

Dollmaker's Journey CUSTOMER CONNECTION

Dream ~ Imagine ~ Create ~ Grow ~ Believe ~ Magic

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

April 2015 Issue 138

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,

After a long, cold winter, spring is bursting forth with new life everywhere you look. I am blessed to live in an area where the beautiful cherry blossoms are abundant. I love seeing all the new things poking through the yards around the neighborhood as I walk my dog Pete each day.

Spring is the perfect time to try something new and unexpected with your dollmaking. Do you always make pretty ladies? Try making a troll and give yourself permission to do not-so-pretty. Do you prefer using knits? Try a woven and maybe even a subtle print or batik instead of a solid color for the body. Like making crazy older ladies? When is the last time you made a baby doll? Do something outside your regular dollmaking box and watch yourself grow!

I have been tagging and packing for many days now in preparation for my trip to Columbus, Ohio next weekend for the Artistic Figures in Cloth & Clay. It is always exhilarating to spend time in person with the wonderful dollmakers who have supported Dollmakers Journey all these years. I am also excited to see dear Sara who

will be taking classes and giving me a hand. If you are not attending the conference but live in the region, I hope you'll come to shop and see the always outstanding doll exhibit.

Wishing you all a glorious spring and for all our friends in the Southern Hemisphere a fantastic fall,

Mary Ann

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 STEPHANIE NOVATSKI.



*STEPHANIE NOVATSKI INTERVIEW

How did you become a doll artist?

“I originally started out making costumes, wedding gowns and doing fine hand embroidery. This morphed into Crazy Quilting which used all the skills sets I had developed. While in a quilt shop looking for fabric, I saw dolls on display by the doll club that met there. I was preparing to retire from my day job so signed up for a class and then joined the club.”

How long have you been a doll artist?

“I made a few dolls in the 1980's, one in the style of Cabbage Patch that won a contest at a local fabric store, but didn't develop an obsession until 2004. I have trouble following patterns, including my own!, so started designing the patterns for the dolls I saw in my head. I was an engineer in my working life, so my dolls are engineered from the ground up! I do sketch each one though it is more of a cartoon, noting the fabrics, fibers etc I plan to use.”

Where do you find your inspiration?

“I am inspired by anything and everything. Bees Knees was inspired by those tiny flower pots and purchased sunflowers. If I see and interesting fabric or fiber, I will design a doll using it. I also am inspired by movies, songs and literature. I love challenges too!”

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

“I have cut back on my teaching due to family obligations and my dislike of traveling. When I do teach, I will post the information on my Facebook page or my blog.”

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

“I find that I am very attached to Southern Belle high count 100% muslin, cream. I use this for all my doll heads and bodies. I love the hand of the fabric, texture, how it takes color. I do not prewash the fabric, I like to work with it straight from the bolt. It loses some of its give and smooth surface after it is washed or dyed.”

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

“The greatest tip I can give to anyone is to try different methods from different designers or sources and pick the one that works best for you. There is no right or wrong way, only what you feel comfortable with. One tip that I learned when I did costuming and wedding gowns, don't make your sewing and thread so strong that the if any pressure is applied, the fabric rips! It's better if the thread breaks! Keep this in mind when sculpting faces. Also, there is no such thing as a mistake, just an opportunity for creative engineering!”

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

“I love to visit the gallery on DMJ. I am always so impressed by the dolls and interpretations created and shared on these pages.”

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

Blog: novasblossoms.blogspot.com

Facebook: Stephanie Novatski

Pinterest: Stephanie Novatski

Website: novasblossoms.com

Is there anything else you would like us to include?

“Thank you to all who purchase my patterns, I am always available if you have and problems, questions, issues etc. I love to hear from other dollmakers and any suggestions or comments they may have.”

KATIE BOCK wrote in to share a couple dolls she made using Stephanie's “One Kiss is Not Enough” pattern. Aren't they great?



*Next month's artist is JILL MAAS. As you know from our "What's Happening on Facebook" article, our next event that kicks off on May 1st includes this artist's "Dancing Doris" pattern. If you have questions for Jill, 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 Jill 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](#)

***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 two 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!

May 1st will kick off the “Dollmaker’s Journey Work Along – “Dancing Doris” by Jill Maas Event.

“Dancing Doris” is one of our top selling patterns – perhaps you already own it! This pattern will allow us to master dolls that stand alone with leg armatures (no base needed) and also works with knit fabrics. In addition, you will learn to convey an exuberant expression in face and body posture.

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

THIS PATTERN CAN BE PURCHASED BY FOLLOWING THIS LINK: [JILL MAAS PATTERNS](#). You will need to scroll down to find the “Dancing Doris” pattern.

