Keeping Track

Prelude to Summer

President's Message

Well, I just spent a frustrating 20 minutes trying to find out how to type my president’s message on a new computer. The new computer has so much loaded on it from the manufacturer you can’t find what you really need! I thought the new one would be helpful but, I’m ready to give it a toss. I think for sanity’s sake I need an Apple lap top with only the basics…no games, music or frills, just the ability to write and read emails, do pictures and store files I want to keep! I shall leave the solution for another day. I mostly use my iPad but typing on it is laborious. It does not help either that the cat wants to march across my keyboard.

Now, onward! I have been spending a few days in my gardens. What a workout! You would think that means they look fabulous. Not! I have been fork spading to remove weeds, pruning back overgrowth and will lastly rototill. With no rain, I can’t believe the weeds went so wild but, they did. The green recycle is getting a bonus over the next two weeks. Then, the yards will be back to what I do best…dirt garden. Yes, weed free, rototilled dirt shall be the picture until we get rain and the ability to water anything. Oh, the day…

I would, of course, rather be sewing every minute. As some of you know, I have been sewing for rabbit rescue. I met Kyomi, the co-ordinator of the sewing group, Bunnybees, at the Lace Museum. A group of us sew crate liners, cuddle blankets and crate covers for the South Bay rescue www.therabbithaven.org. They will host Bunnyfest on May 31, so I have been sewing boutique type items for that as well. It should be fun. I went last year but did not know what to expect, had a great time and this year will volunteer. Just as much fun as Pignic in September but, slightly different. Love those guinea pigs and rabbits!

I should also have been sewing for the county fair. I know what I need to finish and there might be some longish nights ahead in the next weeks. I hope all of you are further along. Ingrid already brought me her box of things to turn in for her. I will be picking up the tickets and parking passes for the twelve people on her list for June 7 and will have them for you at the May meeting.
If you have been to recent meetings, you know we have had some interesting presentations by our members. Kudos to all the participants and a grateful thank you to our presenters! We have been exposed to new activities from the sewing world. One that really piqued my interest is the Swedish weaving. It has me thinking of all kinds of things that could be done. I have found books, patterns, fabric, and the other day went through my mother’s linens to find a neat stack of Huck towels. I am not at all sure where they were from or if my mother or grandmother did any of them but, I am going to give them all a soak and a wash and put them to use. Who knew?

Summer sewing is on the way. Longer days, more light and fun with friends. Four of us decided to take a Sewcation in Mendocino. We are renting a house and having our own week long sit-and-sew. It shall be fun! The weather on the coast can be unpredictable but, that won’t dampen our sewing plans. You know my car will be filled to the brim with my projects. I spent every summer of my youth in Mendocino. We went camping and stayed 2-4 weeks every year. My mother and I always took hand sewing projects to keep busy. Dating myself here but, that was before the area got so popular. Then, there is June Santa Barbara sit-and-sew followed by August Santa Barbara class with Vaune and Cindy. Looking forward to both. In between there is sewing at home. I have a number of bits and parts of Wee Care to complete and like you, those projects you keep telling yourself you will work on….tomorrow!

Here’s hoping you have fun plans and projects to complete. The days will get longer and then shorter too quickly. The year just seems to be shooting on by at its own pace.

Cheers!

Irene

Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to Lucie who celebrates May 10th.
Happy Birthday to Lynn who celebrates on June 12th, and to Irene who celebrates on June 28th.
Happy Birthday ladies!

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

Thank you Cable Car Cablers for your continued dedication to our Wee Care Program. We've had a great start to 2015 with two workshops and a delivery to the Stanford Hospital already!

Christie was kind enough to make our Wee Care delivery to Cara, in the NICU at Stanford Hospital on March 29th. Our donation of 30 layette sets left Cara overwhelmed. Christie noted that the NICU was very busy and quite a number of wee ones are being cared for at this time. Our prayers go out to the families and babies with hope that they will leave the hospital soon, healthy and strong.

At the most recent workshop held on April 11, we worked on blankets. Thank you to Lucy, Irene, Gladys, Beverly, and Ingrid for attending. A special thank you goes out to Irene who came prepared with multiple blankets ready to sew. We worked hard and also socialized a little over lunch. By finish up time at 2 o'clock, we had sewn together 10 blankets. Irene took two more home for the finishing touches for a grand total of 12 double-sided blankets. Good work ladies!

Congratulations to Gloria - the winner of our first quarter raffle draw!

Our next workshop is scheduled for July 11th from noon until 4pm. We will concentrate on smocked or bibbed gowns. I'll have more details and will distribute a list of needed equipment-supplies at the May meeting. Our goal will be to finish gowns to match up with the blanket inventory.

Currently the number of completed layettes in Wee Care inventory is up to 15 already! It will be tremendous if we can double that and deliver 30 layettes to Stanford hospital by the end if July. I know that together we can do it!

Smock on and keep calm :)

Denise
Margaret’s Report

We greatly appreciate the generosity of members who share their skills and hope that others will volunteer to help us broaden our knowledge in any area. Please contact Margaret if you wish to present a short program to start off our meetings.

