

# EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

December 2008

## PREZ SAYS .....

The Christmas Bustle has commenced! With the snow flurries signaling the official change of seasons, and the candle lighting in Center Square, my calendar of holiday events has begun. I always look forward to all the decorating and baking, but even shopping, something I usually dread, takes on an exciting aura. Our December program with Debra LoPresti should be a fun "Holiday Glitz" incentive.... Accessories, Accessories! She will be bringing a model to show her accessories. and the luncheon, as always, a welcome time to share with friends. Perhaps some finished Christmas gift projects will appear for show & tell; we all enjoy seeing those great creations. Speaking of gifts, I would like you to consider one other thought. Traditionally at our December meetings our members donate small gifts for the women and children who will be staying at Third Street through the holidays. While those special little gifts of caring are always appreciated, an alternative could be a monetary donation for Third Street for to help defray some of their holiday expenses. If you are interested in this option, we will take up a collection during our meeting on Monday. Please know that either option is entirely voluntary.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on December 8,  
*Nancy Boccadoro*

DEVOTIONS: Diane Sutor

HOSTESSES: Mary Coyle, Louise French, Judy Perry, Marie Mays-Gee, Virginia Conover, Pauline Jarva

Hostesses are asked to bring a desert to complete our luncheon.

## Sew N Sews

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, January 22, 2009 from 9 A till 4 P at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, Pa.

At this time, nothing in particular is scheduled, so you can bring your own project.

*Annette Smerkanich*

This color wheel was demonstrated at our Show and Tell at the November meeting.

## **Color Wheel DMC Floss Color Chart**

Yellow	445	Blue	796
	444		825
	972		517
Orange	740	Turquoise	3765
	970		806
	900		958
Red	321	Sea Green	943
	600		992
	917		911
Purple	915	Leaf Green	701
	550		703
	208		704

Use a 6" or 8" hoop – arrange colors in order

*Trudy Frey*

The Embroidery Club meeting on 12-18-08 is cancelled. We will meet in Jan. Date and project will be announced..

A reminder: check out all the sewing machine sites for the free designs available for December to download.  
happy holidays *Barbara Witkowski*

***The Art of Giving***, a new exhibition opening at the Allentown Art Museum on December 14, celebrates the generosity of donors to the collections over the past five years. Their gifts, which include paintings, works on paper, photographs, sculpture, textiles, costume, and decorative arts, have helped to expand the museum's collections significantly. Of special interest will be two bejeweled Mary McFadden creations, several elegant paisley shawls, a stunning 19<sup>th</sup>-century Chinese embroidered robe, and some 19<sup>th</sup>-century quilts and woven coverlets by local makers. As a preservation measure, these pieces (as well as works on paper) will be replaced with comparable gifts midway through the exhibition (March 14). The exhibit also includes a dramatic wool woven wall hanging by Toshiko Takezu, an early work by this artist who is now internationally known for her extraordinary ceramic pots, some of which will also be on view.—*Jacquie Atkins, Allentown Art Museum*

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 January Newsletter is January 2, 2009

All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website [embroiderybydee.com](http://embroiderybydee.com)

*Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com*  
*Ellen Sorensen glenn13ellen@verizon.net*

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## SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

Continuing on with Top Tips from the Aug./Sept. 2007 issue of Vogue Patterns magazine....

Shirts that end at the widest part of your hips will make you look wider.

Tapered cuffs and cropped lengths can make a full-busted figure seem top heavy.

Long skirts are great for creating lean vertical lines, but petites may be overwhelmed by too much length.

A hemline that falls below the hip will elongate the body creating an illusion of slimness. Just keep it in proportion to your height - a too-long tunic can overpower a petite frame.

Cropped tops draw attention to the waist and make the upper body appear wider.

Arms will appear slimmer if you keep the bottom edge of short sleeves above or below the widest part of your arms.

Ending a sleeve just above the wrist will visually shorten long arms.

Thanks a lot. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Best wishes, jan

## SEW WHAT'S NEW?

I'm back to being thankful again! I'm writing this before Thanksgiving, but you will read after, so I hope it was holiday full of thanks. I never seem to cease marveling at medical miracles, and being thankful for them. My back pain is gone, although there is still some discomfort which holds me back a little. Just need to rest frequently when I get tired. Again I have had to learn patience. And thanks for the many good wishes I received from you. My husband is impressed with the caring feeling of this group.

