

New Jersey Needle Artists  
American Needlepoint Guild  
May 21, 2014 Meeting

Hi Everyone –

Fourteen members attended another jam-packed meeting! Welcome to our new member, Mary “Ginny” McGeary.

Diane opened the meeting with announcements. The board is considering adding a second evening at the library for open stitching. Stay tuned. Please let a board member know if you have ideas for alternative locations in the event that the library is not available.

NJNA was contacted by a representative from the Somerset Patriots who was gauging interest in a “Stitch and Pitch” evening at a summer ball game. Rosie will reply that we had significant interest but that ANG seminar week should be avoided when scheduling.

Diane mentioned that there will be several board seat openings next year! Please see a board member know if you are interested in serving in a leadership role in NJNA!

NJNA has started to stitch a sampler in memory of Barbara Davis, a longtime, active member. The finished piece will be presented to her husband. We are adapting an English garden sampler for needlepoint. Here’s our progress:



English Garden Sampler in memory of Barbara Davis

Diane is currently working on the upper left garden. We still need a few more volunteers to stitch small sections; all of the threads are in the project bag. The sign-up binder was passed around.

Robin reminded us of the meetings where Barbara Davis taught (tried to teach) us how to make Tamari Balls. Robin recently returned from Japan where she bought four of them!

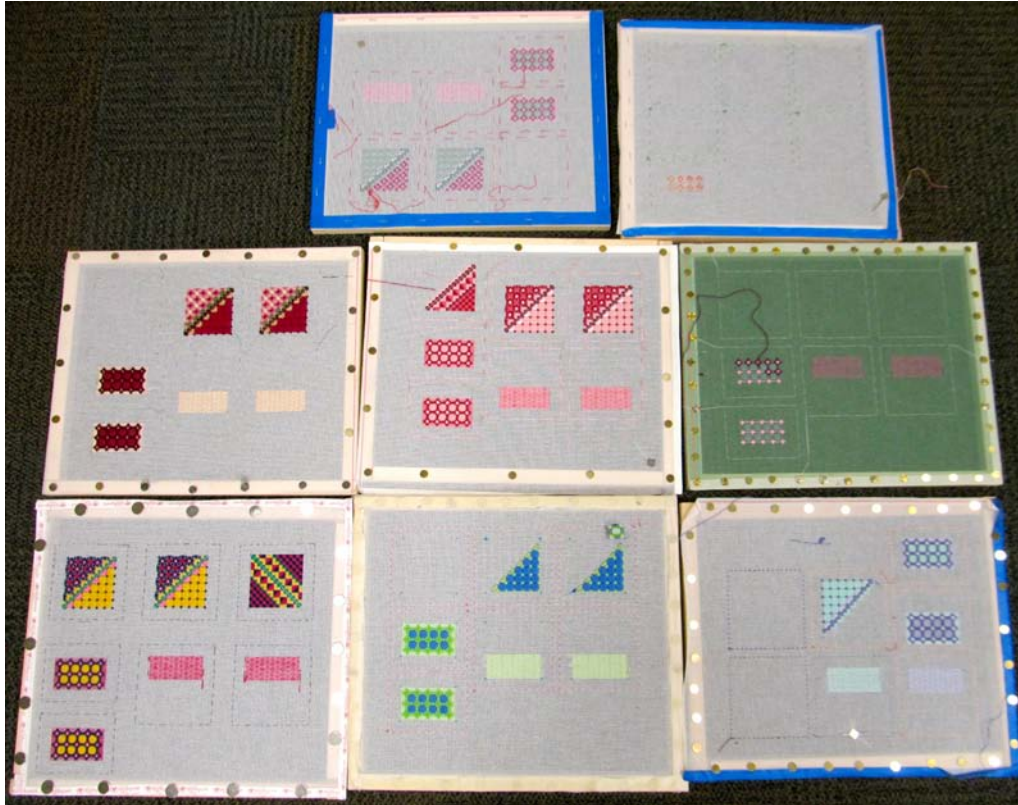
Heidi gave the treasurer's report. We have \$1,703.80 in our account at the end of April.

Carol thanked Susan for conducting her pilot class for "A Thread for All Seasons: A Color Interaction Study" that has been accepted for the Myrtle Beach ANG seminar in 2015. The participants had a fun time stitching the piece and many of us were nearly finished! It was amazing to see how the same colorway could change so dramatically by the choice of thread location.



Pilot Class: The top three are the jewel tone colorway shown with the same orientation. The middle two are the bright colorway, also in the same orientation. The bottom left is the seasonal colorway and the bottom middle is the pastel colorway. We predict that this class will be a big success for Susan,

Carol announced some program changes for the rest of the year. The ort box will continue and finishing will be postponed until the September meeting. The project safe will be introduced in June and constructed in July – we postponed this to allow time for seminar attendees to get their student letters.



