

EASTON COUTURIERE WORKSHOP NEWSLETTER

September 2009

PREZ SAYS

Those yellow school busses are running again, reminding us that school has opened and autumn is on its way. Like those busses, our annual September Covered Dish brings our group of sewing friends back together again to share and learn more about our love of fashion and fabric.

Through the summer, Eleanor was busy teaching a group of us some tailoring techniques at her Refreshers course; though still in pieces, those jackets are on their way to becoming treasures. The Sew 'N Sews group continued meeting through the summer, too, working on a variety of projects. Have you created something special during the summer? Bring it along. Show & Tell should be interesting as we see what the summer has inspired.

Mark your calendar! Bring a covered dish on September 14, re-connect with your friends, share your summer experiences, and find your niche in the activities for the coming season. I am anxious to see everyone again!

Nancy Boccadoro, President

DEVOTIONS

Patricia Karcher

HOSPITALITY

Hostess: Mary Coyle, Jan Neitzel, Doris Strom, Polly McGarr, and Lynn Kappes

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

For our first meeting back we are having an educational segment by Annette on making aprons. There is no program which will leave us time for socializing over our covered dish luncheon and taking care of business..

Claire Rohloff

FASHION SHOW NOTES

Our committee is in need of additional volunteers for setting up the display area, helping with the raffle and decorations, and assisting the clean up team. Agnes would also appreciate an assistant to control those rowdy models off stage! Look for the sign up sheet at the September meeting.

TERRY'S TREASURES

Terry Grassi's family has graciously given her sewing treasures to our group. At our meetings in the coming months, you will find various items on a table labeled "Terry's Treasures". Members are invited to give her sewing items a new home and are asked to put an appropriate donation into the basket provided. These donations will be set aside for a scholarship to be given in the future to someone who will be pursuing a career in fashion design or in the teaching of sewing to our next generation of sewers.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that Ellie Laubner, a long-time Valley resident, had gifted the Allentown Art Museum with her costume collection that represents over a century of fashion, starting in the 1800s and going well into the 20th century. We began to bring in parts of this amazing collection over the summer, starting with a wide and wild array of shoes and hats. The shoes have inspired a mini-exhibit entitled "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'," a display of some dozen examples of footwear—some outrageous, some more practical, and most from the Laubner collection. Boots on view will span more than a century's worth of style, from a delicate mid-19th century high-buttoned pair through bathing booties from 1900 to a platform-soled and spike-heeled 1970s fashion statement. They will be on view in the lobby showcase from September 19–November 29, 2009. –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 October Newsletter is October 2, 2009
All newsletters are on Dee Lammi's website embroiderybydee.com*

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

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE NEXT YEAR WILL BE VOTED ON AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. Please look it over, make notes, jot down questions. If you bring it along to the meeting, it will facilitate the process of discussing and passing it. We thank our treasurer Shirley Kressler and her committee for the time and effort put into this preparation. .

Proposed Budget – Easton Couturiere Workshop 2009 – 2010

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Balance in check book	\$ 1580.60	Booklet	\$ 200.00
Dues	1600.00	Memorials	125.00
Raffle (at meetings)	200.00	Hospitality	100.00
Fashion Show	<u>1500.00</u>	Newsletter (supplies & postage)	200.00
Total Income	\$ 4880.60	Library & Scrapbook	150.00
		Publicity	30.00
		Programs	1500.00
		Third Street Alliance	1200.00
		Raffle Gifts (meetings)	0.00
		Outreach	0.00
		Miscellaneous	200.00
		Dues Third Street Alliance	800.00
		Education Supplies	100.00
		Reserve Funds	<u>275.60</u>
		Total Expenses	\$ 4880.60

SEW WHAT'S NEW

As I write something for the September issue it causes me to realize that my favorite time of year is approaching. I love Autumn! As a true HHH (heat/humidity hater) I welcome the brisk autumn air (though there can be HH days, too), the smell of fallen leaves, and the colors that cover the mountains. If any of you ABE residents have never driven through the Delaware Water Gap at the height of color on a blue sky day, you haven't lived! Call me if you ever want an up-to-the-minute DWG weather report!!

I also look forward to seeing my Couturiere friends again, altho joining Sew 'n Sews has given me an opportunity to see some of them on the 4th Thursday here in Stroudsburg. I save my quilt sewing for that day, hoping that it will assist me in finishing a project started some 3-4 years ago!!

I'm sure there's lots of news this month so I'll cut this short. Welcome back, and enjoy Autumn.

Ellen Sorensen

SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

From "Sew Smart" written by Judy Lawrence and Clotilde come these stitching tips:

Press side seams only after the garment has been fitted. Sometimes creases are hard to remove if you have to let out a seam.

Add strength to corners of pockets and the ends of fly zippers with a bar tack. Use a narrow zigzag with a short stitch length. Test on a scrap of fabric until you get the desired look.

Mark seam widths with small clips in the fabric edge. This helps you start the seam at the correct width.

When topstitching, help your machine around corners and points by taking a stitch through the edge of the garment with a hand-needle and thread. Use the thread ends as a handle to help ease the fabric around the needle. Without this "helper," the presser foot has no traction and will stitch in place or make shorter stitches, thereby ruining the look of the topstitching. To avoid a skipped stitch, make sure the needle is on the upstroke.

Jan Neitzel

For Sale

White Superlock 2000 ATS serger \$80
Janome memory craft sewing machine \$90

If interested, call Jim Williamson, 610-253-1687

SEWING THREAD

The earliest thread was sinew (or tendon) used to hold animal skins together. With the development of woven cloth, there was need for fine thread to sew clothing and linens. Spinning thread soon became one of the most important domestic occupations.

