

# Gilding the Needle

“A few stitches today—an heirloom tomorrow”

Volume 14 Issue 4

June 2016



A chapter of the Embroiderer's Association of Canada (EAC)  
eac.ca

## Message from the President



This will be my last President's message as our Guild will welcome the new President at the end of June.

Thank you everyone for all your help over the last three years. I could not have done this job without all the support I received from every member in our guild. You all work so hard, and I am continually amazed by what happens by all, at each of our meetings, and between meetings, to make everything run so well.

I was trying to think what the role of President was like. To me, it feels like I have been driving a bus for these past three years. I have tried to keep us on the road, so I hope people remember the straight patches and forget the pot hole and rocks I have hit.

I had initial help from the Past President, Irene and VP Sally F to get this bus started, and Kristeen to help with the extras, especially with the EAC information. Later Bethany filled in as VP to help me continue down the road. Tricia has been documenting our progress. The detailed road maps have been supplied by those involved in Program, (Ros, Anjali, Sally and Eileen) and Workshop (Mary Lou and Debbie). Thank you to all Teachers for sharing your expertise—both through Learn-a-Stitch and the afternoon programs, and adding the details to our road maps. Books to support these have been organized by our Librarians (Eileen, Guylaine, Dorothy and Eva). The fares have been collected by membership (Anne, Shirley, Jacquie and Beth), and weekly fund raising (Penny and Joan) and the Needle Arts Fair (Theresa) and organized by our Treasurers (Marg and Lorna). I know our bus is well

## Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts

meets

1st & 3rd Mondays

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

at

### Edith Rankin Memorial Church Hall

4080 Bath Road

Kingston, ON

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funded. Communications to members of CGNA by our Webmaster (Donna), Communications Officer (Mickie), Newsletter Editors (Elizabeth and Theresa) and our archives for future reference (Suzanne). Of course the fuel was supplied through food donations to our Hospitality members (Janet, Mary, Irene and Jean) who did an excellent job of setting it up with tea and coffee. Extras like making cards for our members in need (Kristeen and Maureen) and sharing personal work at the Show and Share added so much more. Every member does so much to support our guild. It is so wonderful. I really appreciated all this support over the past three years.

I have had so much fun being involved in what was happening from the position of President. I will miss the excitement. Every member of our guild has helped me keep our bus on the road. As well as driving, I tried to be aware of what was happening on our bus. It is amazing when I look at all that was happening. WOW!

I will miss those who got off the bus too early—especially Shirley who I know still follows our bus from afar. I have so many special memories covering this three year period to cherish. As I hop down from the driver's seat, and take a passenger seat on the bus, I look forward to watching out a new window. Thank you all—it has been a gas! *Diane*



## ***Welcome New Members***

**Robin MacNeil**—Robin comes from Kentucky and although she hasn't done much embroidery she has been quilting for 25 years.

**Louise Ormiston**—Louise has been away from embroidery for a very long time and is looking forward to being reintroduced to the art.



**Katherine Romba**—Katherine is a professor of art and architectural history at Queen's University and a member of the Kingston Handloom Weavers and Spinners.

## ***Check this Out***



- Mary Corbett's Needle 'n' Thread: [Tips, Techniques, Videos, Patterns & More](#)
- Nordic Needle: [Stitching Article Archives](#)
- <http://xs-and-ohs.com/blog/tips-blog>
- <http://www.featherofme.com/daniel-kornrumpf-embroidered-portraits/>
- [www.dicraft.co.za](http://www.dicraft.co.za) silk ribbon embroidery, amazing!
- [www.blackworkjourney](http://www.blackworkjourney) Elizabeth Almond

*A day without sunshine is like.....night!*



***Needle Arts Fair 2016***

The Needle Arts Fair is shaping up nicely. To date we have 24 vendors participating in this year’s fair. Five of the vendors are new to our show so make sure to check them out. I have tried for a balance in different types of textile vendors. You will see we have a couple of bead people for all your embellishment needs. See the complete list of vendors on page 6. Don’t forget that if there is something in particular that you would like them to bring, please contact them ahead of time. We have two life size felted sculptures for the stage thanks to Gesina Laird-Buchanan of Napanee. EAC is sending us their collection of Purses and Bags. We are also planning on having some demonstrations so a full day for all.

