

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

October 2010

PREZ SAYS

What a great Show & Tell session we had last month! It was truly a testament to the diversity of talent within our group. I hope to see more this month- especially from our new members- as this is a great way to get to know each other better. I saw several things I would like to learn to do, and if you did, too, make a note so we can create some workshops through the coming months. And speaking of being inspired, there are several things going on that might pique your interest. Byrne Sewing Connection, just outside of Doylestown, is hosting a John Deer machine embroidery program on October 15th & 16th; Sheila Goldberg reports that there is a free quilt exhibit at Lafayette College; a showing titled "Alterations-ReFashion by Susan Huxley" is on display in Bethlehem at Home & Planet all through the month of October (A car-pool trip for this one is already in the works for October 19th or 20th - interested in going along?) Check out the new fall fashions and get creative with elements from your current wardrobe

In stitches,
Nancy Boccadoro, President

DEVOTIONS: Ellen Sorensen

HOSTESSES: Trudy Frey, Jo Lysholdt
Hostesses are asked to bring a simple snack to share during the break.

BITS AND PIECES

The blouse Claire wore at show and tell is "Moon Blossom Blouse" - Mekong River Textiles, Susan L. McCauley, Silver Spring, MD phone 301-5889-1432

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Judith Weyl will be presenting a computer program called "Wild Ginger" by Pattern Master Boutique. She will be demonstrating how the program works using one of our members, Kay Wolff, as a model. She will show how to input measurements, select design features (type of sleeve, collar, closure, etc.) and edit patterns created.

Judith Weyl is interested in almost every aspect of sewing – garments for men, women and children, home decoration, quilting and machine embroidery. She is fascinated by the use of software programs combined with sewing related techniques. She uses Wild Ginger software to draft a pattern for sewing garments and Electric Quilt to create quilt patterns and PE Design and Embird for machine embroidery.

Before retiring she worked as a software specialist providing support to the company's 900 employees both domestically and internationally. She has taught quilting classes part-time at Fabricland on Rt 22, North Plainfield. Judith is a member of Easton Couturiere Workshop.

Claire Rohloff

An intriguing Japanese textile that embroiderers might find of special interest is now on view in the museum lobby. The oversized embroidery--nearly five by seven feet!--depicts a pine forest with a meandering stream under a moonlit sky, and is beautifully executed in an embroidery style popular in Japan toward the end of the 19th century. The thread used for the trees is made of two plies twisted together under different tensions, giving a highly textured appearance to the trees. The composition itself is different from traditional Japanese imagery and indicates it was a work meant to appeal to a Western audience--something Japan was very interested in at a time when the country was beginning to look outward for new markets. And an amusing side note: A very similar work was shown on Antiques Road Show in 2007, although we think our example is much better in terms of condition and color! -
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 November Newsletter is October 29, 2010
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com*

*Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@ptd.net
Ellen Sorensen
Judith Weyl*

SEW WHAT'S NEW??

It's October already, right? My favorite month - autumn colors, the sound of crunchy leaves, the crisp cool days, and the aroma of apples cooking or pumpkin pie baking! I do not decorate for Halloween but concentrate on fall decorating on a small scale - table runners (which I have made), gourds in a basket, a couple arrangements here and there. And then autumn brings sports!! Baseball winding down (as long as the Phillies are in first place I get interested!); football gearing up to a high pitch which doesn't stop till January!! That's when I take to heart a quote from Andy Rooney in a piece he did about women over 50: *If a woman over 50 doesn't want to watch the game, she doesn't sit around whining about it. She does something she wants to do, and it's usually more interesting.* Does that say sewing time to anyone else?? Sunday afternoon sewing? Frowned upon years ago, but I feel that the Lord, on his day, would rather see me at my machine than watching guys clobber each other!!!

A good thing happening in our group this fall is our pillow/bag project for cancer patients. We had a good group of cutters, sewers, and stuffers at the Stroudsburg Library on September 23, and although there was plenty of chatter going on, much was accomplished. We owe a debt of gratitude to Annette for organizing this group and purchasing fabric at a good cost, using funds designated in our budget for outreach/charity. Thanks, too, to all who came out and helped. We hope to have a good show and share of the project at our meeting. Happy Autumn!

