Hi ladies. We hope you are well and have had a good summer. Were you able to have the opportunity to create new projects or complete some started ones? We look forward to seeing them at the meeting.

The calendar tells us that it is September 1st, the first day of National Sewing Month. It’s time to sew for fall and still enjoy warm weather. If you have the chance, visit the nationalsewingmonth.org website. It’s filled with free projects and articles and there is a link to sewing.org website. This is sponsored by the Sewing and Craft Alliance. If you are looking for ideas or expand your skills, there are lots of project ideas and patterns, organized by categories.

It’s also time for our annual pot luck supper and the start of our Yankee meeting year. If you have a friend who might be interested in joining our group, bring her along! The board met recently and planned ornament projects to span the year. Some really nice ones have been chosen - some to be smocked, some not. They should be fun to stitch and then enjoy in your home or give as gifts. We are certain that you will be pleased with our variety of programs this year.

If you have not paid your dues ($15) for the upcoming year, bring them to the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can mail your check to Pat Tarpy. Don’t forget to bring plates and utensils for the Pot Luck and your dish or dessert to share. We are still collecting Foster Kids Bags so bring those as well as your Show and Share items. See you on the 9th!

Pat & Jane
The Yankee SAGA Ugly Fabric Swap! ... also known as the SILK PURSE FROM A SOW’S EAR CHALLENGE!

We’re bringing it back... not by popular demand, but just because we felt like it.... THE UGLY FABRIC SWAP AND CHALLENGE!

We did this several years ago and it was lots of fun! If you want to participate, come to the OCTOBER* meeting and bring ONE YARD of UGLY (and yes, we mean ugly, so go for it!) fabric in a brown paper bag. We’ll put all of the bags onto a table and everyone who is participating will grab a bag. Then we’ll all open them together and see what we get! No judgments here... one person’s ugly is another person’s fabulous! (Editor’s Note: I absolutely LOVED the fabric I got in the last ugly challenge and used it to dress my Martha Pullen doll!)

You’ll have all year to make a project out of your ugly fabric. It can be anything... a mug rug, a purse or bag, a doll dress, a quilt, even a reusable Swiffer cloth ... whatever you fancy. In June we’ll all bring our projects and everyone will vote on who did the best to use that ugly fabric! The winner will get a prize (as yet undetermined) but really, the adoration of your fellow chapter members for your ugly fabric triumph is the best prize of all!

So get into those fabric stashes and see what you can find, ladies!

*NOTE: If you will be unable to attend in October but want to participate, bring your bag of ugly fabric in September. Someone will swap for you in October and you can pick up your fabric at the November Meeting.

Foster Kid Bags Update!

We’re pleased to report that the Board has approved our continuing with the Foster Kid bags service project this year. As always, we will have some kits for you, and we welcome any fabric donations because we are starting to run a little bit low. We would really love it if every chapter member would make at least two bags this year. The pillow-case-style bags are extremely easy and would be a great project to make with a young person to show them the basics of sewing (and the good feeling we get when donating to a worthy cause)! Please see Donna or Ruthann for a kit.

New Members are Needed!

It’s very true that Yankee’s membership has been dwindling over the past couple of years. This year we will try to actively seek out new members by various means. We have made contact with two local needlework shops that have expressed an interest in smocking, and they have had customers come in looking for information on our type of needle art. Hopefully this will generate some new members.

If anyone has a suggestion or a “lead” toward finding new folks to join us, please let a Board member know! We will put our best effort toward increasing our numbers. Talk to people you see out there at fabric and yarn shops and be sure to mention Yankee Chapter!
Hello All! Sometimes I have a few things to say that don’t fit in anywhere else. So I’m giving myself a monthly column which I’ll slot into the newsletter whenever there’s room … just because I can!

I’ve done quite a few things this summer, sewing- and needlework-wise anyway, but haven’t focused on any one thing—so it feels like I’ve actually done nothing. Ever get that feeling yourself…. that lack of focus? But I do have some projects ready to show and prove I haven’t been completely idle! I also spent a considerable amount of time this summer cleaning out my basement. Three generations of “stuff” that I am totally sentimentally attached to…. I’m sure some of you can relate to that as well. But, enough about my “issues”.

This month I want to address the participation (or lack thereof) in our programs. We are now putting together only twelve kits per month due to our dwindling membership. We sold some kits last year (some more popular than others, of course) which makes Ruthann and I happy because we put a lot of time and effort into designing the projects and creating the kits for you. What we haven’t seen is many completed projects. We honestly don’t want to sell you kits just for the sake of the chapter’s coffers, you know! We had an interesting mix of projects last year and we’d love to see what you’ve done with those kits! So please bring in any projects you’ve been able to get completed.

Also, when it comes time for the program each month, please understand that the person teaching that project has also put a lot of time, effort and most of all planning into the presentation they are about to give. I realize that by the time we start the program everyone is in need of a snack, but let’s be respectful and at least let the instructor start the program for those who want to participate, before everybody runs off into the kitchen. I especially hope everyone will take that comment to heart this year because we will have some “guest” instructors. Let’s treat them like the rock stars they are for volunteering to teach a program!

