Where Has the Year Gone?

President's Message

I just need the answer, “Where has the year gone?” I thought I had lots of time left but, it seems to be eluding me. How can this be? Already we are changing the time again and I always have quite the difficulty adjusting. I will be away in Houston for the time change, so I’m sure my body will not know what to think.

This is always such a busy time of year. The Holidays sneak up too fast. Barely weeks in between and then the New Year arrives! I already have several events on my calendar and more will come for sure. I have at least three ornaments to make for exchange parties in addition to the ones for my own party for my numbers exchange. Luckily I have been keeping pictures of ideas that I like and can make myself. Etsy is a wonderful idea site and I have found some ideal projects there. There are really some clever people out there in cyber space.

This year was my personal one to sew, sew, and sew. My hands have been “on the fabric and off the food” for months now and I can say I do feel better. I don’t really miss the white food I eliminated eating. Once in a while if I am out, I will eat rice, white bread, potatoes or pasta but, not at home. My husband has managed to sustain himself at home without these too. I just don’t cook them. I do eat some grains, mostly for breakfast.

As far as the sewing, I have been happy to have finished many of my charity items:

*I finished my 9 dresses for Africa that were looming in the closet for want of a button hole and button. Along with that lot I finished up 4 kimono baby tops and blankets and sent them all off to the organization in Gilroy that collects them.

*I made 36 drawstring bags for the Sacramento Children’s Shelter and just need to finish the drawstrings on those so I can send them off.

*I have been interested in Veterans sew projects for some time. This year I finally joined the Contra Costa Quilt Guild. They make pillowcases, bags and quilt squares for their veteran quilts as well as Quilts of Valor that go to the Veterans Hospital in Martinez. I have done pillow cases, bags and the monthly
quilt squares and turned them in each month since July. In 2016 I hope to work on a quilt top for a quilt, have it quilted, then bind it and donate.

*I’ve also been working on Wee Care and have done blankets, hats and finishing work for the gowns that others smock. It is a fun, creative project to put together the pieces into sets. Our group has done an amazing job at gathering together a good number of sets donated to Stanford’s ICN. Thanx! To our fearless leader, Denise.

*My EGA group embellishes onesies for donation to the San Francisco Homeless Prenatal Program. We pair them with pant bottoms. They are given away at the baby shower following the series of prenatal health classes for new parents. Our very own Catherine co-ordinates that project.

*In 2013 I started sewing with my “Bunny Bees” group. We sew cuddle blankets, crate pads and crate covers for sale for donation to www.therabithaven.org. It is a fun group to sew with. Someone always manages to bring a bunny or two to cuddle at lunch. I also made a banner for the group for use at “BunnyFest.” That was a fun project to plan and sew using chalk cloth.

*I just got my fabric pack for the Christmas stocking I do each year for the Sacramento Children’s Home. Time to get thinking and come up with what I hope will be voted a favorite. The awards are gift cards to Thistle Dew Quilt Shop in Fair Oaks. Of course more opportunities to buy fabric!

*I wanted to make purses for Africa but did not get to that this year. It is a great program and I hope to add that to my 2016 list. The purses are made for young girls to carry their reusable menstrual cycle items so they can go to school. Apparently they don’t have items they can go to school with during their monthly cycle and stay home therefore, missing a significant amount of educational opportunities. The goal is to make a purse for everyone to use so no one will know on a daily basis who is experiencing their cycle. The idea is funded by the owners of www.libertyjaneclothing.com. The site for the project itself is www.sewpowerful.org. Check it out, I find it a worthwhile goal for my sewing for 2016. Maybe we could have a purse sew day in 2016? I know many of you have been sewing like crazy this year - for grandchildren, for fair, and for some sort of charity that calls to you. It is important to address our creative side in doing these projects. It keeps us well motivated and in touch with our world. Kudos! To everyone.

I’m glad everyone enjoyed my snap bag presentation in September. Some people missed it and I’m willing to have times at Cayuga if anyone wants to learn. I am happy with my box presentation as well. So simple but useable for whatever. I have talked to some of you who have already done more of each of the two projects. Hmm, I will have to put my thinking cap on for another something for 2016! In the meantime…Thanx! To everyone who participated in presentations for the year. We are so smart now!

