

President's Corner



It is really hard to believe that almost a year has gone by since I was honored by Cactus Cablers to become president. I have been embroidering for 40 years. I got interested because a dear friend of mine had such beautiful framed embroidery works hanging in her house. I bought an Erica Wilson pincushion kit and man I was hooked. I have been sewing for 25 years. I started sewing after my third girl was born. I was 36 at the time and went to price Christmas outfits X 3 and guess what ~ It was

cheaper to make the dresses. My husband's great uncle gave me his deceased wife sewing machine, an old Kenmore, and then I was in business. I had no experience with sewing machines. I had no idea how to thread the thing but I learned. I was always interested in smocking and of course, had no idea how to smock much less to pleat. Here I am today I member of Cactus Cablers of Tucson learning more about the arts that I love the most.

My goals as president are to increase our membership and to continue to foster the art of smocking and heirloom sewing and have fun doing it. One of our newest members, Linda S, has already come up with a plan to make a presentation at the Sewing Guild of America early next year. We are all hoping that will at least spark some interest and perhaps a few visitors to our meetings.

I joined Cactus Cablers about 5 years ago because I was so impressed with the fact that all of the ladies wanted to teach me to learn how to smock. They were

so patient. They all were so committed to their craft. All of them were so talented. I haven't just learned about smocking and pleating but all kinds of sewing info and tips that have helped me to advance all of my skills.

Our members are sew talented. This year two of our members have challenged us all. The challenge is to take any vest pattern and smock wherever you want to and do whatever else you want to the vest. There are more details in the newsletter. It should be very interesting. I will make sure that in our next newsletter we have pictures of everybody's vest who took the challenge. Come on girls everybody take the challenge.

This past year found some of our members and their family with very serious health problems. I know that next year will be a much healthier year for us. I wish you all the best for all of the holidays.

Keep on smocking.

Patty

Inside this issue:

<i>Visitor's Welcome</i>	2
<i>Programs</i>	2
<i>Sit & Stitch</i>	2
<i>Recipe Exchange</i>	2
<i>Challenges</i>	3
<i>Smocking Stitches</i>	3
<i>Sewing & Smocking Q&A</i>	4
<i>Christmas Party</i>	4
<i>Doll Raffle</i>	4
<i>From the Editor</i>	5
<i>Book Review</i>	5

OFFICERS:

- Patty Grabber, President
- Joline Albaugh, V. President
- Betty Olson, Secretary
- Linda Salazar, Treasurer

Volunteers:

- Terri Kilgore, Wee Care
- Paulette Claver, Refreshments
- Linda Salazar, Doll Raffle
- Linda Richards, Newsletter

Davis Monthan Christmas Donations

It's that time of year again ladies and Terri is in need of our donations for the Davis Monthan children's Christmas party.

This is a commitment that Cactus Cabler's members made several years ago to the children of our service men & woman. We donate children's clothing, smocked clothing is

very nice but not required, size 5 and under; children's books; toys; baby toiletry kits, i.e. Johnson & Johnson; gift cards; cash donations or anything else you can think of that would make a child smile this Christmas! So far, our donations have been a little slim. We know the economy is not great but if you can reach a little deeper into your pocket to

support the families of our service men and women, it will certainly make their job protecting all of us a bit easier!

Terri must have all donations by December 6th, please call her if you need to make arrangements to get things to her and/or bring your donations to our meeting this Wednesday, the 18th.



Visitor's Welcome

Welcome to **Cactus Cablers** a chartered chapter with The Smocking Arts Guild of America.

Cactus Cablers is a non-profit organization with a focus on teaching, sharing, learning and community service.

We meet the third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Anglican Church, 8245 E Seneca St., Tucson, AZ 85715.

We begin with a casual business meeting then we have a time for Show & Share for inspiration, a stitch lesson for those new to smocking or help if someone is having trouble with a stitch, a

free potluck luncheon and then an exciting program. Add to all of that lots of fun and friendship for a great, inspirational day!

We welcome anyone with an interest in smocking and related needlework areas to come and check us out. You are welcome to visit us three times before making a commitment to join our local group and the national organization, SAGA. Our local dues are \$15 and SAGA dues are \$30 for adults and \$15 for junior members. Cactus Cablers offers a unique way for each member to pay their SAGA dues. We dress and raffle a porcelain doll each year to fund

our Wee Care project. By making clothes, accessories etc. for the doll and/or selling raffle tickets, anyone can earn enough points to pay for ALL of their SAGA dues or just a portion. The level of involvement is up to each member. We feel that this is a way to make Cactus Cablers and SAGA open to everyone without an extra financial commitment!

