

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

May 2009

PREZ SAYS

In the twinkling of an eye, it's May! Our Fashion Show is now history, leaving us with lots of memories – beautiful clothes, charming flower girls, hooped skirts, secret pockets, fashions past, mother-daughter projects, renovated ties, and oh, those cupcakes! What a wonderful job everyone did!

Next we begin planning for another year. As I get ready for our May meeting, there are lots of ideas floating around in my brain already. Whether you have planned to stay for the luncheon or not, I hope you will be at the meeting to hear about Eleanor's summer plan and share some of your thoughts and ideas for our coming year. We will be installing our new officers this month and at the Important June Meeting, we want to hit the ground with feet running to start laying out our plans for next year. Remember, each of you is important to the success of our sewing circle.

Nancy Boccadoro, President

PS

Meeting: Monday May 11, 2009 10AM
Hampton Winds, Northampton County Community College

Luncheon 12:30 Following the meeting
(Optional; Reservations in advance)

Directions to NCCC See last page of newsletter

PROGRAM

Topic: "33 First Prize Fashions"

Speaker: Cathie Werner will present an exciting account of her 32 PLUS First Prizes in fashion and quilting. She has designed and published techniques for unique garments.

Eleanor Pinto, Vice President

DEVOTIONS Dee Lammi

HOSPITALITY We will take a short break following the program, but will not be serving refreshments this month. Ice water will be available.

FASHION SHOW COMMITTEE

WOW! There is so much to say about our Fashion Show! If you were not able to be there, or would just like to enjoy an instant replay, Carmen Limardo will have her video ready for everyone to share prior to the meeting. THANKS TO THE ENTIRE CREW! More comments to follow at our meeting, of course.

*Nancy Boccadoro, Carol Williams,
Fashion Show Committee*

Hi Everyone,

We had so much fun at our March retreat---we're going again!!!

Mench Mill is a wonderful place to unwind and relax. The sewing room is bright and airy, with windows on three sides. The lighting makes it just as bright at night, for you all night sewers. The food is homey and down to earth.

You can't beat this for \$155.00.

There is still room on our June 5-7 weekend. Call the shop for more details.

Marsha
At Piece Quiltery
610-438-4630

There is a great exhibit of old quilts at the Chester Co. Historical Society which has a wonderful museum. Go to internet for more information

Ever wanted to see the gorgeous costumes from films like *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Out of Africa*, or *Evita* up close and personal? Then don't miss *Fashion in Film: Period Costumes for the Screen*, an exhibition featuring costumes from these films and others will open at the Allentown Art Museum on May 17 and run through August 9, 2009. The costumes, worn by stars such as Nicole Kidman, Madonna, Cate Blanchett, and others, are drawn from the collection of Cosprop Ltd., the renowned London costume house. They are historically accurate in design and represent incredible attention to detail in their construction—an exciting look at the costumer's art. Check the museum website for preview party information and more: www.allentownartmuseum.org. And another exciting bit of costume news: Ellie Laubner, a long-time Valley resident, recently gifted the museum with her wonderful costume collection, representing nearly a century of fashion, from the late 19th century through the 1970s. More about this in future newsletters! — *Jacquie Atkins*

Please contact us with any items you think would be of interest to our group!
Special thanks to those of you who do.
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SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

The following appeared in a book of tips and time savers, AND SEW ON...by Alida Macor

A WORD OR TWO ABOUT COLOR...

Warm bright colors (reds, oranges) and shiny fabrics seem to add pounds; while subtle shades and texture diminish size.

Strange but true---most figures can wear a clingy knit print, while the same fabric in a solid color reveals every lump and bump!

To test a new color, hold it up to your face and observe the effect in a mirror. A flattering color will light up your complexion and recede into the background. The wrong color will dominate your face and accentuate any lines, wrinkles, and shadows.

If you think you can't wear black, add a becoming color at the neckline.

Or, try black velvet which has a softening effect on most complexions.

Be careful about the shade of white you choose. Ideally, it should not be whiter than your teeth.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer..

