

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

February 2009

PREZ SAYS

Brrr! Despite the wintry weather, there are signs of spring poking through into our world; the stores are closing out all the winter clothing and seed catalogues are arriving in the mail! What a great time to get thinking about that Easter outfit for yourself or your grandkids. Have you seen any runway previews? Next month some of the spring fabrics should be making their way into the fabric shops. I always think of it as a return of color.

Remember, our meeting this month will be at the PALMER LIBRARY. If you will be traveling via Rt. 22, take the 25th St exit, following Rt. 248W past the Palmer Mall to the stoplight at Newburg Road. Turn left onto Newburg Road and then left into the entrance to the library. If you are coming via Route 33, take the Route 248/Nazareth exit and follow Rt. 248E toward Easton to the light at Newburg Road where you turn right and then left into the library entrance. Please use the large parking area just past the library building.

See you Monday, February 9
Nancy Boccadoro, President

PS Hoping to see some completed PIGS in February!

PROGRAMS:

Speaker: Michael Brett
Topic: "What's New In Interior Decoration"
Our speaker will give descriptions of present interior designs. He will bring fabrics and products for common design problems. Bring your photos and questions about your problem rooms.

Eleanor Pinto

DEVOTIONS: Mary Morgan

HOSTESSES will not be providing refreshments this month.

FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

Nancy Boccadoro, Carol Williams

Following the February Couturiere Workshop meeting, members of the Raffle and Door Prize Committees for the Fashion Show are asked to remain for a brief committee meeting.

The Decorations Committee is IN NEED OF 3 VOLUNTEERS who can help with the actual decorating the day of the Fashion Show. Please submit your name to Darlene LeFevre, Carol Williams, or Nancy Boccadoro if you can help.

Fashion Show admission tickets will be distributed to our membership at the February meeting. The tickets are \$5 each and each member is asked to sell 4 tickets. In order to simplify the process, the Committee has requested that members pay for their tickets at the meeting as they are distributed. Since our program is scheduled for a Sunday afternoon this year, we are hoping to see lots of new faces added to our audience.

The Publicity Committee will distribute posters at the February meeting to members who have registered to place them in designated locations. Please do not distribute these before March 15 so they don't become "stale news". If you have suggestions for new poster sites, please contact Dee Lammi, Carol Williams, or Nancy Boccadoro.

In celebration of Black History Month, the Allentown Art Museum has installed *Sistah Paradise and the Egungun*, from the series *Paradise Under Reconstruction in the Aesthetic of Funk, Phase II*, an unusual crocheted construction by African American artist Xenobia Bailey. The artist, who lives and works in New York City, is the only contemporary fiber artist making large-scale constructions in tapestry crochet, a technique more often associated with the shoulder bags made by Mayan Indian men in Guatemala and the *yarmulke* (men's skullcaps) made by Jewish women. *Sistah Paradise* is Bailey's whimsical interpretation of a mythological voodoo seer revered by the Egungun cult of the Yoruba people in West Africa. The installation of this lively and colorful fiber figure, standing nearly seven feet high, has been a crowd-pleaser since its January installation. It will remain on view in the Museum's contemporary gallery throughout February. —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 March Newsletter is February 27, 2009

All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderbydee.com

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SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

This is the last of a series of tips from an article in the Aug/Sept 2007 issue of Vogue Patterns Magazine:

SMART SILHOUETTES

GET ALL A's A-line silhouettes are fashion's magic wand, providing great cover for heavy hips or wide waistlines and balancing out big busts and wide shoulders.

HANG LOOSE Shift dresses, swingy tunics and palazzo pants skim attractively over trouble spots like round bellies and thick thighs. They can also add width, so choose with care.

SLIM DOWN Shaped jackets, body-defining tops and slim pants and skirts lengthen the body, creating the illusion of slenderness. Just don't confuse fitted with tight. Clothes should skim, not squeeze the body.

AIM HIGH Empire and other high-waist dresses and tops draw attention up and away from the hips and thighs. High waist pants on the other hand, flatter very few people and should be worn with care.

GO LOW Peplum jackets and drop-waist dresses add width at the hip, balancing out top-heavy figures; low waistlines trim tummies and thighs.

Club members...do you agree with these points? I am not certain that I do. For one thing, I never had an A-line anything thing that I thought looked good and for another, something tells me that anyone in my age bracket is not going to look great in a baby-doll top. If I can't feel comfortable wearing it to the grocery store what good is it?

Jan Neitzel

SEW WHAT'S NEW?

This is no day to inspire me to write - dark, wet, snow, sleet and rain, which is freezing on the trees but not on the ground! That phrase "wintry mix" is enough to send me into hibernation. But I feel pretty good because yesterday I finished a table runner - a gift from Christmas '07!! If I ever make it again I will start it only if I can finish it within a week. No, not that hard - just stupid instructions, with which you are all familiar. I think they must be written by a man. As soon as I finish these words of wisdom I am going to re-write them while they are fresh my mind.

