

Chesapeake Treasures Chapter



Sept/Oct 2020



Letter from our President

As the saying goes “out with the old and in with the new”. This is usually said at the beginning of a new year or at the beginning of something new. It could be said “out with the old President and in with the new.” Our chapter is at the time of a new beginning with the election of a new President. With the new President we look forward to the ideas and goals, and how we will be led into the future because of the Covid-19 virus and restrictions to meet.

I am personally looking forward to the next chapter of the organization. I know that we are in good hands moving forward in this unsettling time where even holding meetings and conducting programs presents challenges.

As I leave the President position, I thank everyone for their support over the last two years. It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to lead such a vibrant group. It was a learning experience for me and I thank the many individuals helping me grow during this time. I will take the experience with me to future undertakings.

Again, thank you for a very interesting and exciting two years, as well as the assistance and encouragement I received. Outgoing President, Dawn

Dear Chesapeake Treasures,
I am thrilled to be your incoming President! Although the events of 2020 has limited our in person time spent together, we have learned and appreciated new ways to continue to share our enjoyment and appreciation for the needle arts. We have been able to meet by Zoom for our monthly meetings, have had programs offered via You Tube and have enjoyed Show N Share via PDF documents.

I look forward to connecting over the coming months, virtually and, fingers crossed, in person!

Fondly, Lindsay Carroll



The Anne Arundel County Fair has been cancelled for 2020. That gives you all another year to create some beautiful entries for next year's fair. For those that knew the Fair President, John Kozinski, Jr., John lost his battle with cancer on August 29th. He will be fondly remembered and missed very much.

During our May Zoom meeting, Joyce Ross presented the program on making pressing hams and rods.

More Pressing and Iron Info

Ladies, to add to the info I shared at the May Zoom Meeting, Vaune Pierce has expanded on much of what I shared with you.

You can find her Pressing Tools info at Vaune.com. Vaune has great info on different irons and other notions for pressing.

Enjoy!

Joyce Ross

Update: West River retreat February 2021.

The camp is doing everything they can to offer retreats in fall 2020 and spring 2021. They have submitted a plan to the state to allow camping in small groups this fall. No more than two people will be allowed in a sleeping room and limited numbers in the main rooms. They will set out the sewing and cutting tables to meet with distancing requirements. The dining hall may not be open, meaning we may have to supply all meals.

The month before retreat, West River management will contact those registered to answer medical and residence questions. Individual attendees may be rejected right up until the retreat if coming from a HOT county or state or having virus symptoms.

At this time, we are hoping have our retreat with 20 people. As things are still up in the air as to state regulations and possible additional virus breakouts, we are moving ahead with limited registrations and positive thinking. We plan to take mail in registration sign ups with a deposit after the meeting. As always, Chesapeake Treasures members will get first options. Forms will be emailed after the September 10th ZOOM meeting. Forms will be emailed October 1st to returnees outside Chesapeake Treasures.

We will have a waiting list. Additional information will continue to come over the next few months.

Jo Shaw

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US ... HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

This year (2019-2020) marks the 30th Anniversary for the Chesapeake Treasures, chartered September 1989 as a chapter of the Smocking Arts Guild of America. Here is a brief chapter history:

Barbara Meger was the founder and first president with Cindi Gallagher, vice president; Taryn Faulkner, secretary; and Julie Hesenperger, treasurer. At the end of its first year (1990), the chapter had 19 members. Current membership (2020) stands at 43. Barbara Meger is the only remaining charter member, but early chapter rosters reveal these long-time members: Joan Messinger, Carolyn (Dalton) and Nancy Hamasaki (first) joined 1990-1991; Cheryl Brown and Martha Sykora, 1992-1993; Dawn Watson, 1993-1994. The chapter met at the Crofton Library its first year, followed by the Crofton Middle School, Tomorrow's Treasures, St. Stephen's Church, and currently (we hope) back at the Crofton Library. The chapter outfitted and raffled a porcelain doll "Sugar Britches" for its first fundraiser, earning over \$500, and made wheelchair tote bags for nursing home residents as its first public service project. For a few years chapter members smocked dresses for stuffed bears donated to a children's oncology unit before adopting SAGA's Wee Care program in 1999. Chapter outreach has included regular displays at the Crofton Library and teaching sewing and embroidery to children.