Our November meeting will be a sit and sew. This will give everyone a short time to do a small something to catch up and chat. Note date: To avoid Thanksgiving week we meet a week earlier. December is our Christmas Tea. Looking forward to tea at The Palace with my smocking friends.
Stay well this Holiday season, party with friends, and enjoy family times. 2016 looms on our doorstep with more opportunities for sewing fun! Anyone with “I’m so bored” retired friends please contact me as I need them to sleep for me so I have more sew time!

Cheers!

Irene

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**Birthdays!**

Happy Birthday to Paula who celebrates December 9th,
to Jill who celebrates December 16th,
and to Ingrid who celebrates December 19th.
Happy Birthday ladies!

If you would like to receive birthday greetings,
be sure to let Lynn know the month and day of your birthday.

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**Wee Care**

Hello Fellow Smockers and Kindred Spirits,

Time is flying by so fast. We are heading into November and the holiday season already! Many of you are working on our Wee Care project throughout the year and it’s not easy to find a few minutes to devote to this project as you plan for the holidays.

With that in mind, our November meeting on the 17th is a sit and stitch night. If you’re not working on a handwork project for friends/family that you will bring to the meeting, you might use that time for a wee bit of smocking on a Wee Care gown. I have pleated gowns requiring smocking and will bring them to the meeting, along with some embroidery threads and smocking designs. Hope to see you there.

As well, be sure to bring any finished Wee Care items you have to the November meeting as they will count in the upcoming raffle draw. We plan to draw for the raffle at our holiday tea party in December.

We have also planned a couple of workshops the first half of the new year – more details later – but in the meantime keep on smocking!

Denise
Margaret’s Report

Just thinking of all the new bits of needlework I’ve learned in the past year thanks to the following members from Cable Car Cablers. Specifically thanks to Fran, Lois, Reba, Carol, Ingrid, Gloria and Irene. Each person gave generously of their time and shared their talents with our members at monthly meetings. We hope that this year we will see additional clever concepts being unveiled in the spirit of sharing.

We’ll start off our year this October, with a quick and clever project from Gloria. Our next scheduled presentation will be in January as November is Sit and Sew and December is Tea.

We’ve briefly discussed having a teacher visit us for 2016 but have yet to decide upon who that might be or what project we want to pursue. Judging from discussions, it seems that we’re looking for a project for ourselves or a notebook style class. Please take a little time to identify teachers and/or classes you think might be attractive for our group and then share your thoughts.

As always, if you have a new technique you would like to share at a meeting, please contact me so we can get you onto the schedule and help you if needed.

Thanks,

Margaret

Christmas Tea

After many phone calls, a trip to the Palace Hotel, and a melt down on the part of our chapter president, it has been established that we shall have our Christmas Tea this year in the Garden Court at the Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco. We have filled all twenty seats in our reservation which is for Saturday, December 5th at 4 p.m. This will give you a chance to shop downtown prior to tea, if you so choose. There is parking at the 5th and Mission Garage a few blocks walk away and should cost approximately $20. There is also public transportation via MUNI to New Montgomery Street or BART to Montgomery Station. Both stop just steps from the door to the Palace.
FYI

Did you realize that all the Schmetz needles now come with a color code? I kind of knew it but, did not know all the particulars. The Bernina people at PIQF were kind enough to give me a card and told me that if you go to www.schmetzneedles.com they have nicely given you the chart to download/ print so you can have it available. Click on Learning Center and there it is! Sure easier than trying to read the needle shaft with 10X glasses and lots of squinting. Now, how to use the old ones that are not marked? Their site has some interesting additional information about needles in general. You can also sign up for their newsletter. The internet just gets better and more useful everyday.

Irene
Smock Across America Valley Forge

The 2015 Smock Across America series of retreats concluded in Valley Forge, PA. This is a lovely area of eastern Pennsylvania: if you've never visited, I heartily suggest it. I can recommend the hotel, as well.

