

January, 2005

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
FOR GATEWAY CHAPTER**

**American Needlepoint Guild**

# NEEDLENOTES



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All Gateway Chapter ANG events are at the  
Ladue Chapel - Fellowship Hall South  
unless otherwise noted .*

### January

**13th 7:00 PM**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Pat Giarrappa's Home**

**15th 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**New Year's Brunch**  
**Erbie Cooley's Home**

**20th 6:30 PM**  
**Evening Meeting**  
**Program: Istanbul, Part II**  
**Drag and Brag!**

**24th 9:30 AM**  
**Morning Meeting**  
**Program: Istanbul Part II**  
**Drag and Brag!**

### February

**17th 6:30 PM**  
**Evening Meeting**  
**film on Brazilian embroidery**

**28th 9:30 AM**  
**Morning Meeting**  
**film on Brazilian embroidery**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Members,*

*Happy New Year!*

*I hope this holiday season has been a happy and enjoyable one for all. We are looking forward to our "New Year's Brunch" which will be held at the home of Ellen Cooley on Saturday, January 15. Be sure to read the article later in this newsletter for more specific information. Be sure to attend and join in the fun.*

*We have formed a nominating committee which consists of Linda Elkow, Sally Ross and Margaret Orend. They will be looking for members to fill the officers' positions which will be expiring at the end of April. Please let one of these ladies know if you are interested in serving on the Board.*

*We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings during the year.*

*In stitches,  
Pat*

The chapter calendar and Needlenotes are on-line at <http://www.needlepoint-stlouis.org>. If you would like to receive an email notification when the newsletter is posted to our website please send your email address to [lisa@balbes.com](mailto:lisa@balbes.com) or [douglaswebb@earthlink.net](mailto:douglaswebb@earthlink.net). You will not be mailed a hard copy of the newsletter but will receive the newsletter quicker via the Internet.

## National Academy of Needlearts (NAN) Seminar Opportunity

The annual Assembly for Embroiderers, sponsored by NAN (National Academy of Needlearts) will be held at the Fairmont Kansas City at the Plaza from March 19 to March 22, 2005. This is a great seminar opportunity with wonderful teachers, within driving distance of St. Louis (or take the train!). The Fairmont is located across the street from Country Club Plaza, the premier shopping destination in Kansas City.

The classes are interesting and challenging. This year's offerings include a class in which you design your own Faberge egg, a blackwork notebook class, a basic beading class, a class on photographing your stitched pieces, a sampler class which includes information on how to transfer photos to canvas as well as gorgeous pieces to stitch, taught by master teachers.

The deadline for registration is February 15, 2005.

Whether you can attend or not, consider sending a piece for the Exemplary, the exhibit that accompanies the Assembly.

And wouldn't a visit to Kansas City to see the Exemplary make a great day trip?

For more information, go to [www.needleart.org](http://www.needleart.org).

*Linda Elkow*

## Holiday Gift Wrap Update

Many thanks to the eighteen members who worked our gift wrapping fundraiser at Borders. We all appreciate your time and service. This year we raised \$711.92.

*Kay Schmitt*

## *Holiday Party*

Please join us on Saturday, January 15, 2005 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM for a "winter brunch". Each guest is asked to bring a brunch dish (fruit, cheese, small sandwiches, salads, cookies, etc). Coffee, tea, soft drinks and wine will be served. The party will be at Erbie Cooley's, 10 Glen Abbey Drive.

Don't forget to bring a gift under \$10.00 for the gift exchange. It doesn't have to be stitch-related.

R.S.V.P. to Erbie: 314-997-5410.

*Erbie Cooley*

## SHOP NEWS

### The First and Last Stitch

The First and Last Stitch, located at 8988 Manchester Road in Brentwood is under new ownership. Come see our fresh new look and all that we have to offer the needlepoint enthusiast. We have a large selection of fibers and canvases on hand. We offer a 20% discount on all special order canvases. Shop our website at [www.firstandlast.com](http://www.firstandlast.com). We have links to designers. In addition, we offer the lowest belt finishing prices in town - \$39.00 with a solid brass buckle. We have on-site finishing with over 17 years of experience to provide expert finishing of your prize needlepoint projects.

