

# *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)

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## **President's Message**

And all of a sudden, it's almost June, the halfway mark of 2023 and almost the end of another stitching year. Where did the time go? We switched back to our more regular way of doing things, with Learn-a-Stitch in the morning and classes in the afternoon in the New Year. At our June Annual General Meeting, you'll be able to say which you preferred.

We have covered a lot of topics this year in a small format for possibly our embroidery Books. There was Pulled thread, Canvas work, Crewel stitches reviewed or maybe learned. In the afternoon, we finished our cross stitch, learned about Kantha, and Mountmellick. Silk Fusion has been fun to make and soon we will be stitching on it. We also have Theresa's Blue Vase project coming up. Two project to play with our creativity. This has been a full year. The Program Committee has out done itself. I hope you have enjoyed the program as much as I have with friends like you.

With Quilts Kingston 2023 a short time away, I hope you will be able to come and talk to people about this group and the wonderful projects, learning, and fun that we all have. It is an opportunity to share what we do with others who might want to join us. I hope you are able to spare a couple of hours on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday on June 2, 3, 4 th to speak about your experiences with our wonderful guild.

With that said, I say....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>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lyn
<b>Membership</b>	Lynn
<b>Librarian</b>	Beth M.
<b>Program</b>	Katherine Susanne Elizabeth
<b>Hospitality</b>	Janet Nancy
<b>Archives</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>Website</b>	Donna
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>vacant</b>

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## Check these out!



### Canadian Conservation Institute

The Canadian Conservation Institute has a series of notes on taking care of Textiles and Fibres. Although this information is geared towards helping museums take care of their items the information contained will also be of use to you and your treasured items.

The website is: [canada.pchgc.ca/eng/1439925167385](https://canada.pchgc.ca/eng/1439925167385)

### Royal School of Needlework Stitch Bank <https://rsnstitchbank.org/>

*(This is a treasure trove of stitches!)*

### World of Threads Festival <http://www.worldofthreadsfestival.com/>

(Also check out World of Threads Images to see what has been shown in past shows.)

### DMC Colour Families

[https://www.dmc.com/media/color\\_charts/DMC\\_Embroidery\\_Floss\\_Color\\_Families\\_2021.pdf](https://www.dmc.com/media/color_charts/DMC_Embroidery_Floss_Color_Families_2021.pdf)

### Almonte Fibre Fest <http://almontefibrefest.ca/>

### The Red Dress Project <https://reddressembroidery.com/> (If you haven't seen it yet, check it out!)



*A clean house is a sign you ran out of embroidery floss.*

## About Our Program *Susanne*

Here we are, nearing the end of the Winter/Spring 'semester' of our Guild. It all started with a picnic in the park where we chose the various stitching techniques we wanted to pursue, and Ros handed over the programming responsibility. It was June and September would be the first meeting - we had to hustle! Elizabeth V., Kristeen, Katherine, and I volunteered to become the core group of the new committee, as did Beth A. to add her creative ideas. At some point, of course, Life intervenes and Kristeen had to resign, but she had helped get us on the right track and we are so grateful.

The first change that members wanted to try was to have Learn-A-Stitch in the afternoon for the Fall session, then switch back around to the morning (as in previous years) for the Winter/Spring meetings. We shall vote on which schedule to keep for '23-'24 at the AGM on June 13. The next thing to consider was whether to have one theme for Learn-A-Stitch or several small works, different themes which would be compiled in a book. Well, you know the answer. Next year's Winter/Spring will have one theme developed during LAS, as initially suggested. Keeps us flexible.

Sitting around Kristeen's dining table we used the results of the members' survey to present a mix of surface and counted stitch work, thought about Christmas - in July - and hoped that our members would be able to lead all of us in the projects for LAS and afternoon Class. And did they ever! The projects presented were interesting and challenging, the teaching effective, supportive -and fun. We thank you All, so very, very much for making this session such a rich experience.

The last steps to any plan are to assess the outcome and find remedies. We have learned that more time is needed to complete projects and plan to have classes carry over three or four meetings as well as using some periods for free stitch. The LAS project will continue during Winter/Spring, interesting stitches to learn and apply should help us keep up with the development and completion of it as well as the Classes. More program details at the AGM.

Each of us has her own reasons for coming -or not- to Guild meetings but stitching, learning and visiting seem to be the foundation of getting together. All of us have stitch interests and by sharing with each other we expand our skills, are energized, and grow our craft in interesting ways. Let us continue to support each other in the up-coming program - even if it means moving a little out of our comfort zone. We are the fabulous creations that are the CGNA.

