Keeping Track

Bits and Pieces
President’s Message

28 years ago this April the floor of my apartment living room was covered with pattern pieces and fabric for my wedding gown. I was sewing 15 yards of 3 inch wide silk organza ruffle cut on the true bias. There were bits and pieces everywhere. September of that year my husband and I attended the opening night of the San Francisco Symphony. Using a Vogue pattern of a Kasper gown, I sewed a raspberry silk charmeuse sheath-style gown with a French black lace long sleeve jacket. Again there were pattern pieces, silk, and lace all over the living room of our apartment. Thank goodness I had a patient husband. The night of the symphony, a reporter, with her photographer trailing behind, approached me and asked “who’s your gown by?” “Kasper”, was my only response. The next morning my sister called to say Ed and my photograph was in the San Francisco Chronicle. The caption below the photo read “Christie Bilikam in a Kasper lace gown with her date Jay Edwards.” This photograph is a favorite of mine.

A non-sewing friend cautioned me now that I was married, I would no longer have the time and freedom to spread my sewing projects all over the house. She was right. After adjusting my sewing style to what I call bits and pieces it became apparent that just as much work could be accomplished. Advance planning, careful preparation, and exactness are keys to success of this method of working. Sewing work is prepped as to what stage it is in: machine work, hand work, able to leave the house, work in-house only, requiring bright daylight, sewing that can be done in my lap or needs to be worked on a table, sewing that can be done late at night or requires the sharp focus of morning. There is also the category of deadline: next Christmas, next Easter or the next county fair. Once a project is in the right category it is clear as to what bits can be sewn next. There is always a sewing project in such a state it can be taken out the door with all its pieces and worked on at someone else’s house. I prefer being able to spread my sewing out all over the floor of the living room however it is fun to imagine I am sewing within the confines of a small yacht. Smocking, silk ribbon embroidery, wool embroidery and fine hand sewing with all their bits and pieces all lend themselves to being sewn while on a small yacht or a corner of the living room. Enjoy your summer sewing where ever you may sail away.

Christie
Nomination of Officers for 2015

The slate of officers nominated for the Cable Car Cablers for 2015 is as follows:

President, select one:    Christie Bilikam
                          Irene Thomas

Vice President:    Margaret Church-Ish
Treasurer & Membership:    Cynthia Cohan
Secretary:    Sue Kocienski
Librarian:     Irene Thomas
Wee Care:     Denise Kelly
Newsletter Editors:    Lynn Conroy and Irene Thomas
Hospitality:    Jill Efting

If you are unable to attend the August meeting when the election will be held, please email your choices to secretary Sue K at sekmail50-fabric@yahoo.com before August 26, 2014. We will use paper ballots for the election at our August meeting.

Birthdays!

Happy Birthday to Sue K who will celebrate on July 15.

We have many new members since we first put our birthday list together. If you would like to receive birthday greetings here, please send an email to Lynn at lynncc@me.com, just the month and day will be fine.
Wee Care

Well, here we are at the end of another Wee Care Program year and once again, you’ve all been so generous with your time and talents, it amazes me, and the staff at the Stanford NICU. The most beautiful contributions to their unit come from the Cable Car Cabler smocking guild.

We’ve made two deliveries this year, one back in February (33 layettes and 40 knitted hats) and the second delivery in July (32 layettes and 40 knitted hats). Wow!!

Special thanks to Jill and Lois, who both turned in 10+ layette sets this past year!! As well, special thanks goes out to Irene’s friends who continue to knit up a storm! Congratulations to Irene who won the second quarter Wee Care raffle draw!

I asked for any ideas of where to buy lace at a good price at one of our meetings and the next thing I knew, people were bringing me lace of all sorts. Thank-you to Catherine, Margaret, Lois, Irene, Ingrid and Kathy for your generosity. We are now in great shape for the upcoming year to trim gowns, bonnets and blankets to our hearts content with a lovely assortment of lace and ribbons.

Both Fran and I hosted Wee Care Workshops at our homes in June, so people could work on their current program project or cut out new items for Wee Care. It was a Friday so we didn’t know how many could make it, but it was well attended. Christie, Gladys, Lucie and Beverly gathered at Fran’s home and Lois, Irene and Catherine gathered at Denise’s place. We all worked (and chatted) like busy bees for four or five hours and enjoyed a lunch provided by the hostesses. The consensus was, “let’s do this again soon.”
We will confirm a date at our upcoming meeting for another workshop to cut out items. Our inventory of gowns is very limited at this time. Perhaps we will cut out the bibbed gown as well. It seems this style, especially with the added length for the sac version, is well suited to a boy’s gown. Our donations this year were primarily little girl items and I would like to work on making more boyish gowns in the upcoming months.

