

April 2001

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The Stuffits' Newsletter

April Meeting

The Stuffits' monthly meeting will be **April 18th** at the Library in Central at **10.00 am.** This month's challenge, the Helping Hands Thrift Shop doll is

Thrift Shop Doll

due. Of course if you didn't finish the black velvet challenge from last month you may bring that doll too. It is not too early to be thinking of the summer

project the Alice in Wonderland Project. Some members have agreed to meet all summer and those members are working on their summer project ideas.

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Judy Perry Suede Boots Workshop set for April 21



Fifteen members are signed up and have paid for the April 21, workshop at Betsy's home. That is a Saturday and we start at 9:00 AM. Bright and early, gals. The kits are Ten dollars a piece, payable at the class to Judy. The choice was the Gypsy, Western or Victorian Boot to fit a 29" doll. We have put in our orders. You will need a materials list. See Linda Campbell for a print out. You will need to get the directions for the sloper that you make up ahead of time for the class. A sloper is the foot, ankle and part of the leg that you fit your shoe on. Judy says this a one of the most valuable parts of



the class to learn. Then you can do any size or type of shoe. Linda will have these directions, too. Betsy, Linda and I will try to have examples of our sloper at the meeting for you to see. You will need regular Ultra suede, that is something that each of you must provide. I looked at thrift shops for clothes made of ultra suede and was successful, a teal coat, suit, skirts and vest of different colors. You can wash Ultra Suede in the washing machine with Murphy's Soap, line dry and then run through the dryer on the NO HEAT cycle to soften if needed. It is worth the effort. BRING A BAG



LUNCH AND DRINK. We will have a limited amount of sewing machines for you to use. Several Pfaffs, Feather weights, and a Bernina. You will need to bring your own color thread to match your suede. If you have one of the above machines, have your bobbins prewound. We are going to be limited to how many bobbins we each have with our machines we are loaning for this project. Two machines in the sewing room and the rest will be in the hall or garage. We will space out and have more room in the studio that way. JAC



• Stuffits' Schedule

- April 18 Meeting
- April 21 Shoe Workshop
- May 16 Meeting Lunch-
eon at Lois Bro's
- Summer Project
- Aug 10-12 Virginia
Robertson Seminar
- 2nd and 4th Sat. work-
shop's at Betsy's
-

March Meeting Black Velvet Challenge by Dianne Smith

The March meeting started with a large "Free for All". Many of our members brought material, patterns, ribbons, hats, accessories, and printed dolls to share. Everyone had great fun sorting through everything. We displayed our black velvet challenge dolls for everyone to see. The different concepts and ideas are always a surprise. Betsy called the meeting together and we discussed our upcoming projects. We are still working out the details of the Virginia Robertson Seminar. We have a date set for the shoe workshop. Jean Anne brought up a possibility of a two day workshop with Mary Tressler over the Mother's Day weekend. Linda C. gave us a report on our new

website and we discussed putting the newsletter on the website and bypassing Innova Net. We have had problems with the speed of downloading and some people can't print the entire letter. We hope to work out the problems. Betsy reminded us about the open workshops at her home on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, however, there will be **NO Open Workshop April 14th** the Saturday before Easter. Jean Anne offered to bring her pro scissor sharpeners to the workshop and will sharpen scissors for us.

It was decided that the May 16th meeting will be a Pot Luck luncheon

at the home of Lois Bro. It was also decided that those that wish to meet during the summer will do so.



Adrea and Marian's Black Velvet Challenge Dolls

Dolls travel around the State

The classic literature dolls will be on display at Heirlooms and Comforts along with the black velvet dolls. The Monochromatic dolls will then go to the Walhalla library. Betsy went to the Greenville Doll and Toy meeting and took a collection of cloth dolls to show. They meet at the Brea Library the 3rd Monday of the month at 4:00 pm. We have been invited by the

Brea Library to bring the classic Literature dolls to their library for display when they leave the quilt shop. They plan to pull the books from the shelves and display them with the dolls.

It seems some of our dolls are doing more traveling than we are.

Scrooge



Notes Reminders, Resources

Doll U September 20-24th 2001

The Gypsies of the World Doll,
Oakland Marriott City Center
Judy Waters—Doll U
1601 Provincetown Drive
San Jose CA 95129-4742

The Virginia Robertson Workshop

Aug 10-12, 2001

Lois Bro sculpting Class

June 10 -16 2001

Folkschool 1 800 folkschool

2nd and 4th Saturday open workshops at Betsy's. Bring whatever project you want to work on. Do let Betsy know that you are coming.

Don't forget to sign the attendance sheet at each meeting. Geraldine will provide the Sign In Sheet.