Thank you Lois and Reba for helping us all discover two new needle skills over the past two months.

It seems that Lois’ instruction in Swedish weaving on huck cloth was a huge hit with a number of our members who have now combed their linen stashes to reveal their hidden huck woven items. Irene has expanded her exploration to experiment with incorporating several smocking templates into her designs. Always clever. In the image on the right, Catherine has woven the thread tails back in through the design.

Reba’s presentation of both the history and the technique to create Dorset buttons drew members from the East Bay as well as SF to spend the evening looping and crossing their way to their own decorative button.
May: Stash Bash – measure and mark your yardage and include fabric type as well as price for each piece you wish to sell. Mark all other items as well. Proceeds go to the education fund for CCC.

June: Carol will lead and fully demonstrate the process for care and feeding for our overworked pleaters. Bring your pleater and any questions you have. You might also take this as an opportunity to replace your critical needles.

July: Ingrid will be leading us in the construction of a ribbon flower. You will need to bring scissors, sewing needle for buttonhole/heavy thread, clear tape, quilting clips to temporarily hold the ribbon together if you have them, lighting and a decorative button for the center plus a pen for notes. The kit fee is $2. We will also need use of an ironing pad and iron to share. Please let us know by the June meeting if you would like a kit, so that Ingrid can prepare an adequate supply.

August: we will create our own Snap Bag using fabric and carpenter’s measuring tape. Details to follow.

September: Sue will teach the decorative art of quilling. Details to follow.

Please continue to bring your completed monthly projects in to our meetings for show and share. We like to see what people have done.

Margaret
Note From Lois:

While you are sorting fabric for the Stash Bash at our meeting in May, if you find remnants of sturdy denim, home dec fabric or upholstery fabric that you no longer want, would you save them for me, please? Our church will be making school bags that are filled with school supplies and sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to kids around the world--victims of war, political unrest, homelessness, poverty, disease and natural disasters. Last year we made and filled 90 bags which were shipped overseas. Bags are 14"x16" with handles so 1 1/4 yards of wide home dec fabric makes two--but we can use smaller amounts and do some creative piecing. Thanks so much for your help!

Lois

Note From Irene:

I recently got a phone call from a lady named Nancy in Kelseyville. It is in Lake County on the edge of Clear Lake. She use to live in the Bay Area and said she took classes from Carol years ago. She no longer wanted to store her smocking things from years past and wanted to donate them to us. I took a road trip to meet her and picked up the things she donated. I sorted them and will be bringing them to our Stash Bash in May. Among the items she donated are two pleaters. Both are 24 rows with the first rows being half spaced. One is a Read and the other a Sally Stanley. I am not sure if anyone is looking for a pleater but this is a good chance to get one if you are. Then, you will be ready for pleater class with Carol at our June meeting.

Irene

CCC Day at the San Mateo County Fair June 7

If you have signed up with Ingrid for booth duty at the fair, your admission and parking passes will be given out by Irene at the May meeting. If you need them mailed, please send an email to Irene with your request. Please remember to bring items to display at our booth while you are there.
Gloria’s Scarf Challenge
Gloria was kind enough to distribute scarf end panel samples to the guild. She put forth the challenge to do something with your piece and return it at the April meeting. Six members finished and brought their items to the meeting for all to admire. Rumor has it that there are unfinished items still in the works. Finish them up and bring them in for all to see. Blue doll coat and hat - Catherine. Stocking- Jill. Blue snap bag - Margaret. Embroidered zipper bag - Irene. Doll kilt and scarf - Rosemary. Smocked bonnet - Gloria.
**Smock Across America**
Chicago: July 16-19, 2015  
Valley Forge: October 8-11, 2015  
See SAGA website for details  
[www.smocking.org](http://www.smocking.org)

**Sit & Sew in Santa Barbara**
June 26-30, 2015  
[http://www.vaune.com](http://www.vaune.com)

**Artisan Academy in Santa Barbara**
with Vaune and Cindy  
for those who plan ahead!  
August 19-24 2015  
August 17-22 2016

**Lace Museum**
[www.thelacemuseum.org/](http://www.thelacemuseum.org/)
The current display, Lacy Beginnings, runs through June 20 and features baby gowns and items.

**High Style**
Legion of Honor  
The Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection  
March 14-July 19, 2015  
Lynn and Margaret have seen this exhibit and give it two thumbs up each!  
[https://legionofhonor.famsf.org/highstyle](https://legionofhonor.famsf.org/highstyle)

**Maker Faire Bay Area**
May 16-17, 2015  
San Mateo County Event Center  
[http://makerfaire.com](http://makerfaire.com)

**San Mateo County Fair**
June 6-14, 2015  
Enter paperwork was due May 5th.  
Items delivered May 26 and 27.  
CCC day at the fair is Sunday, June 7th.  
[https://sanmateocountyfair.com](https://sanmateocountyfair.com)

**Refreshments**
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December  
Jill  
Catherine  
Beverly  
Gloria  
Christie  
Reba  
Ingrid  
Tea Time!
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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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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.