### WANTED

- Looking for someone to take on the **Archivist's** position.
- Looking for someone to join the **Program Committee**.
- Looking for someone to take on the **Secretary's** position.
- Looking for someone to take on the **Newsletter** position.

**Thank you for making our guild stronger.  
When we all pitch in, we all gain, especially you!**



## KANTHA WORKSHOP *Anjali*

The opportunity of the workshop was to learn about traditional kantha, its history, purpose and uses. I am fortunate to own a few silk sarees with kantha embroidery. I brought these to the class to study the stitching styles. Unbleached cotton fabric was provided for the projects. For this exercise, the participants were challenged to stitch without a knot using two strands of floss. The participants were asked to enjoy slow-stitching, keep it organic and stitches need not be even. Our first project was to stitch a design and fill it with straight stitches. Every piece had a different look depending on the size of stitches and the colour of thread. Variegated threads had a different effect.



A book on antique kantha pieces from the library was the inspiration for the second piece of work. All the ladies made their own original designs and did beautiful stitching.



by Elizabeth



by Theresa

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*The best things in life are stitched.*

## Silk Fusion Workshop *Jane*

Before I begin to share my experience into a medium that I thought only existed in historical archives occurring on the Silk Road, I want to say a little, wee, tiny bit about our teacher/instructor. WOW!!

Okay now that this is taken care of, let's begin...

The day was incredibly fun...a nice small group of women with loads of talent and enthusiasm signed up for the challenge! We donned our aprons like professional chefs and prepared our tables with all the paraphernalia needed to create our masterpieces. (The Great British Bake Show hosts would be quite impressed with our determination!) After a demonstration by our illustrious guru we excitedly went back to our tables and starting doing everything Beth told us not to do...oops... with a little individual encouragement by our great one we proceeded to accomplish what she intended for us to create.

I would like to take a moment of reflection for all the silk worms, who gave up their lives for us to have a creative go at being clever with their raw silk fluff! I feel better now...(sigh)

Our silk creations consisted of combining (actually drowning) the "fluff" with soapy water between a mess screen and pressing it flat with our hands over the messing (we used Dawn detergent...we won't inform Palmolive's Madge of our preference for keeping our hands soft by soaking in it.) After that we used a hardening agent to set our finished piece. Some chose to make a piece of silk to embroider into cards etc, while others (including myself) made a mask using a plastic mold to hold its shape.

Lo and behold a finished piece of silk fusion to embellish! At the moment my piece looks like the death mask of Maria Antoinette but with a little imagination and sheer grit I'll make it into a 'not so deathly' piece to be proud of!

Now back to WOW... let me just say how impressed I am with Beth's ability as a fibre artiste and her flair for teaching! Her knowledge is outstanding and her genuine love for what she does comes through to her students to do their best! She is also a very nice woman who I admire very much. Thank you Beth for being just you!!



It is always good to start with a plan of where you are going. This is a sketch of where Jane plans to go with her mask.





**Choosing the right background material for your mask is really important. Until you see it against some materials you never really know.**

## Knowledge and Needles

Knowledge and Needles has a quiet summer ahead. There are no big shows or retreats on the horizon, just lots of time for stitching! It may actually be a good time to wander down the 401, or take a more leisurely drive via the Glendora Ferry and the County and come for a visit. The shop is open from Wednesday to Saturday and I am always happy to have stitchers drop in to browse the fabric or take a look at the many charts I brought back from the Nashville Market. If you just want to get a couple of friends together and come for a cup of tea and a few peaceful stitching hours, that can also be arranged.

Shoppers, browsers, stitchers...all are welcome! **I hope to see you! Ann**



## Thank You

I would like to say thank you to Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts. When I was encouraged to join the guild I was told, "Oh they are such nice people, you'll love them." Mary Ann was correct—you are lovely people. I have been part of this guild for 20 years and part of me is torn about not returning next year. I have made some great friends and along the way have learned a lot about embroidery—things even I didn't know I needed to know. You have helped and encouraged me through all my trials and tribulations—car crash, cancer and even hip replacement. For that I will be eternally grateful. I am not going anywhere, so I hope those friendships that I have made will continue. It is just time for me to step aside.

*Theresa*



## Silly Bird Challenge



Eileen



Beth A.



