Hello Yankee Friends!

October already, and Yankee Chapter is committed to providing the best programs and support for its members. Following our annual potluck supper, kits were distributed to construct bags for foster kids. Have you finished yours yet? Hopefully many of us can make additional ones from fabric in our stashes and bring them to the next meeting. Foster kids move an average of 8 times before their 18th birthday, so these bags are needed. If you have questions, please reach out to other members for help. Remember, fun fabrics for kids.

Fifteen enthusiastic sewers took part in the Gail Doane workshop. Cute jackets were created using thin batting and applying some piping and binding techniques mastered by Gail. We met several talented ladies from the Charles River Chapter and the Sewing Network and a familiar face attended – Mary Morse. We predict that we will see at least one completed jackets for Sew and Share. We should add a big Thank You to Sandi Thurston for providing yummy lunches and Kathy Dacey who spread the word in Mass. and hosted Gail at her home.

The program for October will be pattern weights which can be embellished in several ways. This is an opportunity for you to use your creativity with a technique you have mastered, or learn a new one! These weights are great when working with delicate fabric.

There is a change in the volunteer refreshment signup for this year. Folks whose last name begins with A – B should bring something for October. This is a change from the previous announcement, since almost half of our members are at the beginning of the alphabet. If you are unable to attend the meeting you are assigned to, please let us know. We want to ensure that it doesn’t fall on one or two members.

See you on the 9th!

Jane & Pat
FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: OCTOBER PROGRAM INFORMATION

This month, we’ll be making pattern weights, one of our programs that was postponed last year due to inclement weather back in February.

Your kit will make two weights, and the cost will be $6.00. You’ll receive: white batiste for the silk ribbon embroidered OR shadow work embroidered weight; pleated white batiste for your smocked weight; instructions on how to construct the weights; a bagful of bb’s (enough for both weights). If you have any silk ribbon in your stash, please bring it. If you don’t have any, no problem—Ruthann and Donna will be bringing some ribbon to share. We will also be providing fiberfill for stuffing the weights.

You’ll need to bring your regular sewing supplies, including some floss. If you plan to make the silk ribbon weight, you’ll need a suitable large-eyed needle. For either of the embroidered weights, you’ll also need an embroidery hoop (4” diameter would be best), and an appropriate fabric marker. To complete any of the weights, you’ll need 6 (six) 2 1/2” squares of cotton fabric. Sturdy cotton quilting fabric would be best for this project; a lighter weight fabric (such as batiste) will not work well due to the weight of the bb’s.

We hope you’ll join us for this fun program! Any questions prior to the meeting, please e-mail Donna.

FOSTER KIDS BAGS—REMINDER!

Please remember to bring your completed Foster Kids’ Bags to the October meeting, as we would like to deliver them before the holiday season begins.

If by chance you took a kit but were unable to complete it, please return the kit so that someone else can finish it up. Thank you!

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

We also have a new Attendance Sheet this year. Please check off your name on the sheet and indicate how many items you brought for any of our service projects.
YANKEE CHAPTER DUES UPDATE

Thank you to all who have paid their $15.00 dues for this year. If you haven’t paid by the October meeting, we’re going to assume that, sadly, you no longer wish to be a member of Yankee Chapter, and you’ll be removed from our mailing list.

Show & Share: September 2017

Ruthann Sisson showed some more of her cute (and very difficult to make!) Barbie doll outfits. She also told us about how she whipped up a jacket for her niece’s birthday with only a couple of days’ notice, and using a fleece blanket from Wal-Mart! Their fleece blankets are very nice, and some are pretty large, and thus a great source of fabric!

Donna Boucher showed the beach ball mug rugs she is making as favors for Sewing at the Beach—200 of them!

Sandi Thurston showed her quilt that won TWO blue ribbons at the Dartmouth Grange! She also showed her finished stumpwork embroidered purse (design by Susan O’Connor), her tuffet pincushion, and a beach bag she made from a kit purchased at Knit 1, Quilt 2. In addition, Sandi showed a reversible jacket and a smocked dress.