Trunk shows:

January: Shelly Tribbey Designs.

February: Beau Geste.

In February, we are offering the first of our Shelly Tribbey Teapot Design Classes. Canvas, fibers, stitch guide, instruction and finishing are all included in the class price of \$125.00. Call for additional information.

Stop by and see our beautifully remodeled shop! Our hours are Monday through Friday 9:00AM to 4:00 PM, Thursday, until 7:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. You can contact us at 314-961-8157.

Thanks, I look forward to meeting you,

*Lynne*

## SHOP NEWS

### Sign of the Arrow

The Sign of the Arrow will have three trunk shows in January and February:

Rebecca Wood – December 30 to January 25.

Julia – January 1 to January 24.

Princess & Me – February 1 to February 22.

Beginning in January, we will have a Santa of the Month class. Using painted canvases from Beau Geste, we will stitch a different Santa each month. Classes will be held on the third Tuesday morning of each month. The cost is \$60.00 for each Santa which includes the kit (painted canvas, instructions and all fibers). Stop by to see the completed designs or call the shop at 314-994-0606 for more information and to reserve your spot.

We still have a good selection of sale items at 30% off, including select fibers, notions and a few canvases.

Look for new items in the shop after we attend the January show.

## FRIENDSHIP STITCH

### Linda's Gateway Chapter Stitched Collage

Just a reminder that I'm putting together a stitched collage of small stitched pieces contributed by Gateway Chapter members. I've received a few promises, but so far no pieces. I'll be looking forward to getting some at the January and February meetings. I'll bring some ground fabrics and a few samples for inspiration for anyone interested.

*Linda Elkow*

# TAMING STASHZILLA

By Denise Beusen

Eleven years have passed since I joined ANG and the Gateway Chapter. It took me a couple of years to come up to speed, taking classes and attending seminar, but by the fourth year, I found myself with a growing collection of unfinished projects. Approximately six years ago, I started going through my stash annually, primarily to inventory UFOs. A couple of projects would be donated to an auction, but for the most part, the collection continued to grow unabated. My duties as ANG Director for Educational Services meant that the 2003 and 2004 inventories didn't get done and during that time, purchases, chapter projects and workshop projects were pitched into a walk-in closet. The shelves were in disarray!

My growing sense of disorder – plus an inability to focus on a particular project or two – led me to a serious examination of my stash over Thanksgiving week. One of my concerns was that I'd reached SABLE – Stash Accumulation Beyond Life Expectancy. It was time to look seriously at each of my accumulated projects with a realistic eye: would I ever finish it? Did I even like the project? Was it going to be enough of a learning experience that it would hold my interest?

## Step one.

I decided to keep only seven years' worth of projects. This was completely arbitrary. I'm 52 now; as ridiculous as seven years of projects sounds, I didn't want enough on hand to take me into my sixties.

## Step two.

I pulled out all of the piles and boxes that constituted my stash and set them in the adjoining study so all projects were accessible and visible. My definition of "project": painted canvases with or without threads; chapter or workshop projects with instructions, canvas and threads; and published patterns with canvas and threads. It did not include pattern booklets for which supplies hadn't been purchased. These went into my files for future reference.

## Step three.

I evaluated each project against the following criteria:

- Do I still like the project? (You'd be surprised how your taste can change in ten years!)
- Are there things I could learn from it that would justify keeping it?
- Am I likely to work the project?
- Is it more valuable to me – in some form, even unfinished – than it would be to someone else?

## Step four.

After evaluating each project, I put it into one of six piles:

- Pile 1: Projects to give to my cross-stitching aunt. I'll never work them, plus she's on a limited income and appreciates receiving them.
- Pile 2: Donations to the Gateway Chapter annual Silent Auction. These are projects that failed all of my criteria for retention but other chapter members would find them interesting enough to purchase.
- Pile 3: Projects to sell on EBay. These projects aren't likely to bring even close to their value at auction but would be valuable to just the right person and could yield some income for me.
- Pile 4: Donations to the ANG National Auction. These, too, are projects that filed my criteria, **but** would bring a much better price at the ANG Seminar Auction than at our chapter auction. These included projects by "hot" teachers.
- Pile 5: Keep and archive in binder as a reference for the techniques in the piece.
- Pile 6: Keep with intent to work further on it (Note that this doesn't say "intent to finish"!!!).