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: ["DANCING DORIS" SUPPLY LIST](#)

***PAST EVENTS:**

Here is a list of our past events, including links to the Facebook photo albums so that you may see the Work in Progress and finished doll photos of our friends and fans:

*Our first event was for SHARON MITCHELL’s “Santos Doll – All will be well” pattern. This event started January 1st, 2015. 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](#)
- ["Santos Doll - All Will be Well" Supply List](#)

*Our second event was for STEPHANIE NOVATSKI’S “Flirty Flora” pattern. This event started March 1st, and will run through the end of April. Please use these links to see Work in Progress pictures and Completed Dolls using this pattern:

- ["Flirty Flora" WIP Photos](#)
- ["Flirty Flora" Completed Dolls Photos](#)

- This pattern can be purchased by following this link: [STEPHANIE NOVATSKI PATTERNS](#)
- ["Flirty Flora" 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!

APRIL SALE

Our APRIL SALE is on!

All patterns in our Children/Babies Category are 20%. Follow the link below, then click on “Children/Babies” 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 is as natural as sunshine and as vital as nourishment. – MaryAnn F. Kohl

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

*EDNA BRIDGES wrote in to us that she has a FREE online video class to share with you! Her class will walk you through making a cloth doll from start to finish. Follow the link for the class: [HOW TO Cloth Dollmaking Class](#). Make sure you check out the rest of her site while you are there: [Plum Thicket Studio](#). Thank you for sharing Edna!

*Need a little help sewing sculpting heads? Click the link to see a series of pictures that show you the steps to follow: [Sewing a Four Piece Head](#). This head is for the pattern “Santos Doll – All Will be Well” by SHARON MITCHELL, but will work for any four piece head.

*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](#)

And while you are there, treat yourself to some fabulous browsing through the winning dolls and other categories all the way back to 2001. Such extraordinary work! You'll find that STEPHANIE NOVATSKI has quite a few winning dolls.

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 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

*ART IS YOU has upcoming retreats for the year in Petaluma in April, Minneapolis in September, and Stamford in October. Follow this link for more information on all of their retreats: [Art is You Retreats](#).

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:

PATTERNS

*We are tickled pink to welcome talented designer PAULA McGEE to Dollmakers Journey. We are starting off with three of her enchanting patterns – “Calliope,” “Kimama” and “Mirabelle.” You’ll find her instructions rich in detail and illustration. Take a look here – [PAULA MCGEE PATTERNS](#)

*Costuming Queen SYLVIA SCHORR is addicted to her favorite program “Downton Abbey” and was inspired to design a set of spectacular hats circa 1918-1920 she calls “Ladies Afternoon Hats.” You could make them for an 18” doll or a beautiful display. Lots of great embellishment techniques! – [SYLVIA SCHORR PATTERNS](#)

*We are so fortunate to have another talented designer to welcome to Dollmakers Journey! We are starting out with 4 new designs from REBECCA MCGOVERN of Rebecca & Company. Stop by and take a look at her nice variety of patterns “Girlie Girl Gracie,” “Maggie Mae,” “Clara & Her Kitten,” and REBECCA’S wonderful version of an “African Ndebele Doll.” – [REBECCA MCGOVERN PATTERNS](#)

*We are always squealing with delight when we have a new pattern from JILL MAAS! Come meet her darling “Cupcake Cindy” - she’s a real charmer! – [JILL MAAS PATTERNS](#)

*Trumpets please! Announcing the arrival of “The White Rabbit” – the latest pattern in SUZETTE RUGULO’S Alice in Wonderland Series. The pattern includes three different costumes for this very busy character – Standing, Running and Ceremonial – it will be hard to choose! – [SUZETTE RUGULO PATTERNS](#)

*SHERRY GOSHON’S newest pattern “Anastasia” is an all cloth doll with needlesculpted features and a “cloth-over” technique that hides the center front seam. A super technique to learn – [SHERRY GOSHON PATTERNS](#)

*It’s hard to keep up with all the wonderful new patterns from GINNY LETTORALE! We’ve just added some really cute raggedys called “Prim Little Blessings” and more of her fun bunnies “Spring is Hare!” and “Vintage Bunnies” along with her darling “Christmas Fairies Holly & Candy.” – [GINNY LETTORALE PATTERNS](#)

*For those of you that love JAN HORROX’S dollmaking books you’ll find her versatile “Corps de Ballet” pattern the perfect companion for using her treasure trove of dollmaking techniques. Take a look – [JAN HORROX PATTERNS](#)

*Designer NANCY HALL loves to incorporate interesting beading techniques into her patterns and her newest “Summer Joy CD” is no exception. Take a look at this beauty - <http://dollmakersjourney.com/hall.html>