Mary Siegel was the chapter's first "national" teacher in 1991. One or more national and international teachers have shared their expertise at chapter workshops nearly every year since. Spring 1992 saw the chapter hosting the Region I Seminar for SAGA, "A Weekend to Remember" at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, chaired by Shirley Freienmuth and Nancy Hoyt Hamasaki. We must have done a good job because SAGA asked the chapter to host the 1996 National Convention in Baltimore, "Treasured Times," which was chaired by Helen Marie Kennedy and Lori Barton.

Since 2004, chapter members and other sewing sisters have enjoyed an annual weekend sewing retreat at the West River Center. This popular event sells out each year as attendees lug their sewing machines, pleaters, ironing equipment, current projects and UFOs, not to mention sleeping bags and favorite snacks, for two to three days of nonstop sewing camaraderie.

The chapter's members continue to be its true TREASURES. Over the years many have ably led monthly chapter programs on everything from SAGA Stitches/Chapter Programs, counterchange smocking, tassels and mini pressing tools to huck embroidery, antique buttons, and smocked ornaments. Chapter members regularly achieve honors at the Anne Arundel Country Fair and the annual Woodlawn Needlework Show and Exhibition. Many chapter members are enrolled in the SAGA Artisan program, and several have achieved Apprentice and Artisan certification. At the SAGA national level chapter members, both former and current, have held positions: Region Representative, Cindi Gallagher, Nancy Lee Ross, Lori Barton, Terry Faber, Karin Eveland, Lindsay Carroll, Treasurer, Nancy Lee Ross, Kelli Fox; Secretary, Sally Rifenburg; Vice President, Lindsay Carroll; President, Terry Faber, Lisa Hawkes; Historian, Joan Messinger; Correspondence Course teacher, Nancy Malitz; SAGA teacher, Barbara Meger; Design Show chairman, Lori Barton; SAGA Wee Care coordinator, Marlene Mehn (apologies to any who may have been omitted).

For our 30th Anniversary it is with great pleasure to list and celebrate all who volunteered to lead our Chesapeake Treasures Chapter of the Smocking Arts Guild of America, Inc. during that time. Below is the list of our past presidents.

Past Presidents

Member	Dates
Barbara Meger	Oct 89-Sep 91
Helen Marie Kennedy	Oct 91-Sep 93
Martha Sykora	Oct 93-Sep 94
Debbie Sheehan	Oct 94-Sep 96
Joan Messinger	Oct 96-Sep 97
Barbara Meger	Oct 97-Sep 98
Theresa Bearer	Oct 98-Sep 99
Shirley Quaskey	Oct 99-Sep 01
Tina Foster	Oct 01-Sep 03
Laura Fix	Oct 03-Sep 05
Marjorie Dewey	Oct 05-Oct 07
Sandy Suhrie	Oct-07-Sep 09
Kathy Furth	Oct 09-Sep 11
Joyce Ross	Oct 11-Sep 13
Sue Hogue	Oct 13-Sep 16
Barbara Meger	Oct 16-Dec 17
Jan Tatum	Jan 17-Aug 18
Dawn Watson	Sep 18-Sep 20

