



Chesapeake
Treasures
Chapter



February 2024



Wee Care UPDATE!

Ladies,

We have another item to add to Wee Care items, for our four hospitals in our local area.

The *Wee Care Bereavement Envelope*, is made out of fabric. The hospitals put documents and keepsakes in the envelope for the parents to keep.

You can find directions for the Bereavement envelope on Facebook in the Wee Care group or on the SAGA website under Wee Care, click on [SAGA Wee Care Potpourri of Wee Care Items](#) and scroll down to page 14.

Sandy and I are “experimenting” and tweaking the pattern and directions to give you another cleaner version of the same product.

Here are a few pictures of the finished envelope with different variations of fabric used and different interfacings used to make it firmer.

We are using the Debbie Shore method for a lined quilted pouch to completely have a clean finished look. You can find her on www.Youtube.com for the envelope/pouch directions.

The response from the hospitals has been very positive. Many have used these in the past. We hope to make 50 to start with after we finish experimenting and get a fast and easy method in place.

If you have any questions, please let Sandy or Joyce know.

Joyce Ross





HOSPITALITY

We are soon approaching the February meeting and the Hospitality Committee needs more support. If you don't feel you can take on a co-chair position, there is another task that may work for you! Due to my husband's work, it is always unsettled whether I will be at any meeting until shortly before. To have necessary items for refreshments, I would like to recruit 1 or 2 people to hold some of these items between meetings and bring them along in case they are needed. I will bring you a small "kit" of cups, utensils, napkins, and plates. And your only job is to bring them if I can't come to a meeting. The kit will be rather small, so if you may not always be available by phone or text for me to contact you, it would also be pretty modest on your trunk space if you choose to keep it there just in case.

If you can assist and just happen to have these items on hand, feel free to just bring what you have and I'm happy to provide a container to make it easy for you to bring your supplies.

Thanks and see you soon!

Marina Rutkowski

CO-BUILDER FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Chesapeake Treasures Co-Builder February 2024

And a Happy Valentines Day to all!! Keeping lightly in that theme the co-builder this month contains a fair number of “red” items.

- 2½ yards, 60” wide -1 inch square gingham. Red and white squares with a silver scissor design woven in.
- 1¼ yards, 44” wide- ¾ inch square gingham. Red and white squares with Scottie dogs printed.
- 2⅓ yards, 42” wide - red cord pique.
- ⅓ yard, 42” wide heart design on white fabric.
- ¼ yard, 42” wide Valentine bear on white fabric.
- Ribbon:
 - 3½ yds woven red heart
 - 3 yds white heart- red base
 - 3 yds red heart- white base
- Package of #7 Tulip Embroidery needles
- 15 skeins of *DMC Etoile- Stitch with the Stars* floss- assorted colors.
- Donated by **Marlene Mehn** – from Wendy Schoen Designs “Fagoting Rick-rack Dress”

Chesapeake Treasures Co-Builder March 2024

We are heading for Spring and a new Co-Builder is here!.

- Donated by **Carolyn Dalton**, a 34 X 43 Mother *Goose* Crib cover, from the Mary Englebright Collection. It is pre-quilted and ready to be embroidered. Floss, needles, instructions all included.
- Packet (8 skeins) DMC SATIN Floss "*Pastel Whisper Collection*".
- Silk Organza Pressing Cloth.
- 2 spools of silk sewing thread.
- 1 spool of DMC (gold) Diamont thread.
- 2-yard collar ready for smocking.
- 2½ yards baby rib corduroy- apple pattern on black 60" wide.

Donated by **Marlene Mehn**, from Wendy Schoen Designs --
"Smocked Baby Bubbles".

Happy Stitching!

Mary Margaret Kasulke and Joan Messinger, Co-Chairs

A Winter Trip to Winterthur - Lindsay C.



On a wet January day, Mitzi Mariella and I went to the *Ann Lowe: American Couturier* exhibit at Winterthur Museum outside of Wilmington, Delaware. For over 60 years, Ann Lowe, an African American designer, designed and created couture dresses for prominent families in the south and New York City. Her dresses were worn by the society ladies - brides, debutants, Mardi Gras Royal Court members, and private clients for special events. Her name was little known outside of these small groups, and she received little recognition for her work during her lifetime. Ann's clientele included fashion icons Jackie and Lee Bouvier, who are better known as Jackie Kennedy Onassis and Lee, Princess Radziwell, and their mother, Janet Auchincloss. Other prominent clients who would be recognized today are Olivia de Havilland, and Marjorie Merriweather Post.

It was a delight to see not only her beautifully constructed garments but to see the embellishment detail of the dresses. Unique embellishments on her garments set them apart from other designers of the time – beading, 3-D applique designs, heavy hand embroidery, fabric flowers, bows, trains, fine lace insertion, heavy lace trims and ruffles would be applied subtly and not so subtly. Her fabric flowers and laces were often accented with beading and jeweled centers to give them a subtle sparkle. She excelled in her use of draping, whether for a train which dropped from the shoulder, dramatic skirt for a piano performer or soft finish to the back of a gown. Ann's most well-known gown was Jackie Bouvier's wedding dress to Jack Kennedy. This iconic dress features a full skirt embellished with ruffled concentric circles with soft floral centers and rows of scalloped tucks to the hem, a slightly off the shoulder bodice with diagonally pleating around the shoulders and midsection. While the original gown was destroyed in a flood a few weeks before the wedding, Ann and her team worked around the clock to reproduce the gown just in time for the wedding. The gown featured at the Winterthur exhibit was recreated from the original gown worn to the wedding, which is currently stored at the Kennedy Library.