Contact Patty Grabher for additional information (751-9963).



Wee Care Project — Angel Wing gown & embroidered bonnet

Programs

NOV 18th ~ Industry Collar Technique ~ Eileen Dittl

Eileen will show us a quick and easy way to get perfect points on all of our collars. Eileen's trunk show of smocked women's clothing was a real hit last month. You won't want to miss this technique.

Bring: tracing paper, paper scissors and scotch tape.

Dec 16th ~ Christmas Party

Further details for the Christmas Party are on page four.

2010 Programs

JAN 20th ~ We are scheduled to have the SAGA Trunk Show for this meeting. This is a great way to start the New Year come and join us for ideas and inspiration. Also, this is the month that for our Challenge Vests!! See additional information on page 3.

Sit & Stitch

A Sit & Stitch is always held each month on the first Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. This is a time to get together very informally at a member's home and visit with one another, work on a project or ask for help with a problem stitch or project. We each bring something to share for lunch and have a great time.

These are a lot of fun, nothing

fancy and the hostess only needs to provide the beverages. Please call the hostess each month to let her know you will be coming so that she may plan chairs, etc. accordingly.

We do not meet in December or January due to the holidays and everyone's busy schedule. We do, however, meet during the summer months even

though we do not have our regular meetings during those months.

Joline needs a commitment from each and every one of us to help by signing up to present a program in 2010. As we do not meet during the summer, there is a need for only eight programs a year. We owe it to ourselves and to the program chairperson to teach and learn something so contact Joline and volunteer!!

We need volunteers for February through November 2010. Please contact Joline to sign up for a turn to serve as hostess.

*"Life is like a puzzle,
it's up to you to put
the pieces together to
make your life's
picture."*

Terri Kilgore

Recipe Exchange Thin Mint Cookies

If you like the Girl Scout Thin Mint cookies, you will love these!

Ritz Crackers

Chocolate Mint candy coating wafers

Melt the chocolate mint wafers in a double boiler, do not let any water get into the chocolate. Use a toothpick stuck into the center hole to pick up each cracker. Dip into the melted chocolate, let excess chocolate drip off, place on mesh cooling rack to harden.



2010 Challenges

An interesting topic came up at the Oct. meeting ~ Terri and I had met at sometime over the summer and I told her about a smocked vest that I wanted to make. As each of you knows, if you toss an idea out to Terri, she will pick up the gauntlet and run with it! I saw her eyes light up and I could see the wheels turning in her brain ~ she liked the idea and was practically stitching one in her head already!

The more we talked the more it seemed like it would be fun to make this a challenge and each of us would make a vest without telling the other the details and how we were doing

ours. Then we would bring them to the January meeting and wear/show them.

Somehow the vest idea came up during the Oct. meeting as a way to inspire creativity in each of us. Others of you loved the idea and the glove was thrown down so to speak and everyone was excited about joining in and creating a vest of their own,

So, the challenge was on and here are the guidelines: make a vest and incorporate smocking into it in any way you wish. Don't share your ideas with anyone else and bring your completed vest to the January meeting for it's unveiling. This

isn't a contest in anyway, it is simply a way to get our creative juices flowing and see how differently each of us interprets the idea.

If we have enough participants, Eileen suggested we submit our vests to Sew Beautiful for a photo shoot and pictorial explaining the idea and to show off our lovely vests.

I am certain that this is going to be only the first of many challenges this coming year!

On your mark,
Get set,
GO!!

Stitches ~ The Smocked Clamshell Stitch

How many of you think that there couldn't possibly be any way to create a new smocking stitch? After all, smocking has been around for hundreds of years! What could possibly be new?

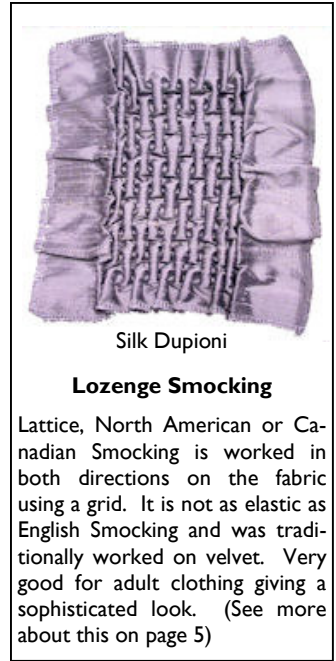
As you all know, Terri has neuropathy in her fingertips following her chemo/radiation treatment for breast cancer. Terri is never one to say "I can't do that" and even though

she has no feeling in her fingertips, she isn't letting that stop her from her love of smocking.