Jane Beehr’s Granddaughter Ashley showed her adorable fuzzy pink knitted elephant! She and Grandma worked on that project together.

Nancy Beauregard showed her completed Vaune Pierce tote bag, to which she had just attached the beautiful leather handles.

Nikki Nolin showed some embroidered baby gifts plus a smocked romper (a pre-pleated design from Martha Pullen Company).
**Meeting Dates for 2017-2018**

**Telephone Tree Update**

If you did not have a chance to put your information on the Telephone Tree list in September, PLEASE be sure to do so in October. Donna will be putting together the information prior to our November meeting (we are hoping it doesn’t snow at all this year, but we are certainly hopeful it won’t snow before November!).

*Remember, you need to provide the telephone number where we are most likely to reach you in the event of a cancellation. You need to do this even if we already have a phone number on file for you.*

As always, our President(s) will decide when a cancellation is warranted and will start the telephone call process.

In addition, Donna will send an e-mail to all members to inform them of the cancellation. However, we realize that many of you do not check e-mail frequently, therefore we are reinstating the use of the Telephone Tree as an additional mechanism to keep everyone informed.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: A REQUEST!**

Fran Karwoski is collecting “Box Tops for Education” for her local school. If you see any of these logos on your packaging and would not mind clipping them for her, it would be appreciated!

**Reminder—Service Projects**

Although we are still collecting bonnets, they will not be going to Women & Infants until further notice. Sandi Thurston will be taking those donations to the hospital where she works.

We will continue to collect the Foster Kids Bags and, in addition, isolette covers for the NICU. These covers are used over the isolettes (on the outside of the unit) so they can be made of any fabric, as they are not actually touching the babies. Quilted, fleece, knitted, and crocheted covers are acceptable. The usual size is either 40” x 40” or 36” x 40”.

All donations of bonnets, isolette covers and foster kids’ bags are considered to be a part of our service projects for this year. Therefore, you will receive one (1) extra door prize ticket for each item donated.

**PUMPKIN MUG RUG!**

Just how adorable is this little guy? From the Pellon Corporation, designed by Alexandra Henry, this would be an awesome addition to your autumn table. They have chosen to hand-applique in different fabrics (crazy quilt style) and hand embroider, but I can definitely see this simplified using a base fabric and machine embroidery, if that’s what you would prefer. Take a look here:

The Gail Doane Experience submitted by Donna Costa

Wow…. wowee wow wow. Those are my thoughts on the Gail Doane class, incoherent as they may be! Some of you may know that I was a little bit hesitant about this class. After all, I have no kids to sew for, and I’ve taken soooo many classes over the years. Sometimes we get a little complacent and think there’s nothing else we could possibly learn. Well, I’m here to tell you to RETHINK THAT NOTION LADIES! I learned so very much in just two days, it was incredible. However, I must pass along a little story that falls into the category of Donna isn’t so smart after all....

Just how many times did Gail say nicely.... “Remember, the piping needs to go on the inside of your sleeve, because the cuff turns up.” I believe it was several times. Was it written in the instructions? Of course it was! Did Donna do it correctly the first time? WELL, OF COURSE NOT!! I got both of my sleeves sewn, piping and binding on, and oh boy they looked fabulous! Took my hand-sewing to the living room to watch Dancing With the Stars… sewed the binding on one sleeve, patting myself on the back the whole time because it looked sooo neat….turned up the cuff and....

Waah Waah Waah… cue the sad trombones! My piping and binding were sewn so beautifully, onto the wrong side of the sleeve!

For a split second, I considered leaving them that way. Then I said, GIRL, YOU NEED TO MAKE GAIL PROUD! So, apart the sleeves came. It didn’t take long to fix and those little cuffs are so adorable! And to those who attended the class … yes, the jacket is on the wall!

Classic Sewing Magazine Autumn 2017 Issue

The newest issue of Classic Sewing Magazine has been available for the past month or so, but this is my first opportunity to write about it! Of course, I will be repeating myself, because every quarter I review the magazine and gush about all of the beautiful designs and patterns in each issue.