It was an incredible treat to experience this exhibit. To highlight the influence Ann Lowe has had on current designers, the Winterthur curators incorporated in the Winterthur Christmas Tree display, garments influenced by Ann's design created by local designers with coordinating Christmas Trees. A favorite of mine was the Christmas Tree decorated with Ann's signature fabric flower buds.

I purchased the exhibit catalogue and will bring it to the February meeting and retreat for anyone who would like to peruse.

Below is a link to upcoming Winterthur exhibits. Plan to arrive early and stay for the day!

<https://www.winterthur.org/exhibitions-and-collections/exhibitions/>

If the café is not open, there is a delicious upscale deli nearby called Purebread – be sure to try the lobster bisque! 4001 Kennett Pike, Greenville Crossing 2, Greenville, DE 19807 (on the way back to 95 in Wilmington)



Easter Dress class at Children's Corner

A trip to the Children's Corner in Nashville, TN, was on my sewing bucket list. In the fall I saw they offered a 3-day class for a darling T-yoke dress with a smocked skirt. I HAD TO take this class. The fall Christmas Dress class was full but there was 1 space left for the February Easter dress class. I jumped on the opportunity to go! Let me just say the experience was everything I hoped it would be!

I was in love the moment I walked in the door! The soft colors on the walls were accented with a bright variety of fabrics and garments on display. The store was decorated with an always changing display of Children's Corner pattern garments in a wide variety of fabrics and colorways. In the back room there were 2 packed garment racks of even more precious sample garments to inspire the imagination! The ladies at Children's Corner are absolutely lovely – so patient, kind and fun. Needless to say, after 3 days I was unable to honor my promise not to buy more fabric, until I use up some of what I have. I stocked up on patterns and adorable summer print fabrics with coordinating checks to access and line the summer prints with. It was such a treat to be able to touch the fabrics and accurately pick out the accent fabric.

My class was taught by veteran teacher and custom seamstress, Bonnie Myszka. She could not have been more wonderful! Bonnie was a wealth of knowledge, which she freely shared. As the hours went by, you could see the confidence of the 8 students grow. The class was composed of one very experienced seamstress with a bridal alteration business, several quilters converting to children's garments and smocking with the addition of grandchildren, a new mom and recent student to smocking and sewing, and a few who needed their skills fine-tuned. It was my first time sewing with Liberty of London and Swiss embroidery. I was stressed! That first cut into the Liberty was VERY difficult, but I could not be happier with the results.

By the end of second day, we were adding a smocked skirt to a completed piped, dress bodice with a T front. The 90-degree turn, lining up the front pleat to the corner of the piping challenged us, but we persevered. The classroom table was covered in Easter egg colors of linen and lawn! A few might have taken their garments apart and restitched when they got home or to their hotel that night. The third day was a short day. We covered sleeve, cuff and ruffle collar constructions and started attaching them to the dress before it was time to pack up and head our separate ways.

It all went to soon and I can't wait to go back again! If you are going to be in the area of Children's Corner, some teachers will arrange for private instructions on a topic of your interest. It would be worth checking out.

Recommendations for taking a class at Children's Corner –

- Bring your own sewing machine if you can. They do have older model Bernina's and feet for student use, but the machines don't have good built-in lights, and are a bit challenging to thread.
- Pack your favorite sewing accessories – the store has some notions and supplies, but I was glad to have some of my sewing room favorites with me – washable marking pen, pins and fabric clips, rotary cutter, full box of sewing feet, extra bobbin or 2, full pack of machine needs in variety of sizes, sharp scissors for cutting out and for trimming seam allowances.
- Bring your sewing light - I like brighter light than was available in the classroom when sewing. Chalk it up to older eyes.

- Be prepared to shop – you are inspired non-stop all day and the effort it takes to resist is futile ☹ Each day students can run a tab which you pay at least 30 minutes before the store closes.
- Be prepared to make new friends – my teacher and classmates were lovely! Some were from down the street and others were from far away! We exchanged contact information and set up a group text to stay in touch and share photos of our finished garments.
- Take time to sightsee – Nashville is easy to navigate and many of the historic sights and lovely towns are within 15 -30 minutes to City center. I tried to go one place every day after class before it got dark.

I stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn Nashville-Brentwood. It was 5-6 miles straight down the road in front of the hotel to Children’s Comer, so I didn’t need to navigate the highway or worry about getting stuck in traffic. It is 15 minutes from everything – the airport, the Parthenon, several historic buildings and gardens, the cute town of Franklin with fun shops and restaurants, etc. The hotel was clean, quiet and breakfast was available. The parking was around the hotel and well lit. Lots of shops and quick places to eat nearby. I felt safe traveling alone for the 5 days I was here.



FUTURE MEETINGS

February 8, 2024 - *Odenton Library*

March 14, 2024 - *Odenton Library*

April 11, 2024

May 9, 2024

June 13, 2024 - Potluck with meeting - need a host!

Officers of Chesapeake Treasures 2023/2024

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We are on **Instagram** under *Chesapeake Treasures SmockingChapter* – Brooke Palmer

Contact Carolyn Dalton if you want to add something to the website

www.chesapeaketreasures.org . Carolyn has lots of information on our website. Be sure to check it out!



February	18- Brooke Palmer
March	2 - Lynn Lyles 28 - Carolyn Dalton

When and where we meet: Watch your email for any changes.

The Chesapeake Treasures Chapter meets at 6:00 pm the 2nd Thursday of the month at

Crofton Library, 1681 Riedel Rd, Crofton, MD

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

Business meetings are held at the beginning of our regular membership meeting.

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>

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