Smocking Arts Guild of America
Yankee Chapter
Cumberland, Rhode Island

April, 2017 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: April 10, 2017
6:30 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, then about 2 miles to Hillside Road.)

A Message from Our Co-President Sandi!

Dear Yankee Friends:

Hope you are all keeping warm in this terrible weather we are having. Sorry about our last meeting...I did give the Community House a list of our meeting dates, but unfortunately no one opened the door for us. I am making sure that does not happen this month.

Marjory is not able to attend our meetings for the rest of this year, so please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

So this month Sharon has generously given us her time to show us her lovely quilting talents; she’ll teach us to make a square tote bag with 5 inch squares. Hope you all have cut yours out. I thought it was going to take me awhile to do, but I just kept cutting them while watching TV and they were done in no time!

I’m excited to tell you Kathy has asked Vaune Pierce to teach us, on Saturday May 20th, a pretty bullion rose bag that she taught at Sewing at the Beach. So please send Kathy your check for $55.00 to reserve a spot in the class. We are not sure how much the class fee will be, but the more we fill up the class, the less expensive the cost will be. So ask your sewing friends to come too!! We are able to do this as Vaune’s daughter is graduating Sunday, so she will split the plane ticket cost with us which is a great savings. Thank you Kathy for arranging this class for us. It will be something different to work on, instead of a child's garment.

As I write this note I am excited to be going to the Boston Stitch Party, SAGA'S retreat. Hope to see many of our Yankee members there.

Unfortunately I am sad to tell you that our sister Chapter Stitchers By The Sea has folded due to lack of money and interest in smocking. We were struggling this past year so it is for the best unfortunately. All the more reason for us at Yankee Chapter to stay and BE STRONG!! We are Rhode Island's only Chapter now.

Happy sewing,
Sandi
Good Ideas for Your Sewing Space

This sewing blogger has some great ideas for your sewing space. I actually tried the pool noodle on my knee lift last year and it does work! Check out the rest of her suggestions here:


Classic Sewing Magazine Spring Issue

I’m a bit late in reviewing this new issue of Classic Sewing, since it’s Easter-themed! But it’s still available on newsstands right now (at Barnes & Noble or Jo-Ann Fabrics), so here goes!

This issue’s pattern envelope includes designs by Sue Stewart, Gail Doane and Kathy Dykstra. All three are smocked dress patterns, in several different sizes from 6 months to 10. Profiled in this issue are Connie Palmer, Patsy Smith and Steve Jeffrey, the President of Baby Lock Corporation.

There is a cute pattern in this issue is for smocked baby booties that is very detailed, with step-by-step photos, so it would be a great introduction if you haven’t tried making these before. Other patterns include a hemstitched shadow work bonnet; a picture smocking design with bunnies and another with crosses. There’s an article on multi-hooping a machine shadow work design (a very interesting technique that I have not tried yet), and another on making a crochet-and-entredeux edging for a pretty little dress. Rounding out the list of projects are some “paper doll” fabric bunnies, in-the-hoop machine embroidered carrots that can serve several purposes, and a carrot-shaped wall hanging or table runner. Last but not least are pretty lingerie and jewelry cases with hand embroidery. Very elegant accessories!

As always, there’s plenty of value in Classic Sewing magazine. Each issue has an amazing amount and variety of patterns and designs for the $25 cover price.

http://www.classicsewingmagazine.com/

Woven Fabric Basket from Atkinson Designs

I think this design is so cute! There are lots of materials used, but the items are all readily available. I actually figured it out more by looking at the photos than the written instructions. Haven’t tried making one yet, but I intend to! I have plenty of leftover strips of fabric—don’t we all?!

April/May Program: The Big Bag Theory

Sharon Simoneau will be leading us in April and May through the making of a tote bag from the pattern “The Big Bag Theory”. This pattern originally appeared in the March/April 2009 issue of McCall’s Quilting magazine. Sharon has obtained the pattern for us and made the copies; however, I don’t have any information yet on the cost. I think she’s at the Boston Stitch Party as I’m finishing this newsletter, so I will probably hear from her when she gets back; at that time, I will send out an e-mail with updated information. Below is a list of the materials needed for the bag. You will not need all of this at the first class. I believe Sharon said we can bring sewing machines in April; again, I will try to clarify that before next week.

**Materials:**

- Assorted Prints: 1 to 1—1/4 yards, or 45—5” squares of fabric. (A “Charm Pack” includes 42 squares of fabric; you can cut the additional 3 pieces needed from your lining fabric.)
- Print for Lining: 1 3/4 yards
- Handles: 1/4 yard
- Pellon Fusible Fleece—2 1/2 yards (*see note below)
- Velcro 7/8” piece
- Covered Button Set (1 1/2” Size)
- Cardboard for Bottom—9” x 17” piece

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me directly and I will try to get answers.

*Some of us ordered Pellon from Sharon. If you have not yet paid her directly for the Pellon, that cost will be in addition to whatever the pattern will be priced at. Please remember to bring the extra $$ to pay Sharon as she was kind enough to buy the fleece for everyone who wanted some!

PS: After some discussion with Ruthann and suggestions from our members, we have decided to hold on to the Smocked/Embroidered Pattern Weights program until next year, instead of trying to cram everything into the April meeting. Stay tuned for more info about when we will feature that program.
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."

Sew Beautiful & Creative Needle Back Issues for Sale

Pat Tarpy will be bringing issues of both magazines to each of our meetings for sale to our members.

Magazines will sell for $3.00 each and all proceeds will go into the treasury.

Yankee Chapter Board Members, 2016-2017

Co- Presidents: Sandi Thurston

Donna Boucher

Vice-President: ?

Secretary: Sharon Simoneau

Treasurer: Pat Tarpy

Membership: Marjory Savage

Programs: Donna Costa & Ruthann Sisson

Door Prizes: (Member Donations)

Scrapbook/ Photographer: Nancy Beauregard

Librarian: Pat Tarpy

Newsletter: Donna Costa

Hospitality: Sue Smith

Sunshine: Edith Brousseau

Service Project: Sharon Simoneau & Sandi Thurston

Archivist: Karen Ouhrabka

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 2017

WHAT TO BRING:

- Program Supplies and $$ for kit (see list in newsletter and look for an additional e-mail soon)
- Dessert (if you wish)
- Show-and-Share Items
- $$ to purchase magazines
- Donations for Door Prizes
- Donations for the Service Project

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

You should soon be receiving an e-mail or mail from National SAGA for the renewal of dues, which should be paid by December 31, 2016. This year, each member will be responsible for paying her own dues to National. Please bring proof of your payment and give to our Membership Chair (Marge) so that our records can be kept up to date. Thanks for your cooperation!

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