



New England Region Newsletter

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Winter Quarter 2007

Message from the Director

Here we are at the end of January and winter has finally found us. This time of year we can retreat into our homes and enjoy time for stitching. I hope each of you finds quiet moments each week to actually work on our shared passion of needlework.

Your NER board has just completed their first meeting of the year. All of our chapters are facing similar challenges and I believe that through combined communication, planning, and effort, we will make an impact. The single biggest issue for our region is declining membership. Our membership chair, Julia Appell, is going to be hard at work to help guide all of our chapters to workable ideas for improving our ability to attract and retain members.

Once again we are using an Education committee, lead by our Assistant RD, Pat Sweet. Look for more information in this newsletter for GCCs being sponsored by the region. The committee will also be looking for your input as they plan for NE Region Day.

And last but not least, if you have not registered for Region Seminar, Needles by the Lake, in Burlington, VT, April 20 - 22, there's still time. All classes are still open, but some are starting to fill up. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Happy Stitching,

Lorie

REGION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Director:

Asst. Director:

Rec. Sec.:

Corres. Sec.:

Treasurer:

Bylaws:

Education:

Fundraising:

Historian:

Hospitality:

Membership:

Newsletter:

Outreach:

New England Region Newsletter is published four times a year following Region Board meetings. The deadline for copy is the date of the meeting, unless otherwise noted. Copy should be sent to the Editor. E-mail copies are free; paper copy subscriptions are available for \$7 for 4 issues.

New England Region EGA Newsletter Subscription Form – check one ___New ___Renewal

Name _____ Telephone _____

Street _____ Chapter/MAL _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Enclose check for \$7.00 (4 issues), payable to NER/EGA and send with completed form to:
Linda Berry, NER Treasurer, 203 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

Opportunities

NER needs a WebMaster.

Director Lorie Welker is in the process of putting together a job description. If you know of someone looking for work in this field who has experience with web page creation and maintenance, please send Lorie their contact information.

Seminar Chair Needed

Seminar 2009 will be hosted by the Region so we are in pursuit of a Seminar Chairman. Any one interested in hearing more about this opportunity should contact Director Lorie Welker.

New England Region Group Correspondence Courses

The New England Region is sponsoring two Group Correspondence Courses this year:

Swiss Sampler-Teacher: Ilse Altherr (NEW!)

(page 42 in the 2007/2008 EGA Education Catalog)
The cost is \$48 which includes the text and registration fee
Approximate Time: June 15-December 15, 2007

Flaming Jewels-Teacher: Linda Wyszynski

(page 32 in the 2007/2008 EGA Education Catalog)
The cost is \$40 which includes the text and registration fee
Approximate Time: June 15-November 15, 2007

Materials for both courses will be the responsibility of the students.

To Register: please send the coupon(s) below and a check payable to
New England Region/EGA to the addresses listed. The deadline is **March 31, 2007.**

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| SWISS SAMPLER | |
| Name: _____ | |
| Address: _____ | |
| Telephone: _____ | E-mail: _____ |
| Chapter: _____ | EGA Membership Number _____ |
| I would like you to offer _____ next. | |
| Send check with coupon in the amount of \$48 to: Pat Sweet, 10 North St., Wilmington, MA 01887 (978-404-9844, sweetsp50@aol.com) | |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| FLAMING JEWELS | |
| Name: _____ | |
| Address: _____ | |
| Telephone: _____ | E-mail: _____ |
| Chapter: _____ | EGA Membership Number _____ |
| I would like you to offer _____ next. | |
| Send check with coupon in the amount of \$40 to: Pat Sweet, 10 North St., Wilmington, MA 01887 (978-404-9844, sweetsp50@aol.com) | |

Region Committee/Officer Reports

Bylaws

Based on records from the previous Bylaws chairman, four chapters are due for bylaws review in 2007 (Berkshire, Cape Cod, Connecticut River Valley, Green Mountain). I plan to contact the chapters and offer assistance. Merrimack Valley Chapter performed an out-of-cycle revision of their bylaws in late 2006 and will not need to review theirs for five years.

The NER bylaws should be up for review in 2008, and I will look for volunteers later this year to help with the review process prior to submitting the proposed update to the NER Board. If anyone has any suggestions for updates, please feel free to contact me by email, phone, or mail.

