

Dollmaker's Journey CUSTOMER CONNECTION

Dream ~ Imagine ~ Create ~ Grow ~ Believe ~ Magic

At [Dollmaker's Journey](#) we are passionate about your creative satisfaction!

July 2016 Issue 140

DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY

Copyright 2016 by Dollmaker's Journey

Dollmaker's Journey Customer Connection newsletter is a FREE e-mail newsletter. Tell your friends, family and fellow dollmakers about us, and feel free to forward this newsletter to those who might be interested. You can visit our companion website at: [Dollmaker's Journey](#).

****Notice!****

You can read all the past issues online. Go to: [Customer Connection Newsletter Archives](#). The archives include an easy to follow index to all the past issues.

Dearest Dollmaking Friends,

Despite our very best intentions, life managed to get in the way of the newsletter these past few months. For Mary Ann the most significant change has been the passing of her beloved mother Marion Higgins Zetts – a font of pure, unadulterated, unconditional love to all – especially her five children. For those of you that have experienced this you can appreciate that it takes some time to regroup and get realigned in life.



Marion loved **RED** so the family asked that everyone wear something red to the services. It made for a very joyful and colorful celebration of her life!

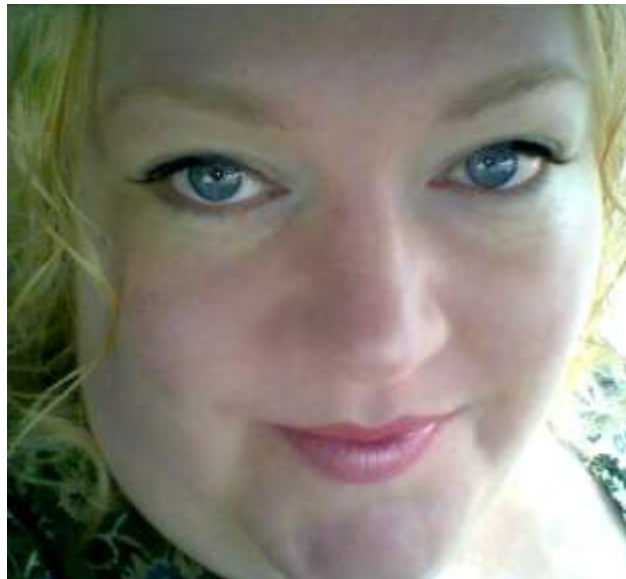
Sara had been juggling teaching college courses and planning the fabulous celebration of her marriage to Larry in another city. Things are finally settling down and getting back to a relative normal. We are resolved to keep doing our best to support you any way we can in your dollmaking journeys.

Mary Ann and Sara

.....
SPOTLIGHT ON AN ARTIST/DESIGNER

Occasionally, in our CUSTOMER CONNECTION Newsletter, we will be doing a spotlight on an artist/designer that we think our fans and customers will find inspiring.

*The featured artist for this issue of CUSTOMER CONNECTION is **GAYLE WRAY**.



Interview Questions

Where are you from?

I've lived in Clearwater, Florida for the past 22 years, but my roots are from as far away as California and Denver.

How did you become a doll artist?

I was looking online one day and came across the beautiful dolls made by Patti Culea and I was inspired to try and make my own. I didn't know how hard it would be! Thankfully Patti's training got me on my feet and I was off and running, mostly to the craft store for more materials.

How long have you been a doll artist?

I began in 2013, so I'm still learning every day. I try new things often and about half the time I come up with a working method.

Where do you find your inspiration?

One of the most inspiring people I know is doll maker Tanya MontQ. Her style and techniques delight me to no end! I'm so inspired by great ladies of the past and fashion trends from the 1780's to the 1980's. I aim for a doll which is somewhat timeless, pulling from the past to create a sense of quality and refinement.

Do you belong to any doll making groups?

I belong to "Professional Doll Makers" run by Jack Johnston, an institution in the doll making community.

Do you teach, and if so, where do customers find that information?

I don't currently teach so those who come to me looking for cloth doll making instruction, I refer to what got me started www.pmcdesigns.com

What materials do you feel are “must haves” when working with doll making?

Great skin fabric like Kona is a must. It holds up to anything you put it through and looks great.

