

CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

NEWS

*November 2007*

WEBSITE ADDRESS: [WWW.CRVC-EGA.ORG](http://WWW.CRVC-EGA.ORG)

December Meeting: 10:30 on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

This meeting will take place at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. The information below gives a more detailed description of the morning program.

Connecticut Needlework, 1740-1840: Masterworks and New Discoveries from the Connecticut Historical Society Museum Collections

CHS Director of Museum Collections, Dr. Susan P. Schoelwer, will survey the rich artistic and decorative legacy of needlework produced in Connecticut prior to 1840. During a period when paintings and prints were few and far between, a variety of needlework genres provided Connecticut households with color and artistry -- canvaswork (needlepoint), crewel embroidered bed hangings, silk embroidered pictures, samplers, memorial pictures, and whole cloth quilting. Several genres appear to be distinctively Connecticut creations, including "mermaid" petticoats, bed rugs, crewel embroidered garments, and a unique series of religious and allegorical scenes worked during the American Revolution by Prudence Punderson of Preston. The CHS Museum's unparalleled collection of nearly 300 examples is the starting point for a major study of regional needlework, funded by the Coby Foundation, Inc., and the National Endowment for the Arts, to be presented in a forthcoming book and exhibition. Program participants will get a "sneak preview" of this exciting project, with a slide presentation followed by a "behind-the-scenes" tour to see collection highlights first hand.

**Directions to the Connecticut Historical Society**

**One Elizabeth Street at Asylum Avenue**

**Hartford, CT 06105**

**Tel: (860) 236-5621**

- From Interstate Route 84, west of downtown Hartford, take exit 46 (Sisson Avenue). Turn right at the end of the ramp onto Sisson Avenue.
- At the second traffic light turn left onto Farmington Avenue. Go one block and turn right onto Girard Avenue (at Arrow Pharmacy).
- At the second intersection turn right onto Elizabeth Street. The Connecticut Historical Society, with ample free parking, is the second drive on the right.

When the morning program is completed around noon, we will drive over for a holiday luncheon at the **Pond House** in Elizabeth Park.

**Schedule for the day:** 10:30 am to 2 pm

10:30 AM to 12:00 noon      Morning program

12:30 PM to 2 PM              Lunch, show and tell, and announcements

See the [registration coupon](#) for this meeting. **The deadline for signing up is November 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**February Meeting: Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
(Snow date -- Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>)

**Karen Duggan** will teach us an "Or Nue" name tag...it is gold and has a flower and your name...one day, one stitch, one thread. The following is some information on this embroidery technique.

"Or Nue" (or shaded gold) is a form of [goldwork](#) embroidery using couching where different colored silk threads are stitched over the metallic base of gold threads to form patterns or designs, often figures or narrative scenes. The finished product is a definite pattern, deliberately stitched so that the metal shows through. The density and placement of the silk over stitching makes the design. The entire design, background and foreground, is stitched, using small upright stitches.

The technique was worked particularly in Belgium, France and the Netherlands in the Middle Ages. Embroiderers in Italy and Flanders developed this technique to an impressive level of sophistication.

## **Stitches and Techniques**

A basic couching stitch was used. Shading was achieved by the spacing of the silk couching thread over the base of gold thread. The closer together the threads are, the denser or stronger the color. Spacing the threads further apart gives a softer color. It also allows more of the base gold thread to show through.

## **Design**

This style of embroidery was particularly popular for depicting narrative or figural scenes. Some of the greatest examples of this style involve figures, often taken from religious settings.

The kit is \$40. It includes the canvas, the #7 Japan gold, the silk couching thread, the DMC couching thread, the chart, the colored picture, the directions and the needles (also the pin and the backing material to make it into a nametag). See the [registration coupon](#) for this meeting -- **deadline is January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**April Meeting: Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**How to Write a Stitch Guide**

with

**Carole Lake**

Have you ever bought The Most Gorgeous Painted Canvas Ever -- and then not had the foggiest idea what to do with it? Is it so pretty you don't know where to start? Are you desperately afraid it will only look good in basketweave? Well, this is your class. Carole will teach you how to write a stitch guide for your canvas, step by step, stitch by stitch. By the end of this non-stitching class, we will have discussed stitch possibilities for dozens of canvases, and you will be ready to confidently write your own stitch guide for future purchases, thread selection to stitch selection.

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

**The Thistle**  
with  
**Carole Lake**



This little ornament brings Scotland to mind! Worked on 18-count Victorian green canvas in luxurious silks, metallics and overdyed linen, you'll work several stitches including double cross, Velvet stitch, leave stitch, stem stitch and a border that hides a secret cipher of Mary Queen of Scots. During the class, while students are stitching, Carole will talk a little bit about Mary Queen of Scots, her life, her symbols, and her tragic end.

Both of these classes will take place at *Thistle Needleworks*, and kit costs are \$15 for "**How to Write a Stitch Guide**" and \$25 for "**The Thistle**".

SAVE THESE DATES for a wonderful weekend with an excellent, nationally known teacher. We've had to schedule her two years ahead of time, so join us while she is in this area. We are making all of our classes available to EGA members in other chapters, so it is important to register early if you want to make sure you have a place in the class. See the [registration coupon](#) for these classes -- **deadline is March 5<sup>th</sup>**.

