



October Meeting to be Held at Blue Ridge Art Center

Stuffits' Looking for a New Home

The October 18th Meeting will be held at 10 AM at the Blue Ridge Art Center in Seneca. The "Round to It Doll", the doll you always wanted to do but never had time or the doll you've never had time to finish, is due for this meeting. Lois is in charge of the program. Due to the increase in membership the Stuffits' are outgrowing our wonderful meeting room in Betsy's home. Rather than limit membership it was decided to look for another place to hold our meetings. The Blue Ridge Art Center is not conveniently located for many of our members but is an option. The library in Central would be a good location, has lots of room and is free. Lois is going to investigate the possibility of holding our meetings there starting in January 2001. This would give us plenty of room for mini-seminars and demonstrations. It is also close to Heirlooms and Comforts new fabric center.

New Doll Challenge

Lois offered a new challenge for the month of **March**. She gave everyone a piece of Black velvet and instructed us to use it as skin for a black doll. You may do anything you wish but must make the skin from this fabric. **The Due date for the Classic Literature Bag Doll has been moved to January.** It was decided that many of us did not have the time to finish it before the Christmas Luncheon.

Ugly Fabric Challenge Dolls Enjoyed by All

We really had a great time unveiling our ugly fabric dolls. There were so many unique and different uses of the three ugly materials that we were given. However, many of the fabrics didn't look that ugly to me. Each doll was a treat and offered something special. Because of limited space I was unable to put in all the pictures.



Above Doll by Kate Walter



Left Ruth Challand



Left Adrea Hughey
Above Peggy Taylor



Right Cathy McLaughlin

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New Staff Members

We have one more new Staff member, Peggy Taylor volunteered to join Leigh Anne Dabbs as members of the Newsletter Staff. We could use one more person. I cannot be editor for every month and need to rotate the job. We have worked out a way to send the letter to each other for editing and we use email to send articles and information. We often have more information than we need and sometimes we don't have enough. I try to put the most important and time related articles first. It will not be possible to send a Newsletter before the Christmas Luncheon. You will not receive a Newsletter in the month of December.

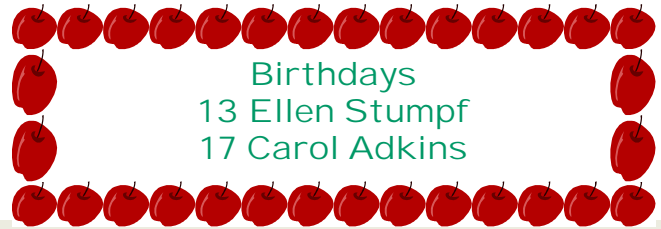


What's on the Web

I have been working very hard to put our newsletter online. Many of you were able to open the Link I sent to you and were able to read last month's letter. **To our associate members: Please email me so that I can put your addresses in a group file.** To read the letter online you must have acrobat reader. If you do not have this program(Look in Programs on your Start bar) you may download it for free from www.adobe.com You will be able to read the letter on line and/or print out your own copy. You will receive an email giving you the link when the letter is ready. You will not have to wait but will be

Yearly Dues are Now Due

It was agreed that we needed to increase the dues to \$20.00. This should cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Any surplus after we put the letter online will be used to help cover the cost of mini-workshops, classes and possibly supplies for the classes. Send checks to Betsy Dunkle.



Birthdays
13 Ellen Stumpf
17 Carol Adkins

www.Homestead.com/thestuffits/TheStuffits.html

able to have it right away. **To any of our regular members that did not receive the Link last month Please email me.** I may have the incorrect address on file. For those that do not have email you will receive your regular copy in the mail. This will take a big load off of your staff, especially your editor.

Our Stuffit's web site is featuring our exhibit at the Bowie Art Center.

Notes and Reminders

Dee Dee Triplett - A Doll of your own - **Nov 5 - 11**
Learn to design and sew a doll of your own, translating your idea into a 3-dimensional figure, even if you've never made a doll.

Arts & Crafts Show & Sale Blue Ridge Nov 4-5 Tables are \$20.00. If you wish to sell your dolls contact Jean Anne Cooper. Jean Anne will have a table and is willing to share.

