rebasiero@yahoo.com
Wee Care

A big Thank You! to Jill who turned over such a great deal of organized information and supplies to Gladys and Irene for Wee Care.

As we have discussed, Stanford ICN seems to be in a disorganized state? Apparently they don't have any one person available to manage distribution and use of the sets? Gladys and Irene will be looking into other community sources that might benefit from our time and talents.

In the meanwhile, Stanford would like hats and blankets. We do have a good stack of hats to pass along and we will partner as many as we can to blankets and pass them along.

We would like to have a blanket workshop in the Spring and will discuss it once Reba’s class is planned so as not to conflict with that. If you would like to sew some blankets on your own, please let Irene know as we definitely have fabrics we can pass along to you. If you would like them pre-cut that is an option as well.

There have been similar issues in other groups and some of them have given up their Wee Care program. It would be sad to see that happen here so, Gladys and Irene will be working with all of you on some solutions.

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, we are so thankful for all your efforts towards our community projects. Our efforts do matter to grieving parents.

Blessed Holidays to everyone!

Irene and Gladys

Irene Davidson-Thomas and Gladys Rutti

wabbit91@earthlink.net and gladysrutti@hotmail.com
Refreshments for our Meetings

2017
November 28 – Vickie and December 3 – Holiday Party

2018
January 23 – Lucie Mates, February 27 – Sue Kocienski, March 27 – Maggie Harden,
April 24 – Irene Davidson Thomas, May 22 – Margaret Church-Ish, June 26 – Ingrid Chan
July 24 – Catherine Ljungquist, August 28 – Denise Kelly, September 25 – Christie Bilikam
October 23 – Lois Murdoch, November 27 – Reba Siero, December – Holiday Party

Catherine
Catherine Ljungquist
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San Mateo County Fair

CCC Smocked Tote Bag Challenge

The Smocked Tote Bag Challenge for the 2018 San Mateo County Fair (SMCF) has the following requirements:

1. Minimum of 5 rows of smocking on the outside of a rectangular shaped tote bag.
2. Bag Height between 12” to 16”
3. Bag Width between 8” to 16”
4. Bag Depth between 0” to 10”
5. One or more pockets sewn on the inside or the outside of the tote bag.

We will show off our Smocked Tote Bags at the April 2018 CCC meeting. Details of how to enter your Smocked Tote Bag will be on the SMCF website: https://www.sanmateocountyfair.com/
next year.

Happy Smocking!

Ingrid
Ingrid Chan
itchan@juno.com
Catching the Stitching Spirit SAGA Retreat

On Oct 12-15, 2017, the Saint Louis SAGA Retreat was held at the St. Louis St. Charles Embassy Suites in St. Charles, MO. Kathy Awender and I flew on Wednesday, October 11th, so we could do some sighting seeing the next day. From the hotel, we walked to the St. Charles Historical Area, and found many interesting shops to visit.

“The Quilted Cottage”, https://www.thequiltedcottageonmain.com/, had many fall fabrics on sale. We sampled Balsamic Vinegars at “Di Olivas”, https://diolivas.com/index.php/#/. The Chocolate Balsamic Vinegar was the best. The “Olde Town Spice Shoppe”, http://www.oldtownspices.com/, sold spices and teas from around the world. We saw Daniel Boone along the way, and visited an antique shop.

In the afternoon, we meet Chris Sykes, 2017 Region V Representative, and SAGA members to see the Saint Louis Art Museum, http://www.slam.org/. We were very lucky the Museum was free to all, and Christine Kolar was our volunteer tour guide. She focused our tour on textiles in paintings, sculpture, Indian garments, and other items, and we enjoyed listening to the stories about these items.

Later, we enjoyed a dessert reception at the hotel, and saw many friends.

On Friday, I signed up for Jane Biscoe’s the Reticello Scissor Fob, and so did Kathy Pennock from Pittsburg, PA. In fact, without consulting each other, we both signed for Debbie Glenn’s Circa 1940 T Yoke Daygown, too.
After the Friday evening SAGA market, Chris Sykes and I explored the CITY ART Museum, https://www.citymuseum.org/. This museum is play house museum, consisting largely of repurposed architectural and industrial objects, housed in the former International Shoe building in the Washington Avenue Loft District of St. Louis. Adults and children can climb in and crawl around in these unusually sculptures.

At the SAGA banquet, Cynthia Gilbert became our 2018 Region V Representative, and Chris Sykes is serving as VP of Operations. Next year, the SAGA Convention will be in Winston-Salam, NC on September 19 – 23, 2018, and there will be a contest for a smocked apron with lace.

Happy Smocking!

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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.

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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 2018 issue of Keeping Track is:

December 29, 2017 to Reba
rebasiero@yahoo.com

From Lynn – a link to Alabama Chanin Journal, the folks who do the 2-layer knit garments:
http://journal.alabamachanin.com/

And some more knitted hats from the mom of one of Ingrid’s co-workers!

Keeping Track is published 6 times a year, in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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