June Meeting: Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Susan Jones** will present our program for this meeting. It is entitled "**Stitching Inside the Box**". Susan has developed a sampler of canvas motifs and has lots of ideas for their use in future needlework. Look for more news and a registration form in future issues.

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**NER Region Day - Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Plans are in the works for a wonderful Region Day **next fall** in the Framingham area. The exciting news is that **Tanya Berlin** will present the program for the day. This should be a fabulous chance to take a class with her, and to add to your pleasure, CRVC will offer classes with her on **Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**. The information below describes the class to be taught here in CT:

Friday and Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

### Needle Painting Class with Tanya Berlin

2 day workshop -- beginner to advanced embroiderers

Choice of two designs; wild rose or burrowing owl



In this class, the student will work the needle painting design using a single strand of DMC embroidery floss in the needle at one time, in the method of long and short stitch. This is an intriguing technique, using the threads as your paints on a closely woven fabric to create a realistic picture. Several professional stitching techniques will be covered when we work the design, i.e. starting and finishing thread, the use of a split stitch line and working the design as a 3-dimensional piece. Different embroidery stitches will be used, i.e. split stitch, stem stitch, satin stitch, and long and short. Most importantly, the technique of blending long and short stitches so that they shade beautifully and how to position the stitches so that they lay smooth will be covered in the class. The student goes home with the knowledge of how to design a piece, transfer the design onto the fabric and all the information required to complete the embroidery.

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FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS (All members are welcome)

Tues., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>   Tues., Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>   Tues., March 11<sup>th</sup>   Tues., May 13<sup>th</sup>   Tues., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

### Stitching Getaways:

The **West Side Day** group will be meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Suzanne Newton's house in West Simsbury. Bring along your lunch and a project you are working on and/or any project you would like to share. **Please email or phone Suzanne at [fnjsn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fnjsn@sbcglobal.net) or 860-658-2037 if you plan to attend.**

**Pequot Colony** - Anyone who is interested can call Doris Boas at: (860) 572-8441 or Stephanie Thorpe at: (860) 536-0912.

## NER Seminar 2009

The site for this seminar has been decided! It will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pittsfield, Mass. on **April 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. A double room rate will be \$109 plus taxes, and the registration fee will be \$225, the same as Seminar 2007. Teachers and classes will be chosen in February, so stay tuned for further news. Please put these dates on your calendar and enjoy a wonderful weekend in the Berkshires.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is beginning to plan for the election of officers at the Annual Meeting in April. If you wish to help out and/or have certain areas of interest or expertise, please let us know. You may email our president at [juliaappell@comcast.net](mailto:juliaappell@comcast.net) to volunteer or ask any further questions about the positions to be filled.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** An announcement by the Region Director indicates that National EGA will increase individual members' dues by \$3 next year. Get your dues in by December 31<sup>st</sup>!

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#### CRVC Program Registration Form -- December 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

Mail completed form to: Linda Berry, 203 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-3201. Make check payable to CRVC-EGA. **The deadline for signing up for this meeting is November 27<sup>th</sup>.**

#### Connecticut Needlework, 1740-1840; Masterworks and New Discoveries from the Connecticut Historical Society Museum Collections

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed \$20 to pay for my lunch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CRVC Program Registration Form -- February 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting with Karen Duggan

Mail completed form to: Linda Berry, 203 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-3201. Make check payable to CRVC-EGA. **The deadline for signing up for this class is January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Kit fee \$40.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed \$12 for lunch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRVC Program Registration Form -- April 5<sup>th</sup> and/or 6<sup>th</sup> with Carole Lake**

Mail completed form to: Linda Berry, 203 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-3201. Make check payable to CRVC-EGA. **The deadline for signing up for these classes is March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **"How to Write a Stitch Guide"** - April 5<sup>th</sup> -- Members kit fee **\$15**; Non-members kit fee **\$25**.

\_\_\_\_\_ **"The Thistle"** - April 6<sup>th</sup> -- Members kit fee **\$25**; Non-members kit fee **\$35**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed \$12 (for Sat.) and/or \$12 (for Sun.) for lunch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRVC Program Registration Form -- October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Mail completed form to: Linda Berry, 203 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-3201. Make check payable to CRVC-EGA. **The deadline for signing up for this class is September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**"Needle Painting" with Tanya Berlin**

\_\_\_\_\_ Members kit fee **\$45**; Non-members kit fee **\$55**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed \$12 (for Fri.) and/or \$12 (for Sun.) for lunch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**CRVC-EGA Membership**

\$47. Primary Membership  
\$15. Plural Membership (NER)  
\$18. Plural Membership (not NER)

For a membership card, please enclose a SASE.

Amt. Pd. \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Pd. \_\_\_\_\_  
(keep as your receipt)

**CRVC-EGA Membership and Address Change Form**

Mail your completed form to: Suzanne Newton, CRVC-EGA Membership, 14 Madison Lane, West Simsbury, CT 06092.

Make check payable to **CRVC-EGA**. Enclose SASE for membership card.

- Address Change
- CRVC Primary Membership (\$47)
- Plural Membership, Primary Chapter in New England Region (\$15)
- Plural Membership, Primary Chapter *not* in New England Region (\$18)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_