PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER

Hello Yankee friends,

We hope that you have had a good summer, although it always seems so short. Have you done some smocking, or completed some of those UFOs (Unfinished Objects)? Don’t forget to bring your handiwork to the meeting to share with members. This is always a highlight at our meeting!

We are looking forward to our 2017-2018 season. There are nine programs planned, including a regular meeting in January. Our program ladies are working hard to present us with some interesting projects that will teach you new techniques and improve your skills. Our September 11th meeting will feature our usual Pot Luck supper followed by a demonstration of a new service project, a foster kid bag.

We are excited about the Gail Doane class to be held on September 23 and 24. The project is a cute child’s jacket made using jelly roll strips. There is also a coordinating dress kit available. There are 15 people signed up, but there is room for one or two more. Please contact Jane Beehr, Pat Tarpy or Kathy Dacey if you would like to attend.

Our hearts are heavy remembering the loss of our long-time member Rosalie Nocera. Rosalie inspired many of us to dig into new projects. She loved learning new things and sharing that knowledge with others. She dressed dolls to perfection! She was a caring person who was happy to host many Yankee board meetings and stitch-ins. Rosalie’s intense dedication to Yankee SAGA for many years will be missed by all of us.

This message would not be complete without turning our hearts to the people of Texas and Louisiana during this time of recovery from Hurricane Harvey storm damage. We will all use our best judgement to offer help to those in need.

See you in September!
Jane and Pat
**YANKEE CHAPTER POTLUCK DINNER IN SEPTEMBER!**

It’s September, and for Yankee Chapter that means…. Potluck Dinner! Please bring a food item of your choice, plus an appropriate serving utensil (if needed). If you could also bring a personal place setting (plate, cup, utensils, etc.) it would be appreciated!

**Update From the Program Committee!**

Hello ladies! Donna & Ruthann have some terrific programs in the works for this coming year. We’re going to be doing lots of smocking— hooray!

This is our tentative list of programs which are in the planning stages. We hope you’ll enjoy all of them, and let’s also hope that the weather treats us a little bit better this winter on Monday nights!

* September: Foster Kids Pillowcase Bags and Duffel Bags—Service Project demonstration and free kit distribution
* October: Pattern Weights (one of our cancelled programs from last year). Your kit includes enough materials for two weights, which can be smocked, silk ribbon embroidered or shadow work embroidered.
* November: Smocked Christmas Ornament
* December: No Program (Yankee Swap, plus Refreshments provided by Board Members)
* January: Cell Phone or Tablet Holder “Plop”
* February: Smocked Eyeglass or Scissor Case
* March: Sashiko Sachet with a Bunny (our Easter project)
* April: Smocked Clam Shell Stitch Flowers
* May: Scissor Fob
* June: Embroidered Needle Threader Holder

Also still under consideration—another Yard Sale or Book Sale. More details to come in the future months as the Board decides whether these events will be held.

Samples of some of these program items will be displayed at the September meeting!

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

We also have a new Attendance Sheet this year. Please check off your name on the sheet and indicate how many items you brought for any of our service projects.
Show & Share: June 2017

Donna Costa showed a couple of items which were highlighted in our June newsletter; the quilted yoga mat bag, and the beach dress. Donna also showed a pincushion created using a ceramic mini loaf pan.

Ruthann Sisson showed another adorable Barbie doll dress, plus a small bag with a clear plastic front decorated with pretty ribbon, and a tuffet pincushion (the top was completed by Sandi!).

Sandi Thurston showed her finished purse from the Vaune Pierce workshop and the inset she had purchased for inside the bag. Sandi also showed a cute “Hello Kitty” sundress for her granddaughter, and two finished smocked purses (from the Boston retreat).

Kathy Dacey showed the sample jacket she and Donna Boucher had made in their technique class with Claire Schaeffer, and the two out-of-print patterns that she purchased. In addition, Kathy showed a pink girl’s dress with green trim that she had made in a class with Vaune Pierce.

Donna Boucher showed her completed Disney quilt, plus a king-sized double wedding ring quilt top which will be a wedding gift (lucky couple!). Donna also showed her completed “Big Bag” tote, her completed tote from the Vaune Pierce class, and her small smocked tote (from the Boston retreat). In addition, Donna showed a little pink polka dot dress (from SATB), a Judith Adams-designed dress in white with smocking and ruffles, and her half-jacket from the Claire Schaeffer class.
Meeting Dates for 2017-2018

September 11, 2017
October 9, 2017
November 13, 2017
December 11, 2017
January 8, 2018*
February 12, 2018
March 12, 2018
April 9, 2018
May 14, 2018
June 11, 2018

*There will be a Yankee Chapter meeting in January of 2018, as many of our members have chosen not to attend SATB next year.

Resurrecting the Telephone Tree!

The Chapter will be putting together a Telephone Tree this year, to be used in the event of treacherous weather. Your cooperation is required!