Elizabeth



Theresa



Theresa



Kristeen

*Any day spent stitching is a happy day*



## What's Happening

**Mississippi Textile Museum** – Almonte

*Woven Woods: A Journey Through the Forest Floor* April 29-July 22, 2023  
from 2:00- 5:00 pm

*Among the Garbage and the Flowers* August 5-October 7, 2023 from 2:00 –  
4:00 pm

<https://mvtm.ca/mvt2/exhibits/>

**Prince Edward County Quilt Show** – *A Stitch in Time* 2023 July 8-9, 2023-05-19

Wellington and District Community Centre

<https://pecquilt.weebly.com/2023-quilt-show.html>

**Prince Edward District Women's Institute, 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Craft Sale**—August 3, 2023

Picton Fairgrounds <https://thecountywomensinstitute.ca/craft-show/>

**Fibre Fest** –Almonte September 6-10<sup>th</sup>.

Workshops September 6-10<sup>th</sup>. Registration required.

Vendors & Demonstrations September 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00–5:00 pm, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00–4:00 pm

**Leeds Grenville Fibre Extravaganza** September 16, 2023

## A Year in the Life of a Library

Beth M.



After a year of being “under construction”, CGNA’s library is (pretty much) open for business.

For much of the pandemic period, we didn’t have access to our library cabinet. The librarians dutifully catalogued new donations, keeping them in their own homes and periodically dusting them. With the return of in-person meetings, getting the books into the hands of our members became a priority. And, this entailed some hard decisions and some, literally, heavy lifting.

The first issue was storage. We needed more shelf space! CGNA authorized some shopping, but cabinets that look nice, have lockable doors and adjustable shelves that will take 75 pounds of books per shelf are a bit thin on the ground. Eventually, with the help of Lyn and Peter and the co-operation of the church, we installed a black metal cabinet intended for garage storage.

(Yes, we gave up on “look nice” – anyone who objects can be the first to embroider some decorative magnets to improve its appearance.)

When we started to re-arrange the books, we realized that we still had a big problem. Our old cabinet had suffered from years of overloading and had been moved repeatedly. Its shelves were too warped to sit on the little pins that were supposed to support them, its back was not supporting any weight. After major surgery in Leola and Heinz’s garage, it now has five new shelves, all five braced to support the weight of our books.

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To house the library during our main cabinet's sick days, Janet and Avery donated a jelly cabinet bought on auction which they delivered to the church hall, by Theresa and Dave. A huge thank you to Lyn, Janet, Leola and Theresa and their husbands for their time, their know-how, and their muscle!

The second issue was getting the books onto the shelves. How should they be ordered? The existing system was alphabetically by author's last name, a system which is precise and easy for both the librarian and the users to follow. Several members commented, however, that they would enjoy browsing the books more if the books were ordered by genre. But, what is a genre? I decided to group books into categories, aiming for no fewer than 5 and no more than 25 books per category. To devise these categories, I had to inspect and classify each book.

During this process, I altered my categories many times – each time, I had to go back and re-categorize books I thought I was done with. No doubt, I will have to repeat this process many more times. But, here is the way the categories currently sit:

1.1 General books on needlework (verbal descriptions of styles, uses, history, etc.)

1.2 Needlework in specific cultures, world-wide

1.3 Needlework in Western culture (English, American, European)

1.4 About samplers

1.5 Projects that represent a variety of styles and techniques

2.1 “How-to” books: Stitch dictionaries, stitching techniques and tips

2.2 Stitching techniques: collections (Anchor, A-Z, Mira Silverstein, EAC courses)

2.3 Design (Both inspirational and practical, includes thread colour cards)

2.4 Transfer patterns

3.1 Counted work: Stitch dictionaries, general descriptors

3.2 Canvaswork

3.3 Bargello

3.4 Blackwork

3.5 Cross-stitch: small patterns

3.6 Cross-stitch: full-size projects

3.7 Large projects suitable for petit point, cross-stitch, or gros point (no back-stitch)

3.8 Other counted styles (e.g., Swedish weaving, Wessex stitchery)

4.1 Surface Embroidery : General technique and projects which use assorted styles

4.2 Brazilian

4.3 Crewel

4.4 Metalwork/ Goldwork

4.5 Ribbon Embroidery

4.6 Raised/Dimensional (e.g., Stumpwork, Trapunto)

4.7 Other specific styles (appliqué, shadowwork, smocking)

5.1 Whitework (both counted & surface, includes Schwalm)

5.2 Needlelace

5.3 Hardanger

5.4 Other counted (Hemstitching, Hedebo, Drawn-Thread, Pulled-Thread)

5.5 Surface (Mount Mellick, Casulguidi, Candlewicking)

- 6.1 Subject Matter: Patterns for Samplers
- 6.2 Christmas projects
- 6.3 Floral (no specific technique or broad range of techniques)
- 6.4 Ethnic (specific projects)