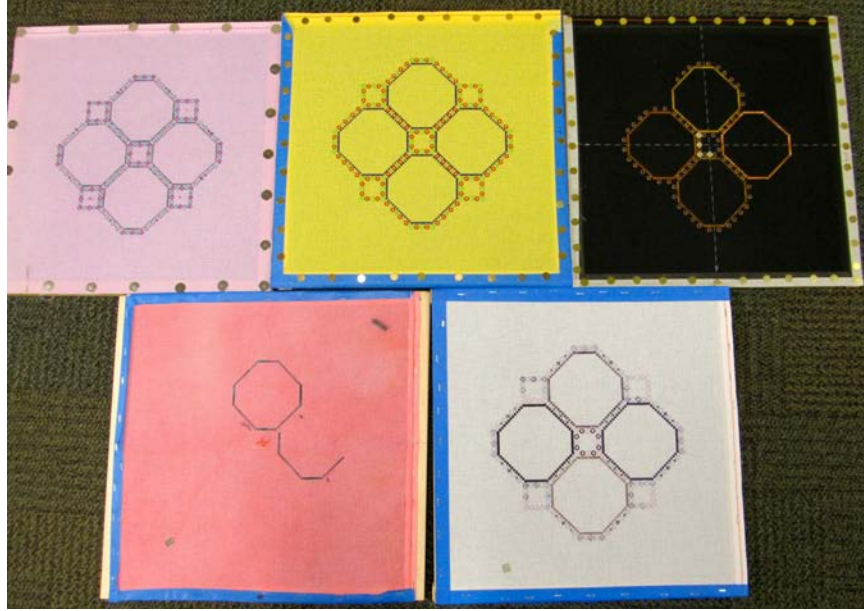
Ort Box With a Twist -- progress to date!

We will finally (!) be stitching Sudoku starting in October – some members have been waiting years for this one! The project will be introduced in June so that we can start our planning!

Susan has announced a fall Needlefest for 2014 to be held in Pluckemin on November 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be all new/different vendors from the April Needlefest! Susan asked if NJNA would be interested in doing the lunches for the November Needlefest? We discussed and voted that we would do the lunches as a fundraiser! Ginny has some ideas for menu changes but Susan cautioned that she approved the menu so as to avoid items that might harm needlework.

The SOTM group has begun our stitching of Kurdy Bigg's "A Different View" which contains lots of Jean Hilton stitches and many opportunities to use stash. We met on May 10 at Sue's and have been enjoying the myriad of color and thread choices.





A Different View: Top: Robin, Rosie, Dee  
Bottom: Diane, Mary D-S

We tried a new format for show and tell which appeared to be a bit more organized than usual. It was incredible how MANY wonderful projects were shown – and that's not including all of the ort boxes, pilot projects, SOTM progress, and the English garden, all shown above!

Next, Susan H. led us through a color analysis of last year's Stitch of the Month projects. We had all picked our own colorways based on the instructions in January's introduction. So we needed five values of a primary color, four of a secondary color and three of a tertiary color. Many of us were not happy with the way the colors were used.

Susan used a value checker and indicated that in most of the SOTM pieces, the "petals" were the main focal point. This was true for all of the pieces except for Diane's where she used grey for the petals. Susan surmised that this focal point was the designer's intent since she used the colors the way that she did. We noticed how the "flowers" appeared to work better when the five threads were uniformly spaced in value.

Susan also discussed colors that were "opposite" each other on the color wheel. She explained what that meant and brought out color wheel "cheat sheets" for us to examine. (I learned that my "Different View" colors are perfect – except for the yellow canvas. I probably should have gone with a beige or ecru canvas instead. Live and learn – I am not planning to restitch!)

Heidi led us in the horizontal lattice stitch for our stitch notebooks. This is the awesome background stitch that Heidi chose to use for Declan's large alphabet hanging. It is quick

to work and easy to compensate which made it perfect for getting around all those letter and animal legs and tails!



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

Happy Stitching!

Cheers,

Rosie

### NEW FEATURE: Hints from Rona!

Rona shared a great hint with us that she picked up at the Needlefest in April. If you are doing a background that is interrupted by the design – do the background first. Use a thin, throw-away thread to continue the background through the design area. Then you will know exactly what part of the stitch you are at when you reach the background again. Snip out the waste stitches and voila – a perfectly positioned background!

## FINISHED!



This is "A Star Spangled Quilt" by Laura Perin. Diane started stitching it about 7 years ago, it got back-burnered, then she took it out again the year NJNA did the quilts. She was determined to finish it this year – and she did! Diane used Laura's colorway and loved doing it EXCEPT for the metallic – it was perle #5 metallic rather than a Kreinik. It was difficult to use and Diane says she will never use it again! Diane had three pieces framed at Frame Experts in Mendham. Diane was imagining a red mat and a gold frame for this, but Carol Ann suggested the above combination and it was amazing how much more the red shows up now.



Heidi brought in a picture of her finished alligator door stop! She stitched this in Florida and used a Florida shop to do the finishing! When it was delayed, the shop expressed it to her Florida home so that it would get there before she left! Doesn't this guy look smugly proud of himself? Makes you wonder what he ate for dinner! How fun!



So I rearranged the photos so that we could see two finishes for St. Margaret's Star on the same page. This is Diane's version – also framed by Frame Experts.



