

Dollmaker's Journey CUSTOMER CONNECTION

Dream ~ Imagine ~ Create ~ Grow ~ Believe ~ Magic

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

February 2015 Issue 137

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,

Can you believe that it is already the second month of the year? It seems like we were just celebrating all the holidays!

Dollmaker's Journey continues to grow and develop in new and sometimes surprising areas. We are continually adding new designers to our patterns, new products for our customers, and new ways to connect with our friends, fans, artists, designers and customers. We have so much going on that sometimes it feels like a whirlwind – a good one however!

We appreciate all that you, the friend/customer/fan/designer/artist, do to help us continue supporting the dollmaking community. We love all the participation we are getting in our activities the last few months. We hope that you will continue your journey with us, and let us know how we are doing as we work to serve you.

Sara J. Anderson

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 also ask you to write in with Comments and Questions you have about the artist/designer and her/his patterns.

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 of dolls you have made using her/his patterns. 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!

This month's artist is CINDEE MOYER.



Cindee was recently inducted into the National Institute of American Doll Artist. To see the NIADA article about Cindee, follow this link: [CINDEE MOYER NIADA ARTICLE](#). Cindee's work is deeply inspiring, and you can also own a copy of her 2015 Calendar that shows a variety of her work by ordering here: [CINDEE MOYER 2015 ART DOLLS CALENDAR](#).

Here is her latest creation – “Embrace Life”!



CINDEE MOYER INTERVIEW

How did you become a doll artist?

“I have always loved dolls. I did a lot of crafts through the year: cross stitch, quilting, basket making, wood craft painting, canvas painting and murals. I came across the first issue of Art Doll Quarterly that featured a story on Akira Blount and I saw her wonderful work. I was able to attend one of her workshops a few months later and it was that experience and her encouragement that got me on my way.”

How long have you been a doll artist?

“In the 1980’s I had a cottage industry where I made cornhusk dolls and wholesaled them to over 200 stores across the country. After about 5 years and wa-a-ay too many cornhusks, I just stopped. I made some dolls from other people’s patterns and then after Akira’s workshop in 2004, I began my own journey.

Where do you find your inspiration?

“I get inspirations everywhere. Fabric, music, fashion, sculpture, paintings....it’s like my mind is constantly evaluating what I am seeing as a possibility for a doll or some component of a doll.”

Do you belong to any doll making groups?

“I was recently voted in as an artist member to the National Institute of American Doll Artists, NIADA. I live in an area where there are no doll groups to my knowledge and the art doll as an art form is relatively unknown.”

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

“I have been teaching for the past several years at www.joggles.com. However, she is dropping al of her classes the end of this year [2014]. I also teach online at www.aforartistic.com as well as travel to do workshops around the country.”

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

“Good muslin, I love Dolskin knit for my heads and hands, teeny tiny turning tubes, hemostats, quilting thread, great fabrics for costuming. Embroidery scissors for cutting around tiny fingers.”

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

“Since the fingers on my dolls are so small, I make my own itchy-bitsy turning tubes using a 1/32” brass rod and 1/16” brass tube. They can be found at hobby stores that sell model airplanes, etc.”

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

“Dollmaking is an art form. As such, it is subject to review, whether it is asked for or not. Create your dolls for yourself. Enjoy the process as much, if not more, than the finished product. IF they sell or become gifts then that’s a bonus!”

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

Website: www.cmoyer.com

Etsy: www.cmoyer.etsy.com

Facebook: Cindee Moyer

Pinterest: Cindee Moyer

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

“I just finished a simple little angel that I’d like to write up as a pattern... Maybe I can get that ready in the next week so that you could include it.” – and she did!

You can find her “Blush Angel” pattern, along with her other patterns we carry here: [CINDEE MOYER PATTERNS](#).

Dollmaker’s Journey’s very own Mary Ann Kaahanui made some Christmas gifts for her family using the new “Blush Angel” pattern. She used the material from a gown of her mother’s for the wings, and made ribbons with names of family members and attached them to the angel she made for her mother. What a heartwarming thing to give to her loved ones. I know they will cherish them.



