Keeping Track

Provenance

President’s Message

In order to help preserve the smocking category at the San Mateo County Fair I entered two smocked items this year. I supported my two daughters in 4H for years and they entered every summer the fruits of their 4H projects. So I had some experience with fair entries. It really was a painless experience.

After returning home with my items from our last meeting, I was thinking and marveling at all the items that members had brought to go over at our meeting. As I thought about all that was involved in putting my projects together I realized that each project had its own story. In speaking with other members each person had something to say about the fabric, the technique, the timing, the embellishments, the fitting, the refitting for another person, etc.

This experience confirmed for me the idea that every project has its own story. Stories that will only be known to the person who constructed it, because so very often that’s the way it is. There will also be those stories that are shared with family members, the person that the item will eventually go to, perhaps even with fellow guild members. Then, for some reason, there will be the stories that will live on. A handmade item that moves from generation to generation with a story that comes along with it. Provenance is established with these stories and helps to constitute an heirloom. I believe that the ribbon I was awarded belongs with the item and the dress which I made for my niece’s daughter Isla.

I have been making Isla a dress every year for her birthday. Last year the contrasting pink fabric that I put on her dress was actually fabric that I had from my mother’s stash. Both my sister and my niece cherished it. That’s the story that will move on with that dress and now the ribbon winning dress will probably be the story that moves with this new dress.

The stories that come with our passions are part of what put value in our days. Continue doing that thing you love to do with a needle.

Gloria CABLE CAR CABLERS JULY - AUGUST 2013

Calendar
meetings start at 7:00 pm

July 23, 2013
Meeting & Stash Bash

August 27, 2013
Meeting & Elections

September 24, 2013
Meeting

October 21-27, 2013
SAGA Convention

October 22, 2013
Meeting

Gloria
Wee Care

Thanks to all of you who turned in gowns, bonnets, blankets and knitted caps at the June meeting. Denise is $25 richer as she won our quarterly raffle. She also donated very cute dolly pajamas and robe which were won by Jill, who thoughtfully passed them on to Catherine's granddaughter Brynne who was visiting our meeting. Smiles all around!

And now for a few statistics: We held two Wee Care workshops this year attended by nine people. Fourteen members and two friends completed layettes and knitted hats which were given to Lucille Packard Children's Hospital. Our club donated 51 gowns, 51 bonnets, 51 blankets and 80 knitted hats. Last year we made 55 complete layettes and 162 knitted hats. The year before we donated 81 gowns, 68 bonnets, 81 blankets and 78 knitted hats. Our work is so appreciated by the families and by the nurses at Stanford. We have both bishop kits and "bib"kits available for you to pick up at the meetings. Right now we have an abundance of flannel blankets thanks to Jill and Gladys and Denise, which I will match with gowns and bonnets that are turned in. Or you can choose your flannel and smock your gown with coordinating floss. This is a wonderful opportunity to try new stitches or techniques, to create something beautiful and to be a part of a caring community. We do make a difference in people's lives.

Lois

Nomination of Officers for 2014

The slate of officers nominated for the Cable Car Cablers for 2014 is as follows:

President: Christie Bilikam
Co Vice Presidents: Gloria Barkis and Margaret Church-Ish
Treasurer & Membership: Cynthia Cohan
Secretary: Sue Kocienski
Librarian: Irene Thomas
Wee Care: Denise Kelly
Newsletter Editor: Lynn Conroy and Irene Thomas
Hospitality: Jill Efting

Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to Sue celebrating on July 15th!
Happy Birthday to Vivian celebrating on August 5th!
Happy Birthday ladies!
Stitching Though the Heat Wave

On June 29-30, 2013, the Berry Good Smockers hosted Stitching Serenity 13 with Vaune Pierce at Saint Mary’s Seminary Retreat Center, Santa Barbara. Before our trip started, the Western United States was going to experience a week of heat in the triple digits. Tank tops, shorts, sandals and water bottles were packed.

On 28 June 2013, Gladys and I started driving south on 101. We made a few stops along the way. Madonna Needle Works (15750 Vineyard Blvd, Suite 170, Morgan Hill 95037) which features types of threads grouped by color. They also sell silk ribbon and Evertite Slimline tension adjusting stretcher bars. Just in case you forgot something, across the street is a shopping mall with a Joann’s Fabric.

Next stop was in hot and sunny Gilroy. The Nimble Thimble (7550 Monterey St, Gilroy) has been recently purchased by a woman by the name of Susan. We bought fat quarters and other quilting items. If you mention SAGA, you receive 10% off your purchase. Susan recommended a Mexican restaurant around the corner off Monterey at 5th Street. The enchiladas were delicious. Across the street from the Nimble Thimble is an antique mall where we found vintage lace, linens and other sewing items. Knowing that we were going to be late for dinner, Gladys called Irene to save us some dinner. Santa Barbara was still hot and humid at 6:30 PM.

