Smocking Arts Guild of America
Yankee Chapter
Cumberland, Rhode Island

November, 2017 Issue
This Month’s Meeting: November 13, 2017
Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Begins Promptly at 7:00 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.)

PRESIDENTS’ MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER

Hello Yankee Friends!

It’s November, a month when we salute our Veterans and are thankful for all that we have. Some of you may have lost power for a few days from the last storm, but hopefully you are all back to “normal”.

Today, Jane noticed an inflated snowman with his arms raised as if to welcome the season. He may be ready, but we are pretty sure that many of us are not! There is still time and this month’s program will help to add an ornament to your decorations.

The December meeting (assuming we do not have bad weather and have to try out our new telephone tree) will feature refreshments by the Board and our annual Yankee Swap of a handmade ORNAMENT. This meeting has always been about sharing the spirit of the season, and a relaxing night with no pressure. The ornament could be made by you, or purchased at one of the local bazars or craft shows. Whose ornament will be the “one” to swap this year?

A big “thank you” goes out to all members who have returned many bags for the Foster Kids at the October meeting. Please continue to work on this worthy project.

Jane & Pat

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FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: NOVEMBER PROGRAM INFORMATION

In November, we will be creating an adorable smocked holiday ornament in the shape of a drum—our Yankee Chapter symbol!

Your smocked ornament kit will cost $4.00. It will include pleated fabric to smock the drum, floss, a dowel & bead for the drumstick, a drum “form”, felt circles for the drum’s top and bottom, and written instructions which include a smocking design.

Please bring your regular sewing/smocking supplies, including an appropriately sized needle for smocking.

We hope you’ll join us to get a head start on the holidays! Any questions prior to the meeting, please e-mail Donna.

FOSTER KIDS BAGS—THANK YOU AND KEEP THEM COMING!!

We were so impressed with the response to our call for Foster Kid bags last month! We received a total of 29 bags in October. Plus, we even received more donations of fabric so we can make more kits! Thank you, one and all. If you still have a kit, please sew it up and bring it to the next meeting. If you need another kit, let Donna or Ruthann know and we’ll provide one for you. If you haven’t been able to complete your kit, please return it so that someone else can finish it up.

JUST LOOK AT ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL BAGS!!

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

We also have a new Attendance Sheet this year. Please check off your name on the sheet and indicate how many items you brought for any of our service projects.
Show & Share: October 2017

Ruthann Sisson showed her adorable “sweet corn” made of Minky fabric! They were just the cutest, and quite a conversation piece (wink).

Donna Costa showed her Halloween Tote Bag (made from a panel purchased at Ryco) and her completed Gail Doane Jelly Roll Jacket in the coloration “Fresh Market”.

Sandi Thurston showed her neat bag in cat print which was a kit purchased from Creative Keepsakes. Sandi also showed a lovely pink Wee Care gown and also some Wee Care bonnets that will be donated at the upcoming convention. In addition, Sandi showed her entry for the accessory contest, a wallet with smocking made in sewing-related fabric. Good luck Sandi!

Joanne Chevriere showed several gorgeous smocked items, including a smocked dress design which was on the cover of AS&E #99; a dress which was a hybrid of “Sophie” (on the top) and “Louise” (on the bottom), both Children’s Corner patterns; and another adaptation of the pattern “Kenzie”. Joanne also showed a version of “Lee” from the Dolly’s Wardrobe patterns.

Thanks to all for the wonderful Show-and-Share!

Vogue Patterns Acknowledges Smocking!

