

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

November 2009

PREZ SAYS

Suddenly it is November! Although the leaves are still colorful, I know Thanksgiving is just around the corner and it will be time for Christmas shopping before I am ready. This is such an energizing time of year and our program for this month will only add to your creativity. Anna Faustino will be sharing some innovative ideas for fabric techniques. Bring your projects and show us whatever you are working on right now. Gift ideas are always welcomed enthusiastically.

I hope to see everyone on Monday, November 9th, with a project in hand for Show & Tell

Nancy Boccadoro, President

DEVOTIONS Carolyn Gill

HOSTESSES: Nancy Meka and Darlene LeFevre

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

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November meeting will feature Anna Faustino - web site www.newtechquilts.com --She was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia and came to the US in 1995. She has won many awards in quilting and has a new book *Simply Stunning Woven Quilts* --- C&T Publishing. Anna worked 2 years at the Kirov Opera & Ballet as a stage and costume decorator. She will be presenting techniques adaptable for garments to our group. Anna will be demonstrating a "slashing technique " on jersey creating an unusual fabric which could be sewn into a garment, plus many types of embellishments, felting, designs for knitting, etc. Bring extra money in case there are things to purchase. Thank you.

Claire Rohloff

*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 December Newsletter is December 4, 2009
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com*

MEET A MEMBER

- A new feature highlighting members, new ones especially!

Maria McConnell had been looking for connections to people who sewed. Lucky for us, she found us in September!

As a child in Mexico, she learned hand work, particularly smocking. Maria worked in New Jersey for a bridal salon. She did alterations and custom sewing and found the business stressful. Then she was a cosmetologist in Easton for four years.

She presently has taken on the task of recycling her own clothing. She found the challenge on the internet. The idea is not to buy anything new for six months and update one's present wardrobe instead – an interesting idea in today's world.

She is happy to find a good sewing group in the area and we look forward to her sharing with us.

.Pat Auerbach

We recently added a beautiful new textile to the museum's collection, a fine example of Arts and Crafts weaving designed in 1900 by Gavin Morton (1867-1954). It was manufactured by Alexander Morton & Co., one of leaders of the design renaissance of the late 19th century. During the late 1890s and early 1900s, the company enlisted an impressive group of artists influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement and by Art Nouveau design to create a new look for their products. Gavin Morton, an artist and nephew of Alexander Morton, designed high-end furnishing fabrics and rugs for the company, some of which are still reproduced today. This silk and wool double-weave fabric, with a dramatic oversized floral motif, was one of his most popular designs and still retains an enduring contemporary appeal. We are looking forward to putting this elegant textile on display in the coming year.-Jacquie Atkins, Allentown Art Museum

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

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

What to do when you forgot your trusty measuring tape and you just don't happen to have a string in your purse:

QUARTER

It's about an inch in diameter, and its edge, rolled in a straight line, measures three inches (start and end with Washington's profile facing the same direction)

DOLLAR BILL

U.S. currency is 2 1/2 by 6 inches. Paper money can wrap around objects, so it comes in handy for measuring small curved items (to mark size, crimp the bill)

CREDIT CARDS

A typical card is about 2 by 3 1/2 inches. On the back, the distance between the magnetic strip and the opposite edge is 1 1/2 inches.

HANDS AND ARMS

A "hand"...the measuring unit for horses...is 4 inches, the approximate width of many a palm. (Mine is 3 1/4"). Another trick: Measure the span from the tip of the pinky to the tip of the thumb; then you can "walk" your hand across the surface. (Mine is 8 "). Additionally, the span of your arms is roughly equal to your height, so you can measure with out-stretched arms.

All this comes from the September, 2009 issue of the Martha Stewart Living Magazine. She forgot what every seamstress knows...It is 1 yard from the nose when the head is turned in the opposite direction to the end of the finger tips.

Jan Neitzel

SEW WHAT'S NEW??

This isn't "NEW" and actually goes back to 1863 and Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation. I just read it, and I'm going to pick out a few meaningful phrases for you to think about as we approach Thanksgiving 2009. Here's what Lincoln had to say:

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown. But we have forgotten God. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It has seemed to me that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise.

Ellen Sorensen

SEW n SEWS

SEW n SEWS will meet on Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 9AM – 4PM at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA. At the present time, there is not a specific project. Please bring your own projects to work on and also your "Show and Tell".

Annette Smerkanich

HISTORY OF PATTERNS - Part One

Some of the earliest known patterns for making clothing are credited to 12th century Roman monks. Slate was used to make templates for 2 one-size-fits-all patterns - a sleeve and a front/back. Later, in the 13th century, a French master tailor (Charles Daillac) hit upon the idea of making basic patterns from thin wood. Since clothing styles changed very slowly (about every **50 years**) the pattern pieces would last and therefore save time in garment construction. Individual pattern pieces were often traced on stiff paper or inexpensive linen fabric that was later used to line the garment.

