

Dollmaker's Journey CUSTOMER CONNECTION

Dream ~ Imagine ~ Create ~ Grow ~ Believe ~ Magic
At [Dollmaker's Journey](#) we are passionate about your creative satisfaction

January 2015 Issue 136

DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY

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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.

Dear Dollmaking Friends,

I am so happy to be starting the New Year off with all of you and our friends on Facebook. I always feel inspired by the beginning of something – the New Year, the new month, the new week, a new project, a new friend, and new ideas. This hasn't changed for 2015. I get in the mode of planning and my mind starts swirling with so many NEW things we can do!

We are so looking forward to adding new articles in our Customer Connection Newsletter throughout the coming months. As you will read below, we are also engaging in new and creative events through our Facebook page, and hope that you take a try at one of them. I don't think you will be disappointed. We are THRILLED at the response we have gotten so far.

It truly amazes us at the creativity of people. The dolls you make are not just some lifeless forms that you finish and toss aside. The stories we hear behind each one are truly heartwarming, and the expression of the artists just comes through and speaks to

us. Thank you for sharing these with us. We hope that you will continue to do so, and that we can all continue growing as a community.

Sara Anderson

CINDEE MOYER has released her 2015 Art Dolls by Cindee Moyer calendar. The pictures are catching and beautiful. Please make sure you check it out:

[ART DOLLS by CINDEE MOYER 2015 CALENDAR](#)



Spotlight on an Artist/Designer

Once a month in our CUSTOMER CONNECTION Newsletter, we will be doing a spotlight on an artist/designer that we carry patterns for on our web site.

We will feature a pattern from that particular artist in one newsletter and ask you to send in photos of your dolls (finished or works in progress) using that pattern to share

with our Dollmaker's Journey community. We will also ask you to write in with Comments and Questions you have about the artist/designer and her/his patterns.

In a newsletter a month later, we will have an article including an interview of the artist/designer with the Question and Comment section from our readers. We will then include the photos you have sent in. We will also be sharing these on our Facebook page.

This is your chance to make a connection with new artists/designers and with others in our dollmaking community!

*The featured pattern for this issue of CUSTOMER CONNECTION is "Blush Angel" by CINDEE MOYER – just in time for the holidays! You can find all available CINDEE MOYER patterns, along with "Blush Angel" here: [CINDEE MOYER](#).



Please send in photos of your "Blush Angel" so that we can include it in our Spotlight on an Artist/Designer featuring Cindee in our next newsletter. Also write in your comments and questions you have for Cindee 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!

Please submit them by JANUARY 16, 2014 so that all can be shared in the newsletter and on Facebook!

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.

We recently had a treasure hunt contest on Fridays through the end of 2014, and we also added a new event to our page called [DOLLMAKERS' SUPPORT GROUP](#). This event is open for all of our friends. It is a place to share ideas, ask questions about tools, fabrics, supplies, techniques, tips and more. If you have a tutorial, show it! If you have a question, ask it! We know that some of our friends do not have doll clubs in their area, so this is a resource for you and for all. Beginner or well experienced, you are all welcome.

*We have also just launched 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.

NOW FOR THE DETAILS!

The first event is for the SHARON MITCHELL's "Santos Doll – All will be well" pattern. We chose this pattern because SHARON MITCHELL is a MASTER at facial expressions, and this pattern is a great opportunity to work in this area. This doll is also a GREAT beginner's doll, as there is no work with legs, feet, and fingers. This, again, allows a focus on the facial expressions. The base is also a great canvas for creativity and personal messages.

This pattern can be purchased by following this link: [SHARON MITCHELL PATTERNS](#).

If you click the link, you will see that the pattern is the second one down. You can print the supply list off, which is recommended so that you can check items off as you purchase them. Follow this link for the supply list: [SANTOS DOLL - ALL WILL BE WELL SUPPLY LIST](#)

This event started JANUARY 1, 2015, for the New Year! There is plenty of time to still join in since the event runs at least two months! We also have a wide variety of dollmaking fabrics and hair. Find it all here: [DOLLMAKER'S JOURNEY](#).

Here are some things we would LOVE to see:

*CREATIVITY – we know some of you like to do some drastically different things when decorating your dolls. Don't hesitate!