What tips or tricks do you have that you would like to share (doll making, sewing, etc.)?

It really helps to start your doll career as a quilter. You need to become an expert with your sewing machine as well as build up the patience that it takes to work through the doll making journey. I now have two Husqvarna Vikings and use them everyday.

Do you have a personal message you would like to share with our customers?

My best advice is to try as many different methods and tutorials as possible. Seek out and converse with doll maker's whose style you admire. Ask for help. Join networks

and go to meetings. Work with easy to get materials and become as self-sufficient as possible. Organization is vital to having a functioning workspace. Get an organized friend to help you lay out and plan your work area to work for you.

Do you have a blog, Facebook page, Pinterest page, etc. you would like to share? What is the information for these?

Yes I do. Blogging, pinning and posting are a needed break from doll making. It adds balance to your workday and I think promoting yourself is key to reaching your audience.

Here are some of my links:

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GayleWrayDolls>

ebay: <http://www.ebay.com/usr/gaylewraydolls>

dollpile: <http://www.dollpile.com/artist.cgi?id=422>

dollobservers: <http://dollobservers.com/members/GayleWray>

youtube videos: <https://www.facebook.com/GayleWrayDolls/videos>

Are there particular dolls of yours that you would really like to promote more than others?

Recently I've been making doll furniture. I'm in love with anything French Rococo.



Here is a link to a special doll that comes with her own special chair:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/222024286435>



Is there anything else you would like us to include?

I've created some doll quotes for people to use if they'd like.

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/13395431.Gayle_Wray

Please send in your suggestions for artist/designer interviews. Also write in your comments and questions you have for Gayle Wray or Dollmaker's Journey to Sara at Sara@dollmakersjourney.com. We will do our best to get the answers you need, and our artists/designers want to hear from you too!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON FACEBOOK?

If you haven't "Liked" us on Facebook, or visited our page lately, you really should swing by.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND PICK UP A COUPON CODE FOR 20% OFF THE REGULAR PRICES OF ONE ENTIRE ORDER! [DOLLMAKERS JOURNEY FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Our community is growing rapidly, and we would love to include you.

***DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD SPREADSHEET**

We have just started a new spreadsheet for our friends and fans! This item will allow you to find those living relatively close to you. The hope is that this will be an aid where you can build new friendships, work together with people near you, and even start your own, new doll club where you live. Fans and friends simply post their name, country, state and city, and we enter that data into the spreadsheet for you.

Follow this link to see the spreadsheet:

[DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD SPREADSHEET.](#)

Email Sara at Sara@Dollmakersjourney.com to be added to the spreadsheet!

***DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY WORK ALONG**

At the beginning of 2015 we started a new event on our page called "[DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY WORK ALONG](#)"!

This event is for those who would like to work as a group on the same projects. The hope is that those who join will share pictures of their works in progress (WIP), tools and materials they have chosen, tutorials of techniques they use, and photos of their finished projects. Sharing ideas, comments and questions is encouraged. Making videos and sharing them is also cheered.

Every 2 months we will start a new event with a new doll for everyone to work on. We know that there are so many people out there that do not have a local doll club that they can learn from and share with. We are hopeful that this will allow those people, along with others who just want some online friends and encouragement, or

who want to try something a little different, to all collaborate and have a fun experience.

We will select new patterns based on the variety of techniques presented so that everyone has an opportunity to expand on their skillset.

We have had huge success in our six previous events! We have had over 100 people sign up for each event, and many have posted pictures, questions, comments, concerns, tips and tricks. It has been amazing! We have fallen in love with this event, as it has really opened up the dollmaking community for us and for our friends and fans.

NOW FOR THE DETAILS!

We will be announcing our next Work Along sometime next week!

It's never too late to join! Our events remain on our page even after the two months are over. This way you can always refer back to them or continue posting and sharing with others in past events of your choice.

*To see our events, both past and present, go to our Facebook Page "Dollmakers Journey", click on the "More" tab underneath our cover photo to see all available events. Please read the guidelines in each event and then get ready to have some fun sharing!

We look forward to seeing you on Facebook and we will be announcing the next project very soon!

JULY SALE

Our JULY SALE is on!

