

New Jersey Needle Artists
American Needlepoint Guild
October 21, 2015 Meeting

Hi Everyone –

Fifteen members attended last night's meeting, including two new members and a visitor. We welcomed back Mally from last month; she is one of our new members and we are happy to have her with us.

We also welcomed two visitors, Andrea and Janet. Andrea found us when she googled "needlepoint in Bedminster". Andrea has been cross-stitching for years and recently discovered the Edwardian Needle and the world of needlepoint! She decided to join ANG and NJNA and we are thrilled to have her aboard. If you weren't at the meeting, you will see a beautiful example of her work in the show and tell section.

Janet used to be a member of NJNA – about 25 years ago! She is good friends with Pam G and was recently introduced to Heidi who encouraged her to come back and see what we were up to! Can you imagine that she has needlepointed 37 Christmas stockings? (And, no, she isn't the person who posted her list on Facebook!) Janet says she does have a list, however, and is in the process of collecting pictures of all 37 stockings! She must be a fast stitcher too since she told us she completed a 4-foot by 6-foot piece that she bought 30 years ago and started this past January. It makes me think that there is still hope for my unstarted stash! We hope that Janet will decide to join our group and show off her handiwork!

Lest I forget, NJNA also welcomes Ellen Saines as a new member! Ellen, a member of the Monmouth Chapter of EGA, attended the ANG seminar in Myrtle Beach and got to meet a few of our members. We are happy to have her become part of NJNA and hope that she will be able to attend some of our meetings!

Last month, we told you that we were looking for a nominating committee to canvas and propose a slate of officers for next year. Linda, Tina, and Sue C have agreed to undertake this task. Please let them know if you are interested in becoming an officer or an ad hoc member of our board.

Diane reported on some outcomes of the October board meeting. Most exciting is the board appointment of Tina to be the NJNA Workshop Coordinator. Tina has a lot of exciting possibilities for workshops to be coordinated by NJNA in the coming months. Diane suggested that we try to coordinate a workshop around being pilot stitchers for Susan Hoeksta's Pennsylvania Dutch Sampler. A sign-up sheet was sent around.

The board also decided that we should have nametags for our meetings. The "official" NJNA tag is available on the website, but the size appears to be off. Diane is trying to

find the original design to replace what is currently on the website. The board also thought that it might be time for us to design a new nametag – that sounds like fun to me! Spoiler alert: Your name tag does not have to be stitched (for now) and you can bring another form of name tag. BUT! – Carol will have “Hello, My name is _____” stickers if you don’t bring one to our meetings.

Diane announced that the board had decided to try a new project format for next year. Rona is spearheading this effort. NJNA will announce six small projects in December 2015. You can sign up for any or all of them at the December meeting. The announcement will include what NJNA will provide and what you have to provide for yourself. An incentive will be given to anyone who finishes at least three. The projects will be doled out at meetings throughout the year!

The board also decided to try a change in format for show and tell next year. When you bring in an item for show and tell, you will fill out a card with certain details about the piece. The cards will be collected and we will have a drawing or categories for incentives to be given out!

Sue C reported that Mary D-S had her surgery on Monday and is doing well. She has been moved to Kessler in Chester for recovery and Sue plans to stitch with Mary on Friday. We wish Mary a speedy recovery because we miss her at our meetings and SOTM and Serengeti!

Rosie reported our bank balance of \$1,983.93!

Carol summarized the remaining programs for 2015.

- November: Diane will teach us needle felting!
- December: Holiday Party

The NJNA Holiday Party is a fun night where members bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share. If interested, we have a “Dirty Santa” game where participants bring a needlepoint-related gift (limit \$20) to exchange in an organized, yet rowdy, session that includes thievery! I see that some folks are still holding grudges from years past!!!

The SOTM group continues with Ruby Razzle Dazzle for the remainder of this year. Those of us who went to seminar got a sneak peak at next year’s ANG SOTM project and it seems like it might be a good one for our group. Stay tuned for more details.

The next New Jersey Needlefest has just been announced on Facebook. NJNA will coordinate at least one table for it. This is a day-long even held in Pluckemin, NJ and we always enjoy seeing what all the other stitchers are working on!

Diane taught the angel wings stitch for our stitch notebooks! This stitch was invented by Ro Pace and she uses it in the border of our “Flowers of Italy” project. It’s an

interesting stitch and I found it presented quite a challenge when turning the corner from straight to diagonal!



Heidi's "Flowers of Italy" shows the border done in angel wings stitches!

Nine of us (eleven with new members) attended the ANG national seminar in Myrtle Beach this year. It was a great time of fellowship with stitching friends and an opportunity to try out some new techniques and projects. This table shows a few of our seminar projects in various states of completion!



A table full of seminar projects! Robin has completed three and Dee has completed two of their semina projects. The finished ones are shown in more detail under the show and tell portion of this report!

Early registration for next year's ANG national seminar in New Orleans is underway on the ANG website until October 30. There are some spectacular choices, many of which look even better in person!

On a sad note, Mrs. Stitches in Mendham and The Aardvark in Morris Plains are both closing by the end of this year. We will miss them greatly.

I hope you enjoy our Show and Tell pieces!

Cheers!

Rosie

FINISHED!