*“Another Prim Bunny” and “Fat Frosty” are two of the newest patterns from MAUREEN MILLS – [MAUREEN MILLS PATTERNS](#)

SUPPLIES

*We are happy to report that we have received our shipment of DOLL FACE PINK and HONEY BEAR Craft Velour. We have also added in a new color of Deersuede called CALF SKIN and two more medium shades of Kona Cotton – CAMEL and AMBER.– [FABRICS](#)

*We are adding in two more colors of Angelina Fiber – Aurora Crystalina and Blue Magic Crystalina – and the Gold Iris Mix is back in stock – [ANGELINA FIBER](#)

*Over in the hair department we now have all the colors of BRAIDED WOOL except White – [BRAIDED WOOL](#)

ON THE BOOKSHELF

*We are so very proud to bring you the first book by our dear and amazingly talented friend and designer JULIE B. BOOTH – “Fabric Printing at Home – Quick and Easy Fabric Design Using Fresh Produce and Found Objects.”

You won’t believe the creative potential that can be found in your kitchen from fresh foods to foils and wax paper and so much more. You’ll never look at broccoli the same way again! Julie is a master at stamping and printing fabrics with an endless supply of simple materials found in your home. This is the perfect book for expanding your creative skills. How fun and exciting will it be to fashion a doll with fabrics you have made yourself! – [BOOKS](#)

*Get ready for hours of creative fun with this charming new book called SEW DOLLED UP from Boutique Sha. You’ll find step-by-step instructions for making 10 different felt dolls with 55 mix-and-match outfits with fabric scraps and easy hand sewing. These dolls can provide hours of imaginative dollhouse play or can be used as decorative ornaments or sweet gifts. – [BOOKS](#)

FREE PROJECTS

It’s spring, so how about making cute “Bunni Wabbit” Pin –pattern by JACQUE. Hop over to this link for instructions: [BUNNI WABBIT PIN](#)

You might also enjoy making this “Teeny Tiny Faerie Flora” by ALLISON MARANO/FAEWYCK STUDIOS: [TEENY TINY FAERIE FLORA](#)

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

*ROBIN LITSINGER wrote in on Facebook with a question. She writes:

"I need some HELP please. I need to get some info about pattern making for cloth doll bodies. I have used pre-made bodies and needle sculpted them and used one pattern. Now I need specialty ones for art dolls. I have seen others draw out their bodies on graph paper using the head as a gauge-- I can do that part ok. What I need help with is--- HOW do I compensate for the 3 dimensional fullness of the body. If I make it exactly the size I draw-- (as the sewing line) won't the body be a lot smaller when I turn and stuff it? Do I need to add to the desired size? If so, how do you figure out how much more to add? Any and all help would be appreciated immensely!!!"

We had a few responses for her that might also be helpful for you!

JOANE CRANSTON replied: "Dollstreet Dreamers may be able to help you. I'd also like to know if there is a formula or secret - I usually just keep making pieces and adjusting until I get what I want/like/accept. I think the more you use/read others patterns - esp if they vary greatly helps develop your own style."

SANDRA DAVIS replied: "After you draw out your pattern I would add 1/4" for seam allowance when turning etc."

MARY ANN KAAHANUI replied: "The BEST design classes available are the ones by JUDI WARD. I was already designing when I took them years ago and it took my abilities to a whole new level. You start with the "Design Your Own Doll" and then take the "Advanced Design." They are now available as PDF downloads and they are an incredible resource for all aspects of cloth doll making. You will learn how to compensate for the dimension. She actually starts out by having you make a pattern off a plastic doll. If you want to design your own bodies these two courses are a MUST!!! - [CLOTH DOLL MARKET ONLINE CLASSES](#).

Thank you for your question ROBIN, and thank you to all those that replied!

*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 February 10th Mary Ann’s father Paul P. Zetts, Sr. passed away peacefully surrounded by his family who cushioned him in a bubble of love to ease him to heaven. He packed a remarkable amount of living in his 89 years and his funeral celebrated his life in a beautiful way. Mary Ann’s mother Marion is doing well and the family was delighted to celebrate her 92nd birthday on Easter Sunday. The family home is now in the hands of a new family and life goes on just as it should. MAK still travels to NJ as often as possible and she is really, really looking forward to attending AFICC next week.

Sara has been busy settling in her new home. There has been quite a long list of issues that had to be rectified by the leasing office and maintenance department, but, thankfully, things seem to be fine now.

Sara is also very excited for the AFICC conference that she and Mary Ann will be attending. Sara is taking classes instructed by JODY MILLER, DEBRA KLOPP, AND SHERRY GOSHON. She will be learning more about needlesculpting, detailed flat face drawing, and a variety of painting techniques in these classes. She has heads ready to stuff and bodies outlined on the drawing board. It’s going to be fun!

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!