If you have made a bag or purse, we want to display it along with the EAC Collection.

It is never too early to start advertising our fair. Please take some posters and postcards with you over the summer and pass them out at any appropriate event you attend. And don’t forget we will need your completed embroidery pieces to put up in our exhibition room. Do you have work you would like to sell? It is also a possibility.

***Round Robin Doll in a Bag***

For all who have participated in this event, it has been a fun project. As Forrest Gump says, “You just never know what you are going to get.” The eyes, the expressions, the hair have been wonderful not to mention the tattoos or the clothing and the add-ons that complete the doll.



Here is an early on sample I brought home. Where do you go from here?

The dolls will be auctioned off at our Needle Arts Fair in October.

We are in for a good display at our June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.” ~ Edgar Degas*



***The Allure of Lace***—May 13 – June 10 Thousand Islands Arts Centre,  
314 John St. Clayton, NY [www.TIArtCentre.org](http://www.TIArtCentre.org)

***150 Years of Fashion***—May 21—October 10, Arthur Childs Heritage Museum,  
125 Water St., Gananoque, ON

***12 X 12***—June 2-14 at Taylor Studios Gallery , 285 King St. E, Kingston, work by  
our own Margaret Morris and Bethany Garner

***The Quilt of Belonging***—June 9-12 the Royal Kingston Curling Club,  
130 Days Road, Kingston, ON



***Quilt Canada 2016***—June 15 - 18, 2016 The International Centre, Toronto, ON

***Prince Edward County Quilt Show***—July 9-10, Wellington & District Community Centre

***Almonte Quilt Show***—August 13-14, Almonte Civitan Community Hall

***“EYE CANDY”*** Out of the Box Fibre Artists—2-Aug to 4-Sept, 2016 , Shenkman Arts Centre,  
245 Centrum Boulevard, Ottawa

***Scottish Diaspora Tapestry***—19 Sept to 1 Oct, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 115 St.  
Andrews Rd., Scarborough

***Festival of Fibre Arts***—September 10-11<sup>th</sup> –Mississippi Textile Museum, Almonte ON

**Workshop with Carolynn Barnett—October 17<sup>th</sup>. Guild members only. The kit fee is \$25. We will be making some creative finishing touches for your fibre arts by working with polymer clay to make buttons for your embroidery work or for sewn, knit or woven clothing.**

**DEADLINE** September 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter is August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please forward information to new Newsletter Editor, Beth Mewhort.

I HAVEN'T LOST MY MIND.. HALF OF IT JUST WANDERED OFF, AND THE OTHER HALF WENT LOOKING FOR IT.

A local store is wanting to stock more items for embroidery enthusiasts and they have asked us for suggestions. Can you please think about it and let me know what items you buy on a regular basis and would like to have close at hand to be able to purchase. This will help the local shop keeper order in the correct items for us. We can discuss this briefly at our Town Hall Meeting June 20<sup>th</sup>, so please give it some thought. *Theresa*

## *On the Book Shelf—Dorothy Forrester*



### *EAC Books*

In March and April of this year, the guild took advantage of the offer from the EAC to borrow books from their library with no charge for postage. After consulting with members of the guild, a list of requests was sent to the EAC librarian in Winnipeg and the books were delivered to the CGNA librarian at the beginning of March.

Most of the books were signed out by CGNA members over the two month period and some were very popular, particularly those on Wessex stitchery, lace and stump work. The CGNA librarian is looking into the possibility of acquiring some of these books for our own collection.

Thanks to the attention of our members, the books were all returned promptly at the meeting on Monday, May 2nd, as requested. One CGNA member asked to keep a book a bit longer and the EAC was very willing to sign it out in her name. The box of books was sent back to the EAC on May 3rd and acknowledgement has been received of their delivery in Winnipeg. The one additional book was mailed back to the EAC on May 18th by the CGNA librarian. A hand embroidered card was also mailed thanking the EAC for providing us with this opportunity.

**Reminder:** The June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last opportunity to return and sign out books for the summer. There will be no library at our last meeting.