Speaking of a man, here's a quote I just read:
"My wife and I had words. But I didn't get to use

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mine!!" I found another quote - if it came on the internet you may have read it, but I don't think that's where I found this one, and it again reminds me of Couturiere and the friends we make there. "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart."

Ellen Sorensen

SOME SEWING HISTORY SCISSORS AND SHEARS

Scissors - cutting implement from 3 to 6 inches long, with two blades pivoted on a screw so that the sharp edges face each other, and having ring handles for thumb and finger. Also called a pair of scissors.

Shears - cutting implement at least 6 inches long, heavier than scissors, having two blades pivoted on a screw so that the sharp edges face each other, and having small ring handle for thumb and bow handle large enough to admit several fingers for greater leverage.

Scissors, though so important an item of sewing equipment, are among the less common of surviving needlework implements - other accessories in a forgotten work-box might remain idle, but scissors were so useful that they became worn out or broken over the years.

Shells and sharp-edge stones were probably the first implements used for cutting. Then in Roman times came iron, bronze and steel "spring-type" shears - a single piece of bent metal sharpened at the ends (much like grass clippers or thread cutters). The modern implement that we know today as "pivoted scissors" appeared in the 16th century and is attributed to the Venetians.

The Persians originated bird-form scissors with the elongated beak serving as a blade. The Dutch honored their national storks in the manufacture of the well-known slim, pointed "stork" scissor, so excellent for ripping fine, close stitches (how well I know). The Renaissance gave us different scissors for different purposes, along with highly ornamented scissors given as wedding gifts and folding scissors.

Like other sewing implements scissors were sold at the many toy-sellers' shops that were springing up in London at the beginning of the 18th

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century. In Queen Anne's time a toy-shop was the equivalent of the modern gift shop: the word "toy" at this time meant any small article, useful or ornamental, and often of an extravagant and costly nature.

Kay Wolff

Coffee filters...who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree.

1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave.

Coffee filters make excellent covers.

2. Clean windows and mirrors. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.

3. Protect China - Separate your good dishes by putting a coffee filter between each dish.

More next month from Jan Neitzel

Vanishing Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

(from the Quaker Oats box)

- 1/2 pound butter, softened
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 3 cups Quaker Oats (quick or old fashioned)
- 1 cup raisins

Heat oven to 350

Beat together butter and sugars until creamy

Add eggs and vanilla, beat well

Add combined flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; mix well

Stir in oats and raisins; mix well

Bake 30 to 35 minutes in ungreased 13 x 9 inch

METAL baking pan.

or make cookies:

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet

Bake 10 to 12 minutes

Cool 1 minute on cookie sheet; remove to wire rack.

That's it!

Handy

Anne

Couturiere Workshop presented by Claire Rohloff

"Woven" Scarf or fabric

Materials:

Stabilizer – 1 package Sulky Super Solvy

Threads - metallic, cotton, rayon, clear invisible

Fibers - yarns, ribbons, flat braids, cords, strips of fabric, etc. It's a good way to use up any bits and pieces of yarns you may have.

Zigzag sewing machine – here's your chance to try all those different stitches!

Decide on a scarf size (example 5" x 62") cut stabilizer to size and begin to sew ribbons onto stabilizer, crisscrossing with other braids, cords, threads, etc. until you have filled the stabilizer to your liking with texture and all ribbons, etc have been crossed several times. Make sure edges, sides and bottoms are well secured. Optional – use netting on one side for extra strength.

Dissolve stabilizer in hot water and let scarf dry.

This gossamer scarf is loose and flowing and due to the "open weave" it will go with anything as it is open to the garment it is worn over.

Lost and Found

I'm sorry! It was all my fault. I came home from the January meeting wearing a hooded navy blue jacket in a **Medium** size.

I thought it was mine –

But it is too small.

The one I wore to the meeting was a black hooded jacket and it was a **Large**.

Both have zip in linings but the sleeves are different.

Check your closet please. It is cold out there and the blue one is too tight for me.

Call me at 610-253-5275 and I'll arrange a trade back with you.

Sorry I am so clumsy.

Mary Coyle

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SEW N SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2009
at 9 AM - 4 PM at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA.

Please bring your own project to work on. We will discuss
what type projects we would like to work on at future
meeting dates.

Everyone is welcome to join us for the day.

Annette Smerkanich

EMBROIDERY GROUP

The Embroidery Group will meet on Thursday, February
19, 2009 at 10 AM - 4 PM at At Piece Quiltery.

Barbara Witkowski will instruct the group on the making
of a tote bag. Instructions and a supply list will be emailed
to the members of the group.

Everyone is welcome!

Annette Smerkanich

MEMBERSHIP: Sharon Roehrig

We welcomed a new member in January. Please add
her information to your handbooks.

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