Now it's Christmas to think about. Guess what! My tree is up! My son was out here yesterday to help us with a few chores, and I got the brainy idea to have him put it up, since it is a bit heavy, and it takes a little bending and stooping to get it set in place. Fortunately we bought a new one last year with the lights on it. So I'm ready for an ornament day sometime in the next 2 weeks. I love Christmas ornaments, and most of ours tell a story - of a trip, or a child, or a grandchild - many different times in our lives. Yes, I have sewing machines, a Christmas tree

made of mini-spools, a dress form, and a couple others. Each one is a memory as we add them to the tree. I look forward to doing that again, as soon as I feel a little stronger and have a whole day.

I have no "what's new?" to report since I haven't really been out of the house to go anywhere except doctors' offices. I should change the title of this column. Any ideas? Merry Christmas, and see you on December 8.

*Ellen Sorensen*

## The History of APRONS

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and some times half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

## REMEMBER:

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Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool.

Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron.

*Thanks to Jan Neitzel*

A couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, the wife sarcastically asked, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep" the husband replied, "In-laws."

## SOME SEWING HISTORY.....

Sewing catalogs are filled with a wide array of equipment, and yet, through the years, the basics have never changed. We still use pins, needles, scissors, thread, measuring tapes, etc. Pins have been around for thousands of years. The earliest may have been split from the spine of bird feathers. Eventually, thorns, fish bones, wood, ivory and bone pins were replaced by those made from metals, especially bronze. These early pins were made by hand, one at a time, and therefore, very expensive.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, pins were considered a luxury to the poor, and a much-appreciated gift even among the wealthy. Paris was the center of pin-making in 16<sup>th</sup> century France with more than a thousand craftsmen employed in their manufacture. Rules of the needlemaker's trade guilds restricted the sale of pins, except on New Year's Eve and Day. On those days, all tradesmen were allowed to sell pins. In anticipation of this day, women would request money from their husbands to purchase the pins they needed. The expression "pin money" came into use about this time.

Early pins were made one at a time, by sharpening the end of a piece of wire and twisting another piece of wire around the opposite end. Then in the 1700s, a new method of production evolved. Though it took many workers, more pins could be produced. One man would draw out the wire, another straightened it, a third cut it, a fourth pointed

it, several more workers added the head, another polished the metal and finally another placed the pins in a paper package. Pins became less expensive and more available.

**Kay Wolff**

**MEMBERSHIP Sharon Roehrig**

Welcome to our newest member:

Linda J. Nevins [fitnimage@verizon.net](mailto:fitnimage@verizon.net)  
49 Seyfried Ave.  
Nazareth, PA 18064 610-759-6573

Our total membership is now at 79.

There are the following minor changes to handbook information which I missed getting in last month's newsletter. Most of those involve changing only a letter or number:

Polly McGarr--18042

Kay [Wolff--chiang10@verizon.net](mailto:Wolff--chiang10@verizon.net)

Ruth [Skinner--queenruthie18@yahoo.com](mailto:Skinner--queenruthie18@yahoo.com)

Addition:

Judy [Perry--jpcadreamer@aol.com](mailto:Perry--jpcadreamer@aol.com)

Farewell to Margaret Bush, her new address is  
284 Solivita Blvd, Poinciana, FL 34759

## A CHRISTMAS YARN

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
When all of a sudden down the chimney there came,  
A red-suited man with the infamous name.

He stepped from the hearth to the nice hardwood floor,  
His foot started sliding right towards the front door.  
Legs spreading wide, his boot finally gripped,  
But not soon enough before the terrible rip.

Back on his feet and steady as ever,  
He felt a cool draft where one had been never.  
He dared not continue for the rest of the night,  
Then he eyed something special just off to his right.

All black in color with a beautiful sheen,  
Was the tiniest-ever Singer sewing machine.  
He took off his trousers right after his shoes,

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There was work to be done with not time to lose.

With pants underfoot he started to sew,  
First slowly then faster with needle aglow.  
The machine speeded up and just kept a-humming,  
He worked very fast for he thought someone was coming.

Again neatly dressed from his head to his toe,  
Santa was ready and anxious to go.  
Presents all out, on his way to the door,  
He cautiously crossed that nice hardwood floor.

Once again cross the sky and back on his way,  
Santa knew just how lucky he was on this day.  
For instead of upstairs tucked away in the attic,  
That machine was being used by a Featherweight Fanatic.

*Thanks to Kay Wolff*



*Happy Holidays*

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