Committees and Chairpersons for 2020/2021

COMMITTEE	CHAIR—updates
Budget	Karen Lang—Budget Meeting was August 5, 2020. Budget was approved.
Convention Basket	
Education	Lindsay Carroll
Facilities	
Historian	
Hospitality	Cheryl Brown
Librarian	Mitzi Mariella
Library Display	Lizzette Smith
Co-Builder Opportunities	Mary Margaret Kasulke/Joan Messinger - On hold until we
Membership	Sally Rifenburg
Newsletter	Sandy Suhrie—next newsletter will go out Nov 1—please have items to Sandy by Oct 29th.
Programs	Carolyn Dalton - September— October—Wee Care Tips; November
Publicity	Mary Beth Russell
Retreat	Jo Shaw
Show and Share	Marlene Mehn - Send pictures of show n share to Karen Lange before our Sept 10 meeting
Sit and Stitch	Joyce Ross
Website	Carolyn Dalton
Wee Care Public Service	Joyce Ross and Sandy Suhrie—(see Page 8)

Embroidery Tip

I have a 10 needle embroidery machine that was on the standard metal frame. It vibrated terribly and was just not user friendly for someone that is vertically challenged. So I went to Harbor Freight and bought a tool chest. With a rubber mat on the top my machine now stitches with no vibration, even at increased speeds. And it's so much more organized with all my hoops, thread and stabilizers in the drawers.

And an Ikea chest is perfect for all those threads and notions.



Stitchin Post out of Little Rock, AR is hosting a Friday Live show on Facebook at 10:30 am CST every week. <https://www.facebook.com/StitchinPost/> is their Facebook site and <https://www.stitchinpostinc.com/> is the website. Our very own Chesapeake Treasure, Lisa Hawkes, will be guest spotting to share her Pink Hollybush Design patterns, which are being sold at the Stitchin Post in response to her patterns being showcased in Classic Sewing. She wholesale-d them because people were so interested. They are an authorized Husqvarna Viking dealer and offer classes and kits in a variety of disciplines. They also have some great Indie adult pattern lines, children's patterns, quilting patterns, and a bevy of other online shopping goodies... but it is fun to check out their Friday Facebook live event. I'm not sure the exact date Lisa is being a guest—but I will let you know as soon as I know. Kelli Fox

SAGA INFO - Sally Rifenburg

SAGA will soon be sending out emails to all members to Save the Date, Oct 3rd at 2 p.m. eastern time to attend the Virtual Annual Meeting. Sadly, we can't enjoy each others' company at convention during 2020 but we do have things to share with the members. Watch your emails for the notice and mark your calendars to join in what should be about an hour of information, installation of officers and upcoming information. If you know of someone who is a member without an email address, please let Sally Rifenburg know as soon as possible. Check the SAGA website to make sure that your email is correct today please.



Did you know that SAGA has a new logo? As we move forward with updating and cleaning up the website and making it more user friendly, we are also working on modernizing our brand. Our goal is to encourage more new people, both young and mature, so that we are able to keep our stitches alive and fulfill SAGA's mission. Watch for this new logo on our publications, websites and advertising.

During this trying time we all need a little humor!



Wee Care Committee

Ladies,

This year has been challenging in so many ways and our annual Wee care workshops were no different. Hopefully, we will meet in person next year. It is always so much more fun to work together and enjoy the fellowship.

Sandy and I cut, tore, pleated and stitched gowns, bonnets and caps. We had some other members assist in sleeve prep (Joan Messinger) and pleating (Barbara Meger, Carolyn Dalton, Melanie Uyttewaal, and Kathy Furth. All while social distancing! Thank you for your many talents and time it was a tremendous help.

Sandy and I delivered gowns to four hospitals in July and they were so appreciative of our beautiful work. I wish you could all see their faces as they browse through their treasures. Thanks to all of you who stitched!

This year we won't be doing as many gowns as in the past. Two of the local hospitals had ample supplies. This is really good news as it means more live births. If you can do gowns, please let us know. Sandy and I will have gowns to pick up at our houses since we won't be meeting in person for a while. If you live out of driving distance, gowns can be mailed. Please let us know and we can make those arrangements.

We hope you will tune into the October 8th Zoom meeting for our Tricks and Treats on Wee Care assembly. If you can't make the zoom meeting, we can send the general program information to you via email. We would love to have you share your Wee Care Secrets with us as well. You can email them to us prior to the meeting, no later than October 5 to be included. Love to hear from you all!