20% Off Patterns in our FAIRIES AND MERMAIDS Categories!

[PATTERNS](#)

Remember, visit our web site at [Dollmaker's Journey](#) at the beginning of each month to see what our new sale will be. That way you won't have to wait for a newsletter.

DOLLMAKERS JOURNEY DOLL-ARS

Get a bigger bang for your buck at [Dollmaker's Journey](#). We are busy minting DOLLMAKERS JOURNEY DOLL-ARS.



That's just like getting a FREE pattern or having your POSTAGE PAID on your next order!

CHECK OUT THIS BOOK BY BONNIE CLARK, THE DAUGHTER OF OUR VERY OWN BONNIE LEWIS!

Title: Evarance - Rise of the Shadows
Author: Bonnie M. Clark
Publisher: Stealth Books
Release Date: April 2, 2016
Genre: Young Adult Fantasy
Email: author@evarance.com
Formats: Hardcover, Paperback & eBook

Website: www.evarance.com

Amazon Link: http://www.amazon.com/Evarance-Shadows-Bonnie-M-Clark/dp/1939398630?ie=UTF8&keywords=Evarance&qid=1462460176&ref_=sr_11&sr=8-1

Barnes & Noble Link: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/evarance-rise-of-the-shadows-bonnie-m-clark/1123609158?ean=9781939398635>

Synopsis:

When Rachel began having mysterious dreams about another world, she didn't know those dreams would change her life forever. After becoming trapped in a world of dreams turned to nightmares, Rachel must search for a way home before the darkness taking over the land destroys everything she has grown to love. To complicate matters further, her brother and sister are having strange dreams too as they travel worlds away from home in search of their lost sister and the dream that holds her captive. Will Rachel find a way home? Will her brother and sister unlock the mystery of their own dreams? Join them as they journey through the Evarance, where dreams are made real!

Back Cover:

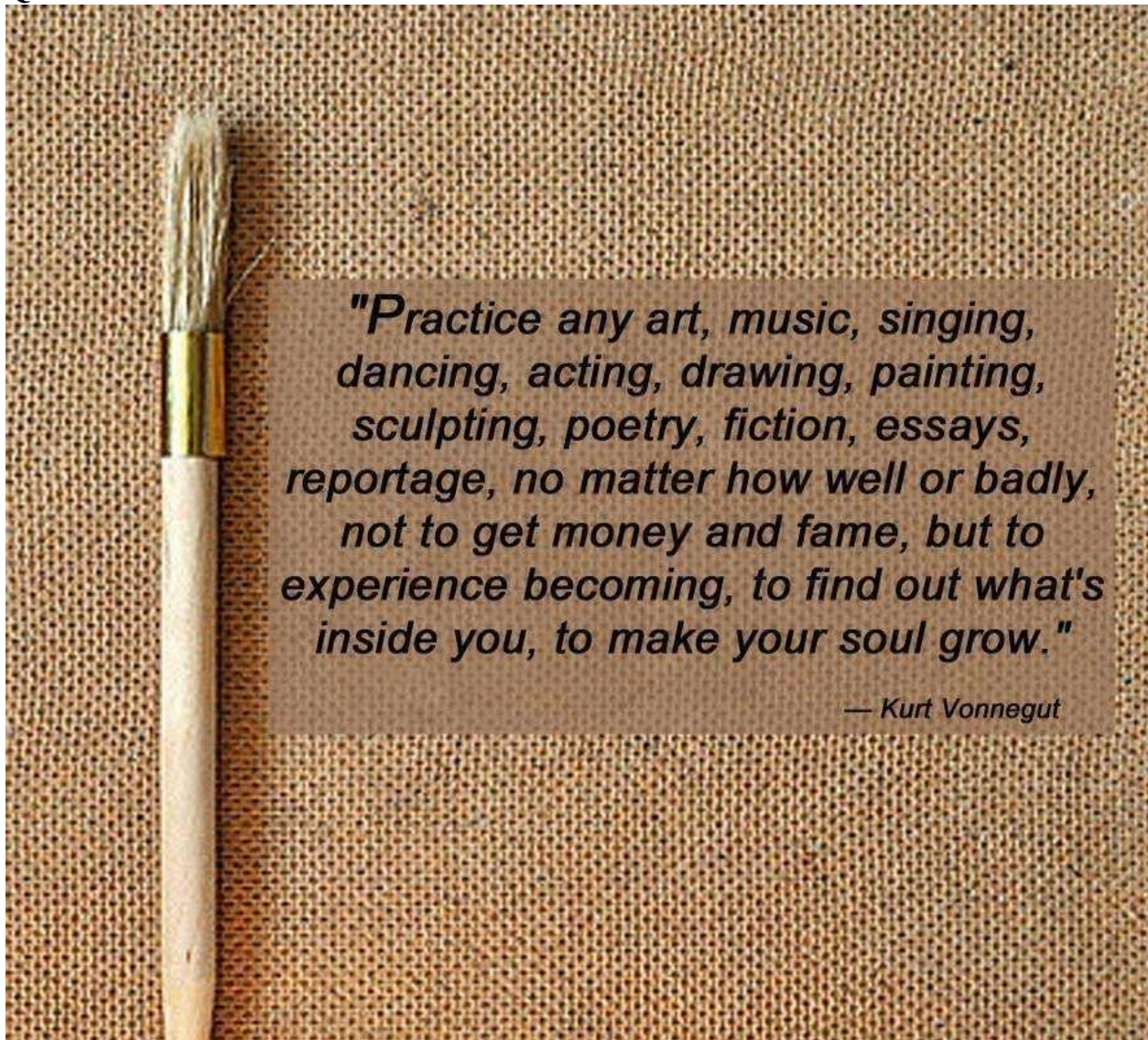
EVARANCE - THE PATHWAY BETWEEN DREAMS AND REALITY

It was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen. She gently lifted the bracelet out of the box and clasped it around her wrist, admiring the little fire charm that shimmered in the sunlight and looked as if it were really burning. She didn't know it yet, but that one simple act would change everything forever.

Trapped in a world of dreams turned to nightmares, Rachel struggles to escape the encroaching darkness and the shadow wolves that hunt her. Aided by firefoxes, mysticorns and other elementals, she must now travel across the land in search of a way to return home. The clock is ticking and death awaits if she fails . . .



QUOTE TO SHARE



TIPS AND TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Great ways to use Rubber Gripper Drawer Liner:

- Place under cutting mat, sewing machine pedal, and sewing machine to keep them from walking
- Place a piece next to your sewing machine to keep small tools from rolling away
- Small pieces make great lint removers – keep them handy by your machine, ironing board, cutting table, in your purse and car

- Place a layer or two under your clamp-on lamp to keep it from marring your cabinet

Helpful information to make your tasks easier! We welcome you to write in and share the things that help simplify your work. Sara@Dollmakersjourney.com

*Our web site features several videos that offer tips and techniques for you to use while dollmaking. You can find them here: [Cloth Dollmaking Tip and Techniques](#).

CHALLENGE UPDATES

As always, we are proud to be a sponsor of the

2016 Cloth Baby Doll Challenges!

This is the 8th year for this very popular challenge and we are featuring 2 challenges ~ The Baby Doll Challenge and a Child Doll Challenge both with a theme of Patriotism/Nationality.

Dolls will be due August 31st and there will be prizes including 2 Original Kezi Dolls!

For more information and all the details go to...

<http://clothdollbabies.com/challenge2016/>

You can go here to [Stampington & Company Calls and Challenges](#) for information on getting published in one of their wonderful magazines. All stipulations and deadlines are listed at the link provided.

UPCOMING EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

The Windy City Doll Workshop will take place in Chicago this year September 29 to October 2, 2016. This year's theme is "CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER". Click here for more information: [WINDY CITY DOLL WORKSHOP](#). Registration is open NOW!



