



CGNA is a chapter of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada.
 Please visit our website: <http://quiltskingston.org/cgna/>

President's Message

The air is crisper, the sun is setting earlier and the autumn leaf colours will soon be appearing in the hills. The season is changing, but not our daily "new normal". I was just re-reading my last newsletter message, and I could use almost all of it again! As is! I am hoping everyone has adjusted to life with all the covid-19 restrictions, all meant to keep us safe.

I was very pleased to see that most members re-enrolled this year. I know I can see that the benefits of stitching, sharing, learning and friendship far outweigh the lack of physical meetings. We will miss those members who are leaving us. We did manage two stitch-ins this summer. Small groups, all properly distanced, but oh so nice to see those who came out.

Although it is not known when we can hold our meetings, our focus remains the same: To promote the enjoyment and learning of needlework. Until we can meet, we will focus on small projects that you can stitch on your own, or in a trusted group of friends. Our goal is to send you stitch information prior to our normal meeting dates. To start off, the Ornament Exchange is still going forward and we encourage you to create a seasonal ornament to trade with another EAC stitcher. Our Learn-a-Stitch theme for the year is "Around the World" and will

Gilding the Needle

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start in October. Do pick a country and see what you can learn about it. Then pick a stitch that fascinates you, and try it out. Then pass on that knowledge! It would be great if everyone would take a turn presenting.

For those looking for other inspiration, we do have available the retired EAC courses which we purchased. Members are welcome to get copies of the courses and work on them individually, or in a study group. Do what you are comfortable with – either alone in your living room, in a small group in a backyard, or in a trusted bubble in your home. You choose, but happy stitching! And hopefully see you all soon!

Lorna

**CGNA Administrative
Committee
2019 – 2020**

Executive

President: Lorna
Vice-President: ????
Past President: Eva
Secretary: Leola
Treasurer: Kim

Standing Committee Chairs

Program: Ros
Communications: Donna / Beth M.
Library: Gabrielle
Hospitality: Mary Anne
Membership: Glenda
Special Events: Theresa

Kristeen found the following video of an Australian “tour” of an exhibit of Italian styles of embroidery:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KF6Gc8AF9VE&feature=youtu.be>

Everyone who participated in last year’s Learn-A-Stitch will recognize Assisi, and several other styles were new and interesting. The video is long enough that you might choose to watch it segment by segment.



Guild News

EAC Survey

Please don't forget to complete and submit your survey to EAC. They have sought out our opinions – how much more reasonable to tell them what we think than to tell each other!

Stitch-Ins



Now that small groups may congregate, especially outside, we have had two summer stitch-ins. On Wednesday, August 19th, seven keen members congregated in Lorna's new backyard. Then, on Friday, August 28th, there was a second mini-group meet in Anjali's backyard. Thank you to all those who could make it and for those who didn't—we missed you. Anjali writes: "It was wonderful to see all my like-minded friends, in-person ... at a distance. Theresa

was the only one stitching. MaryAnne did three stitches on her piece. We even had show and share!!"

So long as the weather stays favourable, we hope to have more stitch-ins. Please consider joining one of these groups – or even hosting a stitch-in if you have a workable space (your chance to be a hostess without feeling obliged to clean your house!)

Library

Stitching alone at home can be frustrating – maybe what you need is an inspiring or helpful book. Even though the church is not open to groups, it may be possible to get you a library book.

The listing of library resources is available on the CGNA website. Once you choose to search by "author" or "genre", you will note that some entries are shaded. These are the books that are stored off-site. Should you wish to borrow any of the off-site books, please get in touch with the librarian to arrange pickup.

Winter Ornament Exchange

The EAC Ornament Exchange is going ahead as planned – perhaps in this time of limited physical meetings, it is more important than ever! Our guild is responsible for the exchange this year and Janet and Elizabeth are in charge. It would be nice if, as the sponsoring chapter of EAC, we had lots of entries from our own group. Ornaments must be ready by Oct. 26th, 2020. Any form of needlework is acceptable; the only restriction is that you will be paying to mail your ornament and might need to choose a size and shape accordingly.



