Keeping Track

Stuttering Stitches

President’s Message

Christmas was a great time for gift exchanges of stitching from across the USA. Thinking about stitching I discovered stitching may be as regional as our accents. In frozen New England counter-change may be hot. In the South West the Van Dyke stitch may be experiencing a re-emergence. I recently saw an example of jewel toned color tumbling designed by Judith Marquis and stitched by Fran Forsythe. My smocking friend in France prefers delicate pastels on equally pastel fabric. Is there currently a discernable style of smocking fashionable in the Bay Area? I wonder.

The number of unique smocking stitches and combinations of stitches is probably finite. As stitcher, it is most likely each of us has a few favorites. I was contemplating stuttering recently and applied compensating for stuttering to favorite smocking stitches. A person who stutters develops a system for avoiding combinations of sounds that are awkward or impossible to make. Stitching and be similar. There may be stitches that long ago I decided not to try to combine or work into a piece of smocking. Avoiding a new or difficult stitch may have happened so many times over so many years I don’t even have to think about it anymore. Those awkward sounds, those awkward stitches are no longer part of my vocabulary. Consciously and unconsciously they are not part of my repertoire. I feel this is ok. Your repertoire of stitches, by this time in your career, is undoubtedly more than sufficient to complete your original design or smocking plate you are executing. If you feel you may stutter when executing certain stitches or want to avoid them all together so as not to risk stuttering in public that is okay. Just keep stitching. Continue with your favorites. Stay true to familiar old friendly stitches.

For Cable Car Cablers who want to wear their CCC name badge at the Sara Douglas exhibition opening events in March there is time to smock your badge. Sue Kocienski’s design and instruction are easy to follow. Her pattern is available from Sue, me and others. By wearing your Cable Car Cablers badge, it will be easier for newcomers to ask you questions about smocking, SAGA and Cable Car Cablers.

Happy New Year 2014.

Christie

Calendar

January 28, 2014
Meeting 7 pm

February 25, 2014
Meeting 7 pm

March 25, 2014
Meeting 7 pm

April 22, 2014
Meeting 7 pm
Wee Care
Happy New Year to everyone! Thank you to all those who have taken pleated gowns for smocking, flannel for blankets, or other prepped gowns and bonnets. Now that the holidays are over, I'm hoping you might have a little time to finish a wee care item in the next month or two.

It would be nice to make a delivery to the hospital soon and I would like to build the inventory just a little before making the trip down to Stanford. Please bring your completed items to the January or February meeting, or make arrangements with me for pick up if you can't make it to a meeting.

Our contact at Stanford has expressed her gratitude and noted that “your beautiful work is greatly appreciated by the families who receive the bereavement outfits”. Thank you again for your contributions to our community project.

Denise

Birthdays!
Happy Birthday to Catherine who celebrates on January 9th and
Happy Birthday to Lois who celebrates on February 5th!
Happy Birthday ladies!

Lacis
Those of you who get the Lacis Newsletter have seen the picture of the Gallery set up with the pieces that have been loaned. The setting up of things is pretty much done, so we have decided to cancel the planned week of set-up in February. I want to thank those of you who volunteered to help. I'm hoping that you might want to volunteer to act as a docent during the months that the exhibit is up.

If you are planning on taking classes during the opening of the exhibit, when Barbara Meger & Judith Adams are teaching, please sign up now. Go to www.smocking.org and follow the instructions provided. The Opening Night Reception is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2014. Sarah Douglas, Nellie Durand & Mimi Ahern are planning on attending. It should be fun. Classes are scheduled for Friday & Saturday, March 14 & 15. If you wish to attend the Opening Night Reception or the Friday night lecture, you still need to register through SAGA. This is an opportunity for those of us in Northern California to take classes close to home.

Again, Thanks to those who signed up to help out in February. We're ahead of schedule as far as set-up is concerned, so you can free up your calendar for that week. See you all at the January meeting,

Catherine
Christmas Tea

Many thanks to Christie for graciously hostessing our annual Christmas Tea. Thank you to those who brought snacks for the tea, to those who brought cookies to exchange and things for the basket. Irene was the lucky winner of our basket.
Road to California Quilt Show
January 23-26, 2014
Ontario, California
[www.road2ca.com](http://www.road2ca.com)

Santa Barbara Sit & Stitch
February 2-4, 2014
Contact Roseann Saldinger at
[roseann.saldinger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roseann.saldinger@sbcglobal.net)
for details.
Looking ahead, Santa Barbara June 27-30 will probably be a Sit&Stitch. August 22-24 will be classes taught by Vaune Pierce and Cindy Foose. Details to be forthcoming.

Stitches West
February 20-23, 2014
If you hope to take classes, the time to sign up is now!
[http://www.knittinguniverse.com/West](http://www.knittinguniverse.com/West)

Sewing & Stitchery Expo
Puyallup, Washington
February 27-March 2, 2014
[www.sewexpo.com](http://www.sewexpo.com)

Sarah Douglas Collection at Lacis
March 8-October 4, 2014
[http://smocking.org](http://smocking.org)

Contra Costa Quilt Show
Concord, California
April 5-6, 2014
[http://www.contracostaquiltguild.org/quilt_show.htm](http://www.contracostaquiltguild.org/quilt_show.htm)

Trunk Show Tea
Timing and location for our SAGA Trunk Show Tea has yet to be decided.

San Mateo County Fair 2014
June 7-15, 2014
2014 is the Year of the Horse. Two special horse themed prizes will be awarded at the fair. $50 in Quilting and $25 in Non-Quilting. Why not incorporate a horse into smocked item and double your chances of winning a special award?

Upcoming CCC Events
The Cable Car Cabler challenge for 2014 is to embellish a padded hanger and enter it into the San Mateo County Fair. Hangers are available to chapter members.

At our 2014 June meeting, members will have one vote for their favorite embellished hanger. The winner of the popular vote will receive $25!

SAGA Convention
Orlando Florida
September 17-21, 2014

Refreshments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Refreshment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Cindy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Sue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Ingrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Jill</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Denise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Solly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Lois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Fran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Irene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Christmas Tea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Meeting Location
San Mateo Medical Center Hospital
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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.