

## NJNA MEETING SUMMARY – 11/16/16

President Diane B. welcomed the 20 members in attendance and an attendance list was circulated. She told the group that if anyone had missed the last meeting that the Board was planning some surprises for next year for birthdays, so anyone who wanted to participate should note her birth month and day on the attendance list.

Diane then advised that NJNA had reserved two tables at the New Jersey Needle Festival to be held on Saturday, April 7, 2017, at the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church. Registration forms can be downloaded at **[www.needlefest.com](http://www.needlefest.com)**. Those who have not yet registered through NJNA should check with Rosie to see when she will be submitting the registrations. Cost is \$22.50 for the registration (\$25.00 if registering as an individual) and \$13.00 for lunch. Lunch will be supplied by the DAR and there is a choice of sliced turkey breast or vegetarian. Remember – no outside food is allowed in the event. There are, however, several lovely restaurants in the immediate area should you decide not to purchase the DAR lunch.

Sue C. mentioned that Rosie would be sending in the registrations soon, so please check with her regarding timing. Diane mentioned that 11 members had registered so far, although a few more handed in checks at the meeting. Checks should be made payable to NJNA.

Diane then discussed the December meeting which will be December 14, 2016 – THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH. The Board decided that the usual third Wednesday of the month is too close to the holidays and that everyone would be busy with family obligations. Once again everyone is encouraged to bring an appetizer or dessert to share with the group. Also, we will be continuing our new (and absolutely fun) tradition of a “dirty” gift exchange, organized by our holiday helpers, Ellen T. and Sue R. Anyone interested in participating should bring a wrapped needlepoint-related gift – \$20.00 maximum; no cross-stitch items please.

Mally B. reported that the 2017 Nominating Committee (which included Nancy W. and Linda M.) is still looking for a candidate for Secretary. Mally said that the duties are not onerous – taking attendance at the monthly meetings and preparing meeting minutes for the quarterly Board meetings. She advised that the Committee wants to have the slate finalized by the end of November so that a vote could be taken at the December meeting. Mally asked anyone interested in any of the positions to email one of the Committee members. The current officers at the meeting chimed in that the Board meets quarterly on Sunday afternoons, typically Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Sue C. announced that the Metropolitan Region of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America (EGA) is holding *Stitching Inspirations*, the Regional Seminar, April 21 through 23, 2017 (Friday through Sunday) at the Wyndham Hamilton Park Hotel & Conference Center in Florham Park (near the College of St. Elizabeth). Three of the classes being offered are on canvas: *Fire and Ice* by Toni Gerdes; *Walking the Water’s Edge* by Diane Hermann; and *Build Your Own Geometric Design* by Kurdy Biggs. Sue said that as of today the classes are not yet filled.

For additional information you can email Sue C. or head to the Seminar website **<http://metroega.org/seminars/seminar2017/>**.

Jill W. mentioned that Cyberpointers will be offering *Fire and Ice* in 2017.

Vice President – Programs Carol K. stated that Tina F. is designing a new nametag for members to stitch and wear at meetings. Carol and Tina plan to display the stitched model at the December meeting and have it as a class project in the new year. Also planned is a program on easy finishing techniques that can be used for the nametag.

## SHOW AND TELL

It was a big night for Show and Tell!

The very prolific Cathryn C. kicked off the Show and Tell with a really cute finish that she had seen on the Needlepoint Nation Facebook page. She had stitched several Barbara Bergsten Bermuda Bags and then purchased a frame at Target that used a “clothesline”. She attached the stitched pieces to the clothesline and now has fabulous beach piece without spending a lot on framing. What a great idea!



Cathryn also finished stitching *The Edwardian Medallion*, designed by Tony Minieri, in the pastel colorway. She had this piece framed at The Framed Image in Pompton Plains, a favorite with several of our members.



She also showed off a few Christmas ornaments which were finished at The Edwardian Needle. Aren't they just wonderful? Looks like Cathryn has been very busy lately!



Diane then showed off several completed *Bali Ha'i* pieces, our chapter project from August, which prompted a discussion of the different effects resulting from choice of canvas and threads. The piece on red canvas was stitched by Sue C., the one on blue canvas on the left by Nancy B., and the one on blue canvas on the right by Diane B. Isn't it amazing how they look so different?



Continuing our discussion of the different effects of canvas and thread, we next viewed completed *Little Autumn Ornament* pieces, our October chapter project. Just look at how the variety of this one pattern! Our stitchers used stash as much as possible and DMC Color Variations thread proved a wonderful substitution for Watercolours. If you missed getting the pattern at the meeting, or would like to print out another copy, you can access it at <http://two-handedstitcher.blogspot.com/2015/10/a-little-friday-fun.html>.

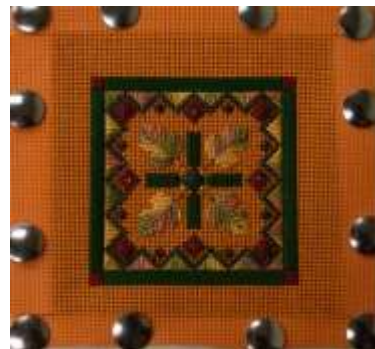
These three were stitched by Jill W., Nancy R., and Diane B.



These were stitched by Ellen, Heidi K. and Sue C.



And these were stitched by Mally and Sylvia.



Another chapter project, *Honey I Shrunk the Flag*, was stitched and finished by Heidi K.



Great job, ladies! You are inspiring the rest of us to finish up those chapter projects.

And here's a piece that is just in time for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday – we present *Miles Gobble*, designed and stitched by Cindy H. using stash. Isn't he just too cute! Cindy had Miles framed at Michael's (and used a coupon). Don't we all need a Miles for our holiday decorating?



Sue R. showed off her Coke ornament which used Twinkle thread for the neck of the bottle and beading for the lettering.





Sue R. also took an embellishment class with Robin King. Her canvas is *Home Is Where the Heart Is*. The piece is beautifully stitched. Just look at that background! Sue had this piece framed at Frame Experts in Mendham.



Diane B. showed off her stocking for her daughter's partner, Mark. What a lucky guy he is! Diane used a coloring book for the design and drew the outline on blank canvas. She chose all the threads and stitches. Diane used a 3H or 4H pencil for the outline and then used a paper towel to blot the pencil to minimize graphite rubbing off, a trick she learned from Susan H.



We got to see two pillows this month, both finished at The Edwardian Needle. First is Janet's thistle pillow. The fabric and ribbons are wonderful next to Janet's beautiful stitching. What an elegant piece.



Here is Sylvia's messy daisy pillow, which was a Laura J. Perin cyberclass. Sylvia seems to have mastered this technique! And the daisy just pops against the greens.



Janet shared her Barbara Russell ornaments, also finished at The Edwardian Needle. Wouldn't you love to have these on your Christmas tree?



## CHAPTER PROJECT – WINDMILLS ON STINSON BEACH

Carol K. handed out the instructions and canvas to those who had signed up for the November chapter project *Windmills on Stinson Beach*. Carol went through the instructions and provided a few helpful hints:

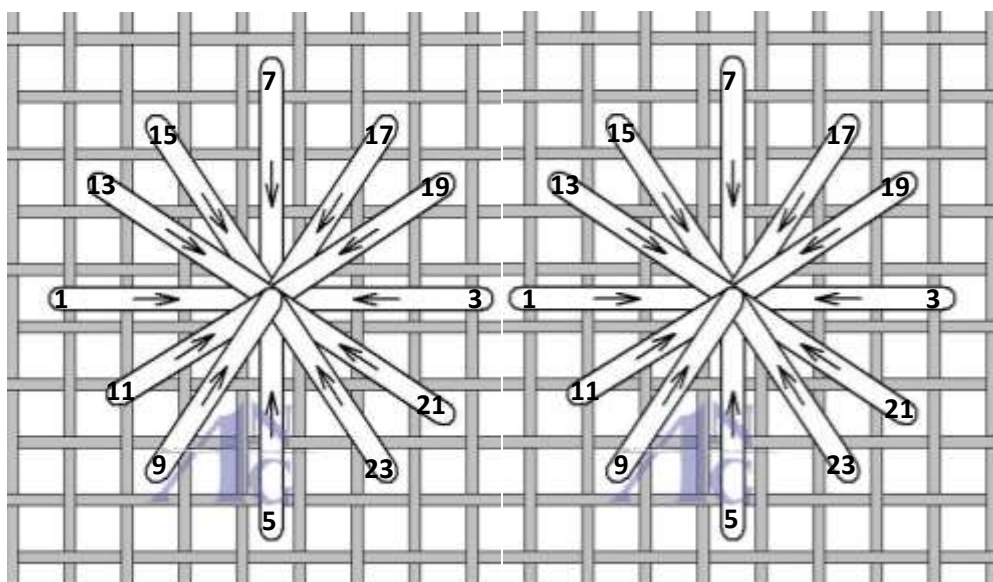
- Start in the middle of the design and work out to the edges.
- Enlarge the hole at the center of the eyelet with a large needle or laying tool.
- Be careful about how threads are carried as there is a lot of open canvas.
- There is a definite “top” to the design – it is not completely symmetrical as some of the boxes are rectangles not squares.

The piece includes variations on the eyelet stitch (page 3:5) that can be incorporated into the design. If stitching the piece on congress cloth rather than 18-mesh canvas try using Wildflowers rather than Watercolours and #4 Braid.

Carol then led the group in stitching the Eyelet Stitch for our stitch notebooks. She showed two ways to stitch the eyelet – the first used sequential stitches and the second stitched the square before the fill-in stitches. Some stitchers found that the second method looked neater. Carol suggested trying the stitch with two different colors to change the look. Tension should be even and enlarging the center hole helps the individual “spokes” lie correctly. Remember that the “spokes” are stitched into the center.

Sue C. pointed out that if one is stitching several eyelets in a horizontal line the numbering should be changed so that the first stitch of the subsequent eyelet is adjacent to the last eyelet, forming a horizontal line. That way the thread doesn't drag across open canvas. The following is an example of adjacent horizontal stitches. The numbering is how I would stitch it (clockwise); stitch in whatever pattern is comfortable but it should be consistent from one to the next. The same applies to a vertical column.





Remember that the December meeting is our holiday celebration and that it is on December 14 (not December 21).

A very Happy Thanksgiving to all! Happy Stitching!

Linda M.

