

# EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

April 2009

## PREZ SAYS .....

Spring has finally arrived! Budding trees and spring flowers always seem to make you feel just a little lighter as we look forward to trading our winter wools for lighter and brighter clothes. The plans for our Fashion Show are all coming together nicely and, hopefully, you are finishing those last minute touches on your creation. The Fashion Show committee has created a great staging, but you, the members, are the key to the success of this project! Keep those needles moving! I know you all have such great talents to share.

*Nancy Boccadoro, President*

## PROGRAM

Topic: Round Robin  
Speakers:

Trudy Frey: What To Do With Fat Quarters  
Carmen Limardo: Necklaces with Ribbon and Disks  
Claire Rohloff: Embellishing Fabric with Angelina, Foils, & Stamping

*Eleanor Pinto, Vice President*

DEVOTIONS Patricia Karcher

HOSTESSES Assisting Mary Morgan this month are Trudy Frey and Jean Riker Hostesses are asked to bring a simple snack to share during the break

## SEW n SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, April 23, 2009, from 9 AM- 4 PM at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg; We do not have a specific project but you are welcome to join us and work on your own project. Everyone is welcome!

*Annette Smerkanich*

## EMBROIDERY CLUB

The Embroidery Club will meet on Friday, May 1 at At Piece Quiltery at 10 AM The project will be a lace angel using organza and a wing needle. Anyone with an embroidery machine or anyone who would like to learn more about one is invited to attend. Please contact Dee Lammi ([lammid@rcn.com](mailto:lammid@rcn.com)) or 610-252-5628 for more information if you are not already a member.

## FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

*Please contact us with any items you think would be of interest to our group!  
Special thanks to those of you who do.  
Deadline for May Newsletter is May 1, 2009  
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Thanks to the efforts of more than a dozen people, our plans for this year's fashion show are all in place and ready to go. Please be sure to turn in all admission ticket money to Diane Sutor at the April meeting. Karen Zimmerman will be collecting any items that are to be used in the raffle. Darlene LaFevre needs those "cupcakes" that will be used for decoration. Fran Brader and Peggy Conger would like items for the display area to be brought to the April meeting or the morning of the day of the show. Dee Lammi notes that all posters should now be in their designated locations for publicity. Those who volunteered cake or cup cake stands should bring them to the meeting for the Hospitality committee to inventory. As always, Hospitality is counting on pastries from the membership for the Hostess table and this year we would like some cupcakes to complete the decorating theme. Please see Polly McGarr if you intend to contribute cupcakes.

The committee will set up the fashion show between 8:30 and 11:30 the morning of April 19. Extra hands to help are always welcomed! In the mean time, we hope to see even more models planning to take part in our annual endeavor for Third Street.

*Nancy Boccadoro, Carol Williams, Fashion Show Committee*

Lovers of fine embroidery will not want to miss the opportunity to see a fabulous hand-embroidered Japanese screen that is the centerpiece for an upcoming exhibition at the Allentown Art Museum: Waves, Waterfalls, and Ripples: The Element of Water in Japanese Art (April 29-July 16, 2009). The four-panel screen, standing about six feet high, was commissioned by the Japanese government for display at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. The design, an amazingly realistic depiction of the rough waves of an early morning sea, was designed by Hashio Kyoshi, a prize-winning master embroiderer and designer. He and three assistants embroidered the screen over 18 months, using nearly 250 colors of silk thread in its construction. Be warned, however-the waves are so realistic you may think you see them move! -- Jacquie Atkins, Curator, Allentown Art Museum

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## SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

The latest Sew News Magazine arrived a couple of weeks ago. The theme of this issue is about being "green". I think most seamstresses have always been green. I found suggestions in an article BEYOND THE BOLT to be way past green. Some of the ideas included using a painter's drop cloth for fabric, a shower curtain for making a rain coat, using silver fender washers (I have actually done this one) and black rubber washers as button closures. Fitted knit sheets become pajamas. There were several other options equally far out.

This issue has a very good lengthy article about fitting a large bust. One of the alterations given is adapting a princess line pattern. One good quote .... "Whatever you wear remember to dress all of you...not just your bust. Choose styles that don't divide you in half, but go by a 1:3 or 2:3 ratio. Looking at the line of your outfit as a whole, divide the outfit with one-third on top and two-thirds on the bottom, or vice versa. If you want to wear a boxy little jacket, wear a below-the-knee length skirt or choose pants." Other features include an article on interfacing and one on bamboo fabric.

If anyone would like to borrow this issue, I will have it at the meeting and I will be most happy to share it.

It is time to crash sew for the fashion show.

