

# Gilding the Needle

*A few stitches today....an heirloom tomorrow.*

**Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts is a chapter of Embroidery Association of Canada**

Website [www.quiltskingston.org/cgna](http://www.quiltskingston.org/cgna)

Volume 21, Issue II Winter 2022

## **President's Message**

Our “November Summer” is over as the snow heads our way. This fall has been full of fantastic weather (17, 18, 19 C temperatures), extraordinary colours of leaves, roses in November, and many other surprises, some great and others not so great.

There have been many challenges that we have faced and overcome. Finding our new location was an easy one. Getting used to an upside-down day (historical afternoon classes in the morning and learn-a-stitch in the afternoon rather than morning) was an interesting challenge that felt ... uh, upside-down! Being brave enough to hold our Needle Arts Fair in uncertain times in a new location with several key members missing was a challenge and a half. But we did it and it was successful! Our embroidery display was beautiful thanks to all of you who brought in your new work, and to those who helped us celebrate our 20th anniversary with pieces made over the years. And I was so thankful for the masks. No one came down with Covid or the flu.



Thanks to all of you for your help, laughter, and thoughts as we traveled the road less traveled. At our December meeting, you can let us know how you felt about the challenges as we continue our journey. This fall we've had a wonderful program full of projects that were sweet (Trish's Christmas stocking), interesting (Diane and Eileen's Schwalm), silky (Sally H's Silk Ribbon course), and surprising (Beth M's Advanced Cross Stitch). I was curious to take Beth's classes – what was in the “advanced part” of cross stitch? And sure, enough there was a surprise with over one stitching. You learn something new every day. And I haven't mentioned the Focus Groups: Slow Stitching by Beth A, Brazilian Embroidery with Susanne, and Sit and Stitch. Yes, we've been having fun with lots of challenges. Many thanks to all who volunteered to teach and to plan our program. You are helping to make our Guild work.

The other best part of this fall season was the people. Meeting our friends that we got to know better on Zoom, as we all sat around the same table. And now we are once again in the same room and stitching with more friends than before. A truly wonderful time has been had this fall season. We will have one meeting in December, Tuesday the 13 th , where we will have our town Hall meeting, a stitching project, another survey for the planning of the program for the 2023-2024 season, and a Guest Speaker—Margaret Morris. All of this is sure to be fun, even without our potluck luncheon. We ask that you all bring your own lunch, and we will have a 20 th anniversary celebration treat to share with you.

On that happy note, looking forward to the New Year and beyond, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2023. Let's go stitch! *Donna*

## **CGNA Executive for 2022-2023**

<b>President</b>	Donna
<b>Vice President</b>	Anjali
<b>Past President</b>	Lorna
<b>Secretary</b>	Tricia
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lyn
<b>Membership</b>	Lynn
<b>Librarian</b>	Beth M.
<b>Program</b>	Katherine
	Susanne
	Kristeen
	Elizabeth
<b>Hospitality</b>	Janet
	Nancy
<b>Archives</b>	Gabrielle
<b>Website</b>	Donna
<b>Newsletter</b>	Theresa



## **Support our sponsors**



## **Canadian Museum of Textiles—Toronto:**

ᓇ᜵᜷᜴ᜱ᜵᜷᜴ᜱ᜷᜴ Double Vision: Jessie Oonark, Janet Kigusiuq, and Victoria Mamnguqsualuk Mar 9, 2022 – Mar 31, 2023

Simone Elizabeth Saunders: u·n·i·t·y Oct 12, 2022 – Jan 29, 2023  
<https://textilemuseum.ca/>

## **Mississippi Valley Textile Museum—Almonte:**

*People and Places* November 1- December 18, 2022

From the Vancouver Biennale – *Weaving Cultural Identities* February 18 – April 15, 2023  
<https://mvtm.ca/mvt2/exhibits/>

**Tett Centre—Kingston** List of events. <https://www.tettcentre.org/events/event-list>

**Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild** –Cobourg “In the Nick of Time Craft & Vendor Show” at Cobourg Community Centre in Cobourg. Sat Dec 3 from 11-4. \$2 at the door.

**Check these out:**



<https://www.susannabauer.com/work> beautiful to look at

<https://hapticandhue.com> Podcast out of the UK

<https://wetalkfiber.com> Podcast with people you'll recognize

## Needle Arts Fair 2022



Welcome



Kristeen, this year's featured artist.

We had sandwiches leftover at the end of the Needle Arts Fair. Ellen Richmond, one of our new Guild members, took them to the Napanee Morningstar Mission on her way home. I received the following email.



Our vendors



CGNA's Display

Hi Donna

I want to reach out to you and thank you for allowing one of our volunteers to take the left over sandwiches from your Needlework Arts Guild last weekend. The clients at our mission (Morningstar Mission) really enjoyed the treat.

