

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

February 2010

PREZ SEZ

February...one month closer to spring! Soon it will be time to think about lighter weight fabrics and something new for the Easter holiday. Before I begin another thing, my sewing stuff could use some "thinning". Sorting through the fabric I already have always brings a surprise or two as I find something I have forgotten about; sometimes that also inspires a new idea. With the April fashion show just around the corner, I hope everyone will find time to make something to perk up their wardrobe for the coming seasons.

Nancy Boccadoro, President

** THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP ** is held at the PALMER BRANCH LIBRARY, 1 Weller Road, Palmer Township, PA, just off Newburg Road at the intersection of Rte 248 and Newburg Road. Please use the large parking area to the left of the building.

FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Following the **February** Couturiere meeting, there will be a meeting to co-ordinate the Hospitality, Decorations, and Display committees for the Fashion Show. If there is interest by the membership in setting up a "Treasures Shop" at this year's show, further discussion will take place during this planning session; anyone interested in contributing or helping with this new project will be welcomed to attend.

Following the **March** meeting, Commentators and Stage Managers will meet in preparation for the show.

During the **April** Couturiere meeting, there will be an opportunity for questions and a walk through for the Fashion Show. Ticket money should also be turned in by this date.

WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

There will not be a workshop for the woven technique by Anna Faustino due to low interest. However, if you would like to take a similar workshop with her, there will be one at Pocono

Sew & Vac in Stroudsburg, Pa on Feb 26 so you could sign up. www.poconosewandvac.com

There will be a Paintsticks Workshop with Betty Pritko at the Phillipsburg Library March 24, Wed 10-2. The following people have signed up: Sharon Roehrig, Bette Schedin, Peggy Conger, Fran Brader, Carole Rogers, Kay Wolff, Lynne Rossi, Claire Rohloff. There is no charge for instruction, Thank you Betty! There will be a supply list and a few things to purchase for the workshop. Let Claire know if you do not plan to attend. There is room for a few more people.

For the Feb 8th meeting at PALMER LIBRARY, Natasha Grotenhuis, one of our very talented members, will be talking about "Hatmaking".

She has been a hatmaker for 25 years and attended Kutztown State College & FIT. She owned and operated a millinery salon in NY's Soho district through the 80's making couture hats and wholesaling a bridge line to lease-departments throughout the country.

Claire Rohloff

In January, 34 antique quilts from the Allentown Art Museum's textile collection traveled to Tokyo, Japan, as the featured exhibition at the 2010 Tokyo International Quilt Festival. The Festival, attended by over 255,000 people, also included exhibitions of contemporary quilts and textiles and a retail section where attendees could find everything from vintage quilts to the latest in sewing accessories and fabrics. I was thrilled to see all the wonderful quilts and textiles on view, but it was especially exciting to experience first-hand the enthusiastic and appreciative audience reaction to the museum's quilts. Our own Lehigh Valley audience will have the opportunity to see the quilts when we open *In Stitches: Quilts from the Allentown Art Museum*, on view June 20-September 7, 2010. *Jacquie Atkins, Chief Curator and Kate Fowler Merle Smith Curator of Textiles, Allentown Art Museum*

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 March Newsletter is February 26, 2010

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

Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com

Ellen Sorensen Kay Wolff

Jan Neitzel Pat Auerbach

HISTORY OF PATTERNS - PART FOUR

This month includes a brief history of McCall's and Simplicity.

In 1870, James McCall, a Scottish tailor, established the McCall Pattern Company in New York City. At first, he sold "sized" patterns folded and stapled into magazines, eventually starting his own magazine, the Queen, in 1873.

In 1919 McCall's patented the first printed paper pattern, indicating cutting lines, seam allowances and other construction marks. The patent expired in 1938. In the 1920s, McCall's began using full color illustrations on some pattern envelopes, and by 1932 on all of them. McCall's printed the date of release on their envelopes (the only company that consistently did so before mid-century), which makes it easy to date their patterns.

Today, the McCall Pattern Company is a privately owned, worldwide company that designs, manufactures, markets, distributes and sells sewing patterns and instructions for women's, men's and children's fashions, accessories, costumes, crafts and home decor, under the brand names of Butterick, McCall's and Vogue Patterns.