Happy Birthday to Roseanne Saldinger and Irene! Vaune had baked a delicious German apple birthday cake which she brought to share. After dinner, we brought out our projects to work on. One stitcher was smart enough to bring her desk fan to the work area. Lisa Sheppard gave me a few pointers on my quilt border and how to piece and stitch the quilt back.

On Saturday, we started our class, The Roses are Red Embroidered Tote. In the morning, Vaune taught us how to embroider the red bullion buds and roses onto the outside pockets. In the afternoon, she showed us how to construct the tote. Some of us worked well into the night. The weather was still hot at midnight.
We had a surprise visit from SAGANews editor Julie Stillwell, who was housesitting in Montecito. Julie took a class picture of us and noted that Irene, Gladys, Christie and Ingrid were from the Cable Car Cablers Chapter.

The heat wave continued on Sunday. In the morning, we continued sewing our totes. Our next class started in the afternoon. Vaune showed us her pictures of her trip to Funchal Madeira, Portugal and her beautiful collection of Madeira embroideries. After dinner, she showed us how to stitch Granitos, Closed Blanket Stitch, and Eyelets, all of which are inherent to Madeira embroidery. We finished off the evening working on our totes some more. By late evening, the hot Santa Ana winds could be felt.

By Monday morning, there was fog but, not for long. Driving back to the Bay Area, Gladys and I stopped by the Blue Berry Farm. We bought blueberries and honey. Betty’s Fabrics (1627 S. Broadway, Santa Maria) has a great selection of batiks and other fabrics, and a special sale of 20% off of all fabrics. We stopped at the Quilters Cupboard (5275 El Camino Real, Atascadero) and chatted with a few quilters. The Quilt Attic in Arroyo Grande is now closed, but the business will continue online.

The Quiltery (1413 Riverside Ave, Paso Robles) is closed on Mondays but, we found Fabricworm/Birch Fabrics (1244 Pine St, Suite D, Paso Robles) which sells interesting Japanese and European cottons as well as cotton fabrics of her own design. Reminisce Antiques Etc at 1344 Pine Street, has many vintage sewing items including pincushions, tape measures, darning eggs, 2 hat forms, buttons, a christening gown, and a wooden storage box for thread.

Our final stop was in Salinas. We arrived at The Farmers Produce Market (1380 N. Main Street, Salinas) at 6:15 PM and had 15 minutes to shop. Vegetable and fruit prices were very reasonable, and we sampled a very sweet and juicy prickly pear. We ate a quick dinner and checked out the 99 Cent Only store (102 E. Laurel Dr, Salinas). We were glad for the fog which welcomed us home.

Happy Stitching!

Ingrid
Stash Bash

*Annual Stash Sale*

The July meeting of the Cable Car Cablers will give you the opportunity to “redistribute” fabric, fibers, patterns, books, whatever you wish to remove from your sewing space. You’ll also be given the opportunity to acquire new items from your fellow smocking friends.

Measure your fabric, jot down the yardage, fiber content if you know it, as well as the price. Pin it to the fabric and bring your items to the meeting on July 23rd. Seventy-five percent of proceeds will be used to sponsor teachers and programs throughout the next year.

We’ve been fortunate to have received donations from two former members and will have popular out of print books, an Amanda Jane pleater, many patterns and stitching items at the sale.

Floss Flower Challenge

Catherine was the winner for our Floss Flower Challenge. Thanks to Gloria for teaching us all those lovely flowers and congratulations to Catherine on winning the challenge with her beautiful hat!
San Mateo County Fair

The 79th Annual San Mateo County Fair opened this year on June 8th and was themed “Where Tradition Meets Innovation”. On the second day of the fair, Cable Car Cablers Gladys, Sue, Margaret, Irene, Jo Michael, Denise, Gloria and Ingrid had a demonstration table of smocking techniques and samples. The public was invited to talk to us and ask questions about smocking and to try it for themselves if they wished. On the last day of the fair, Gladys and I were visited by Brenda who stopped and learned a few smocking stitches. Brenda then joined us at our June meeting.

Thank you to the fair volunteers and all the Cable Car Cablers who had entries in the Smocking Division. Your smocking entries have ensured that we will have a smocking category again in 2014. The plan for 2014 is to have three smocking categories which will include smocked apparel, smocked non-apparel, and smocked holiday items. Start planning your smocking entries for each of these categories!

This year, our members won many ribbons. Congratulations to you all!