The Board recently completed an update of the NER Policies and Procedures. If anyone needs a copy of either these or the bylaws, please contact me.

--Sue Andrews

Corresponding Secretary

A get-well card was sent from NER to Jane Walter-Venzke, President of Northern New England Chapter.

A sympathy card was sent to Cecile Carver from NER expressing condolences on the death of her husband, John Carver. A thank-you card was received from Cecile, thanking NER for the card and the warmth extended to her.

NER also received a very nice thank-you card from Carolyn Scott of New Canaan, Conn., who won our handbag kit basket in Richmond.

--Violet M. Anderson

Education

The Group Correspondence Courses we are offering this year are "Swiss Sampler" and "Flaming Jewels." The registration forms are on page 3 of the newsletter. The registration deadline is March 31; they will run from June to the end of the year.

We will send a questionnaire to all the Region Reps to ask for chapter input about future classes and events.

The Committee took the idea of holding Region Day only in the years when there is not a Region Seminar to the full NER Board, and the Board approved. We have started planning for 2008.

Many Petite Projects are available from National. These are received periodically by your Presidents and may be copied for all of the members in your chapter. They make excellent classes and introductions to many different techniques. They are small enough to be completed in a short time and are a good tool to help members decide whether a technique is one they would like to pursue. For a complete list, visit the EGA website or the last page of the Education Catalog.

--Pat Sweet

Membership

The recent Region Board meeting used chapter-report time to describe goals and challenges for the coming year. All chapters present indicated that increasing and maintaining their membership was their single greatest challenge.

The member numbers in each chapter within the Region are consistently down from years past. The truth is we can no longer continue to function successfully as individual chapters simply doing our own thing and not realizing how much we all need the resources and strengths of every other chapter in the Region. We are a small Region and have a unique geographic opportunity to partner with each other to promote a variety of programs and classes. There are things we all can do to begin this process.

Get your chapters' meeting dates and activities into this Newsletter's calendar of events. This will serve to promote what you are doing and when, and who to contact for additional information. Use any other method you have to alert other chapters to

these programs and invite their members to join you.

Chapter Representatives and Program and Membership Chairmen are all useful resources to get the word out about your activities and programs so members of other chapters can join in additional education opportunities.

This is a beginning step to do something beneficial for the whole Region. Every time you talk about embroidery, every time you embroider in public, every exhibit you participate in, and every program you present is an OPPORTUNITY to strengthen and promote membership. Please learn to recognize this and don't miss a chance to spread the word or include someone else in what we love to do.

--Julia Appell

Newsletter

The transition to a new editor has gone relatively smoothly. I plan to emphasize the region-wide calendar as a tool for good communication between chapters. To that end, I ask that the Region Reps provide, in addition to their chapter reports, meeting dates and program details as far in the future as is possible. I also need a contact person for the programs, with both telephone and e-mail options. For this issue, where necessary I tried to construct each chapter's meeting schedule and contact from the general chapter information provided to the NER Board.

The next deadline will be Saturday, March 31.

--Kathryn J. Lord

Chapter News

Berkshire County Chapter

2007 finds us with a new board of directors and a new calendar of events. Once again many of our members will conduct educational programs for the Chapter. We made penny rugs at the January meeting under the guidance of our new Program/Education director Carole Kelley. Many of our events are available to those outside of our Chapter; contact Carole at ck_0_0@yahoo.com or 802-447-1197 for more information.

In November we will have a special 3-day workshop with Mary Cox, open to all interested in the region; more details will come later.

We are also offering our members a GCC guided by Kitty Irland, the Casalguidi design on page 48 of the current Education catalog. Sign-ups (maximum 20) close as of our April 11 Chapter meeting. More details from Jane Whitney, 413-698-2971, or Kitty Irland, 413-637-1266.

--Jane Whitney

Cape Cod Chapter

No report.

Celestial Stitchers Chapter

Since the 2006 collection was so very well received, the Chapter membership decided to continue stitching items for our host church's Holiday Bazaar held in November. We have managed to lose the Waiting Room Sampler again. Perhaps it will surface soon and we can complete it.

Membership remains steady. We have received National's blessing on our bylaws.

Our December Holiday party was a delightful evening and in January we celebrated the Chapter's birthday with a lovely cake during our stitch-in meeting.

Our meetings are held the evening of the second Thursday of the month; contact Cathy Nelson, 508-870-0786, for program information.