Leola's Christmas Ornament
(design by Teresa Wentzler)

Show 'n' Share: The Remote Edition

Show and Share has always been one of my favourite activities at guild meetings. Members bring in inspiring work, unique discoveries, intriguing questions. Although the pandemic has restricted our personal meetings, members still want to share their ideas and their work.

The members' stories reported here are varied and provocative. Although some members need a measure of peace of mind before they can stitch, many members achieve that peace of mind by stitching. Some members have focussed on finishing projects, thereby achieving some control over life events. Others have used stitching to express their feelings about the pandemic. And, members do express gratitude for the friendships they have forged at guild. Please read our stories.....

Tricia: Stitching the story



Though some may feel time has stood still during this Covid summer, I personally feel it has quickly passed me by. Here we are planning the September newsletter and I have not travelled nor met with friends for dinner and a movie. As well, family visits are few and far between. My embroidery, just like our valuable health care workers, shows a HCW surrounded by risks and restrictions, just as we have been these last few months. The meandering vine connects all, but the green leaves symbolize hope. With that in mind I may just make another hoop with me in the middle and "diy cards, knitting, embroidery, needle punch and mending stuffies" written around the outside. Oh, on second thought, maybe that is why I feel that time has passed so quickly. Stay safe, everyone. I can't wait to see each and every one of you at our next meeting.

Beth M. has been cross-stitching....

I began cross-stitching this piece on New Year's Day, 2020, thinking that an over-one piece on 25-count Lugana would keep me busy, off and on, for at least two years. At Beth Abbott's retreat, it was generally thought to be madness. When the lockdown happened, though, I was able to work on it for a few hours every day and I finished my "Covid Cat" mid-June. He does seem to me to be a poster-kitty for the message, "Stay home, stay safe". Indeed, the design (from White Willow Stitching) is entitled "Home".



Gabrielle's doing canvaswork, blackwork and all that jazz:

For my canvaswork daffodils, I'm taking inspiration from Laura J. Perin and experimenting with various canvaswork stitches for the flowers, window panels, and table surface, etc. My blackwork project is one well-known to guild members: "Domes and Minarets" was designed by MaryLou Wilson and has been displayed at guild by Kristeen, Irene, and others. As for, "All That Jazz", a photo of my rendition of the EAC design is on the right.



Nancy finished a CGNA class project....

Here is my completed chicken-scratch tablecloth, begun in Theresa's afternoon class last winter. I'm proud to have it on display on my dining-room table! This chicken scratch only took me four months. The Wessex Stitchery that Theresa taught in January 2019 I finished in January 2020. I am getting more confidence the more I do. Hope we get back together soon. Can't wait to see the newsletter and what project Theresa will have for us in 2021. Stay safe.



Daphne's stretching her cross-stitching....



My July project was a peacock stitched in Assisi. Then, I decided to play around with a few varieties of x-stitches: Regular, oblong, staggered oblong, long-arm, smyrna and checkerboard. And, finally, Italian. Lastly, this is my version of the pin cushion which is in the Fall 2017 EAC magazine. I used the long-armed cross-stitch for the background around the snail.

Theresa's counting up lots of finishes....