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## *Needle Arts Fair Vendors 2016*

Baa Baa Bundles, Bead Addict, BeadFX, Books for You, Carolyn Mitchell Designs, Catherine Myers, Charms n' Stitches, Christine's Swedish Weaving, Cornerstone Fibres, Dreams and Creations, Fibre Art by Wendo, Hooked on the Lake, I Fashion, Kimat Designs, Kirsty Naray Glass Arts, Knowledge and Needles, Kraft Village, Purlin' J's Roving Yarn Co., Rive Designs, Ruach Crafts, Silver Cloud Alpacas, Trillium Lace, What's Weft, X's and Oh's

Visit our website, as Donna has put all of the vendors websites up on our Needle Arts Fair page. Don't forget if you want something special let the vendor know in advance so they will be sure to bring it for you to our Needle Arts Fair.



### *Bobbin Lace Class*



On March 21, nine eager students took up the challenge of a workshop in bobbin lace. As of May 16th we are still going strong! Five people were completely new to bobbin lace and four had some experience but wanted to review the basics.

We began by working a straight strip of lace with 14 bobbins to study the basic stitches then moved on to a circular flower with a scalloped edge to learn how to work around a curve and join the lace at other side of the circle. We then continued with a more complex braid and are now starting to learn Torchon lace which is a geometric lace originating in France that offers a variety of new stitches and techniques to be learned. The lacemakers are now using 32 bobbins!



The suggested project for using the lace completed in the class is to sew a velvet pin cushion with the lace flower motif sewn on top and the braid or Torchon strip around the sides. This workshop ends on June 6th but most of the participants are interested in continuing to study, since learning bobbin lace can be a long term project!

## Coming up This Fall

Our *Learn-a-Stitch* project of next year is canvas work. A biscornu is the suggested finished project. What is a biscornu? A biscornu is an eight sided pin cushion. If you don't want to make the pincushion, even though some of them are beautiful, you could use the stitches we learn and make a beautiful sampler.



Beth is going to work on Spirit Dolls in the afternoon.

Theresa will be stitching portraits or your pet or flowers or ??????

We will also have a one day workshop on making polymer buttons with Carolyn Barnett.

Don't forget Show and Share and Trunk Shows.

***The Allure of Lace:*** an exhibition that explores the history, fibers, and both handmade and machine lace production techniques. Historic and modern pieces of this beautiful and timeless fabric will be on display from May 13 to June 10, 2016.

Transportation

As most people will know, Clayton, NY, is easily reached by driving to Gananoque and crossing the international bridge to the USA at Hill Island. Another more interesting option I have discovered though is taking the ferry from Kingston to Wolfe Island, driving to the other side of the island and taking the Hornes ferry to Cape Vincent. Clayton is only a 15 mile drive from Cape Vincent. Please note that it costs \$20. Cdn each way to take the Hornes ferry but depending on what type of vehicle you drive, and with the current cost of gas, it may be more costly to drive over the bridge and there is no line up at customs. Three vehicles went over on the ferry and we were the only one coming back!

## **6Squared 2016—An opportunity to put your talents to work.**

6 Squared is a fund raiser for the Seniors Association Kingston Region. Submissions will be accepted as of June 6, for this year's Exhibit & Sale which will be held November 2016.

**The Rules:** a 6 X6 inch piece, in any medium, on any canvas. The front is to be unsigned. Guidelines, information, and forms available at [6Squared.ca](http://6Squared.ca)

**Important dates** Oct 21: Submission deadline Nov 17: Exhibition & Sale Nov 18 & 19: Sale & Sold artwork pick-up Nov 22: Online sales

Thank you for supporting this great fundraiser.



***Summer Stitch-in July 18<sup>th</sup> at Debbie's in Bath.***

***More information to follow!***



### ***From Beth's Doll Collection***



The doll on the right is one from Beth's collection. It is old and so loved that the eyes have been loved off. It is definitely worn. The doll on the right inspired Beth to make the doll on the left—using pieces of linen and lace that she has collected along the way. What a great thing to do with odd pieces from your stash. I'm sure that it too will become a well-loved doll.

