

New Jersey Needle Artists  
American Needlepoint Guild  
February 19, 2014 Meeting

Hi Everyone –

Thirteen members, including one new NJNA member, came out on a wintry evening for a jam-packed program. Please join me in welcoming Nancy B. from Parsippany. She heard about us at the Edwardian Needle. In addition to needlepoint, she does cross-stitching, crewel, and embroidery. It's clear that she is an enthusiastic stitcher and will be an active chapter participant!

After going around and introducing ourselves to Nancy, Heidi gave the treasurer's report. We have \$1,643.80 in our account.

Rosie indicated that there are still open spots at the NJNA table for the NJ Needlefest. Anyone who is interested should send their registration directly to Susan with a note that they want to sit at the NJNA table. The registration form can be found at <http://www.needlefest.com/NJNeedleFestival.htm>.

Carol shared the program plan that resulted from the January brainstorming and voting.

March, April, and May: Ort Box with a Twist

June: Project Safe for transporting Needlepoint

July: Finishing on the Ort Box

August: Stitch-in

September: Read out from Seminar and Roll out of Sudoku

October, November, and December: Sudoku

In addition we will continue to add to our stitch notebooks each month!

Ort Box with a Twist: NJNA members who wish to participate in this project will need to go to the ANG website to order or download the instructions for this project. (<http://www.needlepoint.org/Merchandise/ort-box-twist.php>) Sue C. bought the instructions at 2013 national seminar and she recommends that you be able to get a color version. So if your printer doesn't do color, you probably want to order the directions. (They are on heavy paper, single-sided.)

You should be able to use threads from your stash for this project. However – it is critical that you work this piece on 18-count *interlock* canvas because of the folding and finishing process. Sue C. has contacted Needleworker's Delight and they can provide a "fat quarter" (18 by 20 inches) in white for \$5.50. Please let Sue C. know if you want her to pick this up for you before March 10. The store also has interlock canvas in colors, but if you want a color, you'll have to get it yourself.

We will start stitching at the March meeting. You will need the canvas, 16 by 13 stretcher bars, and basting thread at the meeting.

The NJNA board is also planning a number of additional activities for your consideration. The first of these is a pilot class for Susan H's "A Thread for All Seasons: A Color Interaction Study". This will be held in May on a day that is TBD. Susan will be submitting this as a proposal for the ANG national seminar in 2015, so I can't show a picture here. NJNA members should stay tuned for a further announcement in their e-mail.

The second activity is a stitched sampler in honor of one of our deceased members, Barbara Davis; the finished piece will be presented to her husband. Carol talked with several of Barbara's friends and they indicated that Barbara had been very interested in gardening and flowers – but in addition she was incredibly organized in her work as church secretary. Rosie suggested that we could combine the two in a formal English garden sampler. This was enthusiastically received and members are asked to look for ideas or samples of stitched formal gardens and bring them to the March meeting.

Carol also raised the possibility of additional stitching retreats. Carol hosted the first one at her time-share apartment in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in March 2013. We followed with an Adirondack retreat at Diane's cabin in September. Diane has offered her cabin again for a 2014 fall date TBD. Additionally, we are gauging interest in another Mexican retreat hosted by Carol or a Florida retreat hosted by Heidi. The latter two would likely be next winter so that members have time to plan and save! So please think about it and let us know if you would be interested in any or all of these at the March meeting.

The SOTM group is continuing this year. We have decided to do the ANG SOTM project for 2014 – at least through the completion of the first bracelet. Some of us are planning to stitch the project as a band sampler. We meet the first Saturday of every month – March's meeting is at Sue C's. Bring your own lunch – hostess provides beverages and dessert! This is always a fun time for stitching and talking! Please consider joining us. (I never turn down an opportunity to stitch with friends!)

Linda then took the floor and taught us two stitches that will be used in the current "Frankie" workshop. These were the Diagonal Jessica and the Waffle stitch. Linda made excellent stitch charts (in Excel, no less!). Carol has extra charts and supplies if you missed this! This gives many of us an excellent leg up on our Frankie lessons!