Betsy Orlando - Victorian Father Christmas - **Dec 3 - 9** - Make a Christmas treasure by creating an old-fashioned Father Christmas with a hand-sculpted head of polymer clay. Only basic sewing skills are necessary.

Lois Bro - Doll Sculpting "Start to Finish" June 10-16 2001

For more information on any of these above classes - contact John C. Campbell Folkschool at 1-800-folkschool

Resources by Marian Burton

Sisters and Daughters-The Complete Source for Cloth Dollmaking Order Airtex stuffing in 16 oz. Bags for \$4.49/bag; 5 lb. Box for \$18.00; or 10 lb. Box for \$32.00. I usually order the 5 lb. Box, which lasts a lo-o-ong time. Your doll bodies will be so smooth when you use this stuffing, no cellulite! You can also get Putnam Special Edition Polyfill in Brown, Black and Carmel at \$3.99 for an 8 oz. Bag. This is great for ethnic dolls. They also have many different kinds of fabric for doll bodies, such as: Doe Suede in 3 flesh colors, different types of knits in different flesh colors, cotton lycra in flesh colors or white, muslins, Windsor Comfort, Windsor Ponte, Robe Velour and Doll Skin.

You can order many different doll makers' patterns from them as well as books on doll making, along with almost anything else you need for cloth doll making. This is a wonderful source.

Web page: www.sistersanddaughters.com

Or order a color catalog for \$2.00 from:

Sisters and Daughters, 32401 Cambridge, Livonia, MI 48154

September Meeting by Dianne Smith

The September Meeting was held in the Blue Ridge Art Center in Seneca. We had much to discuss and many decisions to make as this was the first meeting of our new year. We discussed and voted upon whether to change our meeting date from Wednesday to Saturday so that members that work could attend. Unfortunately we were going to lose more members than we would gain, so we voted to keep the meetings as they are. We also discussed raising dues to \$20.00. It was the general feeling that we needed to do this to cover the cost of the Newsletter and to build a fund for other needs. We also discussed finding a new and larger place to hold meetings. We also discussed who we would like to ask to teach our next Seminar, we decided to ask one of the wonderful instructors in our area for January 2001. Virginia Robertson is scheduled for August 10, 11, and 12th of 2001. She suggested that we do her Mini-Jester, which is a three day class, two for making the doll and one day painting the face. There is a 20 person limit for her class. We then discussed the date for the Christmas Luncheon at Betsy Dunkle's home and agreed on the 9th of December. If you have card tables and chairs that you can bring, please let Betsy know. It would be helpful to bring them to the Nov. meeting. It was announced that the Dollie Mama's Christmas Party will be on December 2, and the Stuffits' are invited. After our business meeting we had a program on the different types of armatures that can be used for figures. Lois demonstrated the use of wire form, which is a fine mesh for sculpting available from Dick Blick Art Supplies. Clemson Variety and Frame Shop carries it in sheets. She also showed sculpting wire, which is also available from Dick Blick and she also said that we could order **Das Pronto**, the sculpting medium used by Hedy Katin from Clemson Variety and Frame Shop. All three products looked very interesting and fun to use. Dianne then demonstrated armatures made of wood, dowels, and wire. These would be used for figures having heavy heads, made from sculpy or other polymer clays. Wood and dowels are available at Lowes for under a dollar. Marian showed the *Armature from Hell*, that she learned in Debra Carruth's class at Dollmakers Magic Seminar in 1996. It is based on Lisa Litchetenfel's method. She also showed the head and hands that she learned in the same class. We all decided that it looked so great we wouldn't want to use it and that we don't really want to put that much time into the inside of the doll. She then showed the armature method that she learned in Joanne Pinto's class at Dollmakers Fiesta in 1998. Everyone agreed that the program was informative and we would like to continue to do these mini-demonstrations and if we have enough room, hands on workshops. We then opened our ugly fabric dolls to everyone's delight and concluded our meeting..