Carol chose to finish her version of St. Margaret's Star in a black lacquered Sudberry Box that she won in the NJNA Holiday Gift Exchange. It fits perfectly and she could frame it herself! The color on this is a bit off – I've asked for a new camera and hope to have it before next month's meeting!





As with the prior page, I wanted to include two finishes for the 2013 SOTM project. Both were framed at Frame Experts in Mendham. This one is Diane's which she chose to do on 18-count black canvas. You can see in Susan's color analysis that this is the only version where the petals are NOT the focal point.



And here is Carol's 2013 SOTM! In this case, the petals ARE the focal point, but Susan also complimented Carol on her choice of threads – the darkest threads in purple and in turquoise are exactly the same color value. This makes for a good balance.





If you are reading the NJNA Blog, you've already seen Rosie's "Atlantis Rising". Thanks to many of you who helped me reject several alternative pendants. I ultimately used one from my jewelry stash (yes I have one of those in addition to my thread stash). It is a piece of Egyptian sea glass, so it seemed like it fit the theme of the project as well as the colors! I am thrilled with the framing by Frame Experts. We saw this piece hung at Woodlawn with a turquoise mat and no pendant – I'm biased, but I think the pink mat shows the piece off better.



This piece was a workshop offered several years ago by Mrs. Stitches. It's been hanging around my house collecting dust, so I finally decided to do something about framing it. Somehow, with Diane's and Carol Ann's help, I think we found the perfect way to set it off! I'm very happy with how it turned out.

## STITCHED!

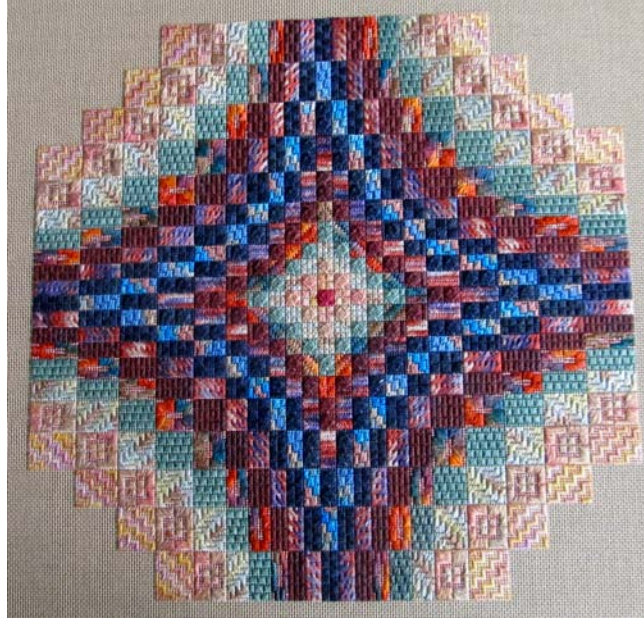


At the ANG Seminar in Philadelphia, Diane took a course from Susan called “Ben’s Kites”. It is now complete – I hadn’t realized that there was a key that hung off the kite string, but it is the perfect accessory! What a colorful and appropriate piece! Kudos to Diane for her stitching and to Susan for her inspiring design!



Diane’s Frankie – Her Own Colorway planned so that it matched her Tiffany kitchen light!





Rosie is finally finished with Tuscan Midnight by Kathy Rees. As you heard last month, she had planned to finish it at the Needlefest in April since she purchased the design at the first needlefest and started it at the second. It seemed only right that she would finish it at the third. Alas, it was not to be. However, the last stitch went in the following week. Heidi asked about framing – Kathy Rees recommends cutting the mat to the outline of the stair steps.

## IN-PROGRESS!



Linda has made significant progress on “Slava Russki -- a Tony Minieri design that is being taught at the Edwardian Needle. The three areas that look like doors will be filled with metallic grillwork. Linda decided to put some of the beads on early because virtually every area has beading!





Heidi has completed about a third of the background on her whimsical alphabet for Declan. His first birthday is this week! Her goal is to have it done before seminar when she will start another project for Declan! See what happens when you become a Grandma?



Susan is stitching a vanity dog collar for Winston. She will send this out for finishing onto a leather collar with brass hardware – I didn't catch where she sends it. Lucky dog as well as top dog! Way to Go, Winston!



Here's our very own "NORA" modeling a mesh Walker bag. It was designed for cross stitch, but Rona has adapted it for needlepoint. The front has beach flip flops and the back has sunglasses. The bag is sturdy, flexible plastic mesh. This is as cool as Janice Note's sunglasses!





We've all seen Rona's take-along paisley piece that she stitches while waiting for kids to be done with their sports activities. She has finished the design and is now onto the background. You know she will find something incredibly creative to do with it when it is finished!



Last, but certainly not least, is Ginny's daffodils canvas. It is a Raymond Crawford design with a stitch guide by Alice Hodgekiss. She found it at "Ed Need" – as she claims she is on a first name basis with the Edwardian Needle! Haven't we all spent too much money there? Susan analyzed this piece too – the vase is the focal point since it has the highest color value – so Susan says that the stitch needs to point up toward the flowers. Who knew it was all so complicated?