

## Dollmaker's Journey CUSTOMER CONNECTION

Dream ~ Imagine ~ Create ~ Grow ~ Believe ~ Magic

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

January 2016 Issue 139

\*\*\*\*\*

# 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Dollmaking Friends,

Now that the holidays are behind us, what projects are you excited to start in the coming year? It is our goal at Dollmakers Journey to provide you with the highest quality patterns and supplies that get your creative juices flowing and enable you to do your best work.

We know that many of you, particularly our dear clients outside of the USA, would enjoy the instant satisfaction of downloadable patterns and lack of postage fees. We are thrilled to announce that we have just opened an ETSY shop called DMJourneyDownloads. Click this link - [DMJourneyDownloads on ETSY](#) - for all the downloadable patterns we can gather from our awesome designers! It will be a combination of patterns available in printed form on our website and some that will ONLY be in the downloadable format. We hope you will visit often to see what we've added to the collection.

Know that we are here to support you on your dollmaking journey however we can and love being able to communicate with you instantly on our Facebook Page - [DMJ](#)

[Facebook Page](#). Our Work Along Events have been a great success and we have some terrific projects planned for this year. It is the perfect place to share photos of your work in every stage to be admired and appreciated by other people who GET what you do.

There were a number of significant life events that got in the way of our routinely publishing this newsletter last year. We are resolved to get it back on track so that we can keep you informed, updated and entertained.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve your creative spirits!

Mary Ann and Sara



THEME FOR 2016

SHARE THE LOVE – TEACH SOMEONE TO MAKE A DOLL

There are some who consider cloth dollmaking a dying art. How did you start dollmaking? Was it a progression from a lifelong interest in sewing? Did your quilt group arrange a dollmaking class? Were you sparked by a dollmaking book or magazine you happened upon? Were you taught by a close friend or relative?

Many of us enjoy a wide variety of needle arts that we can so easily combine in our dollmaking. In doing so we pour our love into every stitch, brushstroke and bead and the dolls become a physical representation of the joy we experience making them. Let 2016 be the year we share that special joy with others and expand our ranks!

Who could you teach?

Child – grandchild – neighbor – co-worker – club member – scout troop –

Designer PATTI CULEA and I were discussing this and she shared the following: “Recently, in nearly all of the classes I’ve taught I’ve had mothers & daughters learning together. The daughters are anywhere from 12 years to 30 years old. It has been very encouraging. And, I think younger people are getting interested in doll making. I know two of my granddaughters and a niece want to learn to make dolls and their clothing.”

Let’s get a discussion started about how we are going about this either with individuals or groups, the best ways to begin with children, what kind of projects

would appeal to quilters who have never made a doll and so on. We invite you to share your thoughts and experiences with us. Next issue I'll tell you about a special dollmaking weekend I had with two of my sisters and their daughters when they were younger and I look forward to hearing the stories you have to share. So keep this in mind ~

**SHARE THE LOVE – TEACH SOMEONE TO MAKE A DOLL!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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](mailto: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 OF OUR EVENTS!*

February 15<sup>th</sup> will kick off the “Dollmaker’s Journey Work Along – “Poppet” by Victoria DiPietro.

“Poppet” is a unique pattern that combines paperclay sculpting of the head and a cloth doll body using ribbon jointing! If you have wanted to try your hand at sculpting, this one is for you.

We want to know, WHAT KIND OF SPIN CAN YOU PUT ON THIS DOLL?

THIS PATTERN CAN BE PURCHASED AS A CD ON OUR WEBSITE: [POPPET CD](#), OR AS A PDF DOWNLOAD ON OUR NEW ETSY SITE: [POPPET on Etsy](#).

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: [POPPET SUPPLY LIST](#).

\*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

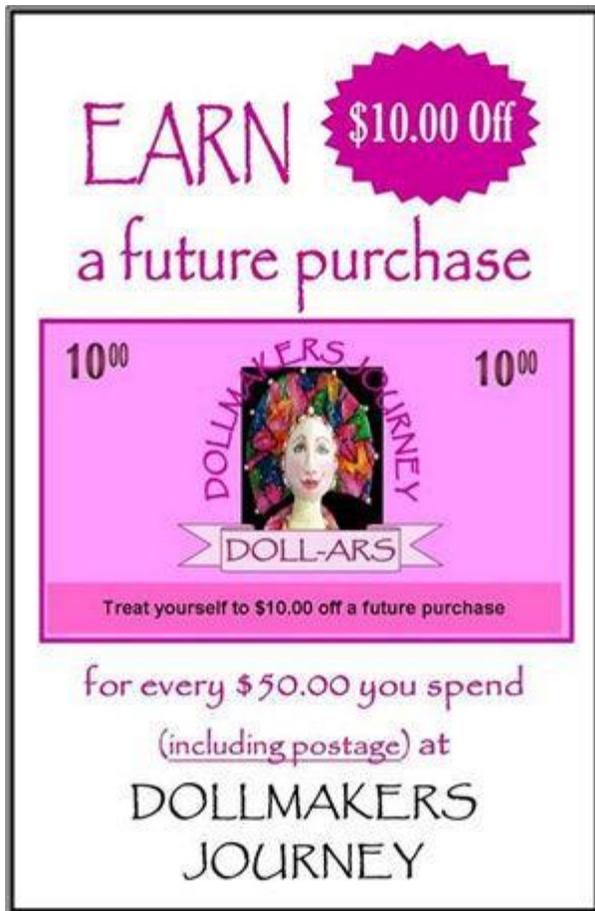
events. Please read the guidelines in each event and then get ready to have some fun sharing!