Lois showing Linda Campbell's finished Ugly Fabric Doll

Lois watches Marian during her demonstration



Materials for Oct Meeting & Bag Doll Basics by Lois Bro

Materials to bring for the face drawing lesson at Oct. meeting include crayons, colored pencils, Pima pencils, white pen and chalk, think make up colors. Muslin, fabrics and or stuffed heads.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the bag doll projects. 1. These projects are meant to be fun. Final results are usually very unexpected, sometimes hilarious and sometimes wonderful. 2. They are not compulsory. 3. If you choose to do the bag doll, you are committed to continuing the project— baring any unforeseen complication. The premise of the project is the surprise when you open the bag. 4. **Peeking** before choosing is a **NO NO**. The challenge of getting something unexpected is the point. These projects help you grow and stretch as an artist.

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Take This Doll and Stuff It

• Stuffits' Schedule

- 18th October Meeting at The Blue Ridge Art Center Directions Sept Newsletter
- 15th November Meeting at Betsy's Bring Card tables and Chairs

9th December

Christmas Luncheon at Betsy's

Address for elinor peace bailey's newsletter.

APWPWD

1779 East Ave

Hayward, CA 94541

Plus check for \$10.00

Join the Association of People

Who Play With Dolls newsletter.

MARY TRESSLER, KATHY LEES & US

by Leigh Anne Dabbs and Jean Anne Cooper

Mary Tressler of Texas, our teacher; Kathy Lees of Mountain View Bed & Breakfast, our hostess; the Mountain View Fire Station Community Room and a gang of doll making artist had a grand time September 8,9,10. For good measure Kathy hosted a Victorian Tea Party in her home and an overwhelming boutique of "gotta have's" by all of us.

Those of you who missed this weekend, you missed a real treat! The class with Mary Tressler called the "Doll and Clothes Ensemble" was awe inspiring. Each of us received two packets. One had seven pattern pages of body parts you mix and match, male and female. The second pack had basic clothing you could do the same, plus lots of information for assembling and finishing. Then you could choose the color of fabric she provided of hand dyed doe suede. Mary brought about forty or fifty of her dolls as examples of her pattern's versatility.

If you are looking for a class which provides you with total versatility in your doll making then take a class with Mary Tressler! She has a great web site club called "Seams Like Magic" at

<http://www.homestead.com/SeamsLikeMagic/index.html> Mary really helps you to talk to your doll in the process, search for its individual character, then shows you wonderful techniques in needle sculpting to bring your doll to life.

Leigh Anne says, "She stretched her boundaries to the limit" with her Mandingo Warrior. She made him anatomically correct and as a bonus learned to use the new felting needles we recently got from Sisters and Daughters. This Warrior had hair every where he needed it. That night we were so excited we each cut out the body of another doll and sewed it up the next morning before class. That day we finished body sculpting and face painting after sculpting. We had perfect tiny little turned fingers that were wired. I too, choose to make an ethnic doll, "Miss Ceily French, the Runway Model" in all her simplicity. The second doll, a very tall regal lady may just be the most risqué Madame Pompadour.

We hope you are hooked because we would like to have Mary Tressler at our next retreat in late April 2001 in Clayton, GA.

This was Kathy Lees first endeavor and she did it well. First time I had more than one large table to myself, the same as all the other doll artist. Usually we are squeezed into tiny rooms two to four students at small tables. Kathy, her husband and two cocker spaniels own the Mountain View Bed and Breakfast that sits on top of the world (a Shenandoah Valley mountain).

Sunday, we finished off with a Tea Party. So many people came, oh, what fun was had. We started off the day with our companions, Geraldine Nehl and Judy Ferguson with the wearing of crazy hats. Red for those over 50 and pink for those under (the lighter the younger - LA wore hot pink). We wore Red. First, we sported our hats at the Dollar Tree, wanted to at Wal-Mart and then the Tea. Leigh Anne and I completed our demise of our Southern Ladyship with the rendition of "The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly". By the way, we are ready and available for any of your meetings for five minutes of fun and laughter, just beg a little.

Kathy Lees is a doll artist of great talent, see her work and house on these Web Sites. <http://www.lexingtonvirginia.com> and <http://www.victorianrosedesigns.homestead.com/MountainView.html> Don't miss the next East Coast Connection with the "Hostess with the Mostest" as Leigh Anne declares.

Coming Next Month: The Saga of the Lost Fairy