

Diane opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, or Happy Whatever You Celebrate! She thanked Sue R and Ellen for their usual superb coordination of our annual holiday celebration.

Diane then conducted a short business meeting. First she reviewed stitching opportunities within NJNA.

The Stitch of the Month (SOTM) group meets the second Saturday of each month at a member's home (usually Sue C's or Rosie's). This group formed two years ago when we decided to do the mystery project by Debbie Stiehler on the ANG website. We start about 11:00 AM, bring our own lunch, and the hostess provides dessert and coffee, tea, or water. We generally end around 4:00, but it isn't a hard deadline.

This past year, SOTM started the ANG project(s), but no one liked it. So, in May, we decided to do Kurdy Bigg's "A Different View" in conjunction with the SBCANG chapter in California. We divided up the project into monthly "chunks" and enjoyed our stitching time together. A few of us are nearing completion (just beads left) and a few are catching up. Here is Robin's (nearly finished) status – you can see that this was a beautiful piece with lots of learning possibilities.



Robin's "A Different View"

In 2014, the SOTM group decided to begin with a few months of catching up with WIPs, but expect to pick a project as the year progresses – perhaps even the one with ANG. All are welcome to join us – please let Rosie know as she keeps a list for reminders and other notifications. Once we pick a project, SOTM participants are expected to stitch it so that we can have a shared learning experience. Therefore, the participants change from year to year, but we have so much fun that most of us just decide to add one more project to our stash!

Next Diane told us about our new initiative for "Serengeti", a design by Pamela Harding. Early last year, Linda M told us about the "Serengeti" workshop at the Quail Run needlepoint shop in Scottsdale, AZ. It allowed ghosts, so she thought it might be a good

project for NJNA. Linda coordinated an order of kits with Quail Run, but we elected to delay starting our “workshop” until the fall. The project was offered on both 18-count canvas (beige) and Congress cloth (spice). So we are happy to announce that we will hold our Serengeti workshop starting on the fourth Saturday in January and continuing monthly (fourth Saturday) for about six months. The workshop will be held at Rosie’s. If you didn’t get a kit and changed your mind about participating, you should be able to obtain the kit (instructions, threads, and canvas) from Quail Run with a quick call.

Barbara asked about opportunities for open stitching groups. Diane advised that the NJNA board has been talking about this. One result is that we have reserved the room at the library for an extra hour – from 6:00 until 9:00 on our regular meeting days. The first hour will be open stitching and talking – to allow all members to arrive by the regular meeting time of 7:00. Please let a board member know if you have other ideas about where we can meet at other times for stitching.

Diane reported that NJNA made \$381.70 by providing the lunches for NJ Fall Needlefest! This is equivalent to about 13 new member’s dues! Bring your ideas on how we should spend it to the January “suggest a program” meeting!

Heidi confirmed that NJNA had authorized a donation of \$100 to the library as a thank you for allowing us to use our meeting room at no charge.

Diane then asked the nominating committee to present the slate of officers to lead NJNA next year. Linda M announced the following slate of officers for 2015:

President: Diane
VP, Programs: Carol
VP, Membership: Heidi
Treasurer: Rosie
Secretary: Rona

Linda moved that we accept the slate of officers as presented. Ellen seconded the motion. The motion carried with a voice vote! Congratulations to our 2015 NJNA Board. Diane also noted that there were three ad hoc members of the board for newsletter, website, and meeting summaries. In addition, all members are invited to attend board meetings to provide input into the running of our guild.

A large contingent of NJNA has pre-registered for the ANG seminar in Myrtle Beach next year! Not all of us got our first choices or all of our projects, it appears that some projects are already “sold out!” Please consider signing up – it promises to be fun – with stitching too! REMINDER: Final payment for early registrants was due on December 7.

The “Wright Kimono” by Toni Gerdes was an oversold class at the Chicago seminar – much to the chagrin of a few of our members. Jill announced that Cyberpointers chapter will be offering it as a chapter project in 2016. Watch this space!

We then adjourned for eating and it was delicious! But what would our holiday party be without our Dirty Santa game, complete with stealing! We hope everyone enjoyed what they ended up with!



Hmmm – which one shall I choose?



See what the clever stitching elves found! What fun!

I hope you'll enjoy our holiday show and tell pictures!

Best Wishes for the Holidays and Happy Stitching in the New Year!

Cheers,

Rosie

FINISHED!



Linda started this "Mystic Christmas Sampler" last year and we have enjoyed seeing her progress through the year! Now it is framed and ready for the holidays.

Gorgeous Stitching!