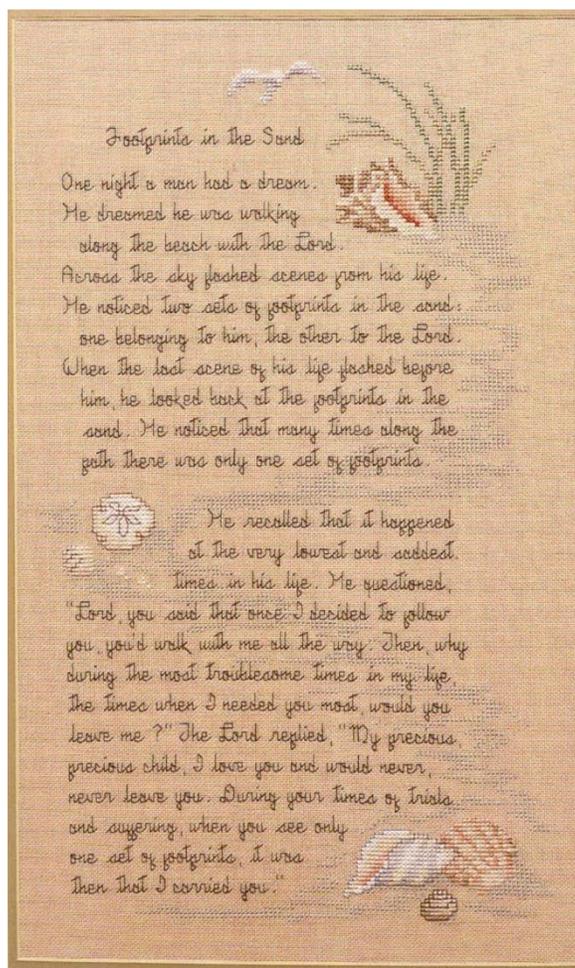
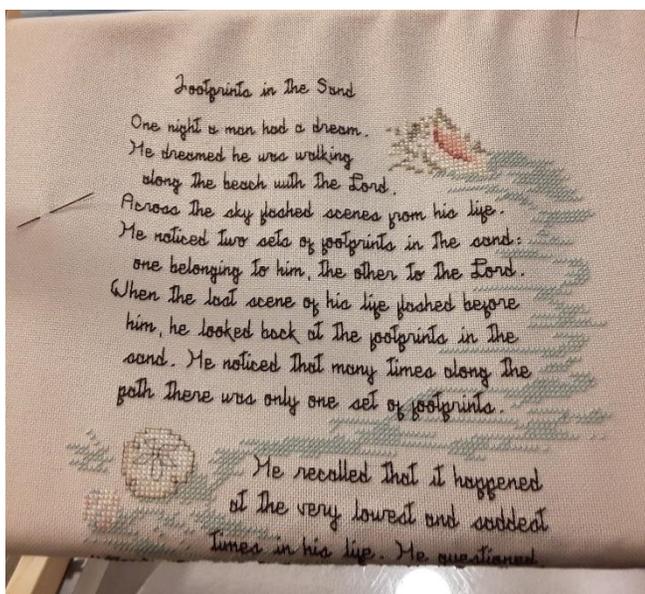


(Left to Right: Mouse & Tulip in Outline, blackwork, pulled-thread, cross-stitch, Assisi, long-and-short stitch)

This is something I finished in the first few days of August. It will work as a good item to display various techniques of the same picture. I've wanted to do a zigzag book for some time and finally.....it's done!

Karynne's Stitching up a (Sand-)Storm....

I wanted to stitch the lovely and comforting "Footprints in the Sand" (Liesure Arts design), but some of the floss was out-of-stock locally. I sent a plea to guild members – the floss was delivered to me and, that same night, I started stitching. When I ran out of DMC 838 (the floss used for the lettering), I asked my guild friends again – and more floss was delivered. Fortunately, my package from Penelope's arrived and I can repay my friends. Thank you! I am so glad to be a member of Guild.



Kristeen was “haunted” by a UFO...

“The Haunted Mansion” was a Tiny Modernist Cross Stitch 7-part mystery Stitch-A-Long (SAL) in 2018. (In a mystery stitch-a-long, the various parts of the pattern are released one at a time over a period of weeks or months – stitchers begin stitching without knowing what the final design will look like.) It was designed by Canadian designer, Cheryl McKinnon. I saw it on the computer and ordered it. Because it was a mystery SAL, I was asked not to put any pictures of my completed work on the computer until that part of the project had been officially released. Since I only completed the project this spring (2020) that was not a problem for me. It was fun to do. The fabric is called “Haunted”; it is hand-dyed by Picture This Plus. This year’s Hallowe'en design is a ouija board



Tiny Modernist also has annual SALs for Easter and Christmas but “The Haunted Mansion” appealed to me more than the other SALs.

Beth A is a woman of many talents...



I finished the little Louisa Acton sampler from Lianne – it’s washed and pressed and waiting ‘til I decide what to do with it next. I intend to design a sampler myself to express my feelings about the pandemic, but, so far, haven't made any progress except to gather many photos of trees, buildings etc. that I might use for ideas.

I have been quilting and spinning mostly lately - someone gave me two alpaca fleeces and I have started to work on enough yarn to knit the owner a scarf. I also completed two quilts. One was for a friend who has recently died of cancer, but she did get to enjoy the piece for a couple of weeks. The second was made for an exchange in the Quilt Canada group.