Thanks so much for a wonderful year as your Wee Care Coordinator.

Denise
Wee Care Trunk Show

Our June meeting was fun! We hosted the traveling wee care trunk show. It was fun to see what others have done and gave us new ideas and inspirations for the future. We have included some pictures for your enjoyment in case you could not attend.
Lacis

The Smocking and Fabric Manipulation exhibit at the Lacis Museum in Berkeley is open. If you have not had an opportunity to visit it yet, you might want to make a trip over there.

Jules Kliot, director of the Lacis Museum, has put up a slide show of the exhibit on the museum site. If you would like to view the slide show go to www.lacismuseum.org, then click on Current & Upcoming Exhibits, then click Smocking, then Slide Show.

We are continuing to serve as docents for the Saturday times through the duration of the exhibit in October. If you can help please contact Catherine and sign up for a Saturday. Please see list as a reference for when you have already signed up to volunteer.

Docent slots are still available for Saturdays at Lacis from now until the close of the smocking exhibit there. Cable Car Cablers who volunteer for docent time slots will receive a 10% discount on purchases made at Lacis on the day that they volunteer. Please sign up with Catherine Ljunquist as soon as you know your availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lacis Docent Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 12 Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19 Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26 Denise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2 Vickie Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9 Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16 Christie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23 Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6 Denise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20 Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27 Vickie Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 San Mateo County Fair

Thank you to all the Cable Car Cablers members that submitted entries into the fair and for volunteering at the Fair on June 8th. Cable Car Cabler members, Margaret, Sue, Ingrid, Gladys, Christie, Fran, Vickie, Carol, Denise, Irene, Gloria and Reba, demonstrated smocking and chatted with fairgoers. Sue demonstrated the Clam Stitch; Ingrid worked on a smocked candy wrapper design; Fran smocked a piece for a necklace; and Reba stitched on a Wee Care gown.

Among smocked items on display were Margaret and Ingrid’s smocked and embroidered children’s dresses; Irene’s two American Girl Doll dresses; Carol’s Easter basket with beaded Easter ornaments and her beaded Christmas ornament.

This year at the Fair, Cabler Car Cablers sponsored Best of Show awards for Smocked Apparel, Non-Apparel, and Holiday Themed Items.

Congratulations to Ingrid for Best in Show for Smocked Apparel for a baby bonnet smocked on two sides with two different designs. Phyllis Brown designed and taught this project for a class at the 2013 Frisco, Texas SAGA Convention. Denise’s light orange smocked dress was awarded second place. Gloria’s blue and white smocked dress earned third place, and Christie’s light pink smocked dress received an honorable mention. Jill entered a pretty, smocked apple green dress with heirloom lace collar designed by Gail Doane. Ingrid also entered Cindy Foose’s smocked on dots dress with fagoting.
For her first time, Denise entered items into the Fair. Congratulations to Denise for Best in Show for Smocked Non-Apparel. Denise’s red sewing machine cover featured a picture smocked design. Additionally, she stitched the different built in stitches of her new machine onto the cover creating a convenient reference guide. Ingrid’s dark blue smocked box cover was awarded second place and her original red Italian Smocked Christmas ornament was awarded third place. Denise’s Barbara Meger Jewelry Pouch received an honorable mention.

Hopefully next year members will enter items into the Smocked Holiday Themed category. There was only one entry this year and it was moved to the Smocked Non-Apparel category. Please plan on entering an item or two in all three smocked categories, so that smocking can be showcased in its own display case again next year.

Cable Car Cabler’s requested a new category for our chapter Padded Hanger Challenge. Many participating members completed their hangers by our April 2014 meeting and submitted them to the Fair. Congratulations to first place winner Carol White. Second place was awarded to Jill and third place was awarded to Ingrid.

In the Fair’s Sustainable Living section, Canada College sponsored awards for the Best Repurposed Apparel for Women’s, Men’s, Children’s Apparel, and Accessories categories. Congratulations to Irene for winning the award for Best Re-purposed Accessories. A blue, red, and white designer plaid shirt was repurposed into three items – a smocked dress for an American Girl doll, a sleeve converted to a wine bottle bag and a small bag to hold an iPad charger for travel.