I was leafing through a recent issue of Vogue Patterns magazine (October/November 2017) and to my astonishment, there was an article about smocking!! Unfortunately, it was not about our type of smocking (English), but rather about fabric manipulation (usually called Canadian or North American smocking). Guess we were, as they say, “ahead of the curve” when we made our Debbie Glenn Smocked Block Purses last year! The article shows a technique for creating an overlay for a full skirt, including how to draw the grid of dots and then pick them up to create the design. The photographs are terrific and show all of the steps in very clear detail. Now, the way they designed it seems cumbersome to me; with a little math, you could actually create the skirt piece to include the fabric manipulation, and not have a double-layered skirt, with the smocked piece simply plopped on top of the skirt and tacked on by hand. But who am I to question VOGUE?!
Meeting Dates for 2017-2018

September 11, 2017
October 9, 2017
November 13, 2017
December 11, 2017
January 8, 2018
February 12, 2018
March 12, 2018
April 9, 2018
May 14, 2018
June 11, 2018

Telephone Tree Update!

We have distributed a copy of the Telephone Tree with this newsletter. The instructions for use are included on the document.

Please remember that first of all, your safety is paramount! Check the weather before starting out for the meeting. Watch your e-mail for a message from Donna if the meeting is cancelled. If you don’t hear from the person “above” you on the tree, feel free to call either Pat Tarpy or Jane Beehr, and they will tell you whether the meeting is definite, tentative or cancelled.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: A REQUEST!

Fran Karwoski is collecting “Box Tops for Education” for her local school. If you see any of these logos on your packaging and would not mind clipping them for her, it would be appreciated!

National SAGA Smock-Along

Is anyone else in our group participating in the smock-along on SAGA’s Facebook page? We are making a small bag designed by Vaune Pierce, with a smocked inset. Lots of people are posting photos of their finished bags, which are just beautiful!

If you’re not on Facebook, you can find the three-part series on SAGA’s web page as well:

http://www.smocking.org/

This would make a great multi-month project for us next year.... hint, hint to whoever takes over the Program Coordinator position!!

Reminder—Service Projects

Although we are still collecting bonnets, they will not be going to Women & Infants until further notice. Sandi Thurston will be taking those donations to the hospital where she works.

We will continue to collect the Foster Kids Bags and, in addition, isolette covers for the NICU. These covers are used over the isolettes (on the outside of the unit) so they can be made of any fabric, as they are not actually touching the babies. Quilted, fleece, knitted, and crocheted covers are acceptable. The usual size is either 40” x 40” or 36” x 40”.

All donations of bonnets, isolette covers and foster kids’ bags are considered to be a part of our service projects for this year. Therefore, you will receive one (1) extra door prize ticket for each item donated.
The Smocking Arts Guild is on YouTube!!

Did you know that SAGA now has a YouTube channel? Only a few videos so far, but hopefully they will be adding more very soon! Just go to YouTube.com and type "Smocking Arts Guild" into the Search box, then be sure to hit the "Subscribe" button. More subscribers will encourage National to create more content!

Vaune Pierce does two wonderful videos on the Cable Stitch and the Trellis Stitch. The instructions are very clear and would be great for any beginners or for those of us who need a refresher. I found it so interesting how she holds her fabric for smocking... she stitches away from her body, holding the fabric with the pleats horizontally rather than vertically as most of us were taught. I need to try her way to see if I can “cure” my tendency toward wiggly cables!

Sandi’s St. Louis Adventure!  Contributed by Sandi Thurstone

For those of you who thought about going to St. Louis— oh! you should have! It was such a great time. The Charles Embassy suite was a nice and huge place.

I started out the trip going to Logan Airport in Boston at 4 am Thursday morning, which was ok because I couldn’t sleep much from the excitement of my trip! So I got to the airport and my son dropped me off at the door. He did offer to help me “check in” but I thought to myself, I can do this. He thinks I’m not that great on the computer - but forgets what he taught me! So I go in and head straight for the check in. My son put my plane ticket on my phone which was great because that’s one thing I didn’t have to look for and keep track of. I print out my ticket for my luggage and read how to place it on my luggage bag but somehow because of my nervousness can’t seem to do it, so I head to the luggage area (luckily there weren’t many people there at the time) and checked in— lucky for me a nice young man helped me. I was afraid my bag was over fifty pounds but it passed- yay!! I packed lightly so I could buy stuff at market.

