

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

December 2009

PREZ SAYS

Christmas Cookies! Nothing triggers more Christmas memories for me than baking all the cookie recipes my mother used to make. They fill my heart with love and my home with wonderful aromas. Lots of great smelling dishes always appear at our December luncheon, too. Requests for recipes always follow! If you have a few minutes, jot down the recipe you will be bringing and put it into our recipe box. We will share whatever we receive with everyone in the coming months. In keeping with those thoughts of sharing, we want to remember the needs of Third Street as Christmas approaches and the heating bills of the wintry months near. Traditional small gifts for their clients or monetary donations are always appreciated. We will happily receive your gifts for Third Street at our December 14 meeting, but please know that this is entirely voluntary.

Wishing you all the joy of the season,
Nancy Boccadoro

DEVOTIONS: Ellen Sorensen

HOSTESSES: Virginia Conover, Ruth Minnich, Jo Lysholdt, Nancy Meka, Polly McGarr, Peggy Conger, Elizabeth Cortright, Ellen Sorensen

Hostesses are asked to bring a dessert for our luncheon and assist with setup.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Barbara Burke will be presenting a program on Drunkard's Path. It will be a lecture/demo/trunk show. Barbara has been a quilter for 30 years and sewing since she was a little girl. She taught and lectured for various guilds throughout NJ, PA, NY and Maryland. Barbara's quilts and garments have been shown in many quilt shows and she has been awarded a number of ribbons. She has self published book and patterns devoted to the Drunkards Path.

- Bring money if you would like to purchase Barbara's book.

Claire Rohloff

SEW n SEWS

Please call us with any items you think would be of interest to our group!
Special thanks to those of you who do.
Deadline for December Newsletter is January 1, 2010
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, December 17, 2009 from 9 AM – 4 PM at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA. All members are invited to share in this sewing get together. Bring your own unfinished projects.

We have the room reserved at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA. on the following dates for the year 2010. Please mark your calendar!

Thursday, January 28, 2010
Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
Thursday, April 22, 2010
Thursday, May 27, 2010
Thursday, June 24, 2010
Thursday, July 22, 2010
Thursday, August 26, 2010
Thursday, September 23, 2010
Thursday, October 28, 2010
Thursday, November 18, 2010
Thursday, December 16, 2010

Annette Smerkanich

Lace handkerchiefs were initially expensive symbols of the upper class, but by the early 19th century machine-made and less labor-intensive hand laces were becoming available. These changes decreased the cost of these desirable accessories so that they could become important fashion adjuncts for middle-class women. "Don't Blow Your Nose on These," a new mini-exhibition at the Allentown Art Museum, features a selection of these lacy confections that were used by 19th- and early 20th-century ladies as purely decorative accessories that helped accentuate their owners' femininity and gentility. These tidbits of lace and linen or cotton were often carried in the hands or coquettishly tucked into a décolletage so that their elegant decoration might be properly appreciated, rather than hidden away in pocket or purse. Such lacy wisps, often with only the smallest center of solid fabric, might have served to wipe away a stray ceremonial tear or two at a wedding, but their delicacy indicates that their main purpose was far from functional!---
Jacquie Atkins, Allentown Art Museum

Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com
Ellen Sorensen Kay Wolff
Jan Neitzel Pat Auerbach

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

From the August/September issue of Sew News in a column from Linda Lee:

Many of us work at computers (some of us get to sew all day) and perform other tasks that require us to bend over a work surface for more hours than we'd like. Our shoulders roll forward as we work and age. So garments are no longer balanced on our unbalanced bodies. The following is a great way to alter patterns to balance the shoulders and allow them to hang better without annoyingly riding back.

- (1) Remove from 1/4" to 1/2" from the shoulder seam on the front pattern piece, depending on the degree of "stoop" in your shoulders .
- (2) Add the same amount that you removed from the front seam to the back shoulder seam .
- (3) Move the shoulder dot on the top of the sleeve forward the same distance .

This month's Issue of Threads has an article by the same author. She discusses this technique and gives illustrations of pattern alterations, The same article which was also authored by Louise Cutting gives solutions to sleeves that are too tight, wrinkles below the derriere, too tight bodices and too much room in the back of slacks. This a very worthwhile article. Check it out.

Jan Neitzel

SEW WHAT'S NEW??

I ran across an article the other day which made me really think about Christmas and the greetings we send. I had to re-write it a bit to fit the space allotted, but I hope I hit the highlights, and that it gives you something to think about, too.

"There is a list of folks I know all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time I go and take a look.
That is when I realize these names are just a part,
Not of the book they are written in but of my very heart."

Each name in that book stands for someone who has touched my life, at sometime, and once you have known someone, even though you haven't seen them in years, or haven't been in touch since last Christmas, the years cannot erase the memories of a word, or a location, or a face! So I try never to think of my Christmas greetings (whether a card, or a letter, or an e-card) as a mere routine on a to-do list. Whether I've known them for many years or few, these friends and loved ones have become a part of my Christmas every year, and I send a prayer along with each envelope and its contents. Merry Christmas!

Ellen Sorensen

HISTORY OF PATTERNS - Part Two

In the early 19th century, the next phase of pattern development began as tailors and dressmakers adopted the inch measure, which replaced the notched strips of paper. Clothing makers also became aware of the proportional relationships among parts of the body. From this they developed scientific drafting systems and specialized tools.