Sue R's Twelve Days of Christmas Ornaments



A Partridge in a Pear Tree



Two Turtle Doves



Three French Hens



Four Calling Birds



Five Golden Rings



Six Geese A-laying



Seven Swans A-swimming



Eight Maids A-milking



Nine Ladies Dancing



Ten Lords Leaping



Eleven Pipers Piping



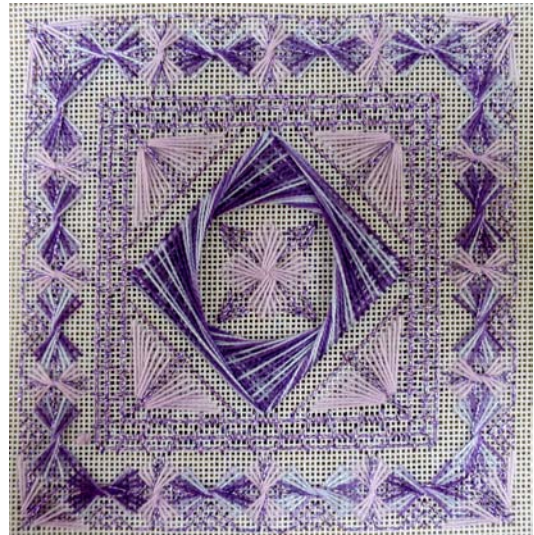
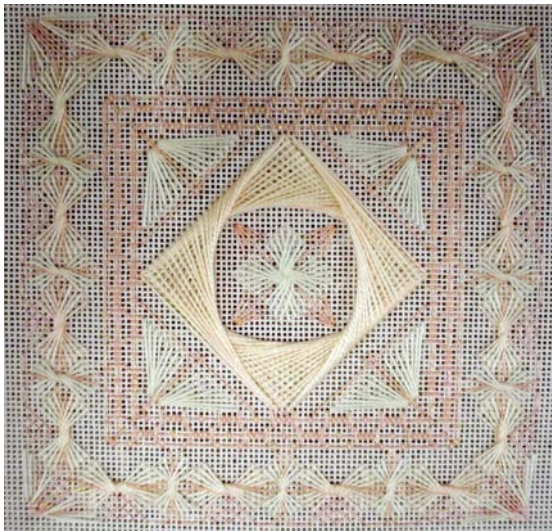
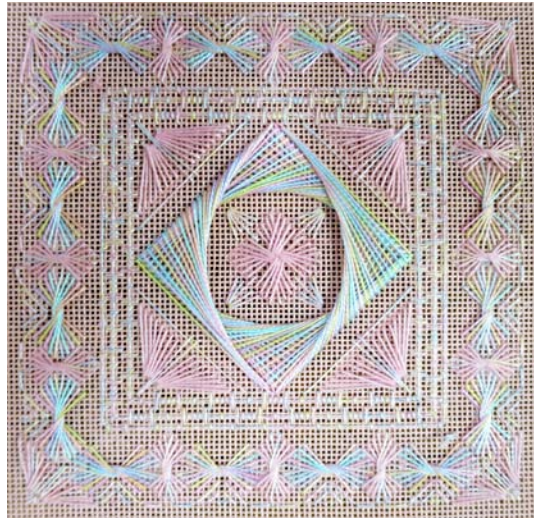
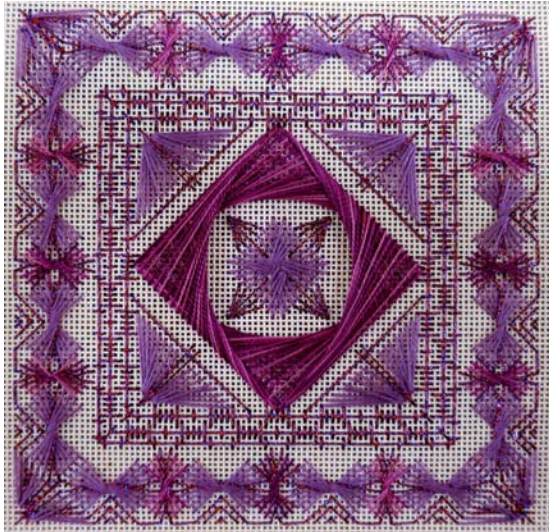
Twelve Drummers Drumming

I just didn't want to shrink these beautiful ornaments even an iota more! Sue R stitched these as part of a canvas of the month club by Nimble Needle in Atlanta! Quite a body of work for the past year! Sue got to learn a lot of new stitches and she says she thinks she worked with every type of thread that is out there! The piper's fingers are perfect bullion knots! Nimble Needle had a finisher in Washington State who agreed to finish any that were finished by Christmas! These are stunning, Sue!



A Holly Jolly Christmas Assortment – all stitched and finished by Diane. The little winter hats all open up at the bottom and Diane uses them over the top of her stairway newel posts! Clever! Have you seen the facebook commentary on the sizes of Christmas stockings through the years? Apparently folks in the Northeast are in search of smaller needlepoint stocking designs! The new ones are too big and don't match ones done a few years back. Some shops will have the stocking designed to your preferred measurements for uniformity with older designs! How cool is that?

STITCHED!



Robin is doing the Michael Boren/Carole Lake Stitch for a Cause "Mariposa" in all five colorways! She has four of them stitched already. Isn't it interesting to see the colors all together? This is the same Stitch for a Cause concept as our "St. Margaret's Star" chapter project a few years ago. Glad to see you continuing with the tradition, Robin!

IN-PROGRESS!



Those of you who follow the NJNA Blog know that Linda attended a one day workshop at the Enriched Stitch in Wilton, CT. She had bought this whimsical canvas, threads, and stitch guide on another trip, but when the shop announced the workshop she decided to go. All the commenters on our blog begged Linda to bring this piece to the meeting so that we could see it in person! For more info, please visit the blog and read Linda's wonderful blog post about the threads and stitches, with close-up photos!



Heidi wanted us to see the progress she is making on her Chicago seminar piece "American Mosaic". This is her third project for her Grandson Declan so Heidi says she is ready to stitch something for herself next!