I hope you'll enjoy our show and tell pictures! Susan H. shared the piece that she is developing for the Myrtle Beach ANG Seminar – sorry, but we can't show pictures! It's terrific!

Happy Stitching!

Cheers,

Rosie

FINISHED!



Sue C. framed her 2013 SOTM project. It is not framed under glass as this is Sue's preference. The interesting thing is that because the piece was very square (mine never are) the framer indicated that it would be possible to hang this diagonally as shown in the picture. Very clever, Sue!





Instead of needlepointing, this month Ellen made this absolutely stunning Christmas tree skirt. It is made from wool appliques that are sewn onto the black flannel skirt. Ellen added some red French knots on a few of the designs to give it a little more color. The skirt depicts the "Twelve Days of Christmas" and is a pattern from Sew Cherished in Missouri. ([Sew Cherished Website](#)) PS – I left this full size so that you could get some idea about how detailed each of the twelve gifts is.



This is a Sue Reed design, “Journey”, that Rosie and Sue C. took when they attended a meeting of the San Bernardino ANG group after the ANG seminar in Anaheim. I started stitching this at the Adirondack retreat and decided to frame it in a Sudberry box. One interesting design note: The design called for the center cross to be in taupe and the surrounding area of the inner block in red. I thought the colors should be reversed so that the cross motif in the corners would be picked up and repeated in the center cross. I had to track down some taupe silk and that was easier said than done! I’m very happy with the result!



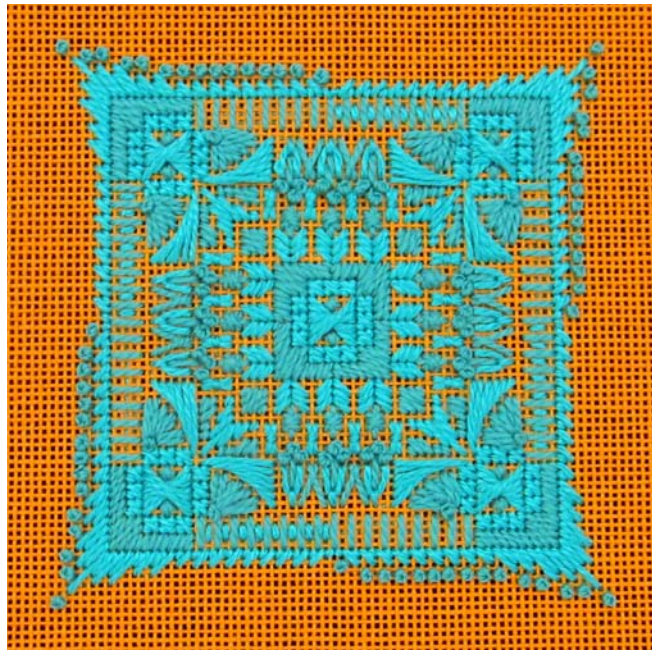
Rosie stitched these “Cross Eyes” sunglasses for her daughter! These are a product designed by Janis Note from Noteworthy Needle. They come in other sunglass styles as well as various strengths of magnifier glasses! What a fun way to say “I’m a stitcher (or I know one!)”. Sue R. shared her pair with the Atlanta ANG and they were wowed too! I bet you know someone who would love these! Another plus – stitched in a few hours with floss from your stash!



## STITCHED!



EXCLUSIVE!!! Sue R., currently in Atlanta, sent in pictures of her two finished candy cane ornaments. She found these at a canvas sale and figured that they were meant for her when they had pre-printed names from her family! The green stripe is stitched with metallic thread to give these a little bling factor! Sue has taken them in to her finisher in Atlanta, so stay tuned for more exclusive photos!



Rona completed one of the “Shine and Texture” kits from Bedecked and Beadazzled. These small counted designs emphasize a play of color on color as well as a difference between shiny and matte threads. Great contrasts! It’s lovely, Rona!