Jan Neitzel

## SEW WHAT'S NEW?

It's been bothering me that I'm not writing what this column started out to be - then I took a look at the title and decided it doesn't specify that what's new has to be about sewing. I haven't been doing much sewing because I'm between 2 cataract surgeries, and I have to read, sew, etc. with one eye shut, since my glasses are only good for the eye that hasn't been done yet. The thing is I can see better out of the new eye, but you can't mix or match. Yesterday I tried working at the computer with a Post-it-Note stuck to my one lens! Not too satisfactory.

One thing I notice is that everything I see through only the new eye is brighter and more colorful. Found out my bathrobe is not dark dusty rose but

raspberry - much prettier. I can't wait till both eyes are the same. What a splash of color that will bring.

I read in a newsletter I receive about a class called "Exploratory Surgery". I wish I had thought that one up. Pretty clever. And here's my "silly saying" for April: "Do Danish people have American rolls for breakfast??"

*Ellen Sorensen*

## SOME SEWING HISTORY

### NEXT UP - MEASURING DEVICES

Today we have a wide range of measuring devices including tape measures, gauges and rulers. In the late 1600s, tailors and dressmakers used strips of paper to take essential measurements, marking each strip with a notch.

Ribbons with long and short lines representing feet and inches or centimeters were also used. Early markings were done with ink or embroidery, but later they were stenciled or printed. Ribbons might be wound into small cases, plain or fancy and made of brass, bone, ivory, wood, or mother-of-pearl. Ribbon measures such as these were thought important enough to be named among minor bequests.

The metric system was adopted in England in 1799. Prior to this date, different localities had different systems, thus old foreign measures are more difficult to identify. The whims of kings often determined measurements: Henry I decreed that an English yard should be as long as his arm and Edward VI decreed that each yard of cloth should have 37 inches in it.

A cloth-yard was equal to the length of a hunting arrow.

A nail was two and a quarter inches, four nails equaled a quarter yard.

An inch was equivalent to three barleycorns or the twelfth of a foot.

A lady's shortest thumb joint was supposed to measure an inch.

A man's foot was considered to be a foot long and a woman's arm length is a yard.

On some measures, inches are ignored and letters are used to indicate fractions of a yard: thus an old ribbon might be marked N, HQ, Q, H and Y, standing for Nail, Half Quarter, Quarter, Half and Yard.

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One additional type of measure worth mentioning is the yardstick. In earlier centuries every household possessed its own carefully marked wooden measuring stick, often handed down through successive generations. Apart from its general domestic uses it was of particular value to the mistress of the house in ensuring that the traveling salesman, who called at the door with ribbons, laces and fabrics of all kinds, was giving correct measure for her money. From this usage we derive the meaning of the word "yardstick" to mean receiving a full measure of value. The housewife also used the stick to make her own yard-measures for needlework, marking off the feet and inches on a length of tape or ribbon. When the ribbon became worn and frayed a new length was marked off, not from the old ribbon, but from the wooden stick, thus ensuring that accurate measurements were maintained. It is the same precision of the steel tape and lock catch used by carpenters and architects today.

*Kay Wolff*

## MENU CHOICES - COUTURIERE LUNCHEON MAY 11, 2009

COST: \$ 20.00 (Make checks out to Easton Couturiere Workshop) Please indicate any dietary restrictions.

**POLYNESIAN SALAD:** Tropical fresh fruits, grilled pineapple and macadamia tuile over mesclun mix with a coco Lopez dressing.

**ENTREE CHOICES:** All entrees include starch and vegetable du jour unless otherwise stated.

**NEW YORK STRIP STEAK w/PORT WINE CHASSEUR SAUCE:** Broiled to your request with a port wine-Espagnole sauce, concasse tomato and mushroom sauce.

**CHICKEN PATRICIA FLORENTINE:** Breast of chicken, shrimp, artichokes, mushrooms and concasse tomatoes sauteed with sherry wine, finished with fresh spinach and a light mustard creme sauce.

**TILAPIA ISLAND STYLE:** Stuffed with a lump crab, papaya and mango filling, glazed with Avery sauce.

**NAPOLEON OF EGGPLANT AND FIG:** Slices of eggplant layered with roasted peppers, grilled asparagus and tomatoes with an Asiago fig puree over vegetable hash. This entree is complete as described.

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DESSERT: Pastry chef's choice.

BEVERAGES: Sweet Tea and Ice Water on Tables;  
Coffee and Hot Tea with Dessert.

