This Month’s Meeting: February 8, 2016

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 PRESIDENT

Dear Yankee Friends,

I am so excited for this month’s program! Debbie Glenn has given us permission to do her pocketbook.

Unfortunately I couldn't find my pattern - remember having it in my hands a week before Christmas but not sure what I did with it. Searched house everywhere with no luck. So I had to call for another one! I asked her if she would mind and she said as long as everyone purchased the pattern she was ok with that! I just feel better asking because I would want that if I had designed it myself.

What a fantastic time we all had at SATB! Our pincushions were a big hit, along with Jane's lavender sachets, Kathy and Jane's pins to count (which I was glad to have, and used in Susie Gay’s class) and my jelly!

Market was a treat this year with Farmhouse Fabrics, Susie Gay, Jan Kerton, Alma's, and Baby Lock, which donated a new machine! I guess they sold a lot, so they gave SATB one to give away.

Hope the weather cooperates for our meeting…see you soon! You don't want to miss the meeting with Show-and-Share! 😊

Happy stitching,

Sandi

26th Annual Art Show and Sale – April 8, 9, & 10, 2016

Arnolds Mills Community House
75 Hillside Road, Cumberland

"Meet the Artist Night"
Friday, April 8 – 7 to 9 p.m.
Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday and Sunday, April 9 & 10 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Featuring watercolor, oils, photography, ceramics, and multi-media works by local artists.
Our Program: Debbie Glenn’s Smocked Block Purse

This month, Sandi Thurston will start us off on our Smocked Block Purse program! Hopefully everyone has ordered a pattern through Jane Eskelund (if you don’t own the pattern already). We had agreed at a previous meeting that we would not produce kits for this project, but rather we would “shop” our own fabric/notion stashes for the materials needed. This unique pattern includes directions for the Spot Honeycomb Stitch as well as five variations of North American Lattice Smocking, plus lots of great construction techniques for a professional finish.

Reprinted below are the details from the back of the pattern with regard to what materials are needed. This will give you an idea of what we are about to tackle! We have also included a supplementary page with this newsletter that shows the front of the pattern, with a picture of what the finished purses look like (there are three alternate views), as well as a diagram which shows a bit more detail of the smocking designs.

This will be at least a two-month project, and we certainly won’t need all of these notions and fabrics for this month, but it will help you to plan ahead for a cohesive design!

FABRIC: Medium weight cotton, linen, silk dupioni, or twill; velveteen, brocade, damask, chambray. (See 45” wide material yardage below.)


For View 1:
1/3 yard Toile (Block #1, Back)
¼ yard Ivory Silk Windowpane (Block #2)
½ yard Black Dupioni (Block #3, sides, bottom, facings, handle loops)
¼ yard Ticking (Block #4)
1/3 yard Black Satin (Lining, Pocket)

For View 2:
½ yard Blue Cord (Block #1, sides, bottom, facings, handle loops)
1/3 yard Gingham Twill (Block #2)
½ yard Small Check (piping, lining, pocket)

For View 3:
1/3 yard Yellow Chenille Cord (Block #1, facings)
1/3 yard Toile (Block #2, right side)
3/8 yard Aqua Cotton (Block #3, bottom, lining, pocket, handle loops)
¼ yard Ticking (Block #4, left side)

Notions:

ALL VIEWS: 2/3 yard German interfacing; ½ yard Thermolam fleece; ¼ yard Steam a Seam 2 (add ¼ yard for matching purse back); 5/8 yard Buckram; 1 yard paper-backed fusible web; Teflon sheet; ¼” magnetic snap; 4 ½” x 5” OR 6” x 5” purse handles; 4 metal purse hooks; wash-away marker; thread to match fabric. Optional: 4 Purse Feet.

View 1 Notions: 2 ½ yards black mini-piping; 1/3 yard assorted ½”-3/4” flat trim; black floss; black seed beads.

View 2 Notions: 1 yard mini-piping cord; green & blue embroidery floss.

View 3 Notions: 1/3 yard assorted ½”-3/4” flat trim; 1 yard tassel trim.
MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET

We are still working to resolve the issues with our membership booklet. Your patience is appreciated!

Carol Ahles Coming to Massachusetts

Thanks to Kathy Dacey for passing this along!

Carol Ahles, sewing machine expert extraordinaire, is coming to Wellesley, MA and teaching for the Charles River SAGA group. The class is being held May 19 & 20 - Thursday and Friday, at a church located right off Route 128 in Wellesley.