Ellen Sorensen

TOTE BAG AND PILLOW PROJECT

For those members who do not have email, we thought we would include the directions for the latest Couturiere Workshop project. Directions and a pattern for dog bone pillows will be available at the meeting along with a few kits for both projects.

QUILTERS' REACH TO RECOVERY TOTE BAG

2 – Pieces to cut: 2 – 18” x 15” (front & back)
2 – 18” x 15” (lining)
2 – 18” x 15” batting
2 – 18” x 3” (straps)

Cut 2 strips for straps – each 18” x 3. Fold each 3” x 18” strip in half, wrong sides together, to form a 1 1/2” x 18” strip. Press.

Fold each 18” raw edge into the fold of it's strap and press again, forming a 3/4” x 18” strip.

Top stitch both long edges of each strap.

For the bag you need a front and back – each 15” x 18”. Two pieces 15” x 18” are also needed for the lining.

With right sides together using 1/4” seam, sew linings together leaving top open. With right sides together, sew the front of the bag to the back of the bag in the same way.

At the bottom of both the bag and lining, miter the corners in order to make the bag wider at the bottom.

Then turn both lining and outside of bag to the right side. Put the lining inside the bag (wrong sides will be together).

At the top edge, turn down and press 1/2” on both the bag and lining. Insert and pin one strap end about 3 1/2” in from the side of the bag front between the lining and the bag. Insert the other end of the strap in the same way – 3 1/2” in from the other side of the front. Repeat on the back with the second strap.

Top stitch several rows 1/4” apart around the top through all layers (bag, lining, straps). For extra reinforcement, and X can be stitched through all layers where the straps are attached to the bag.

Finished Tote Bag will be 17” long by 14” wide finished.

The tote bags and pillow (dog bone pillow) should be of coordinating material so as to be pleasing and attractive to the patient. Cottons or cotton blends work the best.

PROJECT RUNWAY

Continuing with the twenty-five year celebration of Threads Magazine, Sarah McFarland has an article entitled "Years of Change". She talks about how the desire/need to sew has lessened with the availability of reasonably priced clothing and home goods items at places like Walmart and Target. Many of the stay at home Moms who sewed for their families in the past are in the workplace now.

I remember sewing classes in school – making an apron and sewing the binding on by hand in sixth grade. I remember sewing my eighth grade graduation dress – a vision in mint green voile. With budget cutbacks many liberal arts classes are being dropped and if sewing is not introduced in school, and children are not exposed to it at home, where do today's young people get inspired to sew? One place is the reality show Project Runway.

I watched Project Runway once or twice a few years ago and was turned off by the tears of the more sensitive designers. This summer I decided to give the show another chance and tivo'd a whole season (it's such a pleasure to fast forward through the commercials!).

The premise of the show is to give a group of sixteen designers a sewing challenge each week. The judges select one winner and eliminate the 'poorest' designer each week until one remains as the overall winner. The inspirations for the designs vary from basing a design on outlandish hats to using supplies from a party store to remaking ugly bridesmaid dresses. The resulting garments may not be what you or I would wear but watching the creative process is inspiring.

The designers are given fifteen to thirty minutes to sketch their designs. How do they do it in that amount of time? I can spend an hour just musing over my collection of purchased patterns trying to decide which one to make. Once their sketches are done, they go to Mood Designer Fabrics in NYC. This store has an extensive and varied selection of fabrics and findings. The designers have 30 minutes to purchase their fabric and notions. Thirty minutes!!! It takes me that long

to walk through one aisle of stacked bolts while fondling the fabric.

Once back at Parson's School of Design, the designers begin to work. They have a deadline and are under a lot of pressure to drape, cut out and sew their designs. The dynamics between them make for a really interesting reality show. They critique each other's work and attitudes. It's surprising to hear the judges select a designer as the winner of the week's challenge when his/her fellow designers ridiculed that person's work.