Ros is up to her elbows in wool...

As the people who were at the stitch-in at Anjali's know, I have been making mitts for family Christmas presents out of the old wool blankets and sweaters that I have accumulated over the years. You know the type: elbows worn through and the occasional moth hole. I have used a combination of hand- and machine-sewing and a variety of embroidery stitches, appliqué and needle-felting. It's been lots of fun decorating them, trying to decide what goes where. (Sometimes it's as simple as covering up a repaired hole!) I'm up to 13 pairs and counting ...



Kim's made a cover for her stitching lamp...



Most of the blackwork pattern that I used is from Chelsea Buns and it is called 'Blackwork Brilliance - Fleurs D'Annette'. I worked the pattern from the centre out and came to a place where I wanted quite a different shape in order to suit the round shape of the light. At that point I improvised a little more pattern.

As I was completing the finishing of the piece I found myself getting more and more concerned about keeping this in the room with my parrots. My decision was to switch my embroidery lights so that I would not be risking this dust cover being picked apart. It is in a bird-free room and the colour matches well.

Fran remembers....

We did an embroidered felt project with Lorna not too long ago. That project had me thinking about a small houses project I did several years ago. I embroidered on wool using a variety of stitches including French knots, needle lace, couching, stem stitch, buttonhole stitch and satin stitch. Your imagination knows no limits. So here are some photos of my house. I thought it might inspire others to try something new.



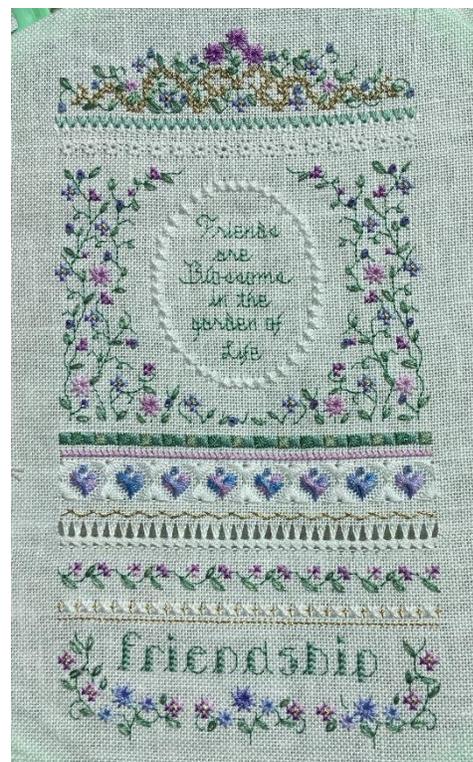
Leola: Friendship Sampler

I found this Victoria Sampler “Friendship Sampler” pattern on my shelf during the lockdown. Just seeing the picture reminded me of the guild and how much I missed our visits.

Internet and phone searches indicated that the Friendship Sampler Accessory Kits were sold out. Kathryn from Gitta’s said that I should just look at the picture and figure it out with DMC. I was very apprehensive but knew that many of you substitute and change patterns all the time. “If they can do it, maybe I can too.”

I studied floss conversions, haunted the newly reopened Michaels, and spread thread options all over the spare bed. Each stitched thread was a question. Some were frogged and others stayed with the guild-learned thought that “perfect matches are boring”.

I thought of each of you while I worked. This piece is dedicated to you, who understand the joy of stitching, and the comradery of our guild friendships.



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Cross Stitch Books, Supplies & Workshops

This being an unusual year, Ann will likely not be heading south and so the shop will be open through the fall. But, please phone before heading over.

Have you ever noticed how much stash-building is like eating **ice-cream and cake**? Someone always eats their cake first, declares “I didn’t come out right” and gets more cake to go with the leftover ice cream. Someone else eats the ice cream first, declares, “I didn’t come out right” and needs more ice cream to go with the remaining cake. And so it is with SEX (Stash-Enhancement-Experience). One buys a pattern, then orders the perfect fabric, realizes the fabric is the wrong count, so buys a new pattern that will look well on it, plus new fabric for the original pattern ... and... and...and. One just never comes out right!

