



Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2001

Stuffits' Newsletter

The Stuffits'
Editor: Dianne Smith

March Meeting

The March meeting will be held at **The Central Library on March 21st at 10:00 am.** The project due is the **Black Velvet Challenge.** If you did not receive a piece of velvet from Lois and want to make a doll, any black velvet will work. The only rule is : All skin showing must be of black velvet. Since we decided to put our bag doll on hold until September, we are moving our **Thrift Shop Doll** up a month. As part of the program for March we will visit Helping Hands Thrift Store and buy a bag of goodies to make a doll. Only items bought at the thrift shop may be used for the doll. Bring lots of money, or at least a little money. This should be a real fun project. If you cannot attend the March meeting and want to take part, visit any second hand or thrift shop and buy what you need. This Doll will be due in April. For those that did not get your fat quarter from Heirlooms and Comforts for their Challenge, be sure to pick it up. No rules, due in May.

February Meeting

We were very pleased to have a guest at our Feb. meeting. Martha Gallagher, read about us in a newspaper and decided to visit. She brought her little pocket doll to share with us.

We had old business as usual. It has been decided that as much as we like workshops at Heirlooms and Comforts, it is not large enough for 20 ladies with sewing machines to work comfortably, so we will have the Virginia Robertson Seminar at the Comfort Inn in Clemson.. She will be teaching a face painting class on one day and a two day class on her Jester or Little Old Lady Pattern. We discussed our upcoming Bear Workshop at Betsy's this Saturday. We were also reminded that Betsy has two Saturdays a month set aside for workdays for those that want to come and work on dolls and for those that cannot attend our weekday meeting.

We would really like to have Judy Perry teach an Ultra Suede Shoe Workshop. Possible date is April 21, 2001. The cost would be \$25.00 plus a \$10.00 kit. Class would start at 9:00 am and go until 4:00 pm. If you want to attend, bring a check to the March meeting . We will have the rest of the details then.

We finally got to see some of the Stuffits' Puppets that were featured in Soft Dolls and Animals. Betsy showed her Jester and Jean Anne brought her two sided lady.

(continued page 6)



- ☺ Stuffits' Schedule
- ☺ **March 21 Meeting**
- ☺ **Open Workshops at Betsy Dunkle's Home 2nd and 4th Saturdays**
- ☺ **April 18 Meeting Thrift Shop Doll Due**
- ☺ **April 21 Possible Shoe Workshop**
- ☺ **May 16 Meeting Heirlooms Challenge Due**
- ☺ **Summer Project Alice in Wonderland**

Left: Cathy
McLaughlin's Trio
of Pink Ladies

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Monochromatic Dolls



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9 above



10



11



12

13



1. Orange -Tangerine, Lois Bro 2. Burnt Orange - Serena The Setting Sun, Dianne Smith 3.. Turquoise - Turquoise Wave, Peggy Taylor 4. Dark Blue-Mood Indigo, Jeannette Schmeichel 5. Purple - The Secret Garden, Kate Walter 6. Brown- Groovy Mo Town Mama, Adrea Hughey 7. Pea Green-Dragonwick, Linda Campbell 8. Lavender - GraceFlo, Brenda Rowland 9. Plum - Desiderare, Jean Anne Cooper Fushia - Bougainvillea, Muriel Carter 11. Grey - Chickamonga, Geraldine Krenek 12. Black - Shine, Betsy Dunkle 13. Blue - Roses for a Blue Lady, Jan Schwanke. 14. Pink Cathy McLaughlin, front page 15. Yellow Ruth Challand back page

Notes and Reminders and Resources

Our Monochromatic Dolls are now on display at Heirlooms and Comforts. Tell your friends to drop in and take a look. Also, our Classic Literature dolls are still at The Library in Walhalla.

Doll "U" September 20–24, 2001

The Gypsies of the World Doll, the 2001 Doll "U" Challenge * more information at March Meeting

Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland CA. For information: contact Judy Waters—Doll U
1601 Provincetown Drive
San Jose, CA 95129-4742

Land of Sky "A Day With Patricia Schoonmaker" at Deerpark Restaurant, Biltmore Estates. March 31, 2001

The Virginia Robertson Workshop

Aug 10–12, 2001

This is a three day seminar and will run between \$100 and \$125. Fees will be due at the May meeting. Openings go to active members first.

Lois Bro Sculpting "Start to Finish" June 10–16 2001 at John Campbell Folkschool 1-800- folkschool

Resources

"Free Stuff for Doll Lovers on the Internet" by Judy Heim and Gloria Hansen, available C & T Publishing
www.ctpub.com

"Finishing The Figure" by Susanna Oroyan's new book should be out

soon.