I find myself amazed at the creativity shown on this show. It does inspire me. The show can be seen on Thursdays at 9 PM on Lifetime. The official site for the show is <http://www.mylifetime.com/shows/project-runway>. You can see previous episodes there.

I hope you'll watch the show and tell me what you think.

Judith Weyl

FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE

Thought you might be interested in my notes from a recent fashion show in Las Vegas for Spring 2011!

Colors for Spring- jewel tones like violet, spice, orange, china blue emerald and fuchsia with copper/gold metallic accents.

Trends-

*Hollywood Glamour a la Audrey Hepburn and Mad Men

* Victorian with lace, dusty tones of rose, grey and peridot

* Dots and stripes are still good

*Cropped jackets over long skirts

*Cinched waists

*Handkerchief hemlines

* Ruffles!!! lots of them everywhere

*Geometrics- mix and match

*Pantsuits are back

*Ombre wash

*Sheer inserts

Hope that gets your sewing juices flowing!

Nancy Bischoff, Sew Smart Fabrics

MEMBERSHIP

Sharon Roehrig and Doris Strom

We had 43 present at our September meeting. This included 3 guests and 3 new members. Welcome to all of you! Dawn Kaniper and Renetta Karlovsky joined over the summer, so they are listed in your handbook, but please add Rosemarie Greg, who joined at the Sept. meeting. At the back of the handbook are blank pages for adding new member's names, etc. Here are the additions

Linda Becker beckerla@ptd.net
635 S. Cottonwood Rd. 2001 3/31
Northampton, PA 18067 (610) 767-1713

Linda Hinkson fibersista4@aol.com
6303 Ventnor Dr. 2003 6/30
Tobyhanna, PA 18466 (570) 894-8746

Rosemarie Greg rosemarie1025@rcn.com
7 Windrift Ct. 2010 10/25
Easton, PA 18045 (610) 252-8252

Lynn Kappes kappestrano@rcn.com
517 Faith Dr.
Catasauqua, PA 18032 (610) 264-9886

Natasha Grotenhuis willomona@yahoo.com
7 High St 2009 2/10
Easton, PA 18042 (610) 252-3006

Doris Strom change birthday to 9/1

LOST

The serving spoon I brought to the Sept. luncheon is missing. It wouldn't be a big deal but I don't have many serving spoons and it matches my set of utensils. It's just a normal stainless steel one, somewhat larger than a soup spoon. Please check your silverware drawer!

Thanks,
Sharon Roehrig

SEW n SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, October 28, 2010 from 9 AM – 4 PM at the Hughes Library, Stroudsburg, PA. Please bring your own UFOs or any project you are currently working on. Everyone is WELCOME!

The following are the dates for 2011 Elizabeth Cortright was able to schedule for our group at the Library.

January 27, February 23, March 23, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 17, December 15, 2011. Please note that ALL dates are for scheduled on a Thursday, except February and March as they are in use at the library for Income Tax. February and March will be on a Wednesday, not a Thursday. Please mark your calendar.

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the following members who helped make the Tote Bag and Pillow that will be distributed in October. October is National Breast Cancer Month, and these Tote Bags/Pillows will be donated to various medical facilities to be given to those dealing with this illness. Thanks to **Nancy Boccadoro** for all the cutting, **Ellen Sorensen** for ironing and sewing, **Judith Weyl** for sewing and donating fabric, **Doris Strom** for sewing, donating fabric and two 5 pound boxes of polyfil, **Polly McGarr** for sewing and donating fabric, **Pam Moore** for sewing and donating fabric, **Joan Drzewiecki** for sewing, **Linda Hinkson** for sewing, **Karen Zimmerman** and **her daughter, Jessamy**, for stuffing the pillows, and **Annette Smerkanich** for buying, cutting, and sewing/stuffing. The tote bags and pillows will have a tag stating these were made by the Easton Couturiere Workshop.

Annette Smerkanich