Happy Smocking!

Joyce Ross and Sandy Suhrie

dc1joyce@yahoo.com 410-570-6901

fringes51@gmail.com 443-618-4913

Total gowns we have done for this coming year:

Large Girls - 17

Large Boys - 41 Small boys - 13

If you get a cap without instructions—instructions have been emailed to members to print. This helps to cut down our costs.

Our Wee Care Report was sent to our Region 2 rep in July. We reported 156 gown sets, 40 buntings, 7 blankets. Also, as part of our community service, our members have completed 15 Fidget Quilts and over 1,500 masks for hospitals, police stations, family members, etc. Because Convention was cancelled for this year, we did not report any gowns being sent to Pittsburgh.

Mystery solved!

Some of you may recall me bringing to one of our meetings (remember those?!) a hemstitched linen handkerchief with a small section of handmade trim, tiny white thread points, that I was looking for help to identify. The handkerchief was one of several I had acquired from England via eBay some years ago. The seller (the original owner's daughter-in-law) knew only that they were stamped with the CC41 utility clothing mark that signified they had been produced sometime between 1941-1949 in accordance with the rationing scheme in effect at the time. She did not know anything about the style of the embroidered edging or when it had been added.

I love hemstitching on its own, but was intrigued by the embroidery and the circumstances that caused it to be started but not finished. Wondering if it was a sad wartime story I thought I might try to complete it as a tribute to the presumably brave original owner. But what was the technique? None of the Chesapeake Treasures members I asked had any strong clues. Some thought perhaps a form of crochet or needle lace but even when I photocopied and enlarged the trim we could not figure out how it was made. Eventually I put the handkerchiefs away in my sewing room and would come across them from time to time, admire them and sigh, and put them away again. Years passed.



Enter the pandemic. Serendipitously, the very last library book I checked out via interlibrary loan was this one: Whitework Embroidery by Ayako Atsuka. I got to keep it for three months and would have enjoyed it thoroughly even without the happy surprise on page 60: the edging on my English handkerchief! The technique is called Hedebo embroidery, and the book clearly shows how to do it and the materials used. Once I had the name of the technique I was able to do more research online, and I later obtained the A-Z of Whitework (Country Bumpkin) which also has clear photos. I now know Hedebo is a region of Denmark where the technique originated and was popular from the end of the 1700s to mid-1900s, or possibly it originated as early as the 15th century. There are 7 forms of edging and filling stitches, and many ornamental uses. (Google 'Hedebo embroidery images' for some beautiful examples.)



So at last I was able to continue the edging. I knew I would not be able exactly to match the previous work and also I wanted to honor, not hide, the original stitcher's efforts so I chose a slightly different look. Joan M. had gifted me with some subdued variegated tatting cotton some years ago and it was perfect. The Hedebo pyramid technique is not difficult (well, if one is not a perfectionist and keeps reminding oneself that ultimately one will be blowing one's nose on the finished item so not to obsess over it) but likewise it is not very quick! At least for me. I am starting to understand why it might not have been completed by the original owner. However it is relaxing and gives me pleasure to think about where the handkerchief has been, and my own journey to discover the technique to finish the edging.

(Martha Sykora)

The Summer of Covid

Every summer I find myself in a large craft house, OWLS, on the shores of Sebago Lake at Camp Wohelo. It's my dream job and not really a job at all. I spend 4-weeks of my vacation directing the craft program at an all-girls camp in Maine. The girls, ages 6 – 12, are interesting, precocious, eager to create and learn. Hand sewing projects are always part of the curriculum.

Due to Covid, this arm of the camp did not open. Sadness for all but we as staff decided to step in and offer a variety of activities to our Wo Girls. What fun! With daily Zooms, our girls had the opportunity to create, sing, dance, play games, attend a concert, and they also had the opportunity to meet an alum author who just wrote a book about camp. We provided a platform for the girls to reconnect with their friends from all over the world. It meant a great deal to our girls but maybe more to the staff.