--Hanka Robertson

Central Massachusetts Chapter

In January we had a *Fringe Party!* The Chapter continued to fringe bookmarks for our outreach project. Over two hundred bookmarks were stitched and given to St. Spyridon Church in Worcester, Mass. A complimentary bookmark is given with each book that is sold at the church.

On March 1 *Rice Stitch: A Color Study Workshop* will be taught by Nancy Ekross. The petit point piece examines what colors look good together. In April, we'll have a *Stitch In*, in May a *Shopping Extravaganza* (place to be determined), and in June our annual *June Luncheon*. A survey on the types of programs that the members want is being sent to all members.

--Jane Melick

Connecticut River Valley Chapter

No report.

Green Mountain Chapter

The chapter programs are set through our summer break, up to our annual lunch and silent auction in June, hosted by Roma Jean Douglas.

NER Seminar 2007 is coming along well. We have 75 people registered to date. All classes are still available.

We have been approached by The Colchester Library for a display in March. We are also looking into partnering with a local private school on a handwork project.

Amy Blodgett will lead the chapter bylaw review/update.

--Sue Halligan

Hope of Rhode Island Chapter

No report.

Mayflower Chapter

At our January meeting we decided on a garden theme for our Seminar basket.

We will have a display of our work at the Boyden Library at 10 Bird St. in Foxboro, Mass., in April; call 508-543-1245 or go to www.boydenlibrary.org for hours and directions. We are also checking with the Plainville Library about having an exhibit there.

We are again doing baby hats, lap robes, etc., for Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, Mass.

We have begun our Bargello project and will continue working on it in February and March.

--Ann Clark

Merrimack Valley Chapter

January, February, and March will now be our official "stitch-in" nights with no planned presentations or classes. This decision was part of our bylaw changes and made to accommodate those traveling great distances in inclement weather.

Come join us in April when several of our Chapter members share their journey into the unknown with a discussion about developing original designs, using different stitching techniques and materials, and sharing lessons they've learned along the way.

On May 24-28, a Japanese Embroidery class will meet at the home of Sue Andrews. Contact Sue at 781-271-1062 or sandrews@ll.mit.edu with any questions.

In June we will hold our annual Potluck Supper with a fun, easy project, and from July through November, the Fearless Stitching theme continues with as yet undetermined projects and/or speakers.

Our total number of members has declined recently to 87. Tracy Lambour continues to make great efforts to publicize our meetings and contact people who might express an interest in joining our Chapter.

--Lois Pencinger

Northern New England Chapter

We have upcoming programs this year on painted ribbon and embroidery on felt in February, stumpwork in April and June, and a beadwork bracelet or fob in August.

Our three area groups meet monthly. Lakes Region will be doing the GCC Flaming Jewels, and is discussing a project to do for the Belmont, NH, Fire Station, where they meet. Merrimack has had a display in the Merrimack Public Library, and is making 240 bookmarks for the Library's summer reading program participants, in addition to studying Hardanger techniques with Evie Faichney.

We are thrilled to welcome two new members, giving us a total of 50 if all of the present members renew in February.

--Margo Ewers

Pioneer Valley Chapter

All meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at Quail Run Estate in Agawam, Mass., a senior independent/assisted living facility. The use of the room is free as part of their community outreach. To thank Quail Run, we have donated Christmas ornaments and a tree, and our stitched pins to use as they desire. One of our trees decorates the community room each Christmas. Our local ANG chapter also meets here and has contributed to the projects.

This spring we will celebrate our 25th anniversary with a tea on April 9, and a surprise stitching project gift to members. We also will have a special meeting on April 14 with Betsy Stinner and a sampler she designed highlighting the history of our Chapter.

--Susan Polumbo

Southern Maine Chapter

We continue to hold monthly education "Stitch-In/Clinic" meetings. These have proven popular with members helping

members, and we have also gained new members from these meetings.

Nine members are participating in the EGA GCC "Tiramisu," which will run through October. Several other members have signed up to participate in the *NeedleArts* offering of "Finishing with Flair."

We are investigating the possibility of instituting a website, with a view to having it up and running sometime this year.