The Simplicity Pattern Company Inc. was founded in 1927, by James J. Shapiro. His father, Joseph M. Shapiro, was a magazine ad salesman who developed the idea to launch the firm. The goal of the company was to produce an easy-to-use, lower-priced pattern. Simplicity sold its patterns for 15 cents, when other companies were selling theirs for 50 cents to \$2. The Great Depression assured the success of this strategy, prompting Simplicity's competitors to lower their prices in response. The company grew quickly, soon opening offices in Canada, London, Australia, and several in the United States, with pattern sales in over 60 countries. After 1946, all of their patterns were printed.

Part Five concludes this series with Vogue Patterns.

Kay Wolff

MEMBERSHIP

At the January meeting we had 36 member in attendance, along with the following guests: Terri Blackman, owner of the new fabric store "Simply Fabrics", Jessica Kessler, and Carole Rogers.

Sharon Roehrig

MEET A MEMBER

Judith Weyl joined us recently. Here in her own words is an introduction.

"Sewing classes in elementary school got me started sewing. As an adult, I didn't know anyone who sewed so I read books, watched sewing shows on TV and did my own thing. When I found the American Sewing Guild, I was thrilled. Finally I could talk the talk with fellow sewists. When the opportunity arose, I started an ASG neighborhood group in Warren and led that group for over 5 years until moving to Easton this past November.

I am interested in almost every aspect of sewing – garments for men, women and children, home dec, quilting and machine embroidery. The use of software programs combined with sewing related techniques fascinates me. I use Wildginger software to draft patterns for sewing garments, Electric Quilt to create quilt patterns and PE Design and Embird for machine embroidery.

Before retiring, I worked as a software specialist providing support to the company's 800 employees both domestically and internationally. After retiring, I taught quilting classes at Fabricland in North Plainfield, NJ.

I have a dedicated sewing room with 5 sewing machines and 2 sergers. My bulging stash is equally divided into garment and quilting fabrics.

There is pride in creating something unique and there is joy in giving something I created as a gift. I can't explain the feeling of satisfaction I get when my husband proudly tells someone, "My wife made this for me" or when I visit my daughter and see the quilt I made draped on her sofa."

Pat Auerbach

SEW n SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 from 9 A – 4 P at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA. At this time, Doris Strom will be assisting us in the construction of a gift bag. Doris had shown the beautiful gift bag at the January "Show n Tell". At this time, 10 members have signed up. If anyone is still interested, you can join us. You can contact either Doris Strom or Annette Smerkanich for the list of supplies.

If a member is not interested in making the bag, you are welcome to join us and work on your own project. Please note, this meeting is on a Wednesday, not the usual Thursday.

Annette Smerkanich

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

Another hint about threading needles appeared in this month's Sew News. When using polyester thread which frays easily, dampen the thread and roll it onto a small piece of soap. This will seal and stiffen the thread, allowing it to easily slide through the needle.

In Sandra Betzina's column in the same issue of Sew News she gives her top 10 sewing tips for 2010. One hint is to take a new set of measurements now. Even if you haven't gained a pound, weight can shift on your body. Make sure to measure tummy and rib cage.

Another tip is to alter your pants pattern length before cutting the fabric. Refer to the finished length listed on the pattern envelope and compare it to a favorite garment. Never take away length from the pant or skirt lower edge, as this will affect the design. For pants, take half the total reduction between the knee and the hem and the remaining half between the knee and the crotch. For a skirt, take half of the reduction just below the hip the remaining half between the hem and the high hip. (I have only been doing this wrong for about 50 years!)

Jan Neitzel

TRIPS

May 7, 2010

Car pool trip to Marist College to see their "Silver Needles" designers' fashion show

Cost: \$25 for advanced sale tickets; checks to ECW by February 25, 2010

February 11, 2010

A trip is being planned to the Reading Public Museum to see the "The Magic of Hollywood: The Gene London Costume Collection": The exhibition features over 100 costumes by the film industry's greatest designers. There will be also recreated costumes from "Gone with the Wind" The trip is planned for Thursday, February 11. The cost is \$7.00. The trip will be car pooled. Final arrangements will be made at our meeting.

Agnes Webb

SEW WHAT'S NEW??

What's new with me is a new cell phone. For someone who not only remembers dial phones but recalls the days when you picked the phone up and a pleasant voice said, "Number please" (and that was in New York City, not some remote farm community), the cell phone amazes me. It is not my major phone, so I have tended to purchase the minimum in phones and plans - my last phone was a AAA freebie which did what it was supposed to do. I figured I don't need pictures or abbs (don't know yet what they are!) but just something to connect me with someone else.

