

Editor: Dianne Smith

Stuffits' Newsletter

February Meeting the 21st.

The February Meeting will be held February 21st at 10:00 am (note: not the 15th as was on the schedule) at the Library in Central. The program for the meeting will be a show and tell of our monochromatic dolls. We drew our color at the January meeting. If you were **not** there and want to make a doll, **choose a single color** and make a doll using different values of that color and bring it to the meeting. We are also hoping that there will be some finished Negative design dolls from the members who attended the Seminar. Work hard and bring them to the meeting.



Betsy's "Round To It Doll"

Challenges for Stuffits' by Jean Anne Cooper

We have so many projects, we thought it would be a good idea to list them for you.

DUE February: Monochromatic. All one color of different shades and hues.

DUE March: Black velvet. All flesh parts showing must be in black velvet of any kind if you didn't get a small piece at meeting in September.

RECEIVE in March: Fat Quarter of fabric from Heirlooms and Comforts. No Rules. Due in May.

START March Bag Doll: To be determined. Here are some ideas: Greeting cards, Holidays, Kings & Queens, Historical (period?), Victorian, Old West Saloon Marms, Characters from Gone With the Wind, Charlie Brown, Wizard of Oz, etc., Presidents and/or their wives, Civil War heroes (Male or Female), same for the American Revolution, Fairy Tales, ethnic, any country or one specific, Nursery Rhymes, Anti-bellum, Ancestors, Star Wars. Have you another suggestion?

April could start with a visit to a Thrift Store. Doll must be made from all items purchased with one visit from a thrift store. Due May.

DUE May: Fat Quarter Dolls, Heirlooms and Comforts

START May, Summer Project. Characters from Alice In Wonderland using John Tenniel's illustrations. You will receive a photocopy of a character in a bag at the meeting. Requests for bags will be mailed for out of towners unable to attend. Email or contact Jean Anne

DUE September: Summer project.

START September Bag Doll Challenge to be determined
Due November.



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Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2001

Stuffits Schedule

Feb 21 Meeting

Feb 24 Bear Workshop

March 21 Meeting

Black velvet Challenge due
March Meeting

- 2nd & 4th Saturdays Open workshops at Betsy's . Call or email Betsy to reserve your space. All are welcome Bring any project you want to work on.

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Notes and Reminders

Land O' Sky Doll Club is having "A Day With Patricia Schoonmaker" at Deerpark Restaurant, Biltmore Estate, Asheville, March 31, 2001.

Price- \$39 prepaid reservation. Includes Luncheon, souvenir, competition, sales tables, prizes, miniprograms. "Wonderful Dolls & Figurines of Gebruder Heubach"

Lois Bro Sculpting "Start to Finish"

Jun 10-16 2001 at the John Campbell Folkschool at 1-800-folkschool

FDQ (fabric, dolls, quilt) Camp May 2001 Contact Leigh Anne Dabbs

Doll U September 20—23, 2001 in Oakland, CA

Just a reminder that our

Library is now in use. If you have books, magazines or patterns you are willing to loan, give them to Jean Anne.

Open Workshops at Betsy's 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Items for the newsletter may be mailed or emailed to Jean Anne, Peggy or Dianne. Do keep us informed.

Teddy Bear Workshop, set for Feb. 24th

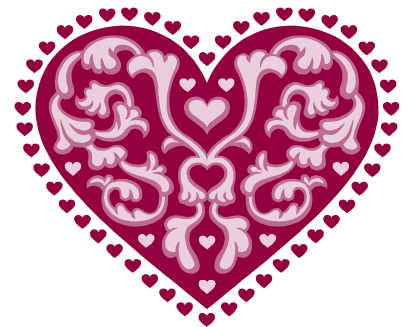
Lois Bro brought samples of the small teddy bears for us to choose one for our workshop. We decided to make the sparse mohair bear. It is larger and has cotter pin joints. At present we are planning on having the workshop at Betsy's house but may switch to Heirlooms and Comforts if Betsy cannot handle all the sewing machines necessary. We will notify you when the decision is made. Thirteen people signed up for the Workshop and Lois can handle two more. The kit fees are \$25.00.

Member Updates

Linda Stockton is recovering from surgery. As you may remember, Linda fell while she was at Jekyll Island and injured her ankle. When it didn't get better, it was determined that surgery was needed. She will be in a cast and will need therapy. However the good news is her "Dragonfly" doll is in the

Gallery of "Contemporary Doll Collector" Feb/March issue. It has just hit the news stands. Get well fast Linda!

Congratulations to Jean Anne! She has a brand new great grandson born Jan 19th. How many does this make Jean Anne?