Collecting the Past

Susanne

The Archives: Somewhere, in the basement of an ancient stone building, rows and rows of dusty shelves crammed full of dusty boxes sit, barely illuminated by a dim, naked bulb. Or, in our case, four brightly coloured three-ring binders hold the records of CGNA activities from September 2012 to this year. Each year is indexed for easy retrieval. Membership in EAC mandates archiving chapter activities and this I have done over the past eight years.

We learn from Learn-A-Stitch – and each other – from afternoon classes, all-day workshops, and other activities like trips and the Needle Arts Fair. In the early years, I collected samples of our works; these were also documented by pictures of our completed projects in the Newsletter. The Newsletter comprises a major part of our records, holding the memories of members' experiences through pictures and interesting stories about both in-house activities and places we have been, things we have seen. Then it became clear that storage space was in short supply, so I set about reducing the bulk of the binders. Sigh

We have learned so many things about fibres like cotton and silk, we have enjoyed – and worked hard – during workshops on Goldwork, Exploring and re-creating a forest floor, Feltmaking, Silk paper making (there is many a mask adorning a wall), Beading a cabuchon, Machine embroidery and much more.

The learn-a-stitch program is absolutely the core of our meetings. With Blackwork and Crewelwork, Sashiko, Pulled Thread and Hardanger, Mountmellick and Shadow work, Wessex stitchery and many other techniques, we keep the skills of the past alive. More free-form surface embroidery like thread painting and other techniques are producing fabulous pieces - miniature heads with great hair, folk art appliqué. The imagination is boundless, yet, we always return to the basics: ' five stitches, five afternoons'.

All this is currently held in three-ring binders. But with so much technology available, we have searched for a different way to keep the information – perhaps in 'the cloud' or somehow with our excellent website. No-one has yet figured out a way to retrieve it in usable form. Do you have a solution? Please let me know. Meanwhile, we continue to preserve our Past for the Future in the 'old-fashioned' way.

For those who like to bobbin their floss,

<https://www.redhandledscissors.com/?s=winding+bobbins>

offers some tips. The aspect of using bobbins that I don't like is transcribing the floss number onto the plastic bobbin. I worry I will make a mistake, or that the number will be illegible, or that the magic marker will make marks where I don't want them. The stitcher at RedhandledScissors suggests slipping off the label with the number and taping it to the bobbin before you start winding the floss, so that the number shows between the two notches at the bottom of the bobbin. Easy and error-free!





Book Review: The Novels of Tracy Chevalier

Theresa

What did you do this summer? A lot of reading – it was too hot to think about doing much else.

I was fortunate enough to stumble onto the author, **Tracy Chevalier**, best-known for her 1999 novel, ***Girl with a Pearl Earring***. Her latest novel, ***A Single Thread***, is set in 1930's England. Violet, at age 38, can no longer stand being at home with her overbearing, constantly complaining mother. Her eldest brother and her fiancé were both killed during the war and after her father passed away, mother and home were just too much.

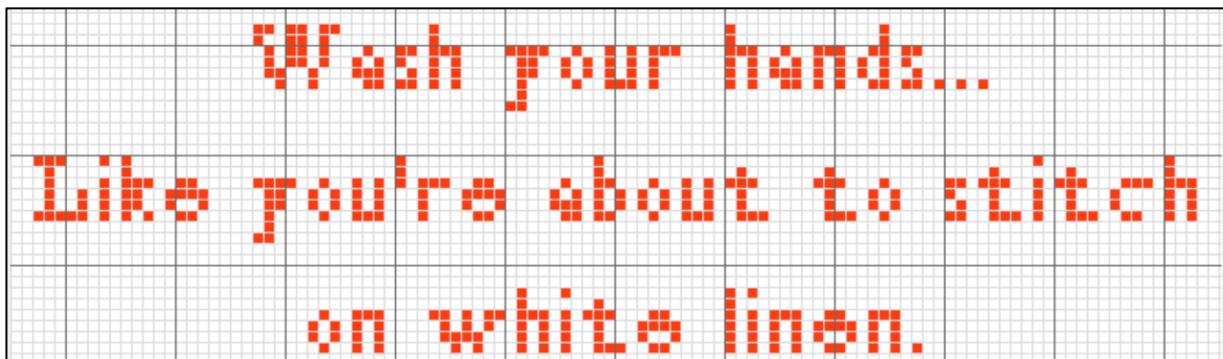
Violet moved 12 miles down the road to Winchester. She didn't know anyone in Winchester, so her life was lonely. One day, during her lunch break, she stumbled into Winchester Cathedral during the "blessing of the cushions". The Winchester Cathedral's Broiderers were celebrating a number of seat cushions and kneeling pads they had embroidered and were presenting to the Cathedral. This was the first step into her new life.