The Peninsula Quilters admired the beautiful piped doll and girls dresses and are interested in learning about piping techniques for their quilts. This would be an opportunity for a future Peninsula Quilter and Cabler Car Cablers teacher exchange.

Ingrid
Russian Chain Stitch

This is the project I will be teaching at our July 22nd meeting.

The Russian Chain Stitch uses the lazy daisy stitch in groups of three. It can be stitched straight or into a lovely curve. Straight stitches are added to the edges and Colonial knots fill in the open areas in the example.

Students will need to bring 5 x 5 inch piece of fashion fabric; a 3 inch hoop; embroidery thread (ie. DMC 5 thread gives a nice texture to the chain stitches) and needle to fit your choice of thread.

For students who want to make a one inch embroidered button, pre-work is required. With a pencil or water soluble blue pen lightly draw a 1.5” diameter circle in the center of the fabric. Draw another circle 2.2” using the same center as the previous circle.

Ingrid

Clam Stitch

This is the project I will be teaching at the August 26th meeting.

The February 2014 issue of SAGA News has an article by Terri Kilgore about stitching the "clam Stitch". We will be stitching this clam stitch, then making a flower. Any ribbon width or number of pleats can be used. For this example, we will be using 18 inches of 1 ½ inch width ribbon. Pleat this ribbon with 7 or 8 half spaces. This will allow about 6 pattern repeats.

Bring to meeting:
- the February 2014 issue of SAGA News
- sewing thread the same color as your ribbon
- a bead or small button for the center of your flower
- your favorite needle
- scissors
- 18 inches of pleated 1 ½ width ribbon (about 7 or 8 half spaces) to be smocked with 6 repeats of the pattern described in SAGA News

NOTE: Pleated ribbon will be available at the July meeting for $2.00)

Any questions should be directed to Sue.
Artistry in Fashion

The Cañada College Fashion Department hosts its annual “Artistry in Fashion” event on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This shopping extravaganza features dozens of designers selling clothing, jewelry, and other fashions. Visitors can tour the Fashion Department’s Open House to view student projects from noon to 3:00 p.m. Pattern designer and educator, Pati Palmer, will present a fashion show in the auditorium at 1:30 p.m. A $10 donation benefits student scholarships. On-site food vendors and free parking available. More information: www.ArtistryInFashion.com or call 650-306-3370. The college is located at 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., in Redwood City.

Sarah Douglas Collection at Lacis
March 8-October 4, 2014
http://smocking.org
http://lacismuseum.org/exhibit/smoking/

Sit & Sew in Santa Barbara
October 2014 dates to follow
January 9-13 2015
http://www.vaune.com

Afternoon with Granmere
Vaune Pierce & Cindy Foose
Santa Barbara
August 21-25, 2014
http://www.vaune.com

SAGA Convention
Orlando Florida
September 17-21, 2014
Registration is underway at
http://smocking.org

Refreshments
July                     Solly
August                   Vickie
September                Fran
October                  Irene
November                 Catherine
December                 Christmas Tea
CABLE CAR CABLERS OFFICERS

President        Christie Bilikam  650-248-3026  christie.bilikam@gmail.com
Vice-Presidents  Gloria Barkis 408-264-0340  gbbg@att.net
                Margaret Church-Ish 415-846-7609  margeci@comcast.net
Secretary        Sue Kocienski 650-756-4510  sekmail50-fabric@yahoo.com
Treasurer &      Cindy Cohan  650-349-9146  c_cohan@hotmail.com
    Membership
Newsletter       Lynn Cope Conroy 650-728-1424  lynncc@me.com
                Irene Thomas 415-823-5918  wabbit91@earthlink.net
Hospitality     Jill Efting 408-249-2424  jefting@ureach.com
Wee Care         Denise Kelly 510-339-3758  sewcrazydek28@gmail.com
Librarian        Irene Thomas 415-823-5918  wabbit91@earthlink.net

Keeping Track is published 6 times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Any non-profit needlework organization has permission to reprint any original material contained in this newsletter. Proper credit must be given to the author. Please forward a copy of the publication that contains any re-print material to Irene Thomas of CCC at wabbit91@earthlink.net

Meeting Location
San Mateo Medical Center Hospital
222 W. 39th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

SAGA Contact Info
Region representative Chris Sykes
regionfive@smocking.org

SAGA
P.O. Box 5828
Savannah, GA 31414-5828
Telephone: 817-350-4883

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.