

# EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

March 2009

## PREZ SAYS .....

Between Sew N Sews, the Embroidery Club, and the sometimes-beautiful spring temperatures, I am really in the mood to sew something new. My PIGS seem to still be a pretty large pile, but I am determined to keep stitching away. The day for the Fashion Show is getting closer – only a little more than a month away – so we really need every one to treat themselves to making at least one item they can model at the show this year. Maybe you made a piece of jewelry or other accessory to complement a dress, knitted a sweater to keep you warm through the winter, or crocheted a hat to match your coat. Many quilters cleverly create clothing or tote bags using their piecing techniques. You are all such talented women and have treasures to share. We need you all to create the “Show” part of the Fashion Show! Get those needles – of whatever type- busy, busy, busy for next month. Join the fun!

*Nancy Boccadoro, President*

## PROGRAM:

Speaker: Jane Merkel  
Topic: “Jackets and Company”

Can't wait to welcome Jane Merkel! Are you seeking inspiration for fashion show sewing? She is the answer.

*Eleanor Pinto, Vice President*

DEVOTIONS: Joan Drzewiecki

HOSTESSES: Assisting Mary Morgan this month are Barbara Corcoran and Ellen Sorensen.

Hostesses are asked to bring a simple snack to share during the break.

## FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

*Nancy Boccadoro, Carol Williams*

Following the March Couturiere Workshop meeting, members of these Fashion Show Committees are asked to remain for a FINAL committee meeting: Decorations, Hospitality and Raffle Committee. Commentators and Stage Managers are also asked to attend. All plans for the Fashion Show will be

finalized in preparation for the April dress rehearsal and the Fashion Show. This will be the FINAL Fashion Show Committee meeting so please be prepared to stay about 45 minutes.

Members, if you have not already done so, please remember to see Diane Sutor to pick up four admission tickets. As noted last month, 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 as they are distributed.

The Publicity Committee will continue to distribute additional posters to be placed throughout the community. Those who already have been given posters, please remember to get them out to your locations as soon after March 15 as possible.

Karen Zimmerman will have information on Raffle Tickets at the March meeting. If you have items to contribute to the raffle, please contact Karen or bring the items to the meeting so she can begin to prepare her supplies for the table display.

Looking forward to your Fashion Show entries!

New to the Allentown Art Museum's textile collection are several colorful printed dress textiles designed by Hans Moller, a German artist who emigrated to the United States in 1936. In the 1950s, Moller joined Associated American Artists to develop designs for textiles and other home goods. Moller's lively designs transferred well to fabric and reflect the spirit and flavor of the paintings he was creating in the 1950s, works based on vividly colored forms inspired by paper cut-outs and collages. Acquisition of these textiles is especially appropriate for the museum, as in 1968 Moller relocated to Allentown, where he spent the remainder of his prolific career. Seven of Moller's paintings are also in the museum's holdings, as well as the contents of his Allentown studio. Three of his textiles will be on display from March 17-June 2 as part of the “Recent Gifts” exhibition now at the museum.—

*Jacque Atkins, Curator, 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 April Newsletter is April 3, 2009

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Jo Lysholdt

Ellen Sorensen

Kay Wolff

Jan Naitzel

[jolysholdt@rcn.com](mailto:jolysholdt@rcn.com)

[glenn13ellen@verizon.net](mailto:glenn13ellen@verizon.net)

[chiang10@verizon.net](mailto:chiang10@verizon.net)

[naitzelhi@aol.com](mailto:naitzelhi@aol.com)

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## SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

In one of the recent issues of Threads, a writer contributed a hint that thought I would like to try. This lady suggested reinforcing pattern pieces using a very light weight iron-on interfacing. Perhaps some of you have done this one. I roughly cut out my pattern and applied the interfacing. Then I carefully cut my pattern. I found that it much easier to make the final cut.

The reason I wanted to try this technique was to avoid making a muslin. In the past I have tried to fit with a paper pattern and had a disaster on my hands. I am starting to sew for our April style show and am a little pressed for time this year. I found that I was able to pin all the darts and seams for fitting and there was no tearing of the pattern. The pieces were so easy to place on my fabric and I could readily mark alterations with a pen or pencil. This jacket pattern will be strong enough to use many times. If it is successful, I will show it to you. If it isn't, I will never mention it again.

Jan Neitzel

## SEW WHAT'S NEW?

For once I am coming up with a sewing related "gadget" (for want of a better word) which was new to me. A fellow sewer and old friend in Arkansas told me about it, so I checked the notions at Pocono Sew & Vac and there it was. Funny thing is half the employees had never noticed it. This item is known as a Klutz Glove!!

Since I am a klutz, and since I almost lost a big flap of skin on my thumb joint about a year ago, while rotary cutting (took nine stitches to fix it), I decided the \$23.95 price tag was worth not having to make a trip to the emergency room. I wore yesterday when I was using the rotary cutter and felt much safer! It is made from a stainless steel and synthetic fiber, fits left or right hand. Kind of looks like a gardening glove. I'll bring it along to the March meeting (if I can remember).