Lots of embroidery stitches are mentioned in the story as well as the designing of the cushions and kneeling pads. There is lots of reverse stitching going on, too. Friendships are made, not unlike in our guild.

The book was an easy read, light and entertaining.

Having finished that book, I looked for others by the same author. ***The Last Runaway*** takes place in Ohio in the 1850's. It deals with life in a Quaker community, the underground railway, slave catchers, quilts and, of course, a love interest. Lots of quilt patterns, terms and techniques are mentioned throughout this book. It never dawned on me until I read this book that Ohio quilt patterns are unique: they are appliquéd in red and green on a white background.

Last was ***The Lady and The Unicorn***. It takes place in medieval Paris, 1490. It is a piece of historical fiction about the making of the series of tapestries called "The Lady and The Unicorn". The tapestries are real and reside in the Musée de Cluny in Paris. The novel, of course, has, a love interest. But most of the story revolves around the facts of how the tapestries were originally made from the artist's rendering; to the cartoon made for the weavers to follow; to the weaving (which ladies, by the way, were not allowed to do); to the final cutting and hemming of the tapestry. You get an insight into what life was like for the noblefolk in Paris and for the craftsmen in Brussels during this time in history.



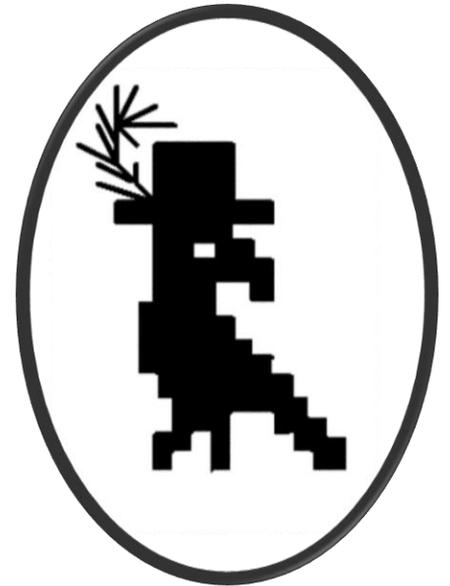
Pandemic: The Long Dog Sampler

Long Dog Samplers, the design studio of Julia Line, is one of the hottest design houses in the current cross-stitch market. Members of CGNA will recall that both Kristeen and Irene stitched LD's **Quiltz**, while Beth M. completed **Castles in the Air** and **Bhyr Deeze** (Celtic Birds). LD designs are typically large but not "fiddley"; the "mono" designs invite stitchers to apply their own colour palettes, as simple or intricate as they desire.

In 2016, Line celebrated her 20th year in business with the release of the enormous (363 x 447 stitches) **Death by Cross-Stitch**. For her upcoming 25th anniversary, she was planning a pattern of comparable size called **Pandemic**. Then the world exploded with Covid-19, a real-life pandemic. Line responded by moving the launch date of her special piece up a year. For one crazy week last June, **Pandemic** was available as a free download; several of our members were amongst the 50K people who took advantage of the offer. (Thanks to Kristeen and Leola, for spreading the word to guild members.) **Pandemic** now markets for over \$40 Cdn.

At first glance, it may not be obvious how the design is related to its name. But, the devil is in the details. The motif just north-west of the centre features two creatures: Are they birds wearing plumed hats or plague doctors with tail feathers? Is it co-incidence that the man and woman on their left are separated by a distance that is just over the height of the man?

Several CGNA members have committed to stitching **Pandemic** – or a part of it. Predictably, Kristeen has a full page done; she's working in dramatic red, (Anchor 44), a choice that was influenced by the need for 20 skeins of floss from the same dye lot (thanks, Gitta's). I wanted to



work the design in "Bejeweled", a hand-dyed thread in teals and deep blues by Classic Colorworks. Again, the sheer quantity of floss required was an obstacle, so I'll be working some areas in DMC threads of the constituent colours.