On Saturday, March 17, Sue Reed will teach "Your Challenge;" the cost will be \$20 and all Region members are welcome. *The sign-up deadline is February 10 – contact Debby Baker (see calendar).*

During May, June, and July our members will exhibit their work at the Dyer Library and Saco Museum at 371 Main Street in Saco, Maine. You may check out their website at www.sacomuseum.org, or call for directions and hours at 207-283-3861.

Current membership is 137 primary and 9 plural; this is somewhat down from previous years.

--Barbara Hepburn

Other News

Lynn Museum Featuring Sampler Collection Until March 4

What is a sampler? This simple question is the basis for the Lynn Museum's current exhibition, *Inside Out: Anatomy of New England Samplers, 1756-1900*.

Needlework samplers were an integral part of most girls' education from the 17th to the 19th century in America. They were originally used to teach both needlework techniques and basic literacy from a very early age, in fact most of the samplers that have survived were made by girls from about age 9 or 10. Over time, samplers took on many forms, from simple alphabets embroidered on scrap fabric to highly ornamental works that demonstrated the wealthy status of a girl's family.

Drawn from the Lynn Museum's extensive needlework collection, *Inside Out* presents a wide variety of samplers from the New England region in their historical context. It examines the materials and techniques used to create these pieces, with samples of fabrics, threads, dyes, and needlework tools from the 18th and 19th centuries.

There will be a lecture given by the exhibitions' Guest Curator, Elaine Benfatto, on February 8 at 7 pm; no reservations required.

Admission to the museum is free for members and children under 12, \$5 for non-members.

The museum is at 590 Washington Street, Lynn, Mass. Call 781-581-6200 or go to www.lynnmuseum.org.

Region Calendar

BCC=Berkshire County; CCC=Cape Cod; CSC=Celestial Stitchers; CMC=Central Massachusetts;
 CRVC=Connecticut River Valley; GMC=Green Mountain; HRI=Hope of Rhode Island; MC=Mayflower;
 MVC=Merrimack Valley; NNEC=Northern New England; PVC=Pioneer Valley; SOME=Southern Maine

| 2007 | Chapter & Program | Contact |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| February | | |
| 10 | NNEC: "Painted Ribbon & Embroidery on Felt" Susan Poirer | Jane Walter Venzke |
| 12 | MC: Bargello project | Tara Lynch |
| 12 | PVC: "Even Count Peyote Bracelet" Candy Jepsen petite project | Christine Gaugh |
| 14 | BCC: "Hemstitching" Barbara Harry | Carole Kelley |
| 14 | GMC: "Smocking a Baby Bonnet" | Cathy Pawlowski |
| 15 | <i>Seminar 2007 Registration Closes!</i> | |
| 20 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| 21 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| March | | |
| 1 | <i>Seminar 2007 Kit Fees Due!</i> | |
| 1 | CMC: "Rice Stitch: A Color Study Workshop" Nancy Ekross Petit point | Jane Melick |
| 8 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| 12 | MC: Bargello project | Tara Lynch |
| 12 | PVC: "A Coral Knot Sampler" Jonalene Gutwein petite project | Christine Gaugh |
| 14 | BCC: "Scissors Fob" Catherine Theron | Carole Kelley |
| 14 | GMC: NER Seminar work | Cathy Pawlowski |
| 15 | <i>Seminar discount hotel room rate expires!</i> | |
| 17 | SOME: "Your Challenge" Sue Reed hand-dyed thread color manipulation | Debby Baker |
| 20 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| 21 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| 31 | NER Board Meeting <i>Deadline to sign up for Region-sponsored GCCs!</i> | |
| April | | |
| 5 | CMC: Stitch-In | Jane Melick |
| 9 | MC: regular meeting | Tara Lynch |
| 9 | PVC: 25 th Anniversary Tea | Christine Gaugh |
| 11 | BCC: "Bee skep scissor & thimble holder" by Ann Steinbach; chapter GCC deadline | Carole Kelley |
| 11 | GMC: NER Seminar work | Cathy Pawlowski |

