

# EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

October 2011

## PREZ SAYS .....

Autumn is certainly here! I love the color pallet it brings along with the need for a change in fabrics. The nice thing about the time we live in is that we don't have to make everything we wear; we can pick and choose what we really like to sew, and fill in the rest with shopping excursions. Is there one thing you are going to make for this season? Maybe one of Pam Leggitt's tee tops in autumn colors or a quick remake of a sweatshirt into a jacket for those cooler fall afternoons will freshen your wardrobe. Whatever it is, treat yourself to ONE item!

Happily sewing though the rains,

Nancy Boccadoro

## DEVOTIONS

Ellen Sorenson

## HOSTESSES

Lena Kiefer and Trudy Frey

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

## T-Shirt Totes

Please bring any T-Shirt totes you may have finished for Third Street Alliance's "Jacob's Christmas" project. To date we have sewn over 60 totes.

## THIS AND THAT

From Trudy Frey on Google  
[dressagirlaroundtheworld.com](http://dressagirlaroundtheworld.com)

Enright's Fabric Warehouse  
625 E. Broad St.  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
Phone 610-882-0405  
M-to-F 9 - 4 Sat 8 - 12

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

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 November 5  
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website [embroiderybydee.com](http://embroiderybydee.com)

Susan Huxley will be presenting an overview of the construction of up cycle dusters with focus on technical sewing aspects. Presentation will include samples of dusters and simpler items constructed the same way, sourcing garments, piecing with flat pattern assembly, assembly method and seams used.

Susan Huxley is a nationally published author, editor, garment designer, textile artist, and educator. Her business produces patterns and books for a wide range of clients including national sewing experts and large publishing houses. She has developed and sewn many of the samples for the books *Serger Secrets*, *Sewing Secrets from the Fashion Industry*, *Secrets for Successful Sewing* and many others.

Claire Rohloff

A Special note of thanks to Nancy Boccadoro, Shirley Kressler, Dee Lammi, and Mary Coyle for all their work in putting the booklet together

Jo Lysholdt

The Allentown Art Museum celebrates its reopening this month with *Shared Treasure: The Legacy of Samuel H. Kress*, an exhibition of the museum's Renaissance and Baroque art as well as loans from other museums who benefited from the generosity of Samuel Kress. Also on view is *Heaven on Earth: Textiles of the Renaissance and Baroque*, an exhibition drawn from the museum's large textile collection (October 16, 2011-January 8, 2012). Textile producers relied on patronage by wealthy consumers, some of whom funded their own workshops to assure the quality and uniqueness of what they wore, and Church clergy, who commissioned elegant liturgical textiles to give substance and beauty to religious rites. The brocades, flat and cut velvets, and embroideries on view reflect the important modes of textile production in the period and offer insight into the secular and religious patronage that encouraged the textile industry to flourish. —*Jacquie Atkins, AAM Consulting Curator of Textiles*

Jo Lysholdt [jolysholdt@rcn.com](mailto:jolysholdt@rcn.com)  
Ellen Sorenson  
Judith Weyl

## WHAT? NO EMBROIDERY MACHINE?

So what if you don't have an embroidery machine! It really isn't necessary to have an embroidery machine to create embellishments on your garments. The decorative stitches built into your machine can provide lots of variety by altering their sizes and by your choice of threads and needles.

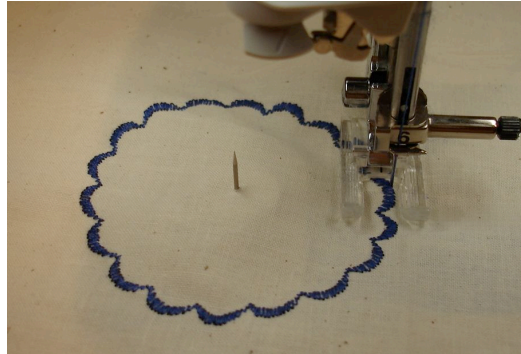
The lower end machines may have fewer stitches to choose from, but all decorative stitches can be varied by changing the length, width or combination of the stitches. Be sure to use a foot that does not have a flat bottom; a raised area will allow the foot to easily pass over the thick build up of stitches. You can also vary the look of the design by using a twin needle or wing needle; just make sure the motion of the needles does not exceed the width of the opening of the throat plate.

The variety of threads on the market is mind boggling. Designs can be shiny with rayon thread or metallics or have a matte finish. You can have multicolored designs by using variegated thread. Thread thickness varies and using topstitching thread will give your design more definition and texture. If the thread is too thick to pass through the needle, you can couch it on the surface of your fabric. You can use specialty threads like pearl cotton or ribbon thread in the bobbin, flip your fabric and stitch from the wrong side.

Here's a really fun technique to try on a tote bag or purse. Sew your decorative stitches in varied sized circles inside one another or overlapping. Not every machine has a circular foot available as an accessory, but you don't need one if you follow these instructions.

1. Decide on the diameter of the circle you'd like to stitch, for example, a 6" circle.
2. Divide by 2 to find the radius which would be 3" in our example.
3. You will tape a thumbtack pointed side UP to the bed of your machine to the left of your needle the distance in #2.
4. Push your fabric down on the point of the tack and smooth it towards the needle. (You can cover the tack point with a pencil eraser so you don't get stuck.)

5. Choose a decorative stitch and allow the fabric to move in a circular path until the circle of stitching is complete.



To create concentric circles, keep the fabric on the tack and move the tack closer or further from the needle.