PETALUMA
ARTS CENTER

Journeys Through
Light & Dark:

DOLLS

as Tellers of
Stories

July 23–
September 25
2016

Opening Reception
July 23
5:00–7:00pm

Toby Froud

Toby Froud
Featured Artist

Kate Church
Featured Artist

Genevieve Anderson
Colleen Athens
Stephanie Blythe
Joanne Callander
Nuala Creed
Sheri DeBow
Aimi Dunn
Melody Ellis
Elissa Farrow-Savos

Wendy Froud
Becky Grismer
Sha Sha Higby
Anne Klocko
Sam Koje
Amber Leilani
Pat Lillich
Meagan Lillich
Tanya Marriott
Kevin McTurk
Victoria Mock
Rodrigo Orozoco
Colleen Pattell

elinor peace bailey
Dustin Poche
Laika puppets
Marilyn Radzat
Barbara Redemer
Lisa Renner
Rebecca Schumacher
Laurie Scott
Christine Shively
Christi Silacci
EJ Taylor
Chris Walker
Linda Yaxley

Additional juried artists and displays by doll clubs.

August 13. **Three Muses: elinor peace bailey, Barbara Willis, Anne Klocko** 12:00-1:00pm, followed by indoor and outdoor trunk show

August 19. **Curator tour with Sherri Morgan and Geri Olson** 7:00pm

August 27. **Stephanie Blythe, The Dolls of NIADA**, 12:00pm

September 9. **Performance with Sha Sha Higby**
at Saint John's Episcopal Church, 40 Fifth St., Petaluma.
(Limited seating; see PAC website for details)

FOR EVENT PRICING SEE WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE

Petaluma Arts Center 230 Lakeville St, Petaluma | 707-762-5600 ext 100
www.petalumaartscenter.org | Regular Hours 11:00am-5:00 pm (Closed Tues & Wed)

Program Partners: Spaulding McCullough & Tansil LLP, California Custom Electric and Xandex, Inc.

You can always get all the details on upcoming doll related events at [CLOTH DOLL CONNECTION](http://CLOTHDOLLCONNECTION.com). Please email Sara at Sara@dollmakersjourney.com if you know of events in your area that we can share with our dollmaking community.

.....

SAYING GOODBYE TO BUNNY GOODE

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to the talented doll artist, designer, teacher, friend and fellow Jersey Girl BUNNY GOODE who left us on May 25th. In the words of her devoted husband Ed in a Facebook post:

“It's so difficult to even write this, let alone say it out loud ... Bunny left us yesterday at 2:00 pm, finally having to concede after a many years long fight with cancer. For those so incredibly fortunate to have known her personally, you'll all be glad to know she was kicking cancers ass the whole way ... it may have finally beaten her, but she left a lot of marks on that bastard while going down.”

And that is SO BUNNY!!! In another post Ed lovingly wrote:

“I can think of no nicer tribute to Bunny than the (quite literally) thousands of contacts we have received expressing how she touched so many lives. Funny thing is, she never thought she was anything other than some old hippy chick that liked to play with dolls ... A wonderful lady named elinor peace bailey, that Bunny greatly admired, authored a book called Mother Plays With Dolls that sort of sums up the thinking ... Artists, in general, are a unique group of characters, and I'm convinced that doll artists (for the uninitiated, yes, that is an official description, likely coined by some nutty doll maker) are among some of the most imaginative, abstract, odd, loving, soul-bearing and just plain nuts people in this world. And Bunny was so proud to be a part of that group”

Mary Ann will dearly miss her many long, chatty phone conversations with BUNNY about so many wonderful things. Her indomitable spirit through it all was amazing. Cheers to you, BUNNY!



NEW PRODUCTS FOR YOUR JOURNEY

We work hard to find and add new products to the site as often as possible. You can find the most recent additions here – **NEW PRODUCTS**, but we'd like to highlight a few:

MIMI'S MANNEQUINS & PATTERN DRAPING DVD HAS ARRIVED AT DOLLMAKERS JOURNEY!

Five years in the making, this extraordinary 4 DVD Set condenses a 4 day doll making workshop and 2 day pattern draping workshop into almost 6 hours of classroom video. You will be making beautifully proportioned male and female doll bodies and then learn the techniques to devise any outfit you want. Every dollmakers reference library needs this set! To view a trailer and get all the details of this comprehensive course click here - <http://dollmakersjourney.com/mimi.html>

Have you ever tried making a Cone Doll – you know the ones where the top of the body is attached to a cone and can be pulled down inside? Well **SHARON MITCHELL'S** whimsical “Poppits” is a super fun project for learning how to make them. As always you'll find lots of variations and superb instruction. We also have SHARON'S “Sole Mates” doll that was inspired by a crazy German ashtray! In addition, SHARON has released a wonderful “All About Hands Tutorial” that will take your hand making to a new, more expressive level. You'll just have to take a look <http://dollmakersjourney.com/mitchell.html>

Two of our most popular designers **GINNY LETTORALE** and **MAUREEN MILLS** must never sleep judging by the incredible number of new designs they have been releasing.