*SHARE – photos, tutorials, tips, techniques, videos – we want it ALL! What fabric are you using? What tools do you use? Are there any particular areas of the pattern that you had difficulty with? Did you come up with a trick while working with your project?

*ASK QUESTIONS – we want you to feel comfortable asking questions. If you are shy, you can send Mary Ann Kaahanui, Sara Anderson, or Dollmaker's Journey a private message. We will help you! Also, by posting your questions in this event, you may be helping someone with the same question!

*SUPPORT – support each other. We are all different levels here, so pitch in a hand

even if it is something you think is minor. You never know who you might be helping by mentioning something obscure!

*GIVE US PERMISSION – you don't have to, but if you would, we would LOVE to share your photos, comments, questions, tutorials, videos, etc. on our main page and in our newsletter. We want to show off your work for you!

*HAVE FUN AND KEEP IT CLEAN – we want this to be a fun experience for everyone, and an environment where everyone feels comfortable so that they can learn and grow. Please be mindful of how your post may affect others. This in no way means you cannot have fun!

We already have over 100 people signed up for the first event and it continues to grow. Everyone is sharing photos of their materials, their work spaces, their pets, and their progress on the project. We have even started a spreadsheet with names and locations so that everyone can see who lives near them that is in the event and grow these connections in the dollmaking community. We are also including a map to show locations, and we have a few different countries involved! You know you want to get in on the fun!

*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!

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!

JANUARY SALE

Our JANUARY SALE is on!

This is the month to stock up on patterns in our EXOTIC/FANTASY AND STEAMPUNK categories. Simply follow the link below, and then click on “Exotic/Fantasy” or “Steampunk” in the dropdown box and click “Go!”

[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.

Quote to Share

“Making art is a creative journey that never ends.” – Adele Sciortine, ODACA Artist

TIPS AND TRICKS OF THE TRADE

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

The Hoffman Challenge has recently announced their challenge fabric for 2015. You can see it with 8 coordinating fabrics here:

For more information on the Hoffman Challenge rules and deadlines go here: [Hoffman Challenge](#)

You can also 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 ARTISTIC FIGURES IN CLOTH & CLAY is hosting their popular workshop and vendor sales event in Columbus, Ohio from April 23rd through April 26th 2015. There are many exciting workshops, events and sales for everyone to enjoy.

Double Tree Hotel Columbus/Worthington
175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43235

Tel: 614-885-3334 or 1-800-870-0349

Follow this link for more information: [AFICC Information Central](#).

The ALL DOLLS ARE ART will be hosting their 2015 event called “Final Frontier”. It will be held in Austin, Texas from July 23 through July 26, 2015. They are offering workshops, pin doll swap, vendor sales, lunch packages and banquet.

Wyndham Garden Hotel Austin
3401 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741

Tel: 512-448-2444 or 800-996-3426

Follow this link for more information: [All Dolls Are Art 2015: Final Frontiers](#).

*DOLLWORKS GUILD SACRAMENTO invites you to view there Santa Show during the month of December 2014 at:

The Art of Toys
126 18th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

*FLORAL FOLLIES is a 3 day workshop February 19 – 22, 2015, hosted by ELINOR PEACE BAILY, SALLY LAMPI, GLORIA MCKINON, BETTS VIDAL, BARBARA WILLIS, and PATTI CULEA. Doll bodies will be provided and the days will be spent embellishing them. For more information contact:

Piecemakers
Tel: 714-564-3112
classes@piecemakers.com

*RENOIOWA RETREATS is offering three different retreats during 2015.

You can always get all the details on upcoming doll related events at [CLOTH DOLL CONNECTION](#).

