

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

January 2010

PREZ SEZ

Sometime in the 60's I read Orwell's 1984 and went to see the movie "2001:Space Odyssey" with that sinister computer HAL. The dates in those titles seemed so futuristic back then, but here we are...2010! I can hardly believe I've actually lived through all those "futuristic" years! The promise of the future... a New Year! So much opportunity to catch up, attempt something new, share our lives, or fulfill some dreams. Our group has certainly been a source of refuge from the storm of the past year. It was wonderful to be able to escape the mundane and share our time, talents, and enthusiasm for the needle arts each month. As I look forward to our continued fellowship, Claire's programs, and all the great Show & Tell items, I wish to everyone a very happy, healthy 2010.

Nancy Boccadoro, President

DEVOTIONS: Carol Williams

HOSTESSES: Ellen Sorensen and Sharon Roehrig

REFRESHERS

Eleanor Pinto will meet with the Refreshers group at 10 AM on January 28th at the Phillipsburg Library. This sixth class of Eleanor's Tailoring presentation will focus on the jacket lining.

FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

The 2010 Fashion Show Committee will hold its initial meeting immediately following the January meeting. All committee members are asked to plan to attend this important 45 minute meeting.

Nancy Boccadoro & Peggy Conger

The Embroidery Club is planning a sewing retreat during the week of January 18.

JANUARY PROGRAM

The January Program is a Round Robin and we have 3 events:

Peggy Conger will be demonstrating "Stack & Whack", a quilting technique which can be used in making unique clothing.

Jan Neitzel and Kay Wolff will be showing us how to make the "Japanese Bag" which was recently seen at our show & tell.

Sylvia Hunsinger will be doing a "surprise" presentation.

As usual each presentation will take about 15 min and we will divide into groups of 3. Each group will get a chance to see the above presentations as we change from station to station. It will be a very informative and educational program. We just have to keep the snow and bad weather away!

Claire Rohloff, Program Chair

We all know about silk from silkworm cocoons, but have you ever thought about making cloth from spider silk? Right now a spectacular contemporary textile woven from the golden-colored silk thread produced by more than one million female golden orb spiders is on display at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. The textile, 11 by 4 feet, took four years to make, using a technique developed more than 100 years ago in Madagascar. Seventy people collected the spiders, which produce lustrous golden hued silk, and a dozen others drew silk from them, with each spider producing about 80 feet of silk filament. The silk fibers were then spun and woven into an intricately patterned textile with a traditional design of stylized birds and flowers. An unusual and rare textile that is well worth seeing! –Jacquie Atkins, 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 February Newsletter is January 29, 2010
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com*

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

HISTORY OF PATTERNS - PART THREE

The first graded and sized paper pattern was introduced by Ebenezer Butterick in 1863. Patterns were available by mail order all over America and by 1876 E. Butterick and Company had branches in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna.

Although the early patterns were made from stiff brown paper, Butterick soon switched to plain white tissue paper, for ease in folding. Patterns were very basic - no facings or extra pieces. The patterns were notched or perforated to indicate construction details. After folding, they were wrapped in a piece of paper with a picture of the garment and a few instructions for assembling. An envelope with a printed sketch and more instructions came later.

The first Butterick instruction sheet to be included in the pattern envelope was introduced in 1910 and patented in the United States in 1919 as "The Deltor." This gave "lays" for different sizes and widths of fabrics and illustrations, with instructions to show how the garment should be assembled and finished. The word "Deltor" (named for the first and last three letters of "Delineator") was replaced by "Sewing Guide."

To promote his patterns, Butterick published "The Ladies Quarterly Report of Broadway Fashions" in 1867. This was followed by another version, "The Metropolitan." These publications provided a showcase for Butterick patterns and the latest fashion news. In 1873, Butterick created a new magazine, "The Delineator," initially to promote his patterns, but it soon was expanded into a general interest publication for women in the home. In 1937 fashion information was continued in a new quarterly catalogue, "The Butterick Pattern Book." Then in 1959 this was replaced by "The Butterick Home Catalog."

Next month - the other companies.....

Kay Wolff

Speaking of patterns, I am looking for a Men's Pants Pattern to borrow or buy. If you can help me (Jo), contact at 610-258-2725 or email at jolysholdt@rcn.com

READING PUBLIC MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

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 will be about \$10. It will be car pooled.

Agnes Webb

SEW n SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, January 28, 2010 from 9 AM – 4 PM (or whenever you have to leave) at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA.

We hope you will be able to join us for our first get together in 2010! Bring your own projects and hopefully, maybe we could decide if there is something specific we would want to do at a future date. All are WELCOME!

Annette Smerkanich

MEMBERSHIP

There were 39 members present for our December meeting and luncheon. We had one guest, Peggy Wiggins, a friend of Marian Gully. We also welcomed a new member:

Judith Weyl
1445 Deer Path Road
Easton, PA 18040

judweyl@rcn.com
b'day: Jan. 16
610-438-2961

Sharon Roehrig

How to Sew an Elastic Headband

Cut a long strip of fabric, 3-1/2" X 36". Cut 1" wide elastic to the length of 21".

Fold the fabric in half to make a tube, wrong sides facing out. Sew along side so that the tube measures 1-3/4" X 36". Use a safety pin to pull the fabric tube right side out.

Attach the safety pin to the elastic and pull elastic through the tubing. Pin both ends of elastic together, one end overlapping the other about 1/2". Sew elastic ends together. Tuck in fabric edges, about 1/2". Sew opening closed with needle and matching thread

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

Back in the early 90's I subscribed to "Sewing Update", a newsletter that was issued six times a year. Over the holidays I re-read some of these letters and found a couple goodies that I want to share with you:

Keep your glue stick in the refrigerator to preserve it and keep it from getting gummy or difficult to use. Recently, a manicurist told me that nail polish last longer and is easier to apply when stored in the fridge.

A garment industry tip: When threading your machine needle make a relaxed fist with your left hand, then place the thumbnail flat against the side of the needle, at its tip. With your right hand, insert the thread into the eye of the needle. The result is perfect hand-eye coordination every time!

For the look of "hand-sewn" lining: Create the couture look of a hand-sewn lining without time-consuming hand stitching. Place the lining and facing right sides together. Blindhem-stitch the seam with the zigzag stitches pointing away from the cut edge and the points of the zigzags on the seamline. The seam is securely sewn but when opened only the points of the stitches will show, creating an illusion of hand stitching.

When stitching bias seams on silk fabric, stretch the seam while stitching. This increases the amount of thread in the stitching line and gives the seam the same stretch as the rest of the garment.

Jan Neitzel

SEW WHAT'S NEW??

What's new? 2010 is new - we've just seen an old year go out and new one come in. I have never really liked New Year's Eve for a number of reasons - but then we haven't done the big party thing in many years. This year we enjoyed the evening with our daughter and son-in-law, and his mother, and we all stayed over. My daughter called it a pajama party for the old folks!! It was fun - we played some games and toasted the New Year with champagne. (New Year's Day isn't much better - unless you love football!)

I always come away from the celebration very disappointed in what TV has done with it (yes, I know Guy Lombardo died quite awhile ago) and the ball still comes down in Times Square (it was much more dramatic 10 years ago). But the entertainment leaves much to be desired - and it isn't my age. My 50-something daughter doesn't like it either. She wondered to whom it was geared, since people who like that stuff (I call it noise, not music) are not at home watching TV.

I feel the same way about the tree lighting at Rockefeller Center - used to be so enjoyable, and now there was not one carol sung by anyone, no mention of why there is a Christmas. These thoughts are just something to ponder for a day or so - can't do much about it but I always hope and pray that next year it might get better. I do wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year - and continue to count Couturiere Workshop among our blessings.

Ellen Sorensen

DECEMBER MINUTES

The meeting of the Easton Couturiere Workshop was held December 14, 2009 at Third St. Alliance. President Nancy Boccadoro called the meeting to order and Ellen Sorensen gave devotions.

Claire Rohloff introduced the speaker, Barbara Burke, a multi-talented quilter and sewer, who explained and demonstrated the many variations of the Drunkard's Path quilt pattern.

Sharon Roehrig, of the membership committee, reported 43 members in attendance and this included one guest and new member Judith Weil.

Christmas gifts for Third St. clients were collected and Shirley Kressler passed a Santa Hat for those who wished to make a monetary donation.

Nancy displayed the Heart in Hand Raffle Quilt which proceeds will benefit Brain Tumor Research. Tickets sell 6 for \$5.

The schedule for the Sew & Sews is listed in the Newsletter and the Refreshers will meet in January at the Phillipsburg Library. Dee Lammi reported that the Easton Express Times will no longer print meeting notices in their newspaper.

Sylvia Hunsinger, Librarian, featured three books today and they included: "Sewing Shortcuts", "Handmade Country" and "167 Things to Make for Children". She also noted that the club purchased Barbara Burke's book for the Library and it is available to take out today.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter. Shirley Kressler and Pat Karcher made this motion. The Treasurer's report was read by Shirley Kressler. Pam Moore and Dee Lammi made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read.

In the Show & Share segment Ruth Skinner displayed an "Under the Sea Quilt", Elizabeth Cortright modeled her green sweatshirt embellished with a Christmas tree, Pam Moore showed knitted scarves, a sweater and embroidered cards, Sharon Roehrig showed her new cell phone holder and Shirley Kressler explained how she modified her holiday reversible purse to fit the pattern of the fabric.

The Fashion Show committee will meet in January.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. A Christmas covered luncheon followed the meeting and was enjoyed by everyone.

Respectfully submitted:

MaryAnn Schweitzer, Secretary