April 2019 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: April 8, 2019
Doors Open at 6:45 p.m.
Meeting Begins Promptly at 7:00 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 (formerly Exit 11, now Exit 22), then about 2

PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE FOR APRIL

Hi Ladies,

Happy Spring! Although we can't complain about this year’s winter, it’s wonderful to see the crocus, daffodils and forsythia blooming. That sight puts a positive spin on everything. Hopefully you have found some time to “tune up” some Spring clothes amongst your Spring housecleaning.

It was great to see Sandi Thurston and her mother, Susan Smith, along with several members who have not been able to attend the meetings. Sandi is walking! As you might expect, she shared many projects she completed while recuperating at home. Several other members brought in great projects. We have so many talented members! We're looking forward to seeing “the Spring collection” during this month’s Show and Share.

Hopefully you have been able to complete the rotary bag project. If you are having difficulty, you are not alone. Pat has really struggled with this one. Despite Donna and Ruthann's expert directions, she has smocked the insert twice and constructed and re-constructed the bag at least three times. It’s finished now, not perfect, but at least it looks reasonable. A lot of mistakes and learning in this project! Let’s carry the enthusiasm from the rotary bag project forward to the smocked eyeglass case that begins this month.

It’s getting toward that time of year. The Nomination Committee may be contacting you about a position. Please consider saying “yes”. If you have not served before, take on an easier responsibility. We try to break down our duties so that it is time manageable. Our group is smaller than it once was, so we need more members to step up.

A special thanks to all of our members who have provided yummy refreshments. The themed decorations and paper goods tied to the month’s holiday have made it special. The program is an important part of our meeting, but the connections and sharing in the kitchen make Yankee Chapter the strong chapter that it is.

Don’t forget to bring Show and Share items, Foster Kids bags, items and $$ for the door prize. See you on the 8th!

Jane and Pat

Congratulations to Denise Laprade, proud grandma to a healthy baby boy weighing in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce, born on March 30th!
THE APRIL DOWNLOAD: THIS IS THE STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW!

If you read nothing else in our newsletters, please read this monthly download which will be a regular feature!

- PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE PROGRAM INFORMATION BELOW!
- Reminder: We have changed the opening time for the Community House. The building will now open at 6:45 p.m. The meeting begins promptly at 7:00 p.m.
- Remember your Service Project and/or Door Prize donations.
- Also, we thank all of you who are donating $1.00 to our monthly door prize collection. Although our door prizes are usually donations, collected funds are put to good use toward defraying program expenses and the cost of teachers.
- We are assigning hostess duties alphabetically again this year, so please check the last page of this newsletter to see if you are responsible this month. Thank you!

APRIL PROGRAM ..... TO BE DETERMINED .... PLEASE READ!

Due to some unforeseen circumstances, at this writing we are not sure which program we'll be doing in April. Will explain more at the meeting, but in the meantime, please come prepared for either of the programs below. In other words, bring all your stuff.... 😊

Smocked Eyeglass Case Program

For this program, you will need your regular smocking supplies. We will be providing pleated fabric, coordinating ribbon and floss, and complete instructions plus a template to use so that your piece will be smocked to the correct size. Kit will be $4.00.

Bubble Flower Scissor Fob

For this program, you'll need to bring an assortment of needles, including a sharp embroidery needle, a long needle with a large eye, and a thin beading needle (only if you intend to bead the center of your flower; you can also add a button to the center if you prefer not to work with tiny beads). Also, if you have an awl please bring it with you (we'll have one to share if you don't). Your kit will include fabric, a skein of embroidery floss, and button & carpet thread which is used for gathering. We will also have available poly fiberfill stuffing, beads and buttons that you may choose for the center of your flower. Your kit cost will be $3.00.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Please contact Donna if you have questions beforehand. Thank you!
MARCH SHOW-AND-SHARE

Jane Beehr showed her pretty teal pullover knit top, made from a pattern purchased from Peek-a-Boo Pattern Shop (www.peekaboopatternshop.com). Visit the website at your own risk, there are so many great patterns to choose from!

Susan Rogers showed off her new name tag, and a pretty little pink sweater. Susan also explained her method of finishing knitted garments with a soak, rinse and block method. The soaking even makes her creations smell lovely!

Karen Ouhrabka showed her bunny-topped kid’s hat, plus two beautiful antique quilts in lavender and pastel colors.

Ruthann Sisson was wearing her lovely paper-pieced jacket with lots of trees. She also showed fashions for both Barbie and Samantha, her completed “Cell Phone Plop”, and her finished Rotary Cutter bag.