Jan Neitzel

SEW WHAT'S NEW?

I know what's new for me -- a new computer installed yesterday - flat screen, 17", and I feel like I'm looking at it in high definition! That plus my new eyes makes the world look bright and sunny.

It's hard to believe this is the last Newsletter till fall. So it also is the last time I can write about the wonders of another year of Couturiere Workshop, and send some kudos to our leaders. Nancy and Eleanor, as our President and Vice-President respectively, have done a marvelous job of taking us through another year. And it is a JOB, taking a lot of time and planning and preparation - I have "been there, done that", so I know whereof I speak. Mary Ann has done such a good job of being secretary (she's the only one since I joined) that she couldn't get rid of that job if she tried! Then there is Shirley, who keeps the books. I can't say "been there, done that" to that job, and you are very lucky I can't. As I

write, my dear husband is trying to balance my check book!!!

So let's remember to thank all these people, plus all committee chairwomen, hostesses, etc. I can't list them here, but you all know who they are. And also remember to back all who will be listed in the book next year - help them out, volunteer, and wish them well. In this day of decreasing membership in women's groups, we are the exception! Hurray!!

Ellen Sorensen

SOME SEWING HISTORY AND FINALLY - SOME ODDS AND ENDS

Here are a few more sewing "gadgets" from the past, some still used today:

DARNING EGGS: usually had a handle and were made of lightweight materials. Holding a heavy object during long hours of mending would obviously be tiring. Glove darning sticks had a small egg at each end.

HAND COOLERS: were often egg-shaped stones. This natural material generally stayed cool to the touch. A careful needlewoman, particularly when working with white, did not want her fingers becoming hot and moist, possibly staining either thread or material. Holding the stone egg in her hand from time to time avoided this problem.

SEWING WAX: was used on thread to keep it smooth so it would slide easily through the fabric, especially silk. Beeswax was generally used by the countrywomen who had their own hives. The natural color might stain clothes so a more refined white wax was sold in the towns. It came in round cakes about 1 ½ - inches in diameter, but there were many decorative versions as well. Small, flat cakes might be pressed between two circular discs of carved ivory or mother-of-pearl.

EMERY: is a mineral that was discovered in Turkey in 1847. It is almost as hard as diamonds. Boulders were processed to create fine grains of emery which were then packed into fabric containers - the "strawberry" often attached to a pincushion. Thus, a seamstress could keep her pins and needles sharp and rust-free. You can tell the real thing by the weight and the feel of the strawberry. Because emery

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NEEDLEWORK CLAMPS: were used in England until the middle of the 19th century. During that time women spent long hours hemming household linens by hand. A clamp would hold one end of the work; the seamstress could hold the other end taut in one hand and stitch with her other hand. This device helped her work to be done smoothly and efficiently. A popular variation in this country was the hemming-bird, made of metal with a spring underneath the body. This allowed the seamstress to change the position of the clamp with one hand, rather than loosening the screws by which earlier clamps were attached to the table. Fabric was held in the beak and often there was a pincushion on the bird's back. Sewing-bird, gripper or third hand were other names.

Kay Wolff

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Kay Wolff

EDUCATION

Multi Technique for Round Robin Couturiere
Round Robin April 13, 2009

Foiling Technique

Almost any fabric that does not have a "finish" on it can be used. I used a PFD (prepared for dye) cotton.

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Previously, I stamped with fabric paint. I applied a thin layer of foil transfer adhesive to a stamp – I then stamped the fabric and let it dry. When ready to apply foil – select color and use iron on cotton setting – burnish with tip of iron on foil (shiny side up); let set 10 min. Then peel away foil. Foil is washable but not dry cleanable. Use foiling technique on large or small areas to add some "bling". I showed a silk top with flower centers foiled in gold and silver. The December 2009 issue of "SewNews" has an article called "Foiled". .