So where am I going with this and how might this be of interest to the members of Chesapeake Treasures.....

Everyone who participated in our virtual camp decided they wanted to do something special for the Camp Director. I suggested we all make a Redwork Surprise Quilt for Heidi. This would give me the opportunity to teach a new sewing skill to the girls and in turn create a very special treasure for Heidi. I was pumped that everyone was interested.

I jumped into action and ordered embroidery hoops, floss, white fabric, sewing needles, prepared return envelopes for their square, copied wo girl graphics, and addressed envelopes to all of the girls, staff and other friends who wanted to be part of this project. A three-page direction packet was included, the envelopes were sealed and then they were off via the US Mail.

I hosted many sessions with the girls and spent time teaching them and their moms the back-stitch, how to stretch the fabric over the canvas, showing them an easy way to transfer their "own" designs to the fabric. They were off and running. Currently, their quilt squares are beginning to fill my mailbox. Seeing their handy work brings me such pleasure and joy. I have a few more weeks to wait before I begin to piece this together. When that time comes, all of the participants will get together via zoom to decide on quilt square placement and after this is all forged-together, we will present it as a group (via Zoom) to Heidi. When it's finished, I would be honored to show it to my Chesapeake Treasures sewing sisters.

I can't wait to see everyone at our next CT Zoom meeting.

Have a wonderful Labor day weekend,
Pat Conklin

Officers of Chesapeake Treasures 2020/2021

Lindsay Carroll, President
lindsay21204@gmail.com
410-842-3773

Carolyn Dalton, V.P. Programs
dal0328@msn.com
(410) 562-7544

Sally Rifenburg, V. P. Membership
Sally.rifenburg@rebeccasnanny.com
302-383-7993

Jackie O'Neill, Secretary
joneill20715@yahoo.com
(301) 464-0081

Karen Lang, Treasurer
gklang99@gmail.com
717-487-8210

Look for "Chesapeake Treasures Smocking Guild" on **Facebook** and our website
www.chesapeaketreasures.org Contact Carolyn Dalton if you want to add something to the website.

Meetings are being held via ZOOM until further notice.

Birthdays

Sept— 1 - Missy Marshall
10- Lindsay Carroll
20 - Lisa Hawkes
23 - Pat Conklin
28 - Pat Horm
29 - Mary Beth Russell

Oct— 12 - Mary Margaret Kasulke
27 - Linda Ownby



Thank you to all that donated articles for the newsletter. Remember, when sending articles for the newsletter, please do your submissions in Microsoft Word. When you send info in an email it has to be retyped. In your email to Sandy, fringes51@gmail.com, please put Chesapeake Treasures Newsletter in the subject line. The next newsletter will go out about November 1, 2020. Plan to have any submissions to Sandy by October 29, 2020.



Newsletter Editor
Sandy Suhrie
fringes51@gmail.com

Please email Sandy if you have any ideas or suggestions or articles for this newsletter or you would like to place an ad.

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Exchange Newsletters from other chapters should be emailed to Martha Sykora, mnsykora@earthlink.net
We will be happy to reciprocate.

SAGA—The Smocking Arts Guild of America -
“Our purpose is to preserve and foster the art of smocking and related needlework for future generations, through education, communication, and quality workmanship.”

www.smocking.org

When and Where we meet: Until the Pandemic is over, we will have meetings via ZOOM.

The Chesapeake Treasures Chapter meets at 5:45pm (business meeting precedes the general meeting) on the 2nd Thursday of the month at

Crofton Library, 1681 Riedel Rd, Crofton, MD

At each meeting there is a show and share, business meeting, a program or demonstration and always refreshments.

Should there be inclement weather, please check the library site to see if they are open or call [410-222-7915](tel:410-222-7915) <https://www.aacpl.net/location/crofton>

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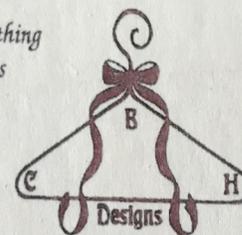
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