

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

September 2008

PREZ SAYS

What better way for all of us to get back together than to bring food, friends, and summer experiences together over our annual September Covered Dish. I am anxious to see everyone again! Through the summer, Eleanor Pinto has graciously opened her home to the Refreshers and kept some of us actually sewing. Hopefully a few of those projects will appear at the coming meetings. Other things happening through the summer include a "weeding and hoeing" of our library collection and an updating of its catalogue. Our library will soon have a very new look in effort to make it more user friendly. The membership list has been under inspection, too! Please take note of Sharon's important comments on that in this newsletter. On another note, a few of our committees for the coming year are in need of additional volunteers. Please look for sign up sheets on the tables at the meeting. Lastly, our Spring Fashion Show is in need a theme or a name. Have an idea? Feel free to add your suggestion on the tablet on the easel. I am looking forward to the coming year and hope each of you find a niche in our group to make it a fun year for you, too.

Nancy Boccadoro

September Program

Our Program for September 8, 2008 will combine with Education in a demonstration by Betty Pritko on her "Jessica Bag", an original small handbag design created by her. Betty will be demonstrating the steps in the construction of the bag and will have several completed bags on display. Her pattern will be available for purchase.

Eleanor Pinto

Hospitality

Hostesses for this month's covered dish are: Polly McGarr, Margaret Bush, Ruth Skinner, Joan Drzewiecki, Barbara Smith, Sue Cimino

Library

Please be sure to return any books or materials you have borrowed from our library at the September meeting. We want to be sure all titles are included in the new catalogue update.

SEW N SEWS

*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 October Newsletter is October 3, 2008
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com*

Come join Sew n Sews for a day of sewing, sharing, and fun! The next meeting of Sew n Sews will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 from 9 A - 4 P at the Stroudsburg Library. Please bring your own sewing projects to work on as we are not working on a specific project at this time. You can bring your own bag lunch or go for "take out" as there are many restaurants in the area.

If anyone has any ideas for a project or workshop, please come and share them with the group. We are always interested in learning something new. We hope to have an increase in the number of members join us at these monthly meetings. We meet at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg on the following Wednesdays:

October 1, November 5, December 3

You are also welcome to come and sew on the Fridays that Sewing Friends of Monroe County meet at the Hughes Library:

Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

Annette Smerkanich

Fall is off to a colorful start in two textile exhibitions at the Allentown Art Museum. "**Color Constructions: Molas of the Kuna Indians**," a display of the brightly hued cloth panels that form part of the traditional costume of the Kuna Indian women of Panama's San Blas Islands, can be seen in the lobby showcase until October 26, 2008. Their intricate designs are created through reverse appliqué, a complex process of layering, cutting, and stitching of fabrics in a rainbow array of colors. Also on view is "**Hooked on Rugs: An American Art**." Hooked rugs, North America's "one indigenous folk art," represent an important segment of American design. There were few professional patternmakers, so housewives created their own lively designs. Nearly a dozen imaginative examples are on view until January 4, 2009. At noon on Wednesday, September 3, I will be giving a gallery talk exploring origins and designs of the rugs (free with Museum admission).

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Jacquie Atkins

SEW WHAT'S NEW

*Jo Lysholdt jolysholdt@rcn.com
Ellen Sorensen glenn13ellen@verizon.net*

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What's new with me is that I was the grandmother of the groom on August 1. It was a joyous day, beautiful wedding, fun reception - he married an Irish girl so we had bagpipes and step dancers as entertainment! But...for weeks before I struggled with what do I wear? We all know that most clothes are made for 30-somethings or really old ladies! (That's why we sew.) Clothes for weddings are very beaded and fancy - and expensive! Should I sew my own dress? Then I was faced with the question of where to find the fabric without traveling all over the area.

I hit it lucky - found just the right thing at Bon-Ton! On sale! A pink georgette long shift with a jacket to cover my upper arms and other parts (very important!), trimmed delicately with iridescent sequins and seed beads of just the right amount. So I was happy, and so was my husband, daughter, and grandson.

I have found no new fabric stores or interesting shops over the summer - you are supposed to give me those items to report. Hope you all had a good summer - great cool weather and beautiful days. It will be good to see you all again.

Ellen Sorensen

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

This year we will be using our wonderful Newsletter to bring you sewing hints. For this month we are sharing some of the tips that appeared in the 2007 issue of Sew Stylish magazine:

Put an old sheet on the floor under your machine to catch scraps and threads.

Lint collects of the cutting surfaces of pinking sheers affecting the sharpness of the scissors. Use a soft brush to wipe away the lint and the sheers are good as new.

To prevent knotting of polyester thread during hand-sewing, first rub a sheet of fabric softener over the length of thread.

Hold the tip of a water-soluble marker against the first yard of thread as it winds onto your bobbin. When the color shows up, you can stop at a convenient place.

When you need to press a ribbon or narrow lace trim, run it over a 60 watt to 100 watt dust-free light bulb.(turned on and warm-hot to the touch).

Jan Neitzel

THE TRAVELING COUTURIERE

On Monday, September 22, at 9:30 a.m., Couturiere members will meet in Doylestown, Pa (about an hour or so from Easton) at **SEW SMART FABRICS** - a fabric store that actually has garment fabrics!!!!!!

Store owner, Nancy Bischoff, will give us a tour of the store, including what's new in notions and fabrics. The store has a nice selection of fabrics for quilting, clothing and home decor, as well as a wide variety of notions and buttons. Nancy has agreed to offer a 10% discount on fabric purchases that day. She has made arrangements with a nearby restaurant, The Pennsylvania Soup and Seafood House, so we can have lunch (always a fun part of our field trips). Doylestown has a number of really neat shops (the bookstore has a great selection of greeting cards, as well as books) so plan on spending some time in town as well.

Plan to car pool. The store is easy to find:

--- from Easton, take Route 611 South until you see the sign for Doylestown. Follow Main Street until State Street when you will turn right (it is a one-way street). Go one block to S. Hamilton Street and park anywhere you can in that block. The store is just about at the corner of S. Hamilton and W. Oakland Avenue:

30 West Oakland Avenue

Phone: 215-345-7990

I will have a map available at the September meeting also. Their website is

<http://www.sewsmartfab.com/visit.html>.

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If you have any questions, call me.

Thanks, Kay Wolff

MEMBERSHIP-

Jan and I will be in charge of membership this year. While Claire is not officially working on membership, she has very graciously offered to help with the computer related end of it.

Our annual membership dues are due and payable at the September meeting. A change this year, voted on at the June planning meeting, is that our membership booklets will be put together after the September meeting and handed out in October. This way, dues will have been paid and any informational changes, such as new phone numbers, etc. will have been given to Membership and recorded. In the past the handbooks have been available at our September meeting and membership information in them was based on information which was available in June. As a result, they were never accurate. New people joining in September were not included, and members from the previous year who did not rejoin were. This year we will get our handbooks a month later but they will be more accurate. It naturally follows that if you wish to be included in this year's handbook, you must pay your dues by the September meeting. If you are unable to attend, you may send a check to either Jan or myself.

Dues are \$20 per year, with \$10 of that going to 3rd. Street Alliance and \$10 to Couturiere. Dues for Life Members (you know who you are) are \$10 per year, with the full amount going to 3rd. Street. Checks should be made out to: Easton Couturiere Workshop. The enclosed membership form need only be filled out if there are changes from last year or if the information in last year's handbook is incorrect.

Sharon Roehrig and Jan Neitzel

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