Resources

Martha bought a Premiere issue of a new magazine **Doll Costuming** and says it looks interesting. It is geared to historical dolls in this issue, but they are looking for input for future issues. There is an interesting article on "Pattern Drafting 101" by Charlotte Semple and she has a Simple

measuring technique which anyone can use and make clothes fit. Other articles feature a Farthingale skirt and the under construction, Custom Doll shoes and Edwardian costumes. This magazine was available at Barnes and Noble. Felting Needles, used to imbed hair, are available from the Sis-

ters and Daughters Web Site www.sistersanddaughters.com They have a great selection of doll making supplies. For those not on the web, order a catalog for \$2.00 from Sisters and Daughters 32401 Cambridge Livonia, MI 48154

January Meeting by Marian Burton

Betsy opened our meeting and Ruth Challand introduced her guest Betty Seman. We discussed permanent name tags and Jean Anne volunteered to make them. The Clemson Observer was passed around, it featured an article about the Stuffits' Betsy then showed dolls by a Canadian designer, The patterns are available from Harriet Diamond. The address roster was presented for corrections. A printout will be available at the next meeting. Dianne reminded everyone that Acrobat Reader 4.0 is needed to receive

the letter online. One half of our membership is getting their letter on line. This is reducing our cost. Peggy is doing the printing and mailing the other half. Betsy reminded everyone about her open workshops on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays and we discussed our Teddy Bear Workshop with Lois Bro and Negative Design Workshop. We then drew colors for our Monochromatic Challenge due in February and we talked about the Black Velvet Challenge due in March. Betsy then showed us an Alice in Wonderland coloring

book with Tenniel illustrations. Brenda Rowland suggested that we make that our summer project and everyone agreed. Linda Campbell is reworking our website and needs pictures for the web page. We voted to buy a 40 dollar a year dot com site. Our guest then showed two dolls, a porcelain doll and a fascinating doll that she made from a loofah. The bag dolls were opened, admired, and photographed. Betsy will keep the dolls and take them to the library in Walhalla for exhibit.

Dolls from Classic Literature Can you guess who these characters might be? Answers page six. These dolls will be on display at the Wahalla Library



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More Dolls



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Nancy's Negative Design Seminar

Eleven Stuffits' attended the Negative design seminar taught by Nancy Laverick of The House of Nanimal Ltd. Friday and Saturday at Heirloom's and Comforts' new shop in Central.

Friday evening, after showing us what can be done, she challenged us to pick a design and go with it. Everyone had a definite idea of what they wanted by the end of the evening..

Putting those ideas into action

was more difficult than we thought. Nancy showed us how to make the "gussets" to turn two dimensions into three. Everyone struggled but by the end of the day, most went home with something they could finish. A very learning experience. Hopefully, some may even show up at the February meeting. Our thanks to Nancy ! Also, thanks also to Sarah Ballentine pictured above behind the counter of her shop.



Attending: Shirley Barr, Marcia Heller, Linda Campbell, Sandra Jones, Betsy Dunkle, Leigh Anne Dabbs, Jeane Anne Cooper, Jeannette Schmeichel, Jan Schwanke, Geraldine Krenek, Nancy Laverick. and Dianne Smith

What Works by Martha Hutton

The last meeting of the Shady Ladies, an eight month old cloth doll club here in Eureka Springs Arkansas,, reminded me of so many things that I had learned both personally and for the good of the club. This What Works is a reminder to document your work. The Stuffits have done an over all excellent job of photographic documentation by the use of personal cameras and videos.

The Shady Ladies have begun a club Scrap Book I was just rereading the Spring 1999 article by Susanne Oroyan, "Simple to Complex Pattern Drafting". In Soft Dolls and Animals and on page 29 was reminded that Lois Bro had always told us to save our original sketches to document that we designed the actual pattern. This is exactly what Susanna said that she does. She "keeps the process pieces in case I ever need to show that I did, indeed, develop the design myself." I go even further by keeping the "thumbnail sketch " even if it is on an envelop that was available when I was waiting in the car and saw a person walking by that inspired a doll. Sometimes, I have to cut the "thumbnail sketch out of a page of sketches that were done while watching TV. I sketch several times until the character is developed. Sometime this goes on for a year or two because I am busy with other dolls and have not had the time to continue. These "round to its" remain in a notebook with clippings from magazines, newspapers and act as reminders of notes for dolls. Sometimes there are lists of dolls that I would like to make in word form. All of this would look like junk paper to someone who did not understand the artist this form of note taking from the mind.

As the doll goes into pattern form from the sketches, I put the little pieces in zip lock bags.. If the pattern is to be used several times, I translate it to cardboard and note which of my dolls were begun with that pattern and what changes that I made. This isn't complex, but I can say that I have all of the backup material showing that this is, indeed, mine. Now these patterns are often messy-not ready to hand to someone with instructions as I rarely reuse them, but are available with notes, remakes, and usually the date and name of the doll and sometimes clips of skin and garment fabrics taped to the pattern. Lois also suggested that it was a good idea to photograph the doll as it progressed. I particularly liked this idea for the more complicated dolls, but rarely have gone this far. My plan is to reorganize this work along with a n actual photograph to go with each doll. I would think that this documentation would be helpful even if you begin with a pattern and change it with the notation of the changes. It is a story of the doll's birth. When so many articles have been devoted to copying , this will solve the problem of the dolls heritage. It is always best to acknowledge the original pattern design and say that the doll was developed from that pattern. The documentation makes me smile as I remember the act of making the doll, what was going on at the time and what I learned from doing it .