Thanks for listening all. See you on the 9th!

* Donna C *

As you all know, National SAGA’s designated service project is “Wee Care”. Our Chapter has not contributed much to the Wee Care efforts over the past couple of years, and we would like to change that. We will be refocusing this year on getting everyone involved in the Wee Care program. National collects all items at the convention each year, and they very much appreciate our contributions to the total Wee Care effort.

Wee Care has been highlighted in many issues of SAGA News over the past few years. I will be compiling a comprehensive list of where all the information, patterns, projects and other resources are located so that you can easily find them. Remember that Wee Care is not only about bonnets. Baby wraps, blankets, tiny bishop gowns, and many other items that are such a comfort to grieving families are gladly accepted.

If you are a member who doesn’t have access to a printer, and you need a printed copy of any of the Wee Care patterns or instructions, we’ll be happy to provide that for you. Just drop a note to me (Donna) or see me at the meeting and I’ll make sure you get all of the resources you need.

We hope that everyone will be able to help our Chapter increase its donations to Wee Care this year. Thank you for your support of this National effort.
Our September Program … and a Preview of the Rest of the Year!

Our September Program will be the “Emmie’s First Christmas” ornament designed by Karen Ouhrabka and made famous on the cover of SAGA News!

Karen is doing a new version of this ornament for us in beautiful red with gold floss. Please bring your regular sewing supplies and smocking needles to the meeting.

We have a great lineup of ornaments for the rest of the year as well! Check our the list below:

October:  Golden Metallic Smocked Ornament (thank you, Pat Tarpy!)
November:  Embroidered Christmas Tree
December: Yankee Swap (no program)
January:  Valentine Button Heart Ornament
February & March:  Ruched and Embroidered Ornament
April:  Tiny Beaded Smocked Ornament
May:  Smocked Spoolie Ornament
June:  We have an idea under consideration for a June program which will be discussed at the September meeting.
Donna Costa brought a selection of “mug rugs” with cute sayings which were made from June Taylor kits. There are two different types of kits; one has the quilted design pre-printed on batting so you just quilt-as-you-go following the numbers, and others have just a fabric panel with the sayings pre-printed on it, to which you add fabric and batting. Donna also brought two “notions” seen on Fons & Porter’s television show (photos below) and a redwork embroidered pillow. The pillow was a free project in the online catalog from Shabby Fabrics, and this is the project where Donna used the Sulky Stick ’n Stitch product instead of transferring the design directly to the fabric.

Sharon Simoneau showed a quilted project bag with a vinyl front. Because Sharon couldn’t locate her vinyl stash, she used a pre-made vinyl bag (like the kind you buy sheets and curtains in) to cut out the front, which worked out well because she was able to use the little pocket on the inside of her bag! Sharon puts a photo of the project in the pocket so she can easily locate what project bag to work on next. Genius! Sharon also showed three smaller, fully-lined fabric bags with zippers that would be useful for lots of things.

Susan Rogers showed her adorable Goldilocks and the Three Bears topsy-turvy doll, which was so well-made and cute! The bear doll had two faces, one for Papa and one for Mama, and a little Baby bear in the pocket. Goldilocks had ravishing blonde curls, and there was a beautiful Goldilocks book to go with the doll. The pattern came from the book Storybook Toys by Jill Hamor (available on Amazon, even in a Kindle edition, and with primarily five-star reviews). (Editor’s Note: The book looks fascinating! All of the designs are based on vintage 1940’s patterns.)

Susan also brought a tiny little doll she started in 1985 during Hurricane Gloria, which will (she vows) not be naked soon, because she’ll be making her clothes! She also brought a Gail Wilson doll kit to show everyone what they are like.

Hope you all have lots to show us in September!

Funky Fons & Porter Notions!

Two suggestions from the F&P TV show. Use the center plastic portion from an empty roll of scotch tape to hold your tape measure and keep it nice and neat. Also, put a knitting needle point protector onto the end of a crochet hook. Keep it by your sewing machine. Use the rubber point protector on your machine’s touch screen and the small crochet hook to fish threads out of tight places.
2019-2020 Yankee SAGA Board

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Archivist  Karen Ouhrabka  401-885-2852  K.ko4@verizon.net

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK DINNER!

It’s our Annual Yankee Chapter Potluck this month! Bring your favorite dish and a serving utensil (if needed) as well as your personal place setting (plate, mug, utensils, etc.).

At the meeting, we’ll have some grub, discuss some business, see this year’s programs, and then have a wonderful class with Karen O teaching her smocked ornament! It’s a jam-packed night so be on time!!

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2019

WHAT TO BRING:
- Supplies noted in the program description
- $15.00 dues payment for 2019-2020 if not already paid
- Potluck Dish and Utensil
- Show and Share
- Service Project Fabric Donations & Completed Foster Kid Bags
- Door Prize Donations

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, DON’T FORGET TO SIGN IN AND PICK UP YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKETS!
Please check off your name on the attendance sheet and indicate how many items you brought for any of our service projects.