She will be teaching a techniques class, which is also helpful if anyone is considering submitting the Artisan project for consideration. This class is loaded with machine techniques to help you master using your machine to its fullest and get fabulous results. This is a 9 hour class. The other 3 hour program is a lace-hemmed baby blanket, using fancy stitches to attach the lace and finish it off professionally. I have taken this class and the skills taught in it are very helpful…I will be taking it again!

If anyone is interested in being put on the list for this workshop, please contact Jane Connelly at 617-698-0684 or e-mail at jhc214@comcast.net.

Delicious Winter Soup!

I wanted to pass along this awesome winter soup from Gina Homolka’s terrific Skinnytaste website (www.skinnytaste.com). It’s a wonderful, hot & hearty soup that is also calorie-friendly. (Very similar to the famous “Venus de Milo” soup if you’re familiar with that recipe!)

Beef, Tomato and Acini de Pepe Soup
(Can be made in a Crock-Pot, Pressure Cooker, or on the Stovetop. Stovetop directions are below; check the website for the others.)

Servings: 6 • Size: 1 generous cup • Points +: 6 • Smart Points: 5
Calories: 249 • Fat: 8 g • Carb: 23 g • Fiber: 3 g • Protein: 21 g
Sugar: 4 g • Sodium: 593 mg • Cholesterol: 49 mg

Ingredients:

- 1 lb 90% lean ground beef
- 1- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1/2 cup diced celery
- 1/2 cup diced carrot
- 28 oz can diced tomatoes
- 32 oz beef stock*
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 oz small pasta such as Acini di Pepe
- grated parmesan cheese, optional

**Stove top directions:** In a large pot or Dutch oven, saute the beef and salt on high heat until browned, breaking the meat up into small bits. Add the onion, celery and carrots and saute 3 to 4 minutes. Add the tomatoes, stock and bay leaf, cover and cook low until the beef and the vegetables are tender, about 1 to 1 1/2 hours (you may need to add more broth or water if it evaporates too much). Add the pasta, stir and cook according to package directions.
Sandi's Sewing at the Beach Adventure!

Yea!! Off we went to SATB on Friday! I finally got smart and took the day off!

It was a nice sunny day and we drove as far as Virginia. My mom her friend Marion and I stayed at Hampton Inn to enjoy the pool and Jacuzzi!

Saturday took us to Myrtle Beach, arriving around four o'clock to enjoy another evening of pool and Jacuzzi!

Sunday brought sight-seeing in Myrtle Beach, and off to the stores to purchase gifts for home. My son requested a nail clipper! 🙄

On Monday, the fun began. Jan Kerton taught us her newest creation, a cashmere wool scarf with laser cut leaves embellished with beads. I had the pleasure of Karen’s company, and we had a great view of the beach and the palm trees around the hotel. On Tuesday, we worked on our scarves again.

On Wednesday, I had another great time with Karen, Fran, Nancy, and Sharon, doing Jan’s new carousel horse blanket with cashmere wool. It’s so soft – makes me want to cuddle underneath it!

Thursday brought silk ribbon embroidery with Beverly Clement from Stranded Smockers. Nice class! Friday was a lot of fun making a silk dupioni doll dress with pin tucking by Susie Gay. Saturday I had Susie again, making a white velvet doll cape with bead work. Now my doll can go with Rosalie’s to the ball! 😊

This year I also stayed for the southern buffet at night. The 18 tables each had a doll that our new friend Vi made. Fran was the proud winner, which made me so happy because she makes dolls too! I heard that SATB is having a doll making class next year in 2017.

Sadly, on Sunday it was time to head home. We left at 6:30 a.m. for a snowy and scary ride. It started snowing in North Carolina! How I love my Charlotte the Chevy – she’s a good girl - kept on moving through the sleet and snow. We passed lots of other cars who had fallen into a ditch. Those southern folks really don’t know how to drive in snow and kept tailgating me! After dropping off Mom and Marion, I finally arrived at “home sweet home”, as they say, and already looking forward to next year’s adventure!
MEMBERSHIP ALERT!!

All memberships to SAGA were due by December 31, 2015. If you have not paid your National dues, please do so as soon as possible! Dues are $35.00 for renewing and new members and $17.50 for a Junior/Student (14-18 years old).

Members who do not renew by January 31, 2016 will not have access to the members-only portion of our website, and will not receive the 2016 issues of SAGA News.

For anyone who still owes membership dues, Marjory Savage will have application forms at the February meeting.

If you have already paid your dues, PLEASE bring proof of your paid membership to the February meeting. We must have this information on file in order to remain part of our National SAGA organization.

Thank you!

SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

December was a great month for our service projects! Pat Deaett provided the following information. We collected:

- 12 Blankets (courtesy of former member Barbara Brunner)
- 12 Hats
- 12 Bonnets (courtesy of former member Elaine Viara)
- 2 Fleece Caps

Super job, everyone!

PRODUCT REVIEW

Sulky Cotton Petites

By Donna Costa

We all know that skimping on no-name floss causes nothing but problems, so I was very curious to try this fairly new product from the folks at Sulky. From their website: “Sulky Petites™ Cotton Thread is the handiest handwork thread because it is easier, faster and more fun than floss! Since one strand of Sulky 12 wt. Petites Cotton Thread is equivalent to two strands of floss, there are huge benefits to you: (1) You no longer have to separate floss (2) There is no tangling (3) You can cut any length you want, and (4) With the snap-end spool, storage is tidy with no loss of color identity.”

Sulky’s website quotes the price at $1.69 per 50-yard spool. In computing the difference between this product and regular DMC floss (because I obviously have too much time on my hands 😊), the Sulky checks in at $.034 per yard, and the DMC at $.057 per yard (although because DMC can be split into 6 individual strands, technically it would be less per strand).

I purchased a small pack of 6 spools for about $8.99 from Missouri Star Quilt Company, out of curiosity more than need (because I have enough floss to last about seven lifetimes... but that's a story for “Hoarders”!). Smocking one of Yankee our baby hats with the Petites was a joy! The thread has a wonderful sheen and goes through the fabric “like butter”, seriously. I'm in the process of working on a small embroidered project with the Petites and I'm happy to report the same. I think the convenience of having the thread on spools is terrific, and I would definitely buy the product again. I'm hoping that some of the “big box” stores start to carry it, as I've been unable to find any locally thus far.
NEXT MEETING – February 8, 2016 – What to Bring:

- Program Materials (Info in Newsletter)
- Dessert/Refreshments
- Show-and-Share Items
- Service Project Items
- Donations for Door Prizes

NOTE TO BOARD MEMBERS:
If for any reason you are unable to attend to your assigned duty at a meeting, please do the following: (1) arrange for someone else to substitute for you, and/or (2) call our President, Sandi, to let her know so that she can in turn arrange for coverage. Thank you!

YANKEE CHAPTER REMAINING MEETING DATES 2016

March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13 (Yard Sale)

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

Yankee Chapter SAGA
c/o Donna A. Costa
200 Post Road, Unit 606
Warwick, RI 02888
Smocked Block Purse

Love and Stitches  #651
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Step by Step Illustrated Instruction Booklet Includes Directions for the Spot Honeycomb Stitch and 5 Variations of North American Lattice Smocking Plus Constructions Techniques for a Professional Finish

FABRIC: Medium weight cotton, linen, silk dupioni, or twill; velvet, brocade, damask, chambray See 45° wide material yardage listed below

Purse: unembellished 1/2 yd. surface fabric, 1/3 yd. lining fabric

View 1: 1/3 yd. Toile- block #1, back
1/4 yd. Ivory Silk Windowpane- block #2
1/2 yd. Black Dupioni- block #3, sides, bottom, facings, snap tab, handle loops
1/4 yd. Ticking- block #4
1/3 yd. Black Satin- lining, pocket

View 2: 1/2 yd. Blue Cord- block #1 front & back, sides, bottom, facings, snap tab, handle loops
1/3 yd. Gingham Twill- block #2 front & back
1/2 yd. Small Check- piping, lining, pocket

View 3: 1/3 yd. Yellow Chenille Cord- block #1 front & back, facings, snap tab
1/3 yd. Toile- block #2, right side
3/8 yd. Aqua Cotton- block #3, bottom, lining, pocket, handle loops
1/4 yd. Ticking- block #4, left side

NOTIONS
ALL: 2/3 yd. German Interfacing, 1/2 yd. Thermolam fleece, 1/4 yd. Steam e. Seam 2 (add 1/4 yd. for matching purse back), 5/8 yd. Buckram, 1 yd. paper backed fusible web, Teflon sheet, 1/4” magnetic snap, 4 1/2” x 5” or 6” x 5” purse handles, 4 metal purse hooks, wash-away marker, thread to match fabric

OPTIONAL: 4 Purse feet

View 1: 2-1/2 yds. block mini- piping, 1/3 yd. assorted 1/4”- 3/8” flat trim, black embroidery floss, black seed beads

View 2: 1 yd. mini- piping cord, green & blue embroidery floss

View 3: 1/3 yd. assorted 1/4”- 3/8” flat trim, 1 yd. tassel trim