Other stitchers intend to use a wider variety of colours. Although Leola, her husband, and her daughter all thought about stitching **Pandemic**, it's the daughter, Corina, who has made a start. Her current section is in shades of DMC antique pink; she plans to shade into other colours as she works out from that centre.



Fran started in the top left corner. She's using a lovely palette of green, pink, blue, and mauve.



Corina started in the centre with DMC 223

Eva managed to find a sufficiently large piece of 14-ct blue Aida to take the design and has decided that, "This is going to be a sampler not only of motifs but also threads and colours. I'm using some crochet cotton, some pearl cotton, some floss.... I've started in the upper left corner with some of the outline and the first motif in a mauvy-pink. Some of the animals will be grey and the birds a peacock green. I also plan to use some variegated thread." Fran's first couple of pages demonstrate how effective that approach can be; I think her colour palette is lovely and can't wait to see more of it.

Whom have I missed? Not to worry – you'll be mentioned when **Pandemic** re-surfaces in future newsletters, for there are undoubtedly other guild members who have an interest in the pattern (or will have, now). So, be prepared for the second wave!

Kristeen found the following tutorial on using a pin-stitch to anchor your thread when doing cross-stitch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZDKD4hquKI> One starts by sending the needle up in the hole you would normally start with, leaving about 1 cm. tail. Send the needle down where the centre of the stitch would be, then up in the hole that normally ends the first stitch of the cross, and back down in the centre. Now, stitch the second leg of the cross; it will cover the "join" in the centre of the first stitch. This is a good technique for conserving thread and keeping the back of the work tidy.

Fall Program

We will be "meeting" on our usual meeting days this year, but until we can all meet as a group at the church, we will be sending out instructions each meeting day and hope that these Mondays will continue to be stitching days for you. If your comfort level permits and as long as the weather is amenable, we encourage people to get together in small groups in backyards or parks where social distancing can be maintained. And if space and comfort permit, some may be able to gather in a home. It will be up to you.

We were unable to finish the morning program last spring but will do so when we are able to meet again as a group. Sally will show us how to do some silk ribbon embroidery and Theresa has a needle lace project ready to go.

First of all, for the month of September, we are hoping that everybody will make a Christmas ornament or two for the EAC Christmas ornament exchange that is being organized by our own Janet and Elizabeth.

Our Learn-A-Stitch theme for the coming year is "Round the World". Like last year, there will be a variety of small projects, giving us a taste of some of the great variety of designs and techniques we can explore. If there is a particular technique with a simple pattern that you would like to present, please let Ros know. The more ideas we can share the better. There's a whole world out there to visit and enjoy!

Fall Learn-a-Stitch Program	
Sept. 14	Christmas ornament patterns
Sept. 21	Christmas ornament patterns
Oct. 5	Lorna - technique TBA
Oct. 19	Theresa -- Florentine or Bargello embroidery
Nov. 9	Leola – technique TBA
Nov. 23	Kim – technique TBA

For the time being, we will not be presenting any afternoon projects although the executive is working on some "Challenge" ideas. Please keep an eye out for these. It should be fun!

September Events

Sept. 19. Jo & Christine are holding Open Houses. See poster on right.

Sept. 26. EAC/ACB's national Stitch-in-Public Day.

Re-opening is an uncertain business, and most of the usual fall fairs and shows have been cancelled or on hold. Donna will be trying to keep the website up-to-date, so please tell her of events that might interest our members and check often to see what's going on.

DESIGNER DUO
OPEN HOUSES
September 19, 2020

AT
 Designers Christine Allan
 (Christine's Swedish Weaving)
 & Jo Gatenby's
 (X's & Oh's original needlework)

Tweed locations for a mini SHOP-HOP, 11-3!

**Door prizes; Displays; Kits; Charts; Treasures;
 Needles; Scissors; Hoops; Fabric; Floss;
 Mini Take-Aways, and so much more!**

**By appointment, so grab some friends
 (groups of 4-5 max) – and book now!**

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