This beautiful collection of birds is a counted cross-stitch design that was stitched by our guest and newest member, Andrea. The design came as a kit by Dimensions that Andrea got at Michaels! The stitching is beautiful and has a three-dimensional effect. I can already tell that Andrea will be a great addition to our group!



I thought we should feature Ellen's four(!) Halloween projects since it's October! I remember when Ellen was stitching this pumpkin by Ruth Chow and I loved it then. Ellen sent it to TJ Wilson for finishing (\$55, a bargain!) and added a real pumpkin stem to make it her own! Wonderful!



This pumpkin is Ellen's own design! Isn't he adorable?



These two coordinating pillows were designed by Brenda Stoff and stitched by Ellen. I love how whimsical the cats are when they are begging for treats! Ellen always says that her Mom finishes them into pillows, but we learned last night that it's a joint effort with Mom doing the machine sewing and Ellen closing up the pillows with hand sewing!



Barbara "New Jersey" L just picked up "Dallas Medallion" designed by Toni Mineri from the framers. It came to our meeting before it even went home! We think the framer (and Barbara) did a wonderful job on this beautiful piece.



Tina brought in "Triple Play" which is a Pat Fisher design that Tina stitched for a friend. Lucky friend! This would make a great workshop and I for one would love to stitch it!



Heidi presented this finished pillow of Kathy Rees's "Colorways". She plans to use this pillow in her Florida beach house and she chose a simple pillow design in order to allow the colors in the threads to shine! I think it's lovely.



This picture should be a featured image! Diane's daughter is expecting a baby (the first grandchild) early next year. Diane wanted to forego the usual "Baby Sleeping" door hanger. When she couldn't find what she wanted, Diane designed this wonderful "Angel Sleeping" complete with buttons and sparkly threads. She brought it in to show us before she finishes it with the purple backing and colorful cording because she will gift it to the soon-to-be new Mom before our next meeting!



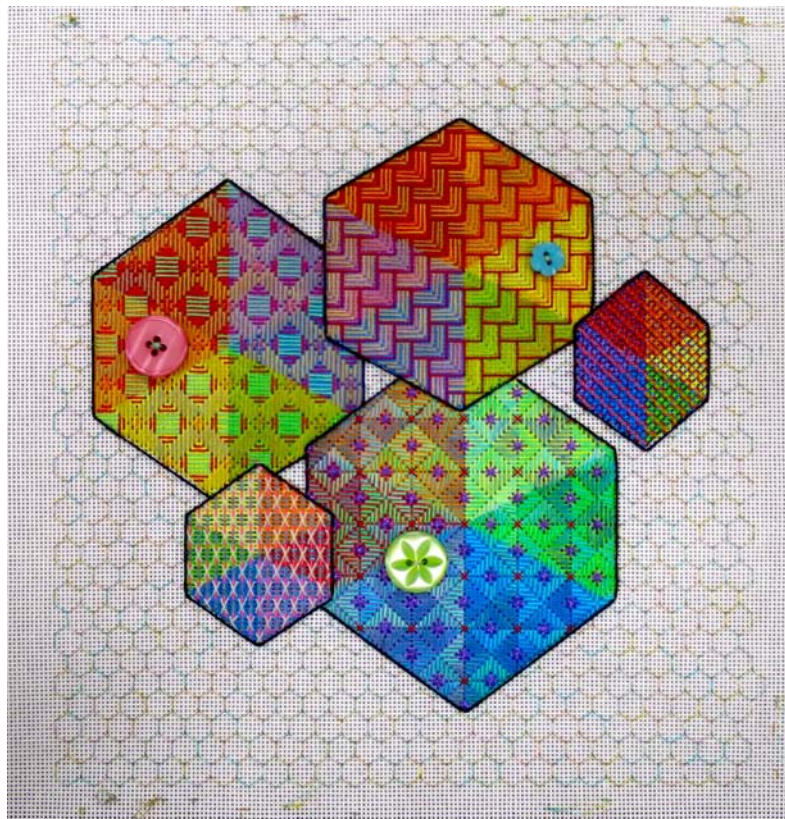
This is "Mountain Star" stitched by NJ Barbara L. This piece was designed by Carole Lake for her ANG chapter. I love the variegated thread that was used in this! So – here's the inside joke – there were two(!) Barbara L's at seminar and it created a bit of confusion. So, our Barbara L added the state to her name!!!



As we have seen in prior months, Robin has been enrolled in a course about making tamari balls. This one is the fourth and final one in the course. This is a famous design called "Kiku Herringbone" and it is frequently bought as a souvenir in Japan. Robin does not plan to take the next level class. Even so, she has a lovely collection for her efforts on this class.



This is the first of three of Robin's finishes from the Myrtle Beach seminar. It is called "Undulations" and was taught by Gail Stafford. Robin changed the color of the light pink thread.



Here's Robin's second finish "Color Play" by Jennifer Riefenberg. Each of the hexagons was painted the same, but different over-dyed threads were placed on top to create a kaleidoscope of colors! Robin said that pawing through the button box to choose the embellishments was a fun, different part of the course.



Robin and Dee both enrolled in “Starfire” taught by Jeanette Rees. Jeanette brought a selection of kits to class, each one inspired by a different batik fabric. The piece also allowed a flexible arrangement of where fabric and where stitching was placed. Compare and contrast the two above! Can you guess who did which one? Hint: they both changed their colors! Top is Dee and Bottom is Robin!