As she worked one day, she accidentally dropped her needle and in picking up the needle and continuing on, she made a mistake. The needle and thread were in the wrong place BUT that accident created a lovely new stitch that looked like a clamshell. This stitch works well along a fin-

ished edge, i.e. the neckline of a Wee Care gown.

Terri has a couple of ideas on ways to incorporate this stitch into other types of projects. She showed us a gorgeous black and white Christmas ornament. So, stay tuned to see what else she comes up with and put your own creative mind to work finding ways to use this stitch.



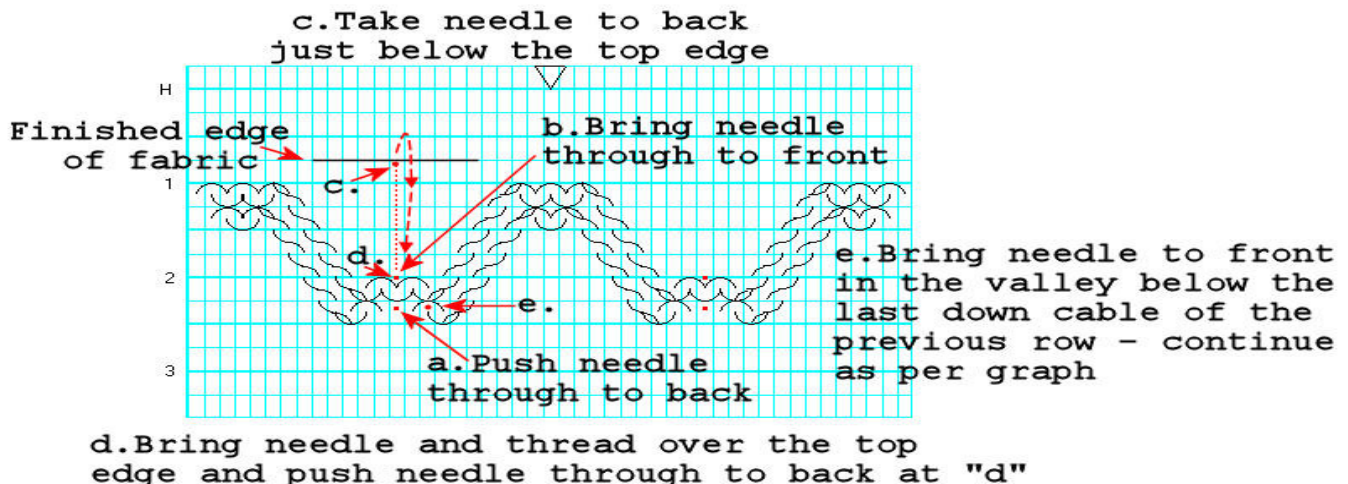
Silk Dupioni

Lozenge Smocking

Lattice, North American or Canadian Smocking is worked in both directions on the fabric using a grid. It is not as elastic as English Smocking and was traditionally worked on velvet. Very good for adult clothing giving a sophisticated look. (See more about this on page 5)

"If you can't take the time to do it right the first time, when will you find the time to do it over?"

Anonymous



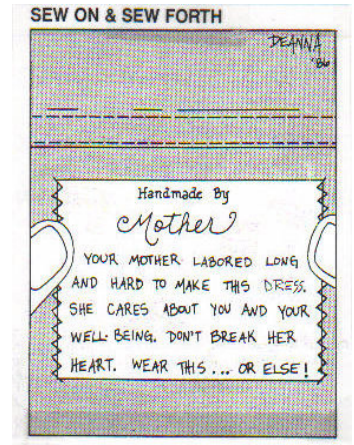


Sewing & Smocking Q&A

This section of the newsletter will be devoted to any tips or questions and answers that you may have pertaining to smocking stitches or sewing techniques. I would encourage you to submit things so that all we all can benefit from each other's knowledge.

- Q. How do I get nice pleats when pleating silk dupioni?
- A. For nicely rounded and even pleats, iron a fusible knit stabilizer to the wrong side.
- Q. What size does the fabric piece need to be to make a 3" Christmas ball?