From GINNY LETTORALE: www.dollmakersjourney.com/lettorale.html

Garden Glove Bunnies ~ Heart to Heart Pin Keeps ~ Sew So Cute Bunnies ~ Sock It to Winter Snowmen and Snow Bunnies

From MAUREEN MILLS: www.dollmakersjourney.com/mills.html

Tattered Bunnies ~ Sweet and Simple Raggedy ~ Dust Bunnies & Quackers ~ Paint Crew ~ Easy Ornies

Our Steampunk Queen **SUSAN BARMORE** never disappoints. We have two more of her imaginative projects “Steampunk Kangaroo” (a retired class) and “Skating Reindeer.”

The following items are ONLY available from the Etsy Shop -

[DMJourneyDownloads on Etsy](#) where we have 280 downloadable ePatterns so far.

We are delighted that a number of our designers are retiring their former online classes and making them available as downloadable tutorials. Be sure to take a look at these fabulous projects!

From NIADA Artist CINDEE MOYER we have:

Yellow Bird ~ The Gatherers ~ Princess and the Pea ~ Equestrienne II ~ I Hope You Dance ~ Elusive Butterfly ~ Forgiving Goldilocks ~ Finding Her True North

From BARBARA SCHOENOFF:

Temple Dancers ~ Henrietta ~ Morris ~ Pas de Deux ~ Paulina

We also have a wonderful array of patterns from Laura Lunsford, Edna Bridges, Annie Beez and many more.

FREE PROJECTS

The very generous Gloria “Mimi” Winer has given us her fabulous “Elf Named Stretch” to share with you - <http://dollmakersjourney.com/stretch.html>

Please email us if you have a free project you would like to share!

Sara@dollmakersjourney.com

OH NO YOU DIDN'T! – Customer Interpretations on Designer Patterns

Upon customer request, we have decided to include this section for fans and customers to share their creative interpretations on patterns they are using. We know that dollmakers love to take patterns and create something different, inspiring, bold, artistic, and sometimes strange. Show us what you've got!

We are starting an album on our Facebook Page that will include pictures of the dolls our fans have completed using other designers' patterns. ["OH NO YOU DIDN'T" PHOTO ALBUM](#)

Email Sara at Sara@DollmakersJourney.com with your dolls. With your permission, we will share them here and on our Facebook page.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

*Please write in and let us know if you or someone you know has questions or comments to share with us. Sara@dollmakersjourney.com.

CHARITY CORNER

Looking for charity projects that you can engage in while helping others? Visit our [Charity Corner](#) on our web site for information on charities and free patterns from [Dollmaker's Journey](#) that you can use for your projects. Sometimes a doll makes the difference between someone having no one at all to having a special "friend" to talk to and share secrets.

If you know of other charities that we do not have listed on our web site, please write in and let us know!

NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

On May 26th Mary Ann packed her bags, got in her beautiful car "Ruby" and drove by herself from Virginia to Fort Wayne, Indiana to celebrate the marriage of Sara and Larry Baker along with their family and closest friends. It is the longest drive she has ever done on her own - 1228 miles round trip – and worth every minute. Meeting Sara and Larry's parents spoke volumes about why they are two of the most special people on the planet. Such a joy filled day in a beautiful park with a wonderful family.

Sara has been busy instructing college courses, but her schedule has finally calmed down. She is anxious to get back to work with Dollmaker's Journey, and misses interacting with everyone in the dollmaking community.

Sara recently had a vow renewal ceremony with a reception on May 28th. The weather was beautiful and the day went perfectly.



We'd love to hear your thoughts about our Customer Connection newsletter.

Contact the editor Sara Anderson at Sara@DollmakersJourney.com with any comments, suggestions, etc.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any of your friends. Help us spread the word about Dollmaker's Journey! All we ask is that you forward it intact, with all the subscription information included. Thanks!