Well now I have to go through security and there is a German Shepherd dog sniffing us all. Scared me to death, because as a child of about six I was attacked by one and had a lot of stitches. He went right by me! So now I’m in the airport and walk a few miles to get to the terminal and wait for Jane. We board the plane and have the best laughs, and it landed so nicely.

We got to the hotel and had the afternoon to do some sightseeing. The hotel had a trolley that stopped by every half hour so we went downtown to St. Charles. We stopped at an antique store which had everything you could imagine—but pricey! Then we went to a quilt store that some of SAGA ladies told us about. It was heaven for me. Jane said I behaved and didn’t buy too much! After that we went sightseeing and headed back to hotel to get our room and register.

On Friday, I took Phyllis Brown’s class. She showed us how to make a Madeira towel which is so pretty. On Saturday and Sunday I had class with Susan O’ Connor, who showed us how to do a pin holder. Jane brought her sewing machine which fit nicely under the seat of the plane; she took class with Debbie Glenn. I have to look for a sewing machine like that so I can take those classes.

On Saturday night, I won second place in the “Viewer’s Choice” for my wallet, and I also won two baskets along with my friend Jane O’ Brien. I was so happy for us but felt bad for my friend Jane C!

On Sunday we went to see the famous arch. We took a taxi ride from hell. I thought I was gonna die! We had to be back to the hotel for 3:45 as we had already paid for a ride to the airport. Our driver couldn’t speak English very well and went from 70 to 0 in the fast lane (they have an extra left lane for emergency use). Then he started up and darted to the middle lane going 45 mph! Cars are honking their horns, and he’s talking on the phone looking for directions because he was lost! So Jane O. got on her phone and gave him directions. He drives right by the exit and then backs up to take it, with horns tooting the whole time! Oh, and the best part was that it cost $55 to get there and even though the meter was over $125, we only paid him the $55! Lesson learned! It was so nice to get back to our hotel where the other driver was waiting to take us to the airport. I got home at 1 am Monday morning and fell right to sleep. After all that, I was glad I got the chance to go and see the arch. Thanks to my friends Jane x2!!
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."

MEETING TIME:
This year, we will make a valiant effort to start our meetings **ON TIME**, so that we will have enough time left to complete our monthly programs! The doors of the Community House open at 6:30 p.m., and our meetings will begin promptly at **7:00 p.m.** Please make every effort to be here on time if at all possible! Thank you.

Free & Easy Phone Wallet Organizer Pattern
From the ladies at Sew-So-Easy comes this great pattern to hold your cell phone and whatever else you need to carry when you’re traveling light! Two fat quarters, a couple of zippers, and a magnet or Velcro and you’re ready to create this wallet in about an hour.

Instructions can be found here: https://so-sew-easy.com/phone-wallet-organizer-pattern-tutorial/

The pattern itself is a free download from Craftsy (all info about how to get the pattern is in the above link).

Hospitality Info for November
If your last name begins with the letter C, you are assigned to provide the goodies for the November meeting. Thank you in advance!

2017-2018 Yankee SAGA Board

Co-President:
Pat Tarpy

Co-President:
Jane Beehr

Vice-President:
N/A

Treasurer:
Pat Tarpy

Secretary:
Sharon Simoneau

Membership:
Marie Cobleigh

Program:
Donna Costa & Ruthann Sisson (Member Donations)

Door Prizes:
Nancy Beauregard

Scrapbook/Photographer:
Donna Costa

Newsletter:
Sue Smith

Hospitality:
Linda Agresti

Sunshine:
Sandi Thurston

Service Project:
Karen Ouhrabka

Archivist:

NEXT MEETING: November 13, 2017

WHAT TO BRING:
- Completed Foster Kids’ Bags & Other Service Project Items
- Your regular sewing supplies as indicated by the Program Committee, plus $4.00 Kit Fee
- Dessert (Last Names Beginning with C)
- Show-and-Share Items
- Donations for Door Prizes