It is really the story of "What Works and What Doesn't." I often wonder how I ever finished some of these dolls and almost every time wish I could do it differently .Then none of us are perfect so I just love and appreciate them as they are a record of joy.

Stuffits' Puppets

Jill Hamilton, at Scott Publications, informs us that the puppet article is still in the works and is scheduled for an upcoming issue. Nothing definite so she was not able to give us any specifics. She did say that the puppets they received have all been WONDERFUL. SD & A is inter-

ested in our: Classic Literature Dolls for the Doll Hub section of SD&A. She reminds us to keep them in mind for any challenges that we have coming up: Some of Jill's work appears on Page 101 and 132 of

Susanna Oroyan" book Designing the Doll. Puppets were submitted by Jean Anne Cooper, Betsy Dunkle, Martha Hutton, Linda Stockton, Linda Campbell, Cathy Mc Laughlin, Marcia Heller, and Cindy Owens.

Other Clubs Christmas Parties

Flights of Fantasy Christmas

Luncheon by Jean Anne Cooper
Geraldine Krenek, Linda Campbell and Jean Anne Cooper attended the luncheon. We were not sure we would make it in the rain and sleet or if when we got there it had not been cancelled. It did not snow until we were on our way home late that evening. The luncheon was wonderful, we all loved the pin doll exchange as usual. It was held in a new location, the Art Center and was very nice, indeed. We had a quick trip into Mary Jo's and then

went to the new dollar store in the Franklin Mall just blocks away. It is in the old Belks' building and is so big it took hours to go through. It was our first experience with a dollar super store and we bought groceries as well as crafty items. Unfortunately for the Dollie Mamas', their awaited Christmas party was cancelled due to SNOW!

Shady Ladies by Martha Hutton

Have been to the Shady Ladies Christmas party called the first annual

Gaudy and Gauche Christmas

party. The costumes were amazing! I had a sequin and beaded multicolor hat which was borrowed and the whole bunch just wanted to copy it! The party was held at the 109 year home of the founder, Judith Leswig, in downtown Eureka Springs with just enough snow to look like the perfect accessory for Christmas decorations and none on the roads. Her 8 years worth of beautiful cloth dolls were displayed and her studio was beautiful.



Happy Valentines
Day

Stuffits Web Site has New Look

<http://thestuffits.homestead.com/TheStuffits.html>

Linda Campbell has been working on redesigning our Web Page, here is what she has to say:

At long last the web page is up and running, Thanks to our Webmaster, my Son, at jchriscampbell.com Not all the links are up but it's looking good. We hope to link to other Doll Clubs soon. I'd like to add a members work page for any of you who will share photos of yourself and/or your work. If anyone is willing to share a pattern you have made, I can add it to the Free Pattern page.

I'm hoping you will also share some Doll Tips with us. At the Jan. meeting we voted to buy the Stuffits.com name and as soon as I can I will get it going.

Looking forward to any and all input from you.

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Stuffits February Birthdays

2nd Jean Anne Cooper

16th Shirley Barr

27th Brenda Rowland

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Answers 1. **Dorian Gray** belongs to Kate, finished by Peggy Taylor
2. **Guinevere** belongs to Jeannette Schmeichel, body Carol Joswick, face hair Marian Burton, clothes Marcia Heller 3. **Huckleberry Finn** belongs to Peggy, body Jean Anne Cooper, face hair Geraldine Krenek, clothes Linda Campbell 4. **Ichabod Crane** belongs to Geraldine, body Jeannette, face hair clothes Leigh Anne Dabbs 5. **Lizzy Bennett, Pride and Prejudice** body Marian, face hair Adrea Hughey 6. **Ma Joad, "Grapes of Wrath"** belongs to Marian, body Leigh Anne, face hair clothes Jean Anne. 7. **Long John Silver** belongs to Linda Campbell, body Adrea, face hair Jean Anne, clothes Erika Meriwether 8. **Mary Ann "Sense and Sensibility"** belongs to Carol J, body Erika, face hair, Jeannette, clothes Brenda Rowland. 9. **Scarlet, "Gone With the Wind"** belongs to Brenda, body face hair, Peggy 10. **Hester, "Scarlet Letter"**. Belongs to Jean Anne, body Linda C. face hair Marcia, clothes Jeannette, 11. **Tom Sawyer** belongs to Leigh Anne, body face hair clothes, Kate Walter. 12. **Uncle Remus, "Song of the South"** belongs to Adrea, body Geraldine, face hair Carol J. clothes Marian.