Resource: www.lauramurraydesigns.com or
www.dharmatrading.com

Angelina Technique

There are two types of angelina fibers – one that bonds to itself and a metallic that must be sandwiched with the bondable type. Take some fibers of the colors you like and mix them together on a paper towel or parchment and iron (silk setting) a few seconds. Fibers can then be cut into shapes, or sewn onto fabrics, etc. There are 2 booklets; "Amazing Angelina" by Betty Blais and between the sheets with Angelina – workbook for fusible fibres by Alys Midgellow-Marsden that show many uses for fusible fibres. I used them in a scarf made with the watersoluble solvy as an area to fill a hole and in a quilt to add some bling.

Resource: www.embellishmentvillage.com

Tamp a Stamp

Acrylic tiles in various designs are used in this technique. The outer edges or frame is taped to fabric and then pieces are lifted from the frame and color applied. I used Crafters acid free pigment pad by Color Box to pounce color in the shape. This pigment dyes quickly and can be heat set to make it washable. Squares of designs can be used as pockets on clothing or panels could be made for vests, you could add a design right onto a garment, etc.

Resource: www.tamp-a-stamp.com

Claire Rohloff

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Seminole Workshop with instructor Nancy Clark will be held May 28, 2009 at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg

Time be ready to sew by 10:00 am

Cost None

Sign up sheet will be available at the May meeting.
An example will be displayed.

Supplies list:

Sewing Machine and sewing accessories

Cutting mat

Rulers with angles marked

Rotary cutter

Scissors

Iron

Markers

Pins

Seam ripper

Thread to match fabric

Fabric:

.5 yard of 3 different fabrics – a light, medium and dark that contrast nicely

Perhaps 2 solids and 1 small print

OR all solids

OR all small prints

Elizabeth Cortright

STRATA BLOCKS

1. Choose fat Quarters of the same value. Also several fat Quarters that are of contrasting fabric but of the same value.

2. Wash all fabrics.

3. Cut into strips 1.25" to 2.25" wide with a rotary cutter. Can do 3 fat Quarters together.

4. Sew each strip in the opposite direction to prevent bowing. Choose random colors and widths to be sewn together. Sew until you have a new fat Quarter.

5. Press from the front and then have each seam in the same direction.

6. Lay on mat with seams running up and down.

7. Cut 4 – 6.5 - 1 – 7.5 + 2 from sides. Center matching diagonal line with seams on the 5 blocks.

Trudy Frey can help you if you should decide to try it.

From Stratvarious Quilts by Barbara Pershing and Mary Hoover.

MEMBERSHIP

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New Member:

Rose Marie Cutropia

rosemarie@wildbluegroup.com

8090 Running Valley Road

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

1299

570-528-

Sharon

Roehrig

Jo Lysholdt

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Not ALL roads lead to Hampton Winds, but if you are looking for one route, maybe the following will help....

From the North

Take Rt 33 South to the Hecktown Road exit

At the end of the exit ramp, turn LEFT onto

Hecktown Road.

Drive 2 miles to a STOP SIGN where you will turn LEFT onto Butztown Road

Proceed 1.4 miles and then turn LEFT onto

Greenpond Road.

Drive 0.1 miles to the driveway (on the left) that leads into GATES CENTER, home of Hampton Winds Restaurant

From the East

Take Rt 22 West to Rt 33 North

Take the Hecktown Road exit

At the end of the exit ramp, turn RIGHT onto

Hecktown Road

Drive 2 miles to a STOP SIGN where you will turn LEFT onto Butztown Road

Proceed 1.4 miles and then turn LEFT onto

Greenpond Road.

Drive 0.1 miles to the driveway (on the left) that leads into GATES CENTER, home of Hampton Winds Restaurant

From the West

Take Rt 22 East to the Rt 191 exit.

At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Rt. 191

S (toward Bethlehem)

Drive 0.8 miles to the STOP LIGHT at Oakland Road where you will turn LEFT

Proceed 0.8 miles and turn LEFT at the 4 way

STOP SIGN onto Hecktown Road

Drive 0.5 to the STOP LIGHT at Greenpond

Road where you will turn RIGHT

Drive 0.1 miles to the driveway (on the left) that leads into GATES CENTER,

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