## Step five.

I calculated the number of projects I could retain under my seven-year rule:

- Look at the projects in Pile 6 and estimate the average number of hours needed to finish each. I concluded that on average, each piece

would require forty hours, since several of the projects were near completion, while others were barely started.

- Estimate the average number of hours I stitch per week. My estimate was ten hours.
- Use the following formula to calculate the number of projects to keep:  
 $7 \text{ years} \times 52 \text{ weeks/year} \times 10 \text{ hours/week} = 3640 \text{ total stitching hours in the next 7 years.}$   
 $3640 \text{ hours} / 40 \text{ hours per project} = 91 \text{ projects.}$   
So, how did I do after all of the sorting? I had 85 projects in Pile 6, well below my limit of 91.

#### Step six.

Organize the projects to be retained (Pile 6). Sort all of the projects by intended method of finishing. My categories included picture/pillow, box top, ornament, jewelry, stand-ups, purses, etc.

- I purchased storage boxes and legal size hanging files from Office Max. Each box was marked on the side to indicate what category it contained. The hanging files fit into the box lengthwise.
- If a project was on stretcher bars, I left it on them. The project was put into a plastic bag and placed in the storage box vertically, with a hanging file adjacent to it. The instruction booklet and supplies were put into the hanging file next to the canvas and the file was labeled with the name of the project.

#### Step seven.

Dealing with the other piles.

- Pile 1: went directly into a Priority Mail box and after applying a postage-paid label printed from the USPS web site, it went out the door with the mailman.
- Pile 2: Items for the Gateway auction were bagged and are awaiting delivery to the event chairwoman. You'll have to come to the auction to see what's in the bag!
- Pile 3: A Lone Star Santa canvas made especially for Needleworks in Austin, Texas sold in five days for my Buy It Now price on EBay.
- Pile 4: This included one of Tony Minieri's perfume bottles, including canvas mounted on stretcher bars, instructions and all threads. It,

along with two painted canvases, went into a Priority Mail box that was sent to the ANG Auction Chairman.

- Pile 5: Roughly a half-dozen projects were taken off the stretcher bars and the canvases plus instructions were placed in a three-ring binder. In some cases, the margins of the canvas were trimmed so it would fit.

Where do things stand after all of these machinations?

- I have an Excel spreadsheet of 85 projects and when new projects are accessioned into my collection, I can add them **and** put them in the right place for storage. This should eliminate the self-generating messy stack problem.
- I've learned a lot about myself and behaviors that lead to stash expansion. I'm definitely process-driven and not goal driven. In other words, owning finished pieces doesn't motivate me. Instead, projects need to be something I enjoy stitching or from which I'll learn something new. Sometimes even a stitching deadline isn't sufficient to get me moving on a piece! This bit of self-knowledge will be a useful filter I can apply every time I think about purchasing a new project or class.

Happy New Year, fellow stitchers and I hope the next twelve months bring you all that you seek in your needlework adventures (and that you identify what it is you seek!).

## HELPFUL HINTS

From time to time, your editor will endeavor to offer you helpful hints to make your stitching go more smoothly.

Have you ever gone to a class or seminar and you look at the lady sitting to your right and she neatly opens a small box and pulls out every item that she could possibly need for the class and you are left hunting for those sharp scissors and another needle? Do you ever wish that you had a list that would enumerate everything you need to be properly prepared for a class (and then some?). Have we got an article for you!

This article first appeared in the EGA list and is reprinted here by permission of the author, Cameo Roze.

### Cameo's Basic Sewing Kit

What would be considered a basic sewing kit? Here's what I keep in mine:

- Needlebook with assorted sizes of tapestry needles.
- Needle threader(s).
- Embroidery scissors with rubber knitting needle cap over points.
- Other small scissors for metallics (mine are folding scissors).
- Pen.
- Pencil.
- Variety of colored pencils (I mark off my charts as I stitch).
- Dololly/Star Detailer (for tucking threads).
- Single stud earring (for marking center of design).
- 35 mm canister with damp sponge (for stripping threads).
- Thread Heaven (thread conditioner).
- Magnifier (I have both a compact hand-held one and some magnifying glasses in a case).
- Small container of Udder Cream (non-staining hand lotion).
- Fingernail file.