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|---|---|
| | 12 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| | 14 | CRVC: Annual Meeting "Purple is Fashionable Twice" Gerry Barbeau Crewel on linen keepsake box | Lisa Green 860-658-6082 klg7641@comcast.net |
| | 14 | NNEC: "Stumpwork Part 1" Lea Stark | Jane Walter Venzke |
| | 14 | PVC: "25 th Anniversary Sampler" Betsy Stinner workshop | Christine Gaugh |
| | 17 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| | 17 | MVC: "Stepping Out to Fearless Stitching Without A Kit" – discussion | Kari Boardman |
| | 18 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| | 20-22 | Needles by the Lake, NER Seminar 2007, Burlington, VT | |
| May | 3 | CMC: Shopping Extravaganza | Jane Melick |
| | 9 | BCC: "The Art of Crewel" Mary Brinton | Carole Kelley |
| | 9 | GMC: "Fundamentals" with Diana Snyder | Cathy Pawlowski |
| | 10 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| | 14 | MC: regular meeting | Tara Lynch |
| | 14 | PVC: Show & Tell, Finishing UFOs | Christine Gaugh |
| | 15 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| | 15 | MVC: Fearless Stitching Project | Kari Boardman |
| | 15 | SOME: Briar Rose Etui finishing class, Jackie DuPlessis | Debby Baker |
| | 16 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| | 24-28 | MVC: Japanese Embroidery | Sue Andrews |
| June | 2 | CRVC: Color workshop, Catherine Jordan Overdyed floss on linen | Lisa Green |
| | 7 | CMC: June Luncheon | Jane Melick |
| | 9 | NNEC: "Stumpwork Part 2" Lea Stark | Jane Walter Venzke |
| | 11 | PVC: Annual Dinner Meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| | 13 | BCC: Annual picnic | Carole Kelley |
| | 13 | GMC: Annual lunch and silent auction | Cathy Pawlowski |
| | 14 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| | 19 | MVC: Annual potluck supper & easy project | Kari Boardman |
| July | 9 | PVC: regular meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| | 17 | MVC: Fearless Stitching Project | Kari Boardman |
| | 17 | SOME: regular meeting | Debby Baker |
| | 28 | NER Board Meeting | |
| August | 11 | NNEC: "Beadwork Bracelet/Fob" Lynn Angle | Jane Walter Venzke |
| | 13 | PVC: regular meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| | 21 | MVC: Fearless Stitching Project | Kari Boardman |
| September | 6 | CMC: regular meeting | Jane Melick |
| | 10 | MC: regular meeting | Tara Lynch |
| | 10 | PVC: regular meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| | 12 | BCC: regular meeting | Carole Kelley |
| | 12 | GMC: regular meeting | Cathy Pawlowski |
| | 13 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| | 18 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| | 18 | MVC: Fearless Stitching Project | Kari Boardman |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| 18 | SOME: regular meeting | Debby Baker |
| 19 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| October | | |
| 4 | CMC: regular meeting | Jane Melick |
| 8 | MC: regular meeting | Tara Lynch |
| 8 | PVC: regular meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| 10 | BCC: Breast Cancer Awareness project | Carole Kelley |
| 10 | GMC: regular meeting | Cathy Pawlowski |
| 11 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| 13 & 14 | CRVC: "Spring Garden" Margaret Vant Erve Surface embroidery on silk | Lisa Green |
| 13 | NNEC: Annual Meeting | Jane Walter Venzke |
| 16 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| 16 | MVC: Fearless Stitching Project | Kari Boardman |
| 17 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| November | | |
| 1-3 | BCC: 3-day workshop with Mary Cox | Carole Kelley |
| 1 | CMC: regular meeting | Jane Melick |
| 3 | NER Board Meeting | |
| 8 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |
| 12 | MC: regular meeting | Tara Lynch |
| 12 | PVC: regular meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| 14 | GMC: regular meeting | Cathy Pawlowski |
| 20 | CCC: regular meeting | Leslie Bird |
| 20 | MVC: Fearless Stitching Project | Kari Boardman |
| 20 | SOME: regular meeting | Debby Baker |
| 21 | HRI: regular meeting | Patricia Bruno |
| December | | |
| 1 | CRVC: Holiday meeting | Lisa Green |
| 6 | CMC: regular meeting | Jane Melick |
| 10 | PVC: regular meeting | Christine Gaugh |
| 12 | BCC: Holiday party | Carole Kelley |
| 12 | GMC: regular meeting | Cathy Pawlowski |
| 13 | CSC: regular meeting | Cathy Nelson |

Chapter Newsletter Editors--!

Please use whatever you can from this newsletter for your own, especially workshops offered by other Chapters. Also from this issue, please use the two Opportunities on page 2 and the GCC forms on page 3.

Thank you for spreading the word!

KJL