Rona received this “Garden of Silken Delights” as a birthday present. This beautiful design by DebBee uses three different weights of Treenway Silk. The colors in this design are so soothing – my camera doesn’t do their beauty justice.



Rona also finished her 2013 SOTM and brought it to show us. Her colors turned out really beautiful, nicely balanced. You can compare this with Sue’s framed piece on the diagonal. I’m so glad that Rona did the SOTM even though she couldn’t get to our weekend gathering. We still could compare thoughts and ideas with her at our monthly meetings! Nice finish!





This is Robin's "pass the time while waiting for the next phase of Frankie" piece. I wanted to leave this large so that you could better see all the intricacies of this piece.

This was one of the canvasses with threads that Pam brought in a few months ago!

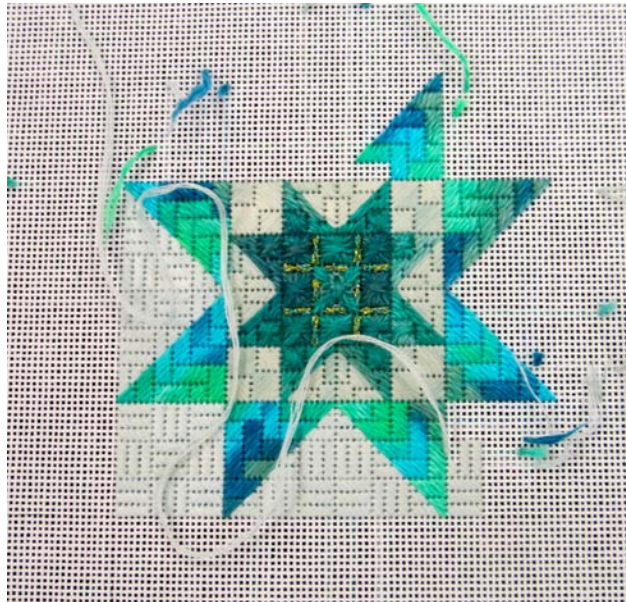
First, Robin discovered that the canvas was the wrong size for the piece. So she shortened the squares with the four-way bargello and made them rectangles. Then she discovered that the design was designed to accommodate Toni Miner's "Little Guys" but she didn't have any of those. So Robin got creative! The center square is from a one-day class taught by Sue Reed at the Philadelphia seminar. Except the design was smaller than the center square, so Robin added some hearts to expand it. Then she hunted in some needlepoint books for a four-way bargello pattern that she liked and she added it to the rectangles. I think she said the other pattern is from a Jean Hilton booklet. Anyway – I don't think you could say that this is anything other than Robin's own design! When I asked her what she called it, she quickly replied "Finished!"



## IN-PROGRESS!



How can you tell that a new member is enthusiastic? Nancy downloaded the NJNA nametag from our website and started stitching it before attending her first meeting! (<http://njneedleartists.org/njna-name-tag-template/>) Nancy noted that this is a really large nametag; I think it will end up being about the size of Robin's life member nametag. Heidi's NJNA is smaller, but it's harder to read her name from across the room. Seriously, I think I should be ashamed for not stitching one.