It has come to our attention that Susanna is quite ill and needs our prayers. We want her to know our thoughts and best wishes are with her. There are several in our group that know her and have taken classes with her. If you would like to send her a card, her address is:

Susanna Oroyan
3270 Whitbeck Blvd.
Eugene, OR 97405

Rags to Art program for the Land of Sky Doll Club

Two of our members traveled to Asheville, North Carolina on February 22nd to act as ambassadors for cloth dolls. Jean Anne and Betsy gathered almost 100 of the Stuffits' best dolls to show all the members of the Land of Sky club. It is the goal of all cloth doll makers to spread the word that this is serious doll making. The program started with the very

early handkerchief doll and progressed through the evolution of cloth dolls.

The program was very well received with lots of interest shown in the different dolls and methods of construction and design.

We can be very proud of the reception our best dolls received. We are always proud of our work and it is

gratifying when others appreciate them. Our thanks to Betsy and Jean Anne for making the trip and spreading the word about the artistic value of our dolls.

Lots of
interest shown
in Stuffits'
Best

Member Updates

Jeannette Schmeichel is off to Spain. We are looking forward to hearing all about it when she gets back.

Linda Stockton is mending and was able to attend our last meeting.

Dianne is fine after having a growth removed from her face. The margins were all benign.

Jean Anne had two dolls in the Charlotte Quilt Show. Her two Victorian dolls as the Irish maid and her mistress. A third doll, Flat Footed Floozie, was made by Jean Anne and Linda Campbell.

Shirley Barr has a new on line address. Be sure to add it to your member roster. RRBARRRANCH@msn.com
Carol Joswick needs to be added to

our member roster. Her address is Carol Joswick

22 Buffa Drive
Somerset, NJ 08873
Cwj Joswick@aol.com

Change Muriel Carter's street address to 5 Poplar Terrace and Linda Stockton's email to stockton@primeline.com

Teddy Bear Workshop by Dianne Smith

Those of us attending the Teddy Bear Workshop certainly had a good time and learned how easy it is to use joints made of cotter pins and washers. We met at Betsy's home and Lois got everyone started cutting mohair. We were able to share five sewing machines as everyone was doing things at different speeds. Some chose to do all by hand but most of us did some machine sewing. We just couldn't imagine how cute these little guys would turn



Lois Bro, our great instructor,
with her bear.

out but they all are adorable as you can see below. This was one of the few workshops where everyone had their project almost finished by the time we went home. Each little bear was different even though we all used the same pattern. Our thanks to Lois and Betsy for a very successful day! Those attending were Betsy Dunkle, Marge Silkwood, Jean Anne Cooper, Linda Campbell, Jeannette Schmeichel, Adrea Hughey, Marcia Heller, Ruth Challand, Jean Gilbert, Peggy Taylor, Sandy Brown, and Dianne Smith



Right - Ruth Left —Marcia
Far Left — Adrea and Sandy
Bottom Left— Betsy, Jean
Anne, Linda C. Middle -
Marge



Other Clubs

Doll Designers of Gwinnett have changed their name. They are now **Tangled Threads**. One of their members, Ingalill Jarles will be moving to our area soon. We are looking forward to having her attend our meetings. They are also planning their annual "April Fools Party". It will be March 25, at one o'clock in the home of Harriet Diamond., 19677 Gunstock Dr. Stone Mountain, GA. There will be a pin exchange and "Show and Tell". Linda and Jean Anne were to pick up invitations with all the details for The Stuffits'.

Flights of Fantasy of Charlotte have a new web site. Check out www.geocities.com/jferg4497. Their Web Master has put a Nancy Laverick pattern, "Minnie Maude" in their free patterns. Just click on the link and print it out. Check it out.

A new doll club has been formed in the Atlanta area. **Possum Hollow Cloth Doll Club** in Riverdale, GA has 14 members. They meet on the 2nd Sunday afternoon of the month. The club was organized by Jill Cooper and they have already undertaken teaching 150 girl scouts about folk art dolls. We welcome them to the wacky, wonderful world of cloth doll making. Jill is also putting out a Newsletter. Congratulations!.

To Dye For : Our thanks to the Dollie Mamas for allowing us to reprint this wonderful article.

TO DYE FOR ... FROM ELEANOR SZALVA

Having a difficult time finding just the right color for your doll "skin"? Have you thought of dyeing your own? Here are a few of the easier formulas for dyeing fabrics for flesh colors.

First, start with a good quality muslin - I prefer white Southern Belle, 200 count (Little Quilts has this brand). Wash with mild soap prior to dyeing to remove sizing. Make sure all soap is rinsed out of fabric.

My favorite recipe is from Gloria Winer. I have experimented with several others, but this is the one I use most often.

Here is her recipe:

Wash fabric with a little detergent (such as Dawn), complete cycle and take out of washer.