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:

*If you desire to improve the facial expressions of your dolls, then treat yourself to a pattern by New Zealand's SHARON MITCHELL who has an uncanny way of bringing her faces to life. Her two most recent patterns are “Practical Pindora” – a

delightful pincushion doll – and her modern version of an ancient doll style “Santos – All Will Be Well.” We also have the most fabulous doorstep doll that you would never believe is built over a plastic jug called “Hello Dolly.” What a fun project! – [SHARON MITCHELL PATTERNS](#)

*We wish prolific designer GINNY LETTORALE could bottle some of her creative energy! We are always thrilled to bring you more of her delightful patterns. Stop by and see some of her newest - “Color Me Annie,” “Gingerbread Cookie Kids” and “Stick Stack Snow Snowmen” along with the rest of our collection of her Happy Heart Patterns - [GINNY LETTORALE PATTERNS](#)

*Designer and NIADA Artist LESLIE MOLEN is profoundly influenced by Asian Culture. The delicate artistry and gentle grace of that region of the world is reflected in her work. One of her most popular patterns has been her lovely cat “Meow-Meow Neko.” Meow-Meow now has a 26” “Long Ears” friend “Usagi Mimi.” This gentle rabbit was designed in the “kimono hime” style which means “kimono princess.” It is a new way of wearing vintage kimonos with a fresh flair. Both dolls feature LESLIE’S clever eye technique of painting them on covered buttons. –[LESLIE MOLEN PATTERNS](#)

By the way, LESLIE’S Blog - [LESLIE MOLEN BLOG](#) -is a visual and creative treat. She just started a three part series on the creation process of a custom doll that is fascinating! This doll will be a “Happiness” doll and she begins by sharing the following definition of “Happiness” that really resonates –

***Happiness can be defined** in terms of a mental state of satisfaction and contentment; positive feelings/emotions; blessed, achievement and hope.*

***Happiness is** a harmonious state of existence, the individual is the agent of his own happiness; spiritual enrichment is emphasized more than material satisfaction; the individual maintains a positive outlook for the future.*

***Happiness can be achieved**, provided that one has the following abilities: the wisdom of discovery; the wisdom of contentment and gratitude; the wisdom of giving; and the wisdom of self-cultivation.**

*from Chinese [Journal of Happiness Study](#)

*It’s never too early to start thinking of holiday projects. BARBARA SCHOENOFF has just released the exquisite companion for her very popular “Santa” – “Mrs.

Santa.” Another wonderful creative opportunity. – [BARBARA SCHOENOFF PATTERNS](#)

*SUZETTE RUGOLO’S “Alice in Wonderland Series” continues to grow with the addition of “The Mad Hatter” and as a special bonus, the instructions for the beautiful wingback chair he is posed in is included in the pattern. – [SUZETTE RUGOLO PATTERNS](#)

*If you want to get a start on holiday ideas SUSAN BARMORE provides us with three fun projects that make great ornaments or gifts – “Little Angels,” some Steampunk “Cat and Dog Ornaments” and a marvelous “Flying Monkey!” – [www.dollmakersjourney.com/barmore.html](#)

*Our favorite Dragon Charmer JENNIFER CARSON treats us to her tender faerie mother “Sybil” and the fun little “Tidbit Faeries” that are the perfect size for a pin, ornament or tiny doll. - [JENNIFER CARSON PATTERNS](#)

*We have two fun painted muslin projects from KAREN NIEFORTH – “Reindeer” and “Ewe and Me” – that are quick and easy to make - [KAREN NIEFORTH PATTERNS](#)

*We are always excited to welcome new designers to Dollmakers Journey. We have our first pattern from Alaska’s KAREN SMITH called “Merry Kuspuk Moose.” The moose is wearing a traditional native costume called a Kuspuk. Her pattern has been a big hit in Alaska but we think dollmakers in the Lower 48 will be charmed by it, too! Mary Ann can’t wait to make one for a dear friend who used to live in Alaska. – [KAREN SMITH PATTERNS](#)

*Over in the FABRIC DEPARTMENT we are adding in a line of KONA COTTON and the first four colors - Pale Flesh, Latte, Light Parfait and Earth - are now available. We will be adding in many more colors to give you the broadest range of skin tones possible - [KONA COTTON FABRICS](#).

FREE PROJECTS

We have a super collection of FREE projects on the site. The most recently added is the directions for the HANDS OF LOVE BLANKET that Mary Ann and her daughter Ana made for their family. You can find the instructions and story behind the project here - [HANDS OF LOVE BLANKET](#).

Why not try this adorable Button Butterfly Doll designed by SHERRY GOSHON. Imagine the different things you could do with this pattern. How about a fairy or angel? [BUTTON BUTTERFLY DOLL](#).