By the end of the 14th century, tailors and dressmakers owned sets of paper patterns. In general, the tailor inherited these from his father or was given copies by the master who trained him. Before cutting out a garment, the tailor measured the customer with a long strip of blank paper and recorded the dimensions by notching it - the forerunner to the tape measure. When he had selected a pattern of about the right size, he laid it on the fabric and traced around it with chalk. Later, he compared the chalk outline to the paper strip and redrew the outline as necessary. Further fitting was done on the customer. Dressmakers also used a paper strip to take measurements, but only as a guide to the length of the dress sections. The complex back pleats used to fit the bodice of the day were arranged on the customer.

Early pattern books were published in the 1500s but these focused more on economical layouts for different fabric widths rather than on actual patterns. There were no fitting or sewing instructions and the patterns were not drawn to scale. By the 18th century, fashionable garments still required that the drafting and fitting be done by a professional. Home dressmaking was confined to alterations and undergarments made of simple rectangular pieces.

Change began in the early 19th-century as fashions changed more rapidly, with styles becoming complex and closely-fitted. A rising middle class demanded fashionable clothes at reasonable prices. The time was ripe for technological innovation and this will be discussed in the next newsletter.

Kay Wolff

MEMBERSHIP-Sharon Roehrig and Doris Strom

One more member rejoined in October:

Sheila Goldberg sheilagoldberg1@verizon.net
315 Myrtle Ave. 3/14
Easton, PA 18040 610-252-3254

In addition, we welcome the following new member:

Alberta Siemiatkoski ts6a53@aol.com
3065 Artemis Circle 6/30
Bethlehem, PA 18017 610-694-0852

Doris Strom-new email address:
jgsdes49@gmail.com

A BIG THANK YOU to club members Jan Neitzel, Carol Williams and Nancy Boccadoro, who along with Judy Walters from Third Street Alliance, wowed the guests at the October 14th birthday party. Guests were delighted to see period costumes representing the 100 years of service provided by the agency. Polly Kendrick, who has done programs for us, provided the costumes.

Kay Wolff

Angel Food Macaroons

Angel food cake mix
½ cup water
1 ½ tsp almond flavoring
2 cups coconut

Beat first 3 ingredients on low for 30 seconds, then beat on medium for one minute.
Fold in coconut
Drop by rounded teaspoons on WELL greased sheet.
Bake at 350 degrees 10-12 minutes til set.
Makes about 7 dozen.

Carolyn Gill

OCTOBER MINUTES

The meeting of the Easton Couturiere Workshop was held Oct. 12, 2009 at Third St. Alliance and called to order by President, Nancy Boccadoro.

Clair Rohloff introduced Dottie Richey, owner of Stitcher's Dream, who gave an interesting presentation of her journey in the textile field.

Agnes Webb announced that the trip to the Constitution Museum in Philadelphia to see the Diana Collection on Oct. 20 will be by carpool and interested persons should see her to arrange for tickets.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the Newsletter. Jan Neitzel & Shirley Kressler made the motion. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. Jan Neitzel & Pat Karcher made this motion.

After some discussion, it was decided to keep the February 18 meeting at the Palmer Library as is scheduled in the Booklet.

If you have any trouble receiving the Newsletter by E-mail, contact Dee Lammi for help.

Sylvia Hunsinger, Librarian, noted that there are many videos available and that the DVD of last year's fashion show, made by Carmen Limardo, is now included in the library.

Membership reported that we now have 74 members of whom 37 were in attendance today.

Jan Neitzel gave an educational suggestion which is to use dry heat to apply a light weight fusible interfacing to pattern pieces to make them very durable.

Nancy noted that we will need to select a theme title for this year's fashion show and suggestions are welcome.

Monies donated for Terri's Treasures will be used for a future scholarship A serger was donated to the club and will be sold for \$40.00 which will also be donated to this fund.

Jan Neitzel made a proposal to purchase the soft-ware fitting program that today's speaker spoke about and then have her do a workshop to show us how to use it efficiently.

Sew & Sews & Refreshers will meet Oct. 22 at the Hughes Library and the Embroidery Club will meet at At Piece Quiltery to do Reverse Applique. November's project is: "Three dimensional lace angel".

The following persons had items for Show & Share: Claire Rohloff: a bra made for a challenge & benefit auction for Breast Cancer Research; Dee Lammi: photo of granddaughter's poodle skirt and blouse; Polly McGarr, Pampered Chef tongs which are useful in the sewing room; Darlene LeFevre: a puffy, very stretchy blouse.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

MaryAnn Schweitzer, Secretary