Radio Shack was a big help, but when I told him I didn't need a phone to take pictures he told me they all do. Then I discovered there was no instruction book - you need to insert a CD tutelage to find out how to use it. Who has time for that? I did know how to make a call, answer the phone, and retrieve messages. I figured out how to charge it, but in the process I kept seeing my kitchen floor on the phone and realized I was taking a picture - of my floor and my shoe! Guess I need that CD! My 13 year-old grandson came out Sunday and very quickly put all the phone numbers in for me so now I can speed-dial. And why do they use the word "dial" for that?

That's enough on that subject. I hope there's someone out there who feels the same way. Who knows? I might be walking around at the next meeting taking pictures of the floor and all your shoes!

Ellen Sorensen

REFRESHERS

Eleanor Pinto's Refreshers group has been rescheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 23, at 10 AM at the Phillipsburg Library. This sixth class of Eleanor's Tailoring presentation will focus on the jacket lining and provide sewing time for help with any aspect of the project.

All In The Point Of View...

An English professor wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed the students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The women wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

MAY LUNCHEON CONSIDERATION

A decision needs to be made concerning our May luncheon at Hampton Winds. To keep a menu similar to what we have had in the past (salad, main course, dessert and beverage), our cost will again be \$20. This includes tax and tip. Some concern over the price has been expressed. In order to keep the cost at \$15, we can have menu choices that include different combinations of soup, salad and/or sandwich, plus dessert and beverage. At the February meeting, we need to make a decision as to the PRICE only. Carol and I will then work with Hampton Winds on the menu choices at that price. Thank you. *Kay Wolff*

JANUARY MINUTES

The meeting of the Easton Couturiere Society was held January 11, 2010 at Third St. Alliance. President Nancy Boccadoro called the meeting to order and Carol Williams read the devotions. Sharon Roehrig, Membership chair, introduced today's guests, Terry and her daughter from the new fabric store "Simply Fabrics".

Program chair, Claire Rohloff, then explained the Round Robin and introduced the presenters. Peggy Conger will explain "Stack & Whack" which is a quilting procedure. Sylvia Hunsinger will demonstrate "Embellishment Techniques" using woolen fabrics and Kay Wolfe and Jan Neitzel explained and demonstrated a Japanese Purse that folds flat. Everyone will have 15 minutes at each presentation.

Polly McGarr announced that a large amount of new fabric will be available at Second Sight. Location and hours are listed in our Handbook.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented in the Newsletter. Agnes Webb & Pat Karcher made this motion. The Treasurer's report was read by Shirley Kressler and was approved & filed for audit. Dee Lammi & Sharon Roehrig made this motion.

Helen Curran, Historian, is making photos from the CD of last year's fashion show for the yearbook.

Sylvia Hunsinger, Librarian, showcased three books today entitled: "Serging with Fine Fabrics", "Sew, Serge and Press" and "Techniques for Sergers".

Agnes Webb announced a field trip to the Reading Public Library to view an exhibit of "Magical Hollywood Costume Collection". The trip is scheduled for February 11, 2010 and we will car pool. Agnes is taking reservations by collecting the \$7.00 admission fee.

Claire Rohloff is passing a clipboard to determine serious interest in future workshops. A thank you letter was read from Third Street Alliance for our Christmas donation.

The Refreshers will meet on Jan. 28 at the Phillipsburg Library and the Sew & Sews will meet also on Jan. 28 at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg.

The Fashion Show is scheduled for Sunday, April 18. Nancy Boccadoro, chair & Peggy Conger, assistant, announced the theme for the show will be "Stash to Treasure". Nancy noted that the committee is thinking of initiating a type of flea market/boutique as a sideline to the show and asked members to voice thoughts & opinions at next month's meeting. Many views & ideas were expressed today. There will be a meeting of the Fashion Show Committee after today's meeting.

Next month's meeting will be at the Palmer Library. Shirley Kressler is looking for three rolls of stabilizer that got misplaced at a past meeting.

The Show & Share segment included: Claire Rohloff modeling an amoeba scarf and showed special fabric embellished Christmas ornaments; Judith Weyl modeling an embellished black & white sweat shirt jacket; Doris Strom showing a lace doily gift bag and Pat Karcher modeling her red plaid silk blouse with silk lining.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

MaryAnn Schweitzer, Secretary