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!

KATHRYN FLINTOFF wrote in to tell us that she finished a wonderful 2 day class with JILL MAAS, and she gave us a couple of wonderful pictures to share!





Aren't they darling?

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

*Recently in our Facebook Dollmakers' Support Group, SARA RAWLINS asked for suggestions on working with velvet/velveteen and keeping it from fraying. We found a tutorial at this link [How to Sew With Velvet and Velveteen](#), but it did not really cover the fraying issue. Please write in if you have suggestions that will help with this dilemma.

- FANNY WEIRAUCH posted: "We used to dye our own fabric and I would just do a "blanket stitch" on the edges of all my fabrics. Especially those that are handled a lot or are sewn with narrow stitching."

- JANE BOYD posted: "It obviously depends what you are using it for but I tend to stabilize it with a very lightweight iron on interfacing .You lose the stretch but it doesn't fray and it's a whole lot easier to control. Doesn't seem to affect the drape too much."

- PAMELA HASTINGS posted: "I am also a fan of light weight iron-on interfacing to make those temperamental fabrics easier to handle. Check your iron temperature on a scrap of the velvet or silk before ironing. Then you can draw the pattern piece right on the interfacing with an extra fine point sharpie and the piece won't stretch out of shape."

- Dollmaker's Journey posted this YouTube video for tips and techniques when working with velvet/velveteen: [HOW TO SEW WITH VELVET AND VELVETEEN](#).

*JANE BOYD wrote in that she would like to hear about people's favorite methods of mounting dolls on bases. She states that she uses the "telescopic tubes" method, but wants to hear other ways.

- LAURA LAURIE MCCURRY posted: "Depends on the doll. I've mounted using copper rods and using different thickness dowel rod."

- SYLVIA SCHORR posted: "Whenever I design a doll, the first thing I consider is the future...how will the structure of the doll hold up on rods over time, or on a separate base? Remember, each doll is a journey of you the creator, that someone somewhere in the future will hold proudly in their collection. Let your doll tell you what she wants..."

- ELLA BELLE KILLEEN posted: "I use copper rods, dowels. I also use pvc pipes, depending on the doll. I am blessed with a husband that makes amazing displays and stands for me."

- ROBIN LITSINGER posted: "I use wire for armatures. One leg has a tube that goes up as far as the knee from the foot up. Then in the wood base I hammer a long nail through from the bottom up through the top. After the doll is finished (be sure the hole is open where the tube comes through the bottom of the shoe) slide the leg with the tube over the nail. The doll will look freestanding."

- MARY ANN KAAHANUI of Dollmaker's Journey posted: "I have often sewn a pocket on the doll's back that a dowel can slip into and the bottom of the dowel goes into a plaque. That way the doll can easily be removed."

- PAMELA HASTINGS posted: “For mounting mixed media dolls on bases I like Apoxie Sculpt...mix two parts and sculpt a connection between anything and anything else...then paint with acrylic. I have attached wheels to a number of dolls with this.”

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

Mary Ann had her usual attack of “Christmas Crazies” – trying to get too much done in too little time – but it all worked out beautifully. Her beau Larry was home for the holidays from the Cayce/Reilly Massage Therapy School and kept her well fed and cared for with his always calming presence. They traveled to NJ for a wonderful celebration with Mary Ann’s family. She made one of CINDEE MOYER’S “Blush Angels” for her Mom and printed the names of her five children on ribbons to flow down the skirt then ended up making seven more angels for family and friends. Mary Ann is doing her best to get caught up with everything after the holidays and is looking forward to getting started on her “Santos” doll for our Facebook Work Along Project.

Sara had a wonderful holiday season. She crammed to finish making last minute gifts, but all turned out well. Her family had plenty of fun and way too much food. It is always nice to spend that time, share stories and memories, and joke with each other.

This year, Sara did most of her Christmas shopping online, or made gifts herself. Black Friday sales just weren’t as appealing as they have been in previous years.

She is also looking forward to collaborating with others in the new work along event on Facebook, working on a doll with other dollmakers, and hoping to make some tutorials and try some new materials.

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!