*Next month's artist is STEPHANIE NOVATSKI. As you know from our "What's Happening on Facebook" article, our next event that kicks off on March 1st includes this artist's "Flirty Flora" pattern. If you have questions for Stephanie, or want to share your comments and photos with her and our other fans and customers, please feel free to get in touch with us

Please 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!

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.

*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.

NOW FOR THE DETAILS!

*Our first event for SHARON MITCHELL's "Santos Doll – All will be well" pattern has been a smashing success! This event started January 1st, 2015 and will run until at least the end of February. There is still time for you to join in! "[SANTOS DOLL - ALL WILL BE WELL" WORK ALONG EVENT](#)"

Please use these links to see Work in Progress pictures and Completed Dolls using this pattern:

["Santos Doll - All Will be Well" WIP Photos](#)

["Santos Doll - All Will be Well" Completed Dolls Photos](#)

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](#)

*We just announced our second Work Along event that will kick off on March 1st, 2015 - ["FLIRTY FLORA" WORK ALONG EVENT](#). We have chosen STEPHANIE NOVATSKI'S "Flirty Flora" pattern and tutorial bundle to work with. We chose this pattern because it will give us the opportunity to learn about wire armatures and attaching dolls to a base. The patterns included allow for a variety of creative expressions too!

Stephanie's CD/PDF is JAMMED packed with details, pictures, instructions, and step by step tutorials. The CD/PDF that STEPHANIE NOVATSKI has put together for this doll is really the equivalent of an online course!

Included in the CD/PDF, you will find:

- Supply List
- Read Me First Instructions
- 10 photos of completed dolls
- 53 pages of very detailed, step by step instructions including photos
- Pattern pages
- BONUS: 5 pages of instructions and photos for Steampunk Flora

THIS PATTERN CAN BE PURCHASED BY FOLLOWING THIS LINK: [STEPHANIE NOVATSKI PATTERNS](#). If you click the link, you will see that the CD/PDF is about halfway down the list of Stephanie's patterns.

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: ["FLIRTY FLORA" SUPPLY LIST](#)

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!

FEBRUARY SALE

Our FEBRUARY SALE is on!

This is the month to stock up on patterns in our ANIMALS category. Simply follow the link below, and then click on “Animal” 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

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” – Pablo Picasso

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

One of our Facebook fans recently had a question about how to clean mohair. Fan WENDY BETHEL wrote in:

“If you want to clean the mohair, it is pretty easy; I used to buy whole fleeces and clean and dye them. Now I use my stash or buy already dyed locks at fiber shows. But to clean mohair the main thing is not to agitate it. First I go through the mohair and pick out any bigger pieces of dirt/straw etc. that are hanging from it, without pulling the locks apart too much. You might not have much of that if your mohair is cleaner to start with; I have started with mohair caked in mud before and gotten it clean.

Then I fill the sink (bathroom sink in my case) with warm water and stir in a mild dish soap like Dawn; then I gently lay the mohair in and make sure it is completely submerged and let it sit for anywhere from an hour to sometimes several hours if I forget about it. Depending on how dirty it is I might repeat this changing the water one to three times. The most agitating of the mohair I do is to gently squeeze the soapy water through it. Think washing delicate sweaters where you don't want them to pill. Then once the soaking water is clean after a soak, I squeeze out the excess water and run a sink of rinse water and do the same thing, changing the water until it's no longer soapy.

Then i put the locks into a smooth dishtowel (not a terry cloth one) and roll them up gently to remove excess water. To dry, I use cookie racks and set the wet locks on them until they are dry, turning them after one side feels pretty dry. If you do not have poorly behaved dogs and/or nosy cats, you can even set the rack over a heating vent but be warned--your house will smell like wet goat for a while!”

Thank you for your help Wendy!

*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 TUCSON SPRING DOLL SHOW & SALE is having their “Springtime Garden Party” Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. You will find antique, vintage, modern and art dolls, teddy bears, miniatures, accessories, parts, supplies, restringing and repair, identification and appraisals at his event.

Sabbar Shrine Center

450 Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716

Follow this link for more information: [Tucson Doll Show](#).