## EDUCATION

The Web site to get dyeing information fabric for dyeing and ready made clothes for dyeing is [www.dharmatrading.com](http://www.dharmatrading.com). The catalog has lots of information and the people are very helpful. If you would rather call for a catalog - the number is 1-800-542-5227. Many of the patterns from our recent program can be purchased at [www.lauramurraydesigns.com](http://www.lauramurraydesigns.com)  
*Claire Rohloff*

## MEMBERSHIP

New Member:

Joyce Allen  
RR #6 Box 6738  
Saylorsburg, PA 18353

Birthday: 10/29  
570-992-8726

Address Change:

Ruth Minich:  
6010 Brookfield Glen Dr.  
Belvidere, NJ 07823

[ru3b40@comcast.net](mailto:ru3b40@comcast.net)

Email Correction

Sue Cimino

[sue5982@embarqmail.com](mailto:sue5982@embarqmail.com)

*Sharon Roehrig*

## THE FLOUR SACK

BY COLLEEN B. HUBERT

**IN THAT LONG AGO TIME WHEN THINGS WERE SAVED,  
WHEN ROADS WERE GRAVELED AND BARRELS WERE STAVED,  
WHEN WORN-OUT CLOTHING WAS USED AS RAGS,  
AND THERE WERE NO PLASTIC WRAP OR BAGS,  
AND THE WELL AND THE PUMP WERE WAY OUT BACK,  
A VERSATILE ITEM, WAS THE FLOUR SACK.**

**PILLSBURY'S BEST, MOTHER'S AND GOLD MEDAL, TOO  
STAMPED THEIR NAMES PROUDLY IN PURPLE AND BLUE.  
THE STRING SEWN ON TOP WAS PULLED AND KEPT;  
THE FLOUR EMPTIED AND SPILLS WERE SWEEPED.  
THE BAG WAS FOLDED AND STORED IN A SACK  
THAT DURABLE, PRACTICAL FLOUR SACK.**

**THE SACK COULD BE FILLED WITH FEATHERS AND DOWN,  
FOR A PILLOW, OR T'WOULD MAKE A NICE**

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## **SLEEPING GOWN.**

**IT COULD CARRY A BOOK AND BE A SCHOOL BAG,  
OR BECOME A MAIL SACK SLUNG OVER A NAG.  
IT MADE A VERY CONVENIENT PACK,  
THAT ADAPTABLE, COTTON FLOUR SACK.**

**BLEACHED AND SEWN, IT WAS DUTIFULLY WORN  
AS BIBS, DIAPERS, OR KERCHIEF ADORNED.  
IT WAS MADE INTO SKIRTS, BLOUSES AND SLIPS.  
AND MOM BRAIDED RUGS FROM ONE HUNDRED  
STRIPS  
SHE MADE RUFFLED CURTAINS FOR THE HOUSE OR  
SHACK,  
FROM THAT HUMBLE BUT TREASURED FLOUR  
SACK!**

**AS A STRAINER FOR MILK OR APPLE JUICE,  
TO WAVE MEN IN, IT WAS A VERY GOOD USE,  
AS A SLING FOR A SPRAINED WRIST OR A BREAK,  
TO HELP MOTHER ROLL UP A JELLY CAKE,  
AS A WINDOW SHADE OR TO STUFF A CRACK,  
WE USED A STURDY, COMMON FLOUR SACK!**

**AS DISH TOWELS, EMBROIDERED OR NOT,  
THEY COVERED UP DOUGH, HELPED PASS PANS SO  
HOT,  
TIED UP DISHES FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED,  
AND FOR MEN OUT IN THE FIELD TO SEED.  
THEY DRIED DISHES FROM PAN, NOT RACK  
THAT ABSORBENT, HANDY FLOUR SACK!**

**WE POLISHED AND CLEANED STOVE AND TABLE,  
SCOURED AND SCRUBBED FROM CELLAR TO  
GABLE,  
WE DUSTED THE BUREAU AND OAK BED POST,  
MADE COSTUMES FOR OCTOBER (A SCARY GHOST)  
AND A PARACHUTE FOR A CAT NAMED JACK.  
FROM THAT LOWLY, USEFUL OLD FLOUR SACK!**

**SO NOW MY FRIENDS, WHEN THEY ASK YOU  
AS CURIOUS YOUNGSTERS OFTEN DO,  
BEFORE PLASTIC WRAP, ELMER'S GLUE  
AND PAPER TOWELS, WHAT DID YOU DO?  
TELL THEM LOUDLY AND WITH PRIDE DON'T LACK,  
GRANDMOTHER HAD THAT WONDERFUL FLOUR  
SACK!**

*Thanks to Diane Suter*

## **New York Bus Trip May 14, 2009**

7:30 Bus will leave Kohl's  
8:00 Will pick up at Hillcrest Mall  
10:00 Metropolitan Museum of Art –  
The Medel as Muse: Embodying Fashion - Fashion  
from 1945 to 1995  
Free time for lunch at the Met  
1:00 Depart for City Museum  
1:30 Arrive at City Museum  
Guided tour of the Valentina Exhibit  
5:00 Depart for home  
7:15 Arrive home

Cost \$62.00

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