The inimitable Gail Doane is featured again on the cover. I believe we may have seen this dress/jacket combo in person during our workshop, did we not? The cover design in Sizes 4 through 10 is featured in this issue’s pattern packet. And as the magazine points out, Gail’s instructions for making amazing bound pockets are included! Those of us who were in the class will remember that she mentioned her way of doing bound pockets is the best ever, so I can’t wait to read the directions and try it.

The Creative Visionaries profile in this issue is Jeannie Downs Baumeister of The Old Fashioned Baby, who shares the story of how she became involved in the heirloom sewing world. The store profile features Beth’s Heirloom Sewing in Wetumpka, Alabama. Don’t you wish we had a store like this up here in the north? Our heirloom sewing store is Jo-Ann Fabrics, with their fabulous three bolts of batiste. (Sorry, just fell of my chair laughing, but I couldn’t help myself.)

As always, there are so many beautiful designs in this issue, you’ll have a hard time deciding what to make first. One that caught my eye is Kathy Dykstra’s Autumn Splendor Reverse Applique Dress (Sizes 2-10, in the pattern envelope). I’ve heard lots of ladies talk about how their girls are not into “frilly”, and if that’s the case, this dress would be perfect. It’s very tailored but can be dressed up with scalloped details, applique or other types of embellishment that aren’t too ruffly or girly. There’s a nice tutorial on how to do the reverse applique as well.

I thought Violet’s Circle Jumper (Sizes 12 Month through 7) was adorable as well. The circular skirt will encourage lots of “twirling”, which might also result from making another design in this issue, the Sugar and Spice Tiered Skirt which is made by serger! I was also wow’ed by Vaune Pierce’s design, called Button Bits, which is a classic yoke dress embellished with smocking, tiny buttons and mini piping. And the boys are not forgotten in this issue; there are a few boy-oriented designs and an in-depth article on adding cargo pockets to any pants pattern. For our machine embroiderers, there’s a free design and instructions for creating a machine shadow work mock inset for a classic A-line jumper. Actually there are several articles in this issue about machine embroidery including one on the use of special fabrics, such as knits.

I could go on and on as there’s plenty more in this issue to discuss, but I’ll let you check it out for yourselves! Available by subscription (classicsewingmagazine.com), in Barnes & Noble Bookstores or at Jo-Ann Fabrics.
SAGA Mission Statement
"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, service, communication and quality workmanship."

MEETING TIME:
This year, we will make a valiant effort to start our meetings **ON TIME**, so that we will have enough time left to complete our monthly programs! The doors of the Community House open at 6:30 p.m., and our meetings will begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.** Please make every effort to be here on time if at all possible! **Thank you.**

Sharpening Service for Gingher Scissors
Recently information was posted to SAGA’s Facebook page related to sharpening service for Gingher scissors. Thanks to Sandi Thurston for passing this information along to our members.

The cost is $12.00 per pair of scissors, and they should be shipped to:

Repair Department  
FORVESON Corp.  
322 Edwardia Drive, Suite D  
Greensboro, NC 27409-2636

The sharpening and repair service normally takes 3-4 weeks.

Gingher’s Website: [http://gingher.com/](http://gingher.com/)

2017-2018 Yankee SAGA Board

Co-President:  Pat Tarpy  
Co-President: Jane Beehr  
Vice-President: N/A  
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Newsletter: Donna Costa  
Hospitality: Sue Smith  
Sunshine: Linda Agresti  
Service Project: Sandi Thurston  
Archivist: Karen Ouhrabka

**NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2017**

**WHAT TO BRING:**
- Completed Foster Kids’ Bags  
- Your regular sewing supplies & other items as indicated by the Program Committee, plus $6.00 Kit Fee  
- Dessert (Last Names A through C)  
- Show-and-Share Items  
- Donations for Door Prizes  
- Donations for Service Projects