To create overlapping circles, leave the tack in place and reposition your fabric.

Keep repositioning the fabric and/or tack and change the decorative stitch pattern to create new designs.

I hope you'll try some of these ideas. To whet your appetite, look at the gorgeous threads at Superior Threads (<http://www.superiorthreads.com/>). While there you may want to click the Education button (<http://www.superiorthreads.com/education/>) and read some of the many interesting articles about thread.

*Judith Weyl*

## MEMBERSHIP

(There are 69 paid members.)

Guests: Margaret Bush (visiting from Florida) and Susan Brown from Bath, PA who later decided to join the Couturiere Workshop. Here are the names and addresses for you to put in your booklets

**Susan Brown,** [smbrown2@rcn.com](mailto:smbrown2@rcn.com)  
613 Creek Rd, 7/25  
Beth, PA 18015.. 610-691-6579

**Juanita Adams,** [adamsway@gmail.com](mailto:adamsway@gmail.com)  
383 Walters Rd  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

*Mary Morgan*

## EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

The meeting of the Easton Couturiere Workshop was held September 12, 2011 at Third St. Alliance. President Nancy Boccadoro called the meeting to order and Pat Karcher gave the devotions.

Nancy thanked Jo Lysholdt for the beautiful job she did with this year's membership booklet. She also asked members to check their listings and submit any corrections, if needed, to Mary Morgan. All corrections will then be listed in the monthly Newsletter. Mary then introduced new members Wahneta Adams & Joan Riker and guest Margaret Bush, a former member who was visiting. There were 38 in attendance today.

Agnes Webb & Pat Karcher made the motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented in the Newsletter. Shirley Kressler, Treasurer, presented the budget for 2011-2012. Peggy Conger & Sharon Roehrig made the motion to accept this budget and the membership vote was unanimous.

Agnes Webb, trip chairwoman, is looking for suggestions for trips of interest for members. A field trip to Enright's Fabric Warehouse in Bethlehem was suggested.

Each member received a list of books and other items available in our library. Pam Leggetts DVD on the T-shirt makeover is now available in the library.

Lehigh Valley Couturiere Society is planning a trip to the New York City fabric district and our membership will be invited to join them when it is scheduled.

Ellen Sorensen will present Education segments at different meetings.

Rene Karlovsky & Polly McGarr, Co-Chairwomen for the Fashion Show, are busy planning and designing different aspects of the Show.

The following had items for Show & Tell: Judith Weyl showed a purse, wallet, a "Stack & Wack" wall hanging, and a quilt. Ruth Skinner displayed a bag entered at the Allentown Fair & denim jeans bags for young people. Trudy Frey had a cotton fabric dress for "Girl's Around the World". Karen Zimmerman thanked the Club for the Scholarship award used for Fashion week by the Girl Scouts Fashion Patrol. Karen also showed items made for the Scandinavian festival and hanger covers & jewelry. Doris Strom displayed a beautiful embroidered, framed "Cathedral Window" picture. Jann McAleer had jelly roll quilts, a sweat shirt jacket & a tote bag. Wahneta Adams showed her framed lace embroidered angel. Carol Halbert showed a cancer hat. Clair Rohloff showed a magic wallet, Japanese crest quilt and an eye glass case & silver jewelry.

Nancy explained that Third St. Alliance would like to have 300 tote bags to be used for the holiday. They are cut and sewn from T-shirts. A pattern was handed out for members and the Sew & Sews have been working on them and displayed some completed bags.

Clair Rohloff, Workshop chair, requested that members notify her of any ideas or interests for a workshop.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

MaryAnn Schweitzer, Secretary

## SEW WHAT'S NEW??

The most important thing that is new in my life is that I am now a GREAT-Grandmother!! Colin Patrick (would you dare to guess that his mother is Irish?) arrived at 12:22 a.m. on August 31st. It's a wonderful feeling, although I must admit that acknowledging that my daughter is a Grandmother is something I have a harder time getting used to! I have only seen him once (with tears in my eyes), while still in the hospital, and of course he is soooooooo cute! Hope to see him soon.

These events make me more aware of FAMILY and all it means to me. I am very fortunate that two of my children and all four of my grandchildren (including Colin's father) live a bit more than an hour away. Even if we don't see them regularly, they are still close by. I have one son who is an administrator of a business school in Saigon, Vietnam. No, I don't see him too often, but he's a wonderful daily e-mailer! He'll be home in November when the whole family will be together to celebrate my husband's "big" birthday. We all look forward to that. I thank God daily for my family and what it means to me, and even more-so with this new addition.

*Ellen Sorensen*

## SEW n SEWS

Sew n Sews will meet on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011 from 9 A.M.-4 P.M. at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg. I have a project that you can work on, if you wish. It is a quilted tool caddy done on a picture frame. If you are interested, let me know, so that I can send you a list of supplies needed. If there is a change, all members will be notified. All are welcome to join us and work on their own project.

*Doris Strom*

## SMILE

Pastor Hensen and Pastor Pedersen met on the golf course to play a friendly game. Pastor Hensen began. He put the ball down, looked into the sky and mumbled. Then he crossed himself and gave the ball a decent blow. It went directly in the hole.

Pastor Pedersen put the ball on the T, raised his sight toward the sky and spoke quietly. Then he too made the sign of the cross, gave the ball a great whack, saw it flying thru the air directly into the hole.

"Honestly", Pastor Hensen said "would it not be more fun if we played the rest of the game by our selves?"