Resources

Try www.clothdolldepot.com

I found that they have hemostats starting

At \$4.50 and turning tool kits for \$7.95. They offer good prices for needles and have chenille stems and real pipe cleaners. They also have the eyes that Julie McCullough uses sets of eight for 79 cents. You may order a catalog from Clothdoll Depot
PO Box 523192
Springfield, VA 22152

April Fools Party by Jean Anne Cooper

TANGLED THREADS April Fool's Luncheon
Another great success! Betsy Dunkle, Adrea Hughey, Linda Stockton, Linda Campbell and Jean Anne Cooper attended the luncheon at Harriet Diamond's home on March 25. You missed some of the best food, yet. Oh, the Dolls! They had a "Bits and Pieces" Challenge display that was great. Linda C. and Jean Anne each had a doll in this challenge. Harriet had requested that we bring

lots of dolls to share in their Show and Tell. Betsy was most happy to bring many dolls and some made by other artist. Linda S. brought some of hers and sold lots of Adorabellas' pattern books. The wonderful part of the Show and Tell these ladies have, is that each tells of new techniques and blunders, too. You are rewarded when you go to these luncheons. The pin exchange and the coming together of old friends and new friends is just one more bonus.



Member Updates

Our Sympathy goes out to Muriel and her husband over the loss of his mother in March.

Cathy M has been in the hospital but is now home and feeling better. She hopes to back to doll making soon.

Marge is now wearing a heart monitor so they can diagnosis her irregular heart beats.

Carol Adkins has had surgery and is undergoing radiation treatments in Atlanta. Our prayers are with you.

On a happier note, Jeanette has returned from her trip to Spain

Linda Stockton 's husband has a new job in GA.

Shirley Barr has a new Email address wsbarr@msn.com

Tip of Month

Taken from the Flying Phoebe's
Diane Joseph
To keep needles sharp ,
snag free and rust free
store them in white wool.

Planning Committee Outlines Years Projects

Jazz Cat Fabric Challenge from Heirlooms & Comfort, due MAY. No rules or limitations.

MAY luncheon at Lois Bro's home. Geraldine Krenek will have pictures available of the **Alice in Wonderland Challenge** for the SUMMER project. Please see her at one of the next meetings and get your choice. Or you can go to the Web and type in Alice in Wonderland and print out your choice. You will still need to call or email Geraldine of your choice. It is all right if there are duplicates, they

will never be the same.

JUNE we will have a **"Bits and Pieces Challenge"** bring a head, legs, arms and body from any 18" doll pattern in wild fabrics. We will exchange parts and then the fun begins. You can manipulate or disguise but not cover up and hide the differences. This is a great stretch for your artistic abilities and a fun project. We have two examples to show.

JULY challenge, **"How Does Your Garden Grow"**.

AUGUST challenge, fabric will given

out for this **"no rules"** project.

SEPTEMBER, Bag doll challenge Surprise. Lois Bro will bring the brown bags ready to pick up for the Bag Challenge due Christmas or Jan.

The committee will meet to work up the monthly challenges and bag dolls for 2002.

Start thinking of what you can teach or demonstrate at a meeting next year. We will be calling you for a date. We all have lots to share.

Editors Note.

I am working to solve some of the problems that many of you have had trying to get your letter On Line. This month's letter is smaller so that I can reduce the file size. This should help with the download time. Innova Net is in the process of expanding their services and I am waiting until fall when these services are supposed to be available. If we have no problems with the smaller letter, we will keep the May letter small also. There will be no full newsletter over the summer months so your editor can do her round to its and finish some of the UFO's crowding the doll room. However, since pictures are so important to most of us we will change servers in September if they cannot provide us with better service.



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Dollie Mama's Silk Ribbon Flowers by Jean Anne Cooper

The February 18, meeting had a demonstration by Margo Knight of how to turn Silk Ribbon Flowers on the cut eye of a needle stuck in a cork.

First, you will need to cut the tip off an embroidery needle and sand the edges smooth on an emery board. Then stick it in a cork. I have mine from years ago that I drilled out a 1/4" dowel and glued in the sharp point. Secondly, you run an inch of silk ribbon through the eye, dot with glue, fold over the tail and stick it flat.

Then you turn the needle until you come to the end of the double thickness. Dot with glue to hold. From that point you dot glue a little way forward, lift and turn

your ribbon just enough that it has a roll on one edge and stick it to the glue, you repeat and repeat until you have a tiny rose like flower. To finish, just slip this off the eye of the needle, cut your ribbon off allowing just enough to glue down on the bottom side of the flower and set aside on an index card or glue directly onto your project. According to the size of the flower you want and whether it is to be a bud or flower is determined by the first fold over length that you start with. That is the inside of your flower. Leaves are just folded over, tucked under the flower and glued. This is easy and fun. What an elegant embellishment to your doll.

There was lots of Show and Tell

for Linda Campbell and myself, Jean Anne Cooper to oh! and ah! over. Since we missed the Christmas meeting that was cancelled by snow and both of us were sick and unable to attend the January meeting, we had a lot of show and tell to share. You already saw the Santa that Sharon Frisbie taught us how to do the sculpted face at their last October meeting. It was so great to see so many of our old friends again.

This year they are having a Picasso Doll Challenge for dolls to take to Doll U.