Thank you

Trudy McCarthy

Administrator Morningstar Mission

## **Memories**

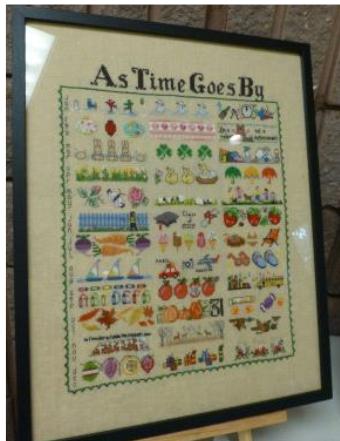
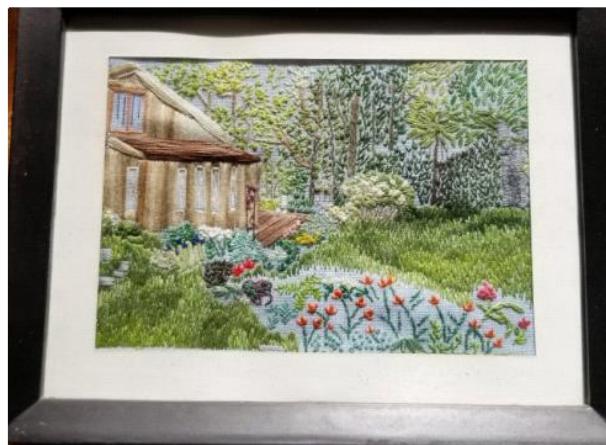


When my children left home, one to university the other to the university of Life, I stitched each of them an image of the home they could always come back to. It was my first serious experience with a laying tool: a toothpick. You really have to have a good grip on the little critter!

Birthday cards are such fun to stitch, and as long as my supply of silk fusion lasts (thank you Beth A for that workshop) it will serve as the base for flowers, fish, or whatever comes to mind.

Most of us have made bookmarks. When I picked up a book on Three-Dimensional Embroidery Stitches by Pat Trott, these stitches became flower heads on one side, the other an assortment of stitches with French knots (my favourites) well represented.

I really enjoy stitching small projects (so easy to mail) - they get done! This year we have a wealth of small projects to collect, or give away, and most likely to finish- so rewarding. **Susanne**



## **As Time Goes By**

Our Guild faced another year of challenges as a result of the Covid pandemic during 2021-22. As always, our executive rose to the challenge and kept the group active and interested by introducing a number of Round Robin projects that everyone was invited to participate in.

The projects covered a variety of techniques such as blackwork, cross stitch and surface embroidery, as well as allowing for individual creativity and imagination.

One of these Round Robin projects was a month of the year sampler. This sampler was begun by Leola Becker and then travelled to the homes of Mary Anne, Beth M, Kristeen,

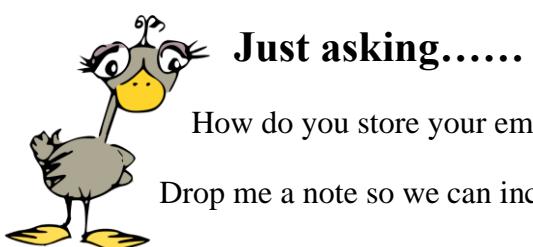
Anjali, Beth A, Nancy, Lorna, Jane, Katherine, Gabrielle, Glenda, Elizabeth, Ros and myself to be worked on. Each of these talented needle workers added their own individual stamp to the piece.

At our June meeting, all of the names of those who worked on the piece went into a hat and a draw was made to see who would become the proud owner of this unique piece. I was the lucky winner! After adding a few finishing touches and framing, this piece. It now hangs on my wall and is a gentle reminder that even during unusual and trying times, that talented and creative women can and will band together to create something of beauty. *Janet*



## OOoops!

How could I forget? It was brought to my attention that in the listing of all our guild members, past and present, I forgot our most successful guild member story. How could I forget Maureen Byre? When Maureen first joined the guild she didn't know how to thread a needle or as she put it, "how do I get the string through the hole in the stick?" Maureen went on to be one of our great instructors, teaching us the art of painting with thread. She was the featured artist at our Needle Arts Fair. She said she couldn't count so didn't do anything where you needed to count threads but what a fabulous textile artist. Maureen was an enthusiastic supporter of the guild and went so far as to offer a prospective member a ride to guild for her first meeting.



Just asking.....  
How do you store your embroidery threads?

Drop me a note so we can include your answers in our next newsletter.

**Deadline February 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
[cgnanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cgnanewsletter@gmail.com)

*Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist. ~Pablo Picasso*

## The Silk Ribbon Workshop with Sally



Some of us had waited years for Sally to lead us once again into the flower garden of silk ribbon embroidery; for others it was a new and challenging experience.

Sally generously provided us with kits of variously coloured silk ribbon and a printout picturing the bouquet we might wish to create, as well as the means, by using different stitches. I was happy to see my old friend the French knot, so versatile, as well as the pistil stitch, spider web

rose, and several ways to gather the silk - patience! -to form flower heads and leaves. "I like doing fiddly work" an attitude that leads to success in this type of embroidery. Sally showed many beautiful creations that she has created over the years, as well as books - stump work combined with silk ribbon, oh my. She also generously gave away ribbon and frequently encouraged us to explore new shapes, combine colours, and let the imagination lead the way - and isn't that one of the things which makes stitching exciting? *Susanne*



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Note: Ann is closed for the winter. She will be back in April.