**We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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!

It seems that many dollmakers like restocking their supplies at the beginning of the year so our JANUARY SALE will give you a 20% discount on TOOLS and PAINTS/FINISHES.

[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**

*“Every artist was first an amateur.”* – Ralph Waldo Emerson

\*\*\*\*\*

**TIPS AND TRICKS OF THE TRADE**

Our friend, LOIS MORAN, wrote in to us about joints for small felt animals. She has mentioned how difficult it is to find joints that are small enough for these projects. She states that a material called Stone Clay can be used to make small circles and washers can be used to make the backup plates. To help you out, she has also found a company that will ship cotter pins to you free upon purchase! They can be found on amazon or you may write to them. Here is the information:

ASMO Industrial  
19087 W. Casey Road  
Libertyville, IL 60048



Thank you for your help LOIS!

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](mailto: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

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](#).

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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:

“She Sang, It’s Over!” is the newest pattern from the super talented ARLEY BERRYHILL and this Viking clad opera singer is definitely stealing the show! You can meet her here – [ARLEY BERRYHILL](#).

We’ve added quite a few new items from the very popular GINNY LETTORALE including: “Prim Little Critter Cups,” “Sweet as Sugar Gingers,” “Standing Snow Buddies,” “Snow Cream Cones,” “Frosty and Little Friends” and “Folk Art Chimney Santas.” You can see the full collection of GINNY’S patterns here - [GINNY LETTORALE PATTERNS](#).

“How to Sew Little Felt Animals” is a charming new book By SUE QUINN that is filled with wonderful forest creatures in lovely outfits you’ll find hard to resist. – [BOOKS](#).

These items are ALSO available as downloads from our Etsy Shop - [DMJourneyDownloads on Etsy](#).

We are so happy to announce that talented dollmaker SHASHI NAYAGAM from the United Kingdom is jumping into the designer pool with the release of her first pattern “Appleberry.” We are offering this marvelous, mischievous character in both printed and PDF formats and are looking forward to many more exciting patterns from SHASHI! – [SHASHI NAYAGAM](#).

We are thrilled and delighted to welcome the newest designer to our Dollmakers Journey family – New Zealand’s own SHERYL D’ATH. Supported and mentored by SHARON MITCHELL, SHERYL’S first pattern “All About Eve” is one of the most beautifully proportioned cloth doll bodies we have ever seen. You will love all the wonderful construction details and body sculpting techniques. This pattern is sure to become a classic and you can get yours by clicking here – [SHERYL D’ATH](#).

“Don’t Hate Me Because I am Beautiful” is the perfect title for STEPHANIE NOVATSKI’S newest pattern. Stop by and take a look and you’ll see why. We are offering both the CD and PDF versions of this great project. – [STEPHANIE NOVATSKI](#).

**The items are ONLY available from the Etsy Shop - [DMJourneyDownloads on Etsy](#).**

“Here Kitty Kitty” is a fantastic new design by NIADA Artist CINDEE MOYER that will only be available as a downloadable pattern. Stop by and take a look.

Take these broken wings and fly away..... "Blackbird" is a poignant mixed media piece created by NIADA artist CINDEE MOYER as she was dealing with the pain of a family tragedy.

You’ll find some truly fantastic projects from our Steampunk Queen SUSAN BARMORE including “Honey Detector,” “Toymaker,” “Crow Ornament” and ‘Pig Plane.’”

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FREE PROJECTS**

Speaking of pincushions, we have a fabulous FREE pattern called “La Bouche Pincushion” from the wildly talented KATE ERBACH that’s a real hoot! It would also make a super fun club project– [LA BOUCHE](#).

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 a lot of creative fun last fall crocheting a wide variety of gifts including five sets of Star Wars characters, 3 baby blankets, an entire array of foods from a delightful book called “Ice Box Crochet” a dinosaur and an elephant along with making a very special Santa from the BARBARA SCHOENOFF pattern for a custom order. She continues to travel to NJ several times a month to spend time with her mother.

Sara has had a very busy couple of months recently. She is now instructing college courses in the Criminal Justice field at a local community college. She greatly enjoys teaching and interacting with others in the classroom.

Sara’s holidays were wonderful! She and her husband spent Christmas day with family in Fort Wayne, IN, and also with family in Angola, IN at the beginning of January. She readily admits that her tree is still up in the living room because she refuses to enjoy it for only one month out of the year!

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Contact the editor Sara Anderson at [Sara@DollmakersJourney.com](mailto: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!

\*\*\*\*\*