### ***Tips on Shading***

- Before you start make sure your fabric is stretched tight as a drum across your hoop or frame. If it is loose in the frame you will not get a good tension and result in uneven stitching. This process might need to be repeated as you progress.
- It helps to draw in guidelines before you start stitching—these will direct your shading to fit the shape.
- Make the first row of shading full and close together. If there are gaps between the stitches then the stitches in the next rows will look too sparse and this will leave holes in the shading. These stitches should be dense but not overlapping each other. Make sure the stitches in the first row are not too short as you will need plenty of room to work back into.
- Stitches can only be straight. To get your stitches to fit a curved shape you may need to shorten your stitches slightly and stitch more than one row of each shade. This will help your stitching to gently move around the curve. If the stitches in the first row start to curve across the row you will need to add in a little wedge stitch to help change the direction of the stitches. If you change direction in the middle of a row your stitches will look untidy.

## Tips on Shading cont'd

- Make sure you bring your needle **up** through the stitches of the previous row and **not down** into the stitches. If you go down into the stitches it will create little holes which makes your stitching look rough.
- Stagger the stitches in each row. If the stitches in each row are in straight lines they will cause hard bands of shading. You can take some of your stitches right back into the previous row and bring some further forward to create a staggered effect.
- Use the right shades of thread for your blending. Each shade blends into the next creating a soft transition of colour. If you skip a shade or change tones abruptly, it will not blend correctly.

**WANTED:** Maureen is looking for embroidered inserts for cards that the guild sends out. Please check with Maureen regarding shape and size of embroidered piece required.



**Please remember to use the double doors at the east end of the building when coming in. They come in at the cloak room and then you are not tracking wet feet across the meeting room floor. Also it means that someone inside doesn't have to stop what they are doing, usually in mid conversation, to open the doors for you. It is just a common courtesy.**

## Carol Arsenault—gold and stump work Workshop



*Take your needle, my child, and work at your pattern; it will come out a rose by and by. Life is like that - one stitch at a time taken patiently and the pattern will come out all right like the embroidery. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes*

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## Picture Gallery

*Which piece was more difficult to do? Apparently the one on the left.*



*Concentration.*



*Some of  
Debbie's  
canvas  
work.*



*Beaded rawhide mitt Ros did at a  
beading workshop in Verona. Below  
Ros has sample of this year's Learn-  
a-stitch.*



*One of the many  
embroidered quilt  
blocks for Robin's  
quilt.*



*The artist never entirely knows — We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark” ~  
Agnes de Mille*

## ***June 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting***

*Business Meeting*

*Round Robin Dolls in a Bag*

*Coffee & Tea & Treats*

*AGM*

*Town Hall Meeting*

*Pot Luck Lunch*

*Stash Sale*

*Speaker—Dorothy “Lace Making in Malta”*



### ***What you need to bring***

Your pot luck **dish** for lunch and your own **place setting** so you will be able to eat; your **items to sell** at the Stash Sale; your **wallet** to buy things at the Stash Sale; your **ideas** for the Town Hall Meeting; your **purse**; a Round Robin **Doll-in-a-bag** if you have one; and your **membership** form if you haven't done so yet.

## **Who Knew?**

LNS means Local Needlework Shop

ORT means Old Raggedy Threads or Odd Random Threads

PHD means Project Half Done

RR means Round Robin

SAL means Stitch Along

STASH means Special Treasures All Secretly Hidden

## *Project 150*

It sounds like this project turned out to be a real challenge. How many people can really work on the frame at the same time? How do we get the BOX from one location to the next? Logistics aside it will be a beautiful piece when it is completed. It was well organized as what to do and not do. What colours to use where—someone put a lot of work into the design and planning of this project. For some reason, our guild received the Canada West section of the project to work on and we can hold onto it for more than the two weeks we'd initially been told.

Below is a picture of Elizabeth busily stitching away on the project. Thanks to Mickie for having it available at her home for people to drop in and do some stitching.



### **Note from the Editor:**

This is my final edition of the newsletter, *Gilding the Needle*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped me along the way with contributions, pictures and ideas. Your generous comments were greatly appreciated. I know that you will be as generous with Beth as she takes over the newsletter. Remember, it is your newsletter and without your contributions it is no longer yours.

One of the reasons for taking on this job was so I could learn more about using my computer. And I did learn. I learned that my old computer is easier to work with than the newer one. I learned that you have to save often and back it up on a stick. I learned how to download pictures though I'm not sure where all of them went to. And as Henry Ford says.....

*Anyone who stops learning is old... whether at 20 or 80!*

I'm trying not to be OLD. *Theresa*