Another instance of the greatness of this organization - I just baked Jan Neitzel's Apple Walnut Cake. It's been a couple years since she brought it to the meeting. My whole house smells so good! This one is for church, but I'm a hostess next month so I think I'll bring it as my contribution if Jan doesn't mind.

I decided to end my column each month with a thought-provoking, silly saying. So here it is for March 2009. If a #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2?!!!

*Ellen Sorensen*

**SOME SEWING HISTORY THIMBLES** (also called Needle Pushers)

Originally thimbles were small bell-shaped caps of leather made to be worn on the thumb when sewing. In most civilized countries, they were soon replaced by a metal one. Bronze thimbles have been found at the sites of Greek and Roman cities, such as Pompeii which was destroyed in A. D. 79.

There are two basic types: one heavy, cast and with indentations irregularly placed; one is finely made from sheet metal with the indentations neatly arranged and occasionally with an open top. The open-topped thimbles are popular among tailors as they have the advantage of leaving the sensitive tip of the finger exposed to assist in picking up pins, needles or thread.

In the late 1600s thimbles for all ordinary household sewing were made of brass or steel, sometimes a combination of the two. There were also special thimbles reserved for use on fine needlework and social occasions - those made by skilled artisans - the collector's items of today! They were often made of silver or gold and topped with hard gemstones such as amethyst, cornelian or moonstone.

For children, nests of thimbles were made. These fit one on top of another, gradually increasing in size to allow for growth. The smallest might be less than 3/8-inch in diameter at the rim. Children began instruction in stitchery at an early age and by age seven or eight were expected to acquire the ability to embroider elaborate samplers. A few samplers with plain letters and numerals, done by four-year-olds, have been traced to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the early Victorian era, it was fashionable to ornament the sides of thimbles with representations of famous buildings, bridges and other well-known landmarks. These were sold as souvenirs to the many tourists who were taking advantage of the developments in railroad travel.

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*Special thanks to those of you who do.*

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*Jo Lysholdt*

*Ellen Sorensen*

*Kay Wolff*

*Jan Neitzel*

*jolysholdt@rcn.com*

*glenn13ellen@verizon.net*

*chiang10@verizon.net*

*neitzelhi@aol.com*

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Thimbles (practical or decorative) have been made from bone, ivory, mother-of-pearl, glass, wood, tortoiseshell, enamel on copper and china. Many decorative thimbles were given as gifts, and thus small ornamental cases were made to hold them. Thimbles are definitely a collector's item - not only beautiful, but requiring little room to store.

*Kay Wolff*

**Coffee filters...who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree.** More next month from Jan Neitzel

4. **Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.**
5. **Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.**
6. **Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter**

Here is the list of books that were purchased in Mary Coyle's honor at the Easton Area Public Library.

1. Tailoring – The Classic Guide to Sewing the Perfect Jacket
2. Lotta Jansdottar's – Simple Sewing Patterns for 24 Fresh and Easy Projects
3. Simple Sewing Guide by Singer
4. Easy Embellishments for Creative Sewing
5. Encyclopedia of Sewing Machine Techniques
6. Sew What! Fleece
7. Sew What! Skirts

Kay Wolff will be in touch later with information about the luncheon in May. The cost is \$20 and checks should be payable to Easton Couturiere Workshop. She will start collecting in March, but can accept payment until April 27th.

## **SEW n SEWS**

Sew n Sews will meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 9 AM till 3 PM at the Hughes Library. You can work on your own "BYOP" (bring your own project).

**Annette Smerkanich**

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## **EMBROIDERY CLUB**

The Embroidery Club will meet on Thursday, March 19, 2009, from 10 AM till 3 PM at At Piece Quiltery. If there is a project, details will be emailed. You are welcome to join the club either working on the project or your own "BYOP" (bring your own project).

**Annette Smerkanich**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At the February meeting we had 47 members in attendance including Ruth Minich, a former member who has re-joined us:

Ruth Minich  
433 Buckhorn Drive  
Belvidere, N.J.07823

[ru3b40@earthlink.net](mailto:ru3b40@earthlink.net)

908-475-4159

*Sharon Roehrig*



*Jo Lysholdt  
Ellen Sorensen  
Kay Wolff  
Jan Neitzel*

*jolysholdt@rcn.com  
glenn13ellen@verizon.net  
chiang10@verizon.net  
neitzelki@aol.com*

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Photos taken at the December 2008 meeting by Carmen Limardo

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*[jolysholdt@rcn.com](mailto:jolysholdt@rcn.com)  
[glenn13ellen@verizon.net](mailto:glenn13ellen@verizon.net)  
[chiang10@verizon.net](mailto:chiang10@verizon.net)  
[neitzelbi@aol.com](mailto:neitzelbi@aol.com)*