Mix:

1 box Dylon Cold Water Tea Dye (follow directions on the box)

1 capful Rit Liquid Peach Dye (or Tan, Dark Brown, Chocolate)

Fill washer for regular load size, add dyes and agitate for one minute, drop in pieces of fabric. Check color periodically - color will be darker when wet. Go through full cycle on permanent press. Put into dryer. One load will dye up to 20 yards of fabric - fabric should be torn into 2-yard pieces for ease of handling.

If you are interested in a more advance level, I recommend you acquire this book: *Dyes & Paints: A Hands-On Guide to Coloring Fabric*, by Elin Noble, published by Martingale & Company. This book is full of answers to just about any question you might have regarding dyeing fabrics. The following recipes were gathered from various postings to Friends of Cloth Doll Digest.

BASIC FLESH

1/4 tsp. Tan RIT dye powder

1/8 tsp. Rose Pink RIT dye powder

1/3 C. Non-iodized table salt

1 gallon of water

Follow the basic directions on dye package for stove top dyeing. This recipe is for 1/2 yard of fabric. Leave fabric in dye bath for 5 - 30 mins. depending on how dark you want the fabric. Remember fabric looks darker when it's wet. If you want a more ethnic color of flesh, increase the amount of dye powder; just keep the same ratio of tan to pink.

USING LIQUID DYE

Boil enough water to fill 5 gallon bucket 3/4 full, wet item to be dyed pour dye into bucket of water, mix dye into water, put item into dye bath, stir, let item sit completely covered until water cools off over night. Rinse and spin cycle in washing machine. Dry in dryer to set color.



Some of the Pins/Ornaments from the Exchange.

DYE RECIPES

PEACH/FLESH DYE

In jar with lid, mix all ingredients: (Powdered RIT dye)

2 boxes Taupe RIT dye powder

1 box Rose RIT dye powder

1 box Peach RIT dye powder

Close jar and shake well.

For each 3 yds. of fabric, mix 2 TBS. of powdered dye with very hot water to dissolve. Prewash your fabric but don't dry. Refill your washer using hot water, add dye and agitate dye for a few minutes. Add wet fabric, agitate for 14 mins. For really interesting skin, have the fabric partially dry and let it blotch.

OTHER COLORS

CAUCASIAN SKIN TONE: Mix Rose and Peach in 1:2 ratio.

BROWN SKIN TONE: RIT Chocolate makes a nice brown skin, light or dark, depending on how long you leave the fabric in the dye solution.

ASIAN SKIN TONE: Mix RIT Beige, Yellow and Light Brown

BEIGE: 1/2 Tan and 1 tsp. Yellow

BITTERSWEET: 1 pkg. Golden Yellow and 1/2 pkg. Scarlet

CAMEL: 1/2 pkg. Yellow and 1/4 tsp. Cocoa Brown

CARAMEL: 2 pkgs. Golden Yellow and 1-1/2 tsp. Cocoa Brown

CHAMPAGNE: 2 tsp. Tan and 1/3 tsp. Yellow

CHESTNUT BROWN: 2 pkgs. Cocoa Brown & 2 pkgs.

Tangerine

EGGSHELL: 1 tsp. Tan and 1 tsp. Yellow

SPICE BROWN: 1 pkg. Cocoa Brown and 1-1/2 pkg.

Tangerine

FLESH: 1 tsp. Tan and 1 tsp. Peach

The above recipes will dye 3 yds. fabric (1 lb.) in washing machine on low water setting.

Take This Doll and Stuff It



Happy St. Patrick's
Day



February Meeting (continued)

Our Historian Linda Campbell needs our help. She has all the scrapbooks and pictures of all the dolls the Stuffits' have made in the past and no way to identify them. She is requesting a meeting with all the "older" members to tackle this task. She also gave a report on our updated Web Site. www.TheStuffits.Com. We then got a chance to see the four finished negative design figures from Nancy's Workshop. We then presented our Monochromatic Dolls.*

project. This will help us plan for future programs .



Negative Designs: left to right
Dianne-Betsy -Linda C- Jeanette

the Stuffits'
Doll Club



15. Yellow - Golden Dragon,
Ruth Challand

Attention All Members

As of next Month we will have a new Sign In procedure. It is becoming harder and harder to keep track of who made what and who was there, etc. As of the March Meeting, **Geraldine Krenek** will have a **Sign In Sheet** for all members to sign. You will need to sign in and print the name or title of your project. This will give us a record for the historian and will help those who make the Title cards and Tags for exhibits. Sign in even if you do not have a

Request from We Folk

Carol Joswick is on the Advisory Board for the upcoming We Folk conference. Sandy Sapienza, the head of the conference, is looking for clubs to become sponsors. Donations are for the opening and closing programs and door prizes, etc. They are asking clubs to please donate \$20.00.

Tip of the month from
Linda Campbell

New stuffing tool: use the under wire from an old bra as a stuffing tool. Try it, it works.