Smocking Arts Guild of America
Yankee Chapter
Cumberland, Rhode Island

March, 2017 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: March 13, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Meeting on the second Monday of each month, September through June, at the Arnold Mills Community House, 75 Hillside Road, Cumberland, R.I. (Directions: Route 295 to Route 114 N, then about 2 miles to Hillside Road.)

A Message from Our Co-President Sandi!

Dear Yankee Friends:

As I write this note it is so cold with frigid temperatures. I can’t wait until spring comes! The crocus are blooming and I’m seeing the daffodils above the ground!!

Have you registered for SAGA’s Boston Tea Party? I My mom and I can’t wait to go!! I’m taking Judith Adams classes!! There are still spaces available.

If you would all please bring something either “Rhode Island”-related, or a sewing item, for me to make a pretty basket from us at Yankee Chapter, I would appreciate it. This is always a favorite at SAGA retreats and conventions. I love seeing all the baskets.

Looking forward to seeing all of you... it’s been a while and hopefully the weather will cooperate this month!

Sincerely,
Sandi

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

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Smocking on Prime Time TV!?

I’ve been watching a show called “The Good Place”, which is a comedy (on NBC). Imagine my surprise when, in the season finale, the main character (played by Kristen Bell) was wearing a smocked bishop blouse! I was so tickled, you might have thought I made it myself! Here’s the photographic evidence (it’s a screen shot from my TV, so the picture isn’t great, but I couldn’t resist showing you all! Apparently smocking is alive and well in Hollywood... who knew?!

Have You Cleaned Your Buddy Lately?!?

Here’s a nice tutorial on cleaning your sewing machine, something we so often forget about!


Book Review: Quilted Bags & Gifts by Akemi Shibata

Quilted Bags & Gifts: 36 Classic Quilting Projects to Make and Give
by Akemi Shibata
Publisher: Zakka Workshop, 2015
$22.99 (Amazon $17.22)

What is Zakka style? In Japanese, zakka means “household goods,” referring specifically to hand-sewn items for domestic use—tableware, kitchenware, containers of various kinds, even simple clothing. To say that an object is made in Zakka style means that it will be unique and well-designed; sometimes cute, sometimes elegant, but always charming.

I found out about this lovely book when it was reviewed on YouTube by Debbie Shore, a quilting and sewing teacher who offers many free video tutorials. I watched Debbie page through this book while talking about how much she liked it, and I was so impressed I ordered a copy for myself.

Shibata is of course a Japanese designer, and the projects in this book are definitely in that distinctive Zakka style. The color palette is based on neutrals, but these designs are anything but dull and boring! Personally I would consider this more of a sewing book than a quilting book, although many of the designs do feature (very simple) patchwork, and lots of hexagons are used, which is a huge trend in the quilting world right now. The applique designs in the book are gorgeous. The bags (17 totes and purses are included) are really unique, using many different styles and techniques including the aforementioned hexagons and lots of beautiful dimensional embroidery. Also included are smaller pouches (including makeup, tablet and eyeglass cases), tiny coin purses, a tea mat, and a lovely small basket. One very interesting project is an appliqued sewing box with several matching accessories - an elephant tape measure case, a flower pincushion, and a floral scissor caddy.

I love all of the projects and just can't decide which one to make first! The book is a wonderful value for the cost.
March Program: Pattern Weights

TAKE TWO! This month, we will attempt to start our program on making pattern weights!

You will purchase your entire kit at the March meeting; the kit will make both weights. You can choose whether to work on the smocked or the silk ribbon version. The cost will be $6.00. You’ll receive: white batiste for the silk ribbon 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 a large-eyed needle suitable for silk ribbon), an embroidery hoop (4” diameter would be best), an appropriate marker (for the silk ribbon program), and 6 (six) 2 1/2” squares of cotton fabric. Sturdy cotton quilting fabric would be best for this project; a lighter weight fabric will not work, due to the weight of the bb’s. If you’re planning to work on the smocked version, please bring floss that matches or coordinates with your chosen fabric, and an appropriate smocking needle.

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

Awesome Sewing Machine Cover—Free Pattern & Instructions!

Isn’t this just the most adorable sewing machine cover? It serves a wonderful purpose, keeping your best friend clean and dust-free, and there’s a bonus too— you can finally use all of those decorative stitches on your sewing machine (because you know we only use about 10 out of the hundreds available to us—you can admit it, we’re all friends here!).

The instructions are very long, but they are also comprehensive, with plenty of pictures to guide you along the way. I love the fact that this has both a handle and the little side tabs, so it’s easy to get on and off the machine no matter what shape your machine happens to be, and it’s fully customizable.

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."

Sew Beautiful & Creative Needle Back Issues for Sale

Pat Tarpy will be bringing issues of both magazines to each of our meetings for sale to our members.

Magazines will sell for $3.00 each and all proceeds will go into the treasury.

Yankee Chapter Board Members, 2016-2017

Co- Presidents: Sandi Thurston
Donna Boucher

Vice-President: ?

Secretary: Sharon Simoneau

Treasurer: Pat Tarpy

Membership: Marjory Savage

Programs: Donna Costa & Ruthann Sisson

Door Prizes: (Member Donations)

Scrapbook/Photographer: Nancy Beauregard

Librarian: Pat Tarpy

Newsletter: Donna Costa

Hospitality: Sue Smith

Sunshine: Edith Brousseau

Service Project: Sharon Simoneau & Sandi Thurston

Archivist: Karen Ouhrabka

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2017

WHAT TO BRING:

- Program Supplies (see list in newsletter)
- $6.00 for Kit
- Donations for the Yankee Basket
- Dessert (if you wish)
- Show-and-Share Items
- $$ to purchase magazines
- Donations for Door Prizes
- Donations for the Service Project

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