Jill Efting 1st Pink Wool Jacket Brown bishop dress

Christie Bilikam 2nd Doll Dress & Apron Cross stitch sampler smocked needle case
Gloria Barkis  
2nd Smocked pink dress & floss flowers  
White boutis bib  
Floss flowers scissor case

Sue K  
HM smocked heart  
framed smocked floss flowers  
Hardanger card  
Hardanger angel bookmark  
3rd Huck weaving dish towel

Irene Thomas  
1st Green apple doll dress  
HM Purple basket doll dress  
1st Pink checked tea cozy  
Red Italian smocked  
Christmas ornament
Carol White
3rd Cream & green hanging ornament
HM Beaded pink egg

Ingrid Chan
1st & Best of Show Delicate Daydreams

3rd Honeycomb Child’s Apron
3rd Ti Leaf Sashiko Pillow
1st Sashiko Flower Potholder
HM Purple Cascade Lattice Smocked Infinity Scarf
1st Crocheted Doilies on red ball ornament
2nd Crocheted Doilies on a yellow ball ornament
2nd Tide Pool Box
2nd White Orchid embroidered on canvas
1st Ginkgo Leave Kimono on canvas
2nd Drawn Work White Linen Bridal Bag
1st Frannie Dress
1st Under the Sea-Mixed Media
3rd Smocked Christmas Drum Ornament
Vaune Pierce and Cindy Foose present

Artisan Academy

August 23-25, 2013
Santa Barbara, CA

An intense 12 hour course that covers all aspects of the Artisan level construction techniques, from French seams to collars and plackets through buttons and hems. Each student will spend one day with Cindy and one day with Vaune to complete a notebook with technique samples to take home as reference. Whether your goal is to perfect your construction techniques or to submit your Artisan level garments, the Artisan Academy will help you to achieve your goal.

$395 for the All-Inclusive Weekend

Includes:
- Tuition for 12 Hours of Class
- Kit (to make samples for each technique)
- Meals (Friday evening through Sunday lunch)
- Rooms - Friday and Saturday evening

$200 Deposit will hold your place with the balance due by August 1, 2013.
Optional add-on: Stay over thru Monday, August 25th.

Name ________________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
City ______________________________________     State ______   ZIP __________
Phone ________________________   Email  _________________________________

Student Supplies: Basic Sewing supplies, Sewing machine and accessories

For more information, please contact:
Vaune Pierce at vaune@vaune.com or (805-529-5005)
Email registration info to vaune@vaune.com or mail to:
Vaune Pierce    11998 Bubbling Brook St.    Moorpark, CA  93021
Sarah Douglas Collection at Lacis
Catherine Ljungquist is spearheading the curating group for the Sarah Douglas Collection at Lacis. You can reach Catherine via email: cljungquist@yahoo.com or cell phone: 415-525-1915.

Lacis Museum

California State Fair
Check out the California State Fair which runs July 12-28th this year in Sacramento. http://www.bigfun.org/

SAGA Convention
SAGA National Convention 2013 will be held in Frisco, Texas October 21st to 27th. See the SAGA website for registration information http://smocking.org/

Smocked Pillow Pilot Class
August 11, 2013
Ingrid will be teaching a pilot class for a smocked pillow. If you are interested, contact Ingrid directly for details.

Upcoming CCC Events
The Cable Car Cabler challenge for 2014 is to embellish a padded hanger and enter it into the San Mateo County Fair. Hangers will be made available to members beginning with our July 2013 meeting.

At our 2014 June meeting, members will have one vote for their favorite embellished hanger. The winner of the popular vote will receive $25!

San Mateo County Fair 2014
2014 is the Year of the Horse. Two special horse themed prizes will be awarded at the fair. $50 in Quilting and $25 in Non-Quilting. Why not incorporate a horse into smocked item and double your chances of winning a special award?

Refreshments
July Lois
August Irene
September Christie
October Beverly
November Gladys
December Christmas Tea
CABLE CAR CABLERS OFFICERS

President        Gloria Barkis 408-264-0340
gbbg@att.net

Vice-Presidents  Ingrid Chan 650-878-5854
itchan@juno.com
Catherine Ljungquist 415-525-1915
cjungquist@yahoo.com

Secretary        Denise Kelly 510-339-3758
sewcrazydek28@gmail.com

Treasurer        Cindy Cohan 650-349-9146
c_cohan@hotmail.com

Membership       Cindy Cohan 650-349-9146
c_cohan@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editors Lynn Cope Conroy 650-728-1424
lynncc@me.com

Hospitality      Jill Efting 408-249-2424
jefting@ureach.com

Wee Care         Lois Murdoch 650-726-9247
lois.murdoch@comcast.net

Librarian        Irene Thomas 415-826-5672
wabbit91@earthlink.net

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

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Meeting Location
San Mateo Medical Center Hospital
222 W. 39th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

SAGA Contact Info
Region representative Elaine Berry
regionfive@smocking.org

SAGA
P.O. Box 5828
Savannah, GA 34104-5828
Telephone: 817-350-4883

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.