Christmas Ornament Fabric Chart			
Diameter	Fabric	Rows of	Rows of
2" Ball	3 3/4" x 22 1/2"	7	5
2 1/2" Ball	4 1/4" x 32"- 45"	8	6
2 1/2" Ball	5 3/4" x 32"- 45"	8	6
3" Ball	4 1/2" x 35"- 45"	10	8
3" Ball w/ruffles	6 1/2" x 35"- 45"	10	8
2 1/2" Egg	4 1/2" x 22 1/2"	10	8
2 1/2" Egg	5 1/4" x 22 1/2"	7	5



Don't you sometimes wish we really could put a label something like this in the things we make?

2009 Christmas Party



I really can't believe it is time for our annual Christmas Party!

This year's party will be held at Linda Richards' home on Wednesday, Dec. 16th from 11:00 a.m. until ???

1885 W Via Mandarin
Oro Valley, AZ 85737
742-5030

Unless notified otherwise, please bring a dish to share for a potluck luncheon, beverages will be provided.

Don't forget to bring a few items for Show & Share. We will also hold the doll raffle and pull the winning ticket at the party.

"If you can't take the time to do it right the first time, when will you find the time to do it over?"

Anonymous

2009 Doll Raffle

We had a rather slow start to our doll raffle this year. We have fewer hands to work the craft fairs but we still have some time to raise money by selling tickets at the hospitals and individually. Let's give it a good final push and do the best we can.

Our doll has a gorgeous wardrobe and wardrobe case as usual so please see Linda Salazar at the



meeting this Wednesday and be sure to get raffle tickets to sell from her. Also check with Linda to see when you might be able to volunteer to help out at UMC or any other place where we are scheduled to sell tickets.

Perhaps there is a good chance that someone from our own group might win the doll this year!!





www.cactuscablers.org
cactuscablers@yahoo.com

Meeting Information

Where: St. Jude's Anglican Church
8245 E Seneca St., Tucson, AZ
When: Third Wednesday each month @
10:00 a.m.
Contact: Patty Grabher @ 751-9963

Reprint Information

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Thank you.



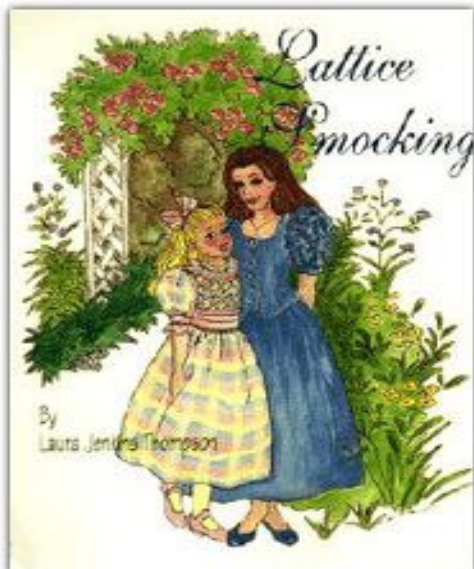
From the editor

This newsletter is for ALL of us. I've said this before but it is worth repeating again, I need input from each of you! What do you want to know; do you have a pattern that you've just made that you can give the rest of us some pointers on if we should make the same pattern; is there an organization that you would like to tell us all about; have you just tried a new technique that you can share with us and explain how you did it; have you tried a variation on an old stitch that you would like to share; have you recently bought supplies from a vendor that you think the rest of us might also like to support; have you just purchased a new book that you could review?? If you just have a new project that you would like to share, send me a digital picture and little "blurb" about it and I will include it.

I look forward to being the editor of this newsletter again but I really can't do it alone. Please share your ideas with me and if I ask you to contribute in some small way to the newsletter, I hope you will oblige.

As long as I have enough material, I plan to go back to publishing the newsletter four times a year. I will be sending you a copy as a .pdf file each time a new one is published and I will also be posting it on our website so that you have access to it at anytime. *Lindce*

Lattice Smocking



This smocking was popular in the 50's and 60's and was done on pillows and other home décor items. It has since seen a revival and has been translated in clothing both for children and adults. It is also gorgeous done as a cuff on a Christmas stocking or done as the entire stocking.

It was traditionally worked on velvets but can be done on any fabric that is non-creaseable. This style of smocking is most beautiful when the pleating remains full.

If you should get hooked on this type of smocking, this book by Laura Jenkins Thompson is a good resource guide for a variety of different grids for Lattice or North American Smocking. The picture on page 3 of this newsletter is an example of the lozenge pattern.

This book is currently available from the **Garden Fairies** website for \$12.00

<http://smockingstore.com>

First click on the Books/DVDs/CD button on the left, then go to the bottom of that page and click on Smocking/DVDs. You will find this book about three quarters of the way down the page.

It is also available from Laura Jenkins Thompson on her website.

<http://www.laurajenkinsthompson.com>