## From the Book Shelf



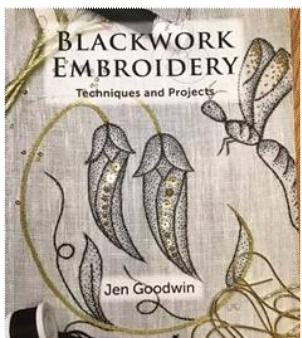
Now that you have had a taste of Schwalm work, check out these books in our library:

***Schwalm Whitework*** by Renate Fernau

***Schwalm Embroidery: A Neck Pillow*** by Barbara Kershaw

***Schwalm Traditional and Contemporary Whitework*** by Janet M. Davies

Did you know that EAC/ACB has a large library collection? Guild members can borrow books from this library for a month and shipping is free. <https://eac-acb.ca/leonida-leatherdale-needle-arts-library>



***Blackwork Embroidery, Techniques and Projects*** by Jen Goodwin is an invaluable resource for those interested in blackwork embroidery. After a brief introduction about the history of blackwork, and a section on the basic tools and materials that are required, she goes on to describe how we could design our own blackwork patterns and how to add colour to a design.

The next 101 pages are devoted to basic blackwork stitches followed by a further 30 pages of other stitches and techniques that could be combined in a blackwork project. After a section on stitch exercises and projects, she also provides insight on how to produce portraits and landscapes using shaded blackwork techniques. The final section is on finishing and framing the work.

This is an impressive volume of work that covers all aspects of this type of needlework. She has even included a section on unpicking, fixing a hole in the fabric and how to remove blood spots! Fabulous! What else could you possibly need to know?

A very practical book, that invites you to be creative and innovative in your stitching. A worthy addition to any needle workers library. [Janet](#)



## SNOW MAIL

I have been stitching my little fingers off and I am so pleased with this design, called SNOW MAIL... it's the first of a set of four.

Jo Gatenby, Designer X's & Oh's. Visit her website for more wonderful Christmas designs. [www.xs-and-ohs.com](http://www.xs-and-ohs.com)

## CGNA PROGRAMME JANUARY - JUNE, 2023

DATE	MORNING LEARN A STITCH	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS
Jan 10	Business update <b>Canvas work</b> – Kristeen Krestensen	<b>Cross Stitch</b> – Beth Mewhort
Jan 24	Business update Show and Share <b>Canvas work</b> – Kristeen Krestensen	<b>Book Cover</b> – letters/other ideas Elizabeth Vandenberg
Feb 14	Business update <b>Pulled Thread</b> – Elizabeth Vandenberg	<b>Kantha</b> – Anjali Shyam
Feb 28	Business update Show and Share <b>Pulled Thread</b> – Elizabeth Vandenberg	<b>Kantha</b> – Anjali Shyam
Mar 14	<b>Crewel</b> – Beth Abbott	<b>Kantha</b> – Anjali Shyam
Mar 28	Business update Show and Share <b>Crewel</b> – Beth Abbott	<b>Mountmellick</b> – Eileen Hanson
Apr 11	Business update <b>Silly Birds</b> Beth A/Elizabeth V	<b>Mountmellick</b> – Eileen Hanson
Apr 25	Business update Show and Share <b>Silly Birds</b> Beth A/Elizabeth V	<b>Blue Vase Project</b> – Theresa Lawrence
May 9		<b>Silk Fusion</b> – Beth Abbott
May 23	Business update Show and Share <b>Catch up</b> on projects	<b>Silk Fusion</b> – Beth Abbott
June 13		<b>Annual General Meeting</b> , Activity to be announced



### Meeting Schedule

*Learn A Stitch* - 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

*Coffee Break* - to be decided by leader

*Business Update and Show and Share* - 11:30 a.m. – noon

*Lunch* – noon – 1 p.m.

*Workshop* - 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

## Show and Share



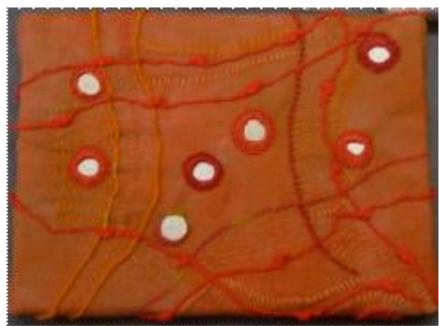
From Gabrielle's Bee Series



Beth A's corset



Francine's Wessex project



Anjali's monochrome challenge



Elizabeth's monochrome challenge



Donna's Garden of Delight



Liz's Dove of Peace for the Ukraine



Donna's Dove of Peace



## Fall Learn-a-Stitch

Elizabeth's samples of our fall  
Learn-a-Stitch

These are ready to be made into a  
book of this year's stitching  
samples.



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