*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 2015 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:

*SUSAN BARMORE fans are going to love her three newest patterns - "Sammy," "Steampunk Wrens" and "Fall Birds." Each of the painted muslin birds are embellished with either embossed or plain foil tape that is INCLUDED in each pattern. Best of all THEY ARE ON SALE! – <http://dollmakersjourney.com/barmore.html>

Many of you know ODACA Artist STEPHEN RAUSCH from the inspiring classes he has taught at AFICC. He has just released an outstanding hat making course on CD called “Thoroughly Modern Millinery - Patterning & Construction of Period Hats & Headpieces from Unorthodox Materials.” This comprehensive CD will teach you all you need to know to create exceptional hats/headpieces for your dolls. – <http://dollmakersjourney.com/books.html>

We have fallen in love with the artistry of TERESA PIETRAS! You may have seen her work in Art Dolls Quarterly. We are thrilled to have her first pattern – “Lilly – A Fantasy Rabbit CD.” TERESA’S pattern presentation is exceptional and there are options for making the doll as a human figure as well. Do treat yourself to a look at this pattern – <http://dollmakersjourney.com/pietras.html>

*We have three great new patterns GINNY LETTORALE - “Angel Cake Annies” are sweet confections indeed! “Canned With Raggedy Love” presents Annie, Andy and Teddy as delightful stump dolls, and “The Gangs All Hare” are darling rabbits. You can check out all of her wonderful patterns here – <http://dollmakersjourney.com/lettorale.html>

*A little bit of terry cloth and felt can transform into the darling Mama and baby elephants “Peaches & Peanut” by VICKI RILEY. - www.dollmakersjourney.com/riley.html

*“For My Mommy” is a charming set of plush felt bunnies by LAURA HAKES – www.dollmakersjourney.com/hakes.html

*Over in the FABRIC DEPARTMENT we are expanding our selection of KONA COTTON with five new colors: Cream, Dusty Peach, Sand, Tan and Wheat. – [KONA COTTON FABRICS](#).

*Be sure to pick up a very handy QUILTERS DUST BRUSH to help keep your sewing machine free of pesky dust and lint while we are working. – http://dollmakersjourney.com/dollmaking_tools.html#QBrush

FREE PROJECTS

Looking for a little fun while working hard at the books? Why not try this free project by COLLEEN BABCOCK: [Cloth Doll Pencil Toppers](#).

Want to learn how to make wings? JEAN BERNARD offers a free tutorial here: [Flower Children's Wings](#).

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

We asked SANDRA EGGETT what method she uses to curl wool for hair. Here is her response:

"I wrapped the wool loosely around wooden kebab skewers. Then I put them in the sink and poured boiling water over them. Make sure they are wet thru and then take out of the water (careful it's hot) and wrap them in a towel to mop up the excess water. I then lie them on a metal cake rack and into the oven. (I put them on the rack rather than a tray so that the hot air will circulate around them). I have an electric oven and put it on a medium heat, 160 degrees. I baked them for 45mins. Take them out and let cool before sliding off the sticks. In the past I have used metal knitting needles and if you want looser curls you could use wooden dowel rods.

I find they keep curly forever if you use this method, takes a little while but worth it.

Oh and I always use 100% wool, actually because I wanted several different colours I used Tapestry Wool that I found in my neighbourhood Charity Shop.

Thank you Sandra!

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 travels to NJ as often as possible to visit her aging parents. The family home is in the process of being sold and soon that chapter will be closed. At the moment she is scrambling to complete a custom order creating two dolls for a movie being made by college students for their senior thesis. She'll have more details about the project to share in the next issue!

Sara is currently preparing for a move from Kalamazoo, Michigan to Indianapolis, Indiana. Her Larry accepted a new job and this is where they will be relocating. Packing is taking up the majority of her time at the moment, though there is so much she would rather be doing in the workshop with her dolls and Dollmaker's Journey.

Sara is very excited that there is an active doll club in the community that she will be able to participate in on a monthly basis. She will also be living near a major airport to be able to easier travel places.

Sara is also anxiously awaiting her homework for the upcoming AFICC workshop in Columbus, Ohio in April. She cannot wait to meet some of her new friends there.

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!