I spent 2.5 days in classes with Cindy Foose, who gave us tips and pointers on getting collars to roll properly, setting pleats (with a bit of fusible thread) so they don't go all limp after washing, and making buttonhole plackets that meet at the center backs and which the buttons actually fit. That trick is to never cut out a garment unless you have the buttons, so you are able to make any changes to the button stand before you start slicing into your fabric. Shaped hems, sleeves and different types of pleats were also discussed. There was so much information that I can't remember it all. Fortunately, Cindy gave us very good notes and had us make samples, so I have those to look back on when I need to.

This is the first convention/retreat I've attended that had several teachers in each class. It was so exciting to rub elbows (metaphorically- there was plenty of space in the classrooms) with Claudia Newton and Susie Gay on the learning side of the tables.

The annual meeting was interesting. There were a couple of proposed bylaw changes which sparked some emotional exchanges, causing the meeting to run nearly 45 minutes longer than usual. You can find these proposed changes in your copy of *SagaNews* Vol 26/2 on page 29. The proposed change regarding the Executive committee has been tabled (again) until next year. Those of us sitting at my table have been wondering if there is some sort of political drama underlying the change, partly because of the polarized opinions of the debate on the question. Mmm, lunch and drama. Can't beat that!

Banquet was, as usual, quite enjoyable. There was a buffet dinner, jolly conversation, and baskets. I WON A BASKET! The other 3 members of my chapter who attended had already won a basket each, as had another woman at our table, so when the last basket came up I was putting my stuff away to be ready to leave. Lori called my name, fumbling a bit over the last name.

My response was less than the excited whooping and hollering I'd have expected of myself, being only a subdued "Really? Are you sure?" They were, and I went home with all the goods needed to make a project from *Sewing for a Royal Baby* including a copy of the book and some new Gingher scissors.

Looking forward to 2016 in Hampton, Virginia,

Kathy
Snap Bag

On the morning of Sunday, September 13th several members gathered with their selection of fabrics to create a snap bag. Irene patiently walked us through step-by-step instructions to the completion of each of our unique snap bags. It’s a fun way to recycle an old metal measuring tape. A portion of the metal measuring tape is what gives the bag its snap closure. Irene told us that we should be able to make sixteen snap bags out of one 25 foot metal measuring tape.

As we worked through our project there was much discussion on techniques, choice of fabrics, and the finesse of a project. We shared a morning of camaraderie in sewing, ate lunch together, and worked several hours in the afternoon on Wee Care. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Gloria
New Member
A big welcome goes out to our newest member, Maggie Harden, a longtime SAGA member who has recently moved here from St Louis, Missouri. Maggie joined us at our October meeting. We look forward to many happy years of stitching fellowship with her. Welcome Maggie!

SAGA Convention 2016
It’s time to plan ahead for next year’s SAGA Convention to be held in Hampton, Virginia. The dates are September 20-25, 2016.

Johnston House Holiday Boutique & AAUW Holiday Tea
Half Moon Bay, CA
November 7-8 and 14-15, 2015
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
http://johnstonhouse.org
For tea tickets, see:
http://halfmoonbay-ca.aauw.net
Admission to holiday boutique is free.

Wayne Wichern Millinery
Open Studio
November 7-8, 2015
Peninsula Art Institute
1777 California Drive Studio 7/8
Burlingame, CA
http://www.waynewichernmillinery.com

River City Quilt Show
November 20-22, 2015
Scottish Rite Temple,
Sacramento, CA
http://www.rivercityquilters.org/show/

Scruffy Quilts
2nd Anniversary Party
November 21, 2015
11 37th Avenue
San Mateo, CA
http://www.scruffyquilts.com

The Artifactory Cooperative
Holiday Fair
December 4-6 2015
Hoover House
1120 Hopkins
Palo Alto
http://www.artifactoryholidayfair.com

Refreshments
November  Ingrid
December  Tea Time!
January  Cindy
February  Margaret
March  Lynn
April  Maggie
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Meeting Location
The Cable Car Cablers meet the 4th Tuesday of
the month, except for November and December.
Meetings start at 7 p.m.

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222 W. 39th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

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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.