At the September meeting, please see Donna Costa to provide the telephone number where we are most likely to reach you in the event of a cancellation. You need to do this even if we already have a phone number on file for you. Donna will collect the numbers and then distribute the Telephone Tree to all members.

As always, our President(s) will decide when a cancellation is warranted and will start the telephone call process.

In addition, Donna will send an e-mail to all members to inform them of the cancellation. However, we realize that many of you do not check e-mail frequently, therefore we are reinstating the use of the Telephone Tree as an additional mechanism to keep everyone informed.

Teachers’ Tea at Ryco on 9/16!

Ryco is sponsoring its bi-annual “Teachers’ Tea” on Saturday, September 16th! This is a great event that allows you to meet many teachers who offer classes at Ryco, not only in quilting but in garment construction and much more. Plan to visit this all-day event, it is not to be missed!

Gail Doane Class - September 23 & 24

Everyone who is attending the Gail Doane class on September 23rd & 24th should have already been contacted by Kathy Dacey. If you need further information, please contact Kathy at kiodacey@gmail.com.

Service Projects 2017-2018

We have been informed that Women & Infants Hospital has suspended hat/bonnet donations for the time being due to remodeling at their facility. Any bonnets which are donated in the foreseeable future will be given to Sandi Thurston to bring to the hospital where she works.

In the meantime, Sharon Simoneau informed us that isoolette covers are still needed for the NICU. These covers are used over the isoolettes (on the outside of the unit) so they can be made of any fabric, as they are not actually touching the babies. Quilted, fleece, knitted, and crocheted covers are acceptable. The usual size is either 40” x 40” or 36” x 40”. All donations of isoolette covers would be appreciated, and these would be considered a part of our service projects for this year, as will the Foster Kids bags. Therefore, you will receive one (1) extra door prize ticket for each item donated.
SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - TAKE ONE, MAKE TWO!

At the September meeting, after we partake of our wonderful potluck dinner, Ruthann & Donna will demonstrate how to create a Foster Kids Pillowcase Bag or Duffel Bag. Each member will have the opportunity to take home a kit to make one bag. (You will not be making the bag at the meeting, so a sewing machine is not required.) Special thanks to Sandi Thurston for donating some of the fabric used in our kits.

Our hope is that you will use your own fabric “stash” or purchase additional fabric or a pillowcase (new or gently used) and return TWO Foster Kid bags in October! We will also have a pillowcase bag sample to show. If you don’t have time to sew an additional bag and would like to donate fabric or a pillowcase instead, Ruthann & Donna will happily make the additional bags provided by your donations. Remember that Savers and the Salvation Army are great places to find kid-friendly sheets and pillowcases in reasonably good condition that can be used to make these bags.

Access this link to see photos of completed bags; there are some adorable ones, and lots of ideas for embellishment (including machine embroidery!):

http://www.sewforfosterkids.com/pictures-and-contact-info.html

A few photos are shown below (courtesy of the Bags for Foster Kids website).

In addition, the folks coordinating this project are also looking for other items as donations. Per their website:

*Because the foster children frequently arrive at their new home with few or no possessions we are open to receiving donations of the following:*

- new or gently used towels and facecloths
- new or gently used pillowcases
- toiletries such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, shaving supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pads, pens, pencils, brushes, combs
- twin size blankets and/or comforters
- anything that you might imagine could be useful to a child relocating to a foster home or group home
- backpacks

It would be great if we could also collect some of these additional items, so feel free to bring to the meeting in September anything that you are willing to provide that would help out these kids!
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."

MEETING TIME:
This year, we will make a valiant effort to start our meetings **ON TIME**, so that we will have enough time left to complete our monthly programs! The doors of the Community House open at 6:30 p.m., and our meetings will begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.** Please make every effort to be here on time if at all possible! **Thank you.**

Hospitality News

It was decided at our recent Board meeting that we’ll try something different this year with regard to our monthly goodies... we will assign the dessert providers using the trusty alphabet! Here’s what we mean:

If your last name begins with the letters A through C, you will be providing dessert at the October meeting.

If your last name begins with the letters D through N, you’ll be bringing dessert in November.

If your last name begins with the letters O through Z, you’ll provide dessert in January (the Board brings the goodies in December).

This will repeat (with some tweaks as new members join in) throughout the year. Each newsletter will indicate who is responsible for the dessert at the next meeting. Hopefully this will work out nicely and won’t put an undue burden on any of our members!

Remembering Rosalie

Our Member Emeritus Rosalie Nocera passed away on July 24th. Rosalie was a presence at many SAGA conventions over the years and certainly a huge part of the success of Yankee Chapter. May she rest in peace.

2017-2018 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: Linda Agresti  
Sunshine: Sandi Thurston  
Service Project: Karen Ouhrabka  
Archivist:  

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2017

WHAT TO BRING:  
- A Potluck Dish of your choice, plus an appropriate serving utensil  
- $15 Dues (if not yet paid)  
- Show-and-Share Items  
- Donations for Door Prizes  
- Donations for the Service Project