- 7.1 Related to Embroidery: Fabric manipulation (e.g., dying)
- 7.2 Finishing (making into boxes, blocking, braiding, tassels, etc)
- 7.3 Beadwork
- 7.4 Oddments (tattooing, crazy-quilts)

There is still much to do. Once the books are onto the shelves in a reasonable order, we need dividers and labels to help members find what they're looking for. (Meanwhile, please do ask.) We need to cross-reference the many books that belong to more than one category. We need a clean listing of the collection for Donna to post on our website. We need to cull books, not only exact duplicates of books we own but also books that duplicate the information in other, nicer, books that we own. We need an organization for the yellow box where we keep the sign-out cards.

I am learning so much as librarian! For example, I hadn't realized that "Drawn Fabric Work" is another moniker for "Pulled-Thread Work", not "Drawn-Thread Work". I hadn't appreciated that an old black-and-white manual with clear diagrams might be preferable to a glossy modern tome because it is less intimidating. I didn't know what a bolt-cutter was.

We still own more books than fit easily into our cabinets, although, at this stage, I'm not sure how many more. With the books organized by genre, keeping the overflow in the librarian's home may work well. For example, there are many months when the books of Christmas designs are not in demand, so they can stay in my house and be carried in as a set when they are wanted. Increasing circulation also helps the storage problem. **If each CGNA member signs out four books for summer reading, we reduce our needed storage space by a whole shelf.**

Finally, I am grateful to the members for their encouragement and support. Thanks to Ellen for volunteering to be my assistant and sorting books. To the ladies who held the door open and helped lift boxes of books onto tables. To the members who smiled when I interrupted them with, "Here's a book that might interest you;" to the members who browsed the "new-to-you" books that I brought into meetings; to the members who appreciated that it costs nothing to sign out a book, especially the ones who signed out lots and sorted which ones were useful to them; to everyone who values the books and will use our library to good advantage. Happy reading!

## **The Blue Vase** *Theresa*



The Blue Vase came about from seeing a challenge in set in one of the guilds in the Praries, but written up in an Inspirations newsletter (by the way they are interesting and free). The instructions were to embroidery a blue vase and add flowers. They suggested Sue Spargo type of flowers. These are works in progress. Anjali embroidered her vase in a Kantha design and is just planning where to place her flowers. Susanne is working hers in felt.



## Finished Projects and UFO's *Jo*

Well, I am working on magazine projects right now-and suffering the aftermath of a flooded office (!), but here's a few tidbits for you...

I also have three of the seven floral card designs done I hope to release this year. While each has a saying shown on the cover, they include a complete alphabet (in the style shown), so they can be changed and/or personalized. At 14ct they fit a large rectangle tri-fold card (available on my website). Oh, and I stitched them on 14ct perforated paper... though they may be stitched on fabric.



Now, I don't normally do this, but the final photo is a peek at the next design I'm working on for A



Needle Pulling Thread... BUSY GROWING. The 'theme' for this issue is 'not the usual stitches', so in addition to cross-stitch and backstitch, this piece has GORDIAN KNOTS for the baskets; LAZY DAISY leaves on the vines on the right; PADDED SATIN STITCH flowers with FRENCH KNOT centers and LONG LEAVES; SEED STITCH tufts at the top center right; and that orange vertical strip on the right is PEKENISE STITCH. However, I'm not happy with it, or the seed stitches (one is too bright, the other too dull), so tonight I'll pull them both out and reverse the colors!

There will also be SHEATH STITCHES in the center (where that vine ends right now), COLONIAL STITCH buds on the center-right vines, and a few RHODES BUTTERFLIES in the sky overhead! I've used several Color Variations floss' from DMC, to give some movement to various parts of the design.

I'm still debating whether or not to backstitch the baskets... so stay tuned! I'll post a finished pic in the next newsletter, so you can see how it turned out!

Hope everyone has a great summer!



## Show and Share



**X's & Ohs**

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