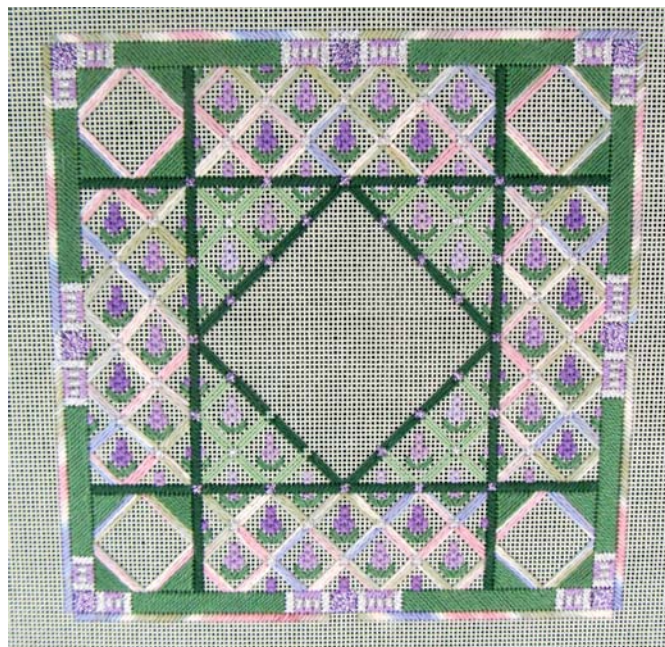


Mary is doing another Kathy Rees piece called "Burst of Stars" in the oceanic teal color way. This is a workshop currently being offered at Mrs. Stitches in Mendham. It looks like the stitching is going quickly. I think Heidi swooned at the colors!





Heidi is continuing to make progress on her ABC canvas for Declan's room! She is working on the "X" and claims to be behind schedule for finishing by Declan's birthday in May. She hopes to have the last of the basketweave letters done by the end of February. Heidi has decided to use an Algerian Eye stitch for the alphabet's border. She has picked glacier as the color for the background, but she still hasn't decided upon a stitch. (It won't be basketweave!) She says she is ready to be done with painted canvasses for a while and is really happy to be doing the counting for "Frankie".

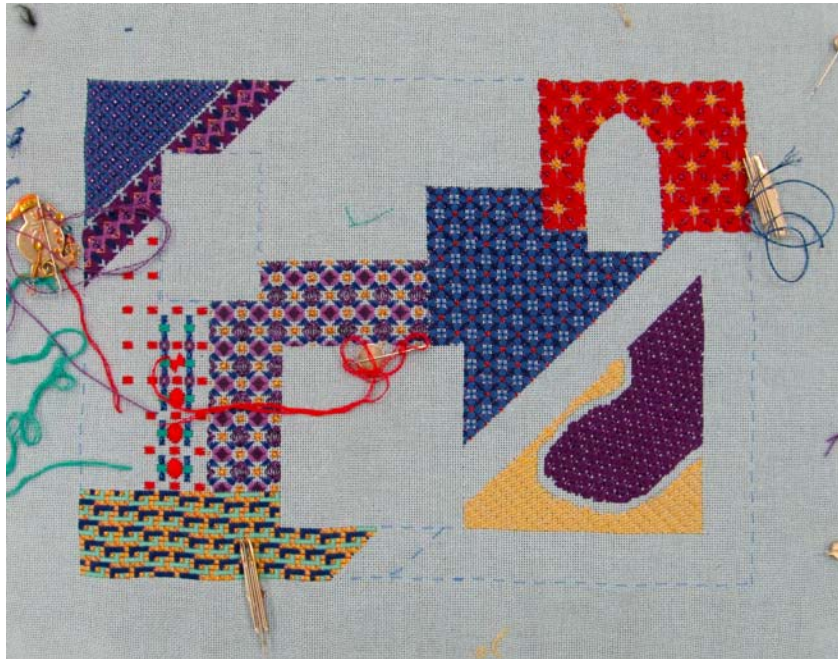


Carol has been working on "Lilac Time" by Laura Perin. The colors in this piece are luscious and are built around a watercolours thread called "Pale Lilac". Sue C, Carol, and Rosie all took this workshop by mail with San Bernardino chapter of ANG. Laura Perin e-mailed additional details each month for two(?) or three months.





Diane is making great progress on “Ben’s Kites” which is a Susan Hoekstra design that Susan taught at the seminar in Philadelphia! The kites make me hope that spring is around the corner again. Really fun and cheerful! Diane’s daughter lives in Philadelphia so this might make an appropriate housewarming gift.



Linda continues to make progress on “Slava Russki” which is a Tony Minieri design that is being taught at the Edwardian Needle. This month she started the aqua and red area. Linda also brought another Tony Minieri piece called “Stars for the New Millinium”, but unfortunately I didn’t get a picture of it. I’m sure we will see it again at another meeting.