Once spun, the skeins of thread produced (just as with yarn) had to be put in a more convenient form to use. Small lengths of thread were placed onto small, flat, often decorative winders. By the early part of the 19th century silk, linen, wool and cotton threads were being sold in shops, still in skein form and by weight. Manufacturers looked for more convenient ways to wind thread. You might have seen a **cotton barrel** in an old sewing box. About an inch to two inches in height, it contained three parts: the hollow container; a spindle attached to a small reel where the thread was wound; and a flat screw-on lid with a hole where the top of the spindle protruded. The thread was pulled out through a small hole in the side of the barrel and could be wound back by a turn of the spindle. When the barrel was empty the lid was unscrewed and the spindle sent back to the makers for refilling.

Later, sewing thread was wound into small balls in much the same way as string is sold today. Then in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, for the first time manufacturers sold their thread wound onto wooden reels. The thread was secured by a notch cut in the wood and the need for refilling was avoided, since the reels could be thrown away when empty. And, shall we say, the rest is history!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MODERN DAY THREAD HINTS:

When selecting a thread color, choose one shade darker than the fabric color. The color does appear darker on the spool itself.

If you can't find a good match, look for gray or another neutral color that is the same value or slightly darker than the fabric.

If you can't match a thread for a tweed or a print, use one shade in the bobbin and another on the top.

Use bobbin thread for hand sewing at the machine, because its "spool curl" was removed as it was wound on the bobbin.

When ripping stitches on a dark fabric, run chalk along the seam line and you will see the stitches better.

Kay Wolff

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to everyone who paid their dues over the summer as requested. Because of you, Jo has been able to compile our handbooks for distribution at the September meeting. For those who haven't yet renewed their membership, a reminder: dues are still \$20 for "regular" members (\$10 goes to Couturiere and \$10 to Third St. Alliance) and \$10 for Life Members (all \$10 goes to Third St.). Please make checks payable to: Easton Couturiere Workshop.

*Sharon Roehrig
Doris Strom*

----- Membership Form for Couturiere -----

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Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Year joined _____

Birthdate _____

Easton Couturiere Workshop Minutes of June 2009

The meeting of the Easton Couturiere Workshop was held June 8, 2009 at Third Street Alliance. Pres. Nancy Boccadoro called the meeting to order. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read with Shirley Kressler & Sharon Roehrig making the motions to accept the minutes as read. Shirley Kressler gave the Treasurer's report, which was approved and filed for audit.

Nancy asked chairpersons to submit a final report for the year and, if possible, an outline with requirements and procedures for each committee. This report would help familiarize a new chairperson with the workings of the committee.

The Sunshine Committee noted that the following people were sent cards and could use some encouragement from club members: Margaret Bush, Ruth Skinner, Barbara Witkowski, and Eva Williamson.

Sign-up sheets for next year's committees are open for volunteers and many vacancies exist, most notably, the Fashion Show chair is still open. This is an important position as this is our only fundraiser of the year. A suggestion was made that this position be filled as an Executive Board position and was taken under advisement. This year's show is scheduled for Sunday, April 18, 2010. Depending on scheduling at Third Street's room, we hope to set up on Saturday to alleviate the rush on Sunday morning. Suggestions for a theme for this year's show included: "Fashion-ation", Project Couturiere", and "Couturiere Presents". More suggestions are always welcome.

September's meeting will continue to include a covered dish luncheon. There was discussion about the December meeting concerning whether it should remain a catered luncheon or a covered dish. Consensus indicated that catered was the preference. Natasha Grotenhuis volunteered to check options for catering and will report in September. Call her with suggestions.

Kay Wolfe reported that the luncheon price at Hampton Winds in May would probably increase to about \$22 next year. She will explore the option of what is available for \$15 so that more people would attend.

Jo Lysholdt & Sharon Roehrig will be working on the membership booklet. It was requested that the booklet be available at the September meeting. In order to have the membership names printed in the booklet, dues must be paid before August 10, 2009. Dues may be paid anytime, but the members listing in the booklet will go to press on August 10. Sharon will be collecting dues starting today. Claire Rohloff presented program ideas for the coming year and discussion was held concerning the wants & needs of the membership. Further suggestions will be gladly accepted and should be forwarded to Claire as soon as possible so that she can finalize each month's program.

Kay Wolfe & Jan Neitzel will remain as contributors to the Newsletter. Sharon Roehrig, Membership chair, asked for an assistant; Doris Strom volunteered to help this year. Mary Morgan will handle Hospitality. Jan Neitzel & Polly McGarr volunteered to help in September for the covered dish. Helen Curran volunteered to help inventory supplies.

Sylvia Hunsinger noted that any outstanding library items should be returned in September.

Agnes Web explained the field trip to Wooden Bridge, Kutztown, & Fabric Mart in Sinking Springs. We will meet to car pool at 9 a.m. at the Palmer Library on June 16.

Eleanor Pinto will be conducting a "Refreshers" course featuring a tailored jacket in a 6-session workshop to be held at the Hughes Library, 100 N. Ninth St., Stroudsburg, PA, 18360. The dates are July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, November 19, & December 17, 2009. The 2-hour lesson starts at 10 a.m. The room is available for our use the whole day. Eleanor will select a pattern and suggested at least 3 yards of a wool fabric, more if fabric is directional. You will also need a simple cotton fabric to make a sample. She suggested using your high bust measurement to select the size pattern needed. A supply sheet will be provided for those enrolled.

In Show & Share, Eleanor Pinto modeled a raw silk jacket she reconstructed to fit today.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Mary Ann Schweitzer, Secretary