Donna Costa showed her counterchange smocked ornament (from a previous Yankee program) and a cute bunny made from a baby sock (instructions found on Pinterest!).

Sandi Thurston showed so many projects, your poor newsletter editor could not write fast enough! Here’s a rundown of everything (I hope!): machine embroidered dress featuring sailboats with matching shorts (Joy Welch design); tea towels with machine embroidered shadow stitching; three Jan Kerton blankets, one featuring ducks, one with a farm scene, and a third with hippos; two completed Biscornu Pincushions (although she has made many more!); a Connie Palmer designed heirloom sewn doll dress with pinstitching; a little blouse with an apple design; several ornaments from her “Ornament Girls” collection; a completed embroidered bag; and a butterfly-themed quilt in progress (for her Mom). We are all convinced that Sandi has discovered the secret to needing no sleep, and we hope she shares it with us!

Sharon Simoneau told us all about the “sewing vacation” she and Nancy Beauregard took to Florida (and had us in stitches telling stories about their previous excursions!). Sharon brought some folded baskets; a blue and white whale-themed quilt she created for her adopted grandson; her initial bag with leather flower handles; and a beautiful table runner made for her sister-in-law.

Mary Morse showed her completed Rotary Cutter bag in a yellow floral print. Mary mentioned that she had been able to use the invisible zipper foot for her sewing machine to insert the piping, as she could not locate her pintuck foot. Great tip! She also didn’t have piping cord, so used round elastic instead (without stretching, of course) and it worked fine!

Thanks for bringing all this great show-and-share!!

FOSTER KID BAGS UPDATE!

We collected LOTS of bags in March, which is absolutely wonderful. Our very generous members also donated more fabric plus a HUGE bag full of toiletry items... wow. Our group is small but mighty!! We have more kits if you need them, feel free to ask! And thanks for your continued support.
**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."

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**My Favorite Pompom Maker**

I know it’s probably a bit strange to see an article about pompoms in a SAGA newsletter! But as you know, I make a lot of hats for a cancer charity, so I also make a lot of pompoms. And I thought our members might have occasion to make them too, so thought I would pass along info about this pompom maker I’ve discovered that’s really great.

A while back, I had purchased this “Pom Pom and Tassel Maker” which is made by Boye (photo on the right).

I was very pleased with the set because it includes (as you can see) a template for just about every size of pompom or tassel you could possibly need, from a tiny 1/2” size all the way up to about a 5” round. I got plenty of use out of the set, but sometimes (especially with thicker yarns) had a problem getting the center of the pompom tied up really tightly. Of course, that caused some of the pieces of yarn to fall out, not a good look especially when donating hats!

Then recently I saw a YouTube video (on the “Good Knit Kisses” channel) demonstrating the Clover pompom maker. I was able to purchase the makers at Michael’s, using a coupon of course (because don’t we always?!). This pompom maker is totally fantastic! It’s a very different design from the Boye, and enables you to really cinch up the middle of the pompom so that no pieces of yarn can possibly fall out. It’s also really simple to use which is a plus. I’m actually heading back to Michael’s this week to purchase the two smaller makers as well. In terms of overall cost, these Clover makers are more expensive than the Boye, but using the coupon definitely helps. The Boye is priced at $19.99 for the set, and the Clovers are priced at $7.79 per package. Clover also has extra-large and extra-small makers available which come in a one-pack, as opposed to the large and small which come in a two-pack.

Of course, if my Mom were still here, she’d be yelling at me “just use a piece of cardboard!!!” But sometimes we do need things to make our lives easier, right?!

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**Hospitality Info for April**

If your last name begins with the letter E through the letter O, feel free to bring a delicious dessert this month!

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**2018-2019 Yankee SAGA Board**

Co-President: Pat Tarpy  
Co-President: Jane Beehr  
Vice-President: N/A  
Treasurer: Pat Tarpy  
Secretary: Sharon Simoneau  
Membership: Marie Cobleigh  
Program: Donna Costa & Ruthann Sisson (Member Donations)  
Door Prizes: Nancy Beauregard  
Scrapbook/Photographer: Donna Costa  
Newsletter: Sue Smith  
Hospitality: Fran Karwoski  
Sunshine: Sandi Thurston  
Service Project: Karen Ouhrabka  
Archivist:  

**NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2019**

**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Your smocking/sewing supplies—please see programs for more info.
- Kit fees.
- Refreshments (if assigned)
- Show and Share
- Service Project Donations
- Door Prize Donations