- Magnet set (one for front, one for back of canvas, to park your needles).
- Thimble or ThimblePads.
- Small tweezers (great for Hardanger).
- Trolley needle (for laying threads).
- Rubber needle puller
- Seam ripper and/or Lift 'n Snip scissors (for frogging).
- 6 inch ruler.
- Small steel crochet hook (for tucking threads).
- Lap Lighter (sort of like a fabric pillow case with black on one side, white on the other. Put it in your lap and it helps you see the holes in the canvas/fabric easier).
- Transparent yellow plastic gizmo that you put on your chart to highlight the area you're working.

I realize this sounds like a lot, but mine all fits in a little plastic box that is 7.75 inches wide, 5.25 inches tall, 3 inches deep. Really easy to carry around, and I usually have everything I need!

By CameoRoze  
CameoRoze's Stitcher's Studio  
Information and Resources for  
Counted Thread Embroidery  
[www.cameoroze.com](http://www.cameoroze.com)

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

We would just like to remind you that your Board and Program Director , Linda Lesh, are actively planning for next year's programs. We would welcome your input on what programs you would like us to offer such as finishing skills, work on a certain needlework skill or suggestions as to what teacher you would like us to present. Suggestions are greatly appreciated!

## **REMINDER!**

Have you been following the Stitch of the Month on the national ANG website? The 2004 stitches are completed and the project **Illumination** by Ann Strite-Kurz is now available for your stitching pleasure.

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

If you've added or changed an email address, please send us an update.

Gateway Chapter membership pins, \$5.00 each, will be on sale at the January and February meetings

Annual membership renewals due now. Please send your check for \$46 to:

Linda Elkow

Gateway Chapter ANG Membership

448 Gabriel Drive

St. Louis, MO 63122

As always, thanks to you members who have already sent in your dues (or have let me know you do not plan to renew).

Linda Elkow

Membership renewals due by January 1, 2005.

Linda Bryant

Jane Cornue

Nancy Hanon

Rosemary Robinson

Alice L. Carpenter

Nancy Demko

Judy Hayden

Barb Smith

Susan Cauttrell

Jane Ermer

Mike McGire-Beckerle

Arlene H. Strawn

Eileen Chalk

Evlyn Fulton

Looking ahead: Membership renewals due by March 1, 2005

Eleanor Berra	Linda Elkow	Becky Magruder	Patricia Nelson
Martha Cornfield	Becky Fitzpatrick	Janice Marsh	Sue Quirk
Kathleen Dunn	Barbara Jones		

Please support these merchants. They provide this newsletter.

 <p>Proceeds benefit St. Louis charities and Pi Beta Phi philanthropies.</p> <p>9740 CLAYTON ROAD ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63124 TELEPHONE: (314) 994-0606 FAX (314) 994-0046</p>	<p>Open: Mon-Fri 10-5/Sat 10-4</p>  <p>NEEDLEWORK &amp; GIFTS</p> <p>51 North Gore Webster Groves, MO 63119 314.968.4979/1.800.322.0811 www.marnisandmore.com</p>
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 <p><i>Shamrock Cross Stitch</i> 14560 Manchester Rd. Winchester, MO 63011</p> <p><a href="http://www.shamrockcrossstitch.com">www.shamrockcrossstitch.com</a> Mail order: 1-800-203-6550 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@shamrockcrossstitch.com">info@shamrockcrossstitch.com</a></p> <p>Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sunday</p> <p>(636) 391-9958</p>	<p>314-991-2145</p>  <p>Specializing in Fine Custom Design</p> <p>9785 Clayton Rd. (in the Ladue Market Place) St. Louis, MO 63124</p> <p>ANN CLARK LIZ O'HERIN</p>

## Gateway Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sunshine/Historian</b>
Pat Giarraffa 314-997-3712 pgiarraffa@att.net	Brenda Ramsdell 636-