There were many different pattern drafting techniques developed at this time, but sadly for the home-sewer, most of these were far too complicated to be useful. Pattern drafting methods eventually led to the production of graded, sized patterns for the growing paper-pattern industry. A highly successful milliner, Ellen Louise Demorest (1825 - 1898), is credited with inventing mass-produced tissue-paper dressmaking patterns.

Ellen, her husband and her sister devised a mathematical system to make patterns in a variety of sizes. In 1860 they published Madame Demorest's Mirror of Fashions, a pattern catalog. Ellen had seen her maid cutting out a dress from some wrapping paper and she had the idea of copying fashionable garments onto paper for the home-sewer. By 1865 Demorest was so successful that she had thirty distribution agencies across the nation with over 200 saleswomen. A mail order empire was born that filled the need women had to acquire the latest fashions and accessories from New York.

In 1876, the company sold over 3 million patterns. Ellen Demorest was an ardent abolitionist and women's rights advocate. She employed both black and white women and those who objected to her politics were asked to shop elsewhere. Ironically, the Demorests failed to patent their paper pattern, but another familiar name, Ebenezer Butterick, did. And so, the history of patterns continues in our next newsletter.

Kay Wolff

MEMBERSHIP - Sharon Roehrig

We had 45 members present at the November meeting, along with one guest:

Lee Worster . Lee is the daughter of Leonie DeLong.

Please change Pat Karcher's email address to:
pkarcher@msn.com

MEET A MEMBER

What a pleasure to speak with Natasha Grotenhuis and get her story!

She was a little girl who watched her grandmother sew and learned to love it. She sewed corduroy jumpers for herself when in first grade.

She was a weaving and textile design major at Kutztown U. with an interest in interior design.

In New York, Natasha worked in the fur market and sewed for clients. She also took classes at FIT. During this time, she had a hat business and made 1000 hats on a \$99 sewing machine! She then founded a factory-made hat business.

Natasha had a couture millinery salon in Soho. She did photographic styling in fashion, architecture and interior design.

She moved to Los Angeles and worked as a journeyman scenic designer. After experiencing twelve earthquakes, she returned to New York.

Making hats again, she also branched out into wood crafts. She created, built and hand carved a wooden sign for a clock shop.

More recently, during her 10 years in Easton, she has been showing and selling hats, buying and selling antiques and making wearable art.

Be sure to attend our February meeting for her hatmaking program.

.Pat Auerbach

.Our speaker from November, Anna Faustino, has a web site at <http://www.newtechquilts.com> if you would like to view more of her work.

Claire Rohloff

The Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum, 432 W. Walnut St, Allentown has two special exhibits: Reliving the Magic of Hess's and The World of Miniatures. The exhibits run through January 10. For information call 610.435.1074 or visit www.lchs.museum

Eleanor Pinto

NOVEMBER MINUTES

The Easton Couturiere Workshop met November 9, 2009 at Third St. Alliance. President Nancy Boccadoro called the meeting to order & Carolyn Gill gave devotions. Claire Rohloff then introduced Anna Faustino who presented an ambitious program demonstrating original techniques which she has developed and incorporated these into quilts and garments. By request she will present a workshop which is limited to six people. Cost will be \$50 for the kit and six hour class. Sheila Goldberg is taking these reservations.

Sharon Roehrig, Membership, reported 1 guest and 47 members present today. If you have trouble receiving the Newsletter by e-mail, see Dee Lammi . If you would like a copy of the Newsletter by mail, see Jo Lysholdt.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as printed in the Newsletter, were approved. Dee Lammi & Sharon Roehrig made this motion. Shirley Kressler read the Treasurer's report and this was approved as read. Sheila Goldberg & Elizabeth Cortright made this motion.

Mary Coyle & Jan Neitzel reported that a new fabric shop "Simply Fabric" has opened in the Weis Store shopping center. Also, VIA has an Elna iron press available for \$40.

Hospitality announced that December's meeting will include a covered dish luncheon. Members are asked to bring a covered dish and the committee will provide desserts. Additional volunteers for December include Nancy Meka, Polly McGarr, Elizabeth Cortright & Ellen Sorensen.

Sylvia Hunsinger, Librarian, highlighted three books to help with gifts for Christmas and noted that the Club has purchased Anna Faustino's book for our library and it is available today.

Annette Smerkanish announced that Sew & Sew's will meet Nov. 19 at the Hughes Library and she also thanked Elizabeth Cortright for securing dates for the next year. Refreshers class has been changed to meet in the Community meeting room of the Phillipsburg Library on Nov. 19 and Jan 21. Dee Lammi, Embroidery Club, reported that the next meeting will be Nov. 12 at "At Piece Quiltery" and will feature three dimensional snowflakes and angels.

The following had items for Show & Share: Trudy Frey, Leaf table runner, Quilt of Valor for wounded soldiers & New Jersey Barn Quilt Calendars; Ruth Skinner, teacher quilt; Agnes Webb, plaid jacket; Jan Neitzel, a purse that folds flat; Ellen Sorensen, Christmas wreath wall hanging; Karen Zimmerman, pumpkin purse & necklace and she shared final plans for the Girl Scout Project Runway; Sharon Roehrig, queen-sized quilt; Sheila Goldberg, modeled quilted suit made by Bea Cohen.

A committee was formed to look into various computerized patternmaking systems and will probably do this in January. MaryAnn Schweitzer spoke about the Marist College Silver Needles Fashion Design Show in Poughkeepsie, New York to get an idea of interest in attending this show in May. There seemed to be sufficient interest and she will pursue details in the new year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mary Ann Schweitzer, Secretary