

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

January 2011

PREZ SAYS

The Lehigh Valley escaped that big snowstorm! Temperatures have climbed into the fifties. Dare I think of spring? I've seen some trees beginning to bud with new growth. The squirrels are romping in my back yard and my Lenten Roses are sending up their buds. Can Puxatawny Phil be far behind? Usually this time of year is a safe time for me to sew as my garden is still fast asleep. Better get that sewing machine going! At this rate, our May 1st Fashion Show will be here in a twinkling!

*Merry 2011,
Nancy Boccadoro*

DEVOTIONS

Mary Coyle

HOSTESSES

Doris Strom and Nancy Boccadoro

SEW n SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, January 27, 2011 from 9A – 4P at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA.

As of this newsletter, we will have some type of embroidery workshop, but details have not been worked out. When the details are firm, a notice will be sent to the members.

If anyone has ideas of what they would like to do at future monthly meetings, please let me know. Let us have a great year of new and challenging experiences in sewing and machine embroidery. We can learn together. All suggestions or ideas are most welcome.

The dates for the year are: January 27, February 23, March 23, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 17, and December 15, 2011. Please note the dates for February/March are on a Wednesday as we could not get the room for the 4th Thursday. The remaining months are the 4th Thursday except for November and December due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Everyone is welcome to join the group either in an embroidery workshop or working on your own project.

Annette Smerkanich

THE TRAVELING COUTURIERE

Mary Ann Schweitzer will be coordinating the Second Annual ECW Excursion to the Silver Needles Fashion Show held by the fashion design students of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. This year's fashion show is Friday, May 6, 2011. Tickets are \$25, in advance, and will be purchased the first week of February for guaranteed admission. Drivers will be needed. Additional information and a sign up sheet will be provided at the January meeting. Check your calendars.... this was a really fun trip last year!

JANUARY PROGRAM

The Round Robin by our own members for January will consist of three segments:

Karen Zimmerman - embellishments --Organza petals, Fabric beads, and zipper roses

Jan Neitzel - Japanese tying techniques - used for packages, handbags, and a surprise use. Bring a **square** (minimum 24" x 24") fabric to participate in the demonstration. A cotton fabric is good; raw edge for practice but a finished edge (serged or hemmed) would be preferable. You could bring a ready made scarf of that size if you have one. It is a good way to use up extra fabric. Kay Wolff will be helping Jan with her presentation. Silk is the desired material for the technique rather than cotton, but practice can be done with either material.

Polly McGarr - tassels - crochet covering

Initially Lynn Rossi was scheduled - but she is moving and will not be able to participate.

Claire Rohloff

Please call us with any items you think would be of interest to our group! Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com

Special thanks to those of you who do.

Deadline for February Newsletter is February 4, 2011

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

Ellen Sorensen

Judith Weyl

Tools and Notions NOT Purchased in a Sewing Store

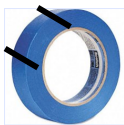
Some tools/notions used in sewing are not necessarily purchased as “sewing” items. Threads Magazine (January issue) describes some of them and I have several favorites of my own.

Home Improvement Store Purchases

I bought a three foot piece of wood handrail. It’s wonderful for pressing seams open without leaving an imprint on the garment. It’s round on one side and flat on the other which keeps it from rolling off the ironing board. The three foot length is great for pressing seams in a pant leg but you could have it cut any length.



Galvanized or zinc plated washers (about 2” diameter) make great pattern weights. They have a hole in the center and can be stored on a small dowel or hook. I rarely use pins to hold my pattern to the fabric. An added bonus to using the washers is that they are so thin I can place my acrylic ruler on top of them along the edge of my pattern there’s enough clearance for my rotary cutter to glide along the ruler’s edge. I recently made drapes for my dining room. I sewed a small pocket from the lining fabric for each washer and pinned them as weights at the hem of the drapes.



Blue painters tape makes a great guide for seam allowances. Using a razor, carefully, make two deep cuts into the roll about 2” apart and remove the cut area which should be about 1/8” to 1/4” thick. Place this on the bed of your machine the required distance from the needle. Even though I use a special 1/4” foot for quilting, I use the tape so the fabric can ride along it well before reaching the needle. You can reposition the tape as needed. When it loses its stickiness, just remove the bottom layer of tape to rejuvenate your strip.

Office Supply Store



To store my many acrylic rulers, I purchased a multi-slotted vertical mail sorter (looks like a napkin holder). There isn’t a separate slot for each one, but the rulers are held conveniently in one place.

Supermarket

Toothpicks can be used as shank spacers when sewing on buttons. If I’m sewing a button on by machine, I will slip a toothpick under the foot directly over the buttonholes. (Hand turn the wheel to be sure the zigzag stitch is clearing the toothpick.)

Wooden skewers are excellent for guiding your fabric to the needle and holding that final edge when piecing. You can’t get your fingers that close. There are so many in a package, you can share them with all your friends <g>. I break off the back 1/3 to make them a more manageable size.

I don’t know what I would do without my tweezers when unpicking a seam. Grasping that cut end of thread makes it so easy to yank a long thread out of the fabric. When clipping or trimming my embroidery threads I can hold the thread with the tweezers and get very close to the fabric.

When you see tools/notions advertised, look around for similar items that are non-traditional and so much cheaper in home improvement stores, office supply stores and the supermarket!

Judith Weyl

MEMBERSHIP

We had 33 members and 3 guests in attendance at our December meeting. We welcomed a new member:

Judith Forbes
66 Creek Road
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
908-454-8754
judithforbes@ptd.net

Please note these email changes:
Sandy Zaratany sandyznurse@gmail.com
Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com

Sharon Roehrig and Doris Strom

SEW WHAT'S NEW??

Sew what's new? One thing stands out as an answer to that question.....the year. A New Year opens up before us, 2011, and a new year brings different thoughts and reactions, hopes and memories, to everyone. I am writing on the last day of the year in order to get this into our loyal editor on time, so I have 8 hours left of 2010.

So - what are you doing New Year's Eve? My daughter started a new thing last year, which we will now call a tradition because this the second year for it. She lovingly calls it her "Geriatric New Year's Eve Party" - consists of us (her Mom and Dad) and her mother-in-law, plus her and her husband, now in their 50's. We play a couple of dumb games (at least they end up that way), eat and snack all evening along with liquid refreshments, and see the New Year in at midnight. Then we have a pajama party because we don't want to drive home. So that's how I will be ringing in 2011, and isn't it true that there is no one better with whom to celebrate than family?

A Blessed New Year to you all.

Ellen Sorensen

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE

It's finally here!! 2011 that is and with the new year, it is your goal to spread happiness with color.

It's time to make a bright/colorful jacket to get ready for Spring. Use a bold print in a happy color for maximum effect and you'll be sure to spread that happy feeling to everyone you meet! There are many new pattern designers now in addition to the usual McCall's, etc. Try a new style this year.

Think about adding some other colorful item to your closet this year like a new skirt or simple dress in an over the top print that you usually wouldn't go for-go bright, feel happy!. A new pocketbook is the easiest way to do it if you don't have a lot of time.

How about editing your stash and making pillow cases to donate for a cause? (Goggle Concare Cancer for details or check with us at Sew Smart Fabrics). The cases go to children undergoing chemo all around the United States. These type of projects benefit both the sewer and the receiver of the pillow case.

Whatever your choice, make it bright, make it colorful, spread the happy around!!! We can all use some in 2011 and don't forget to shop local to help keep your favorite fabric shop going. Sew Smart Fabrics for all you sewing needs.

Nancy Bischoff, Sew Smart Fabrics

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2010

The meeting of the Easton Couturiere Workshop was held December 13 at Third Street Alliance and called to order by President Nancy Boccadoro. Shirley Kressler gave the devotions.

There were two guests in attendance, a charter school student and her mother, who were interested in sewing and today's program.

Claire Rohloff introduced Pam Ptak, a recent Project Runway participant, who spoke in interesting detail about working with bias. She also displayed garments with bias surface decorations and trim and demonstrated how to cut and drape garments.

The Treasurer's report was read by Shirley Kressler. Dee Lammi and Pat Karcher made the motion to accept. Shirley also reported that Carol Williams audited the books this past month and everything is in order.

Pat Karcher and Shirley Kressler made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion carried.

Annette Smerkanich announced that Sew & Sews will meet on December 16 at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg and to bring Christmas projects to finish.

Carol Blair, Fashion Show co-chair, reminded everyone to keep sewing and that there will be a short meeting after the regular January meeting for all show committees. Also a reminder was made to think about the double-faced wool fabric as some sort of project for the fashion show.

Show & Tell participants included: Dee Lammi, a clock with a Mardi Gras design; Trudy Frey displayed a block of the month quilt; Ruth Skinner displayed her covered and decorated cane and fleece hats made for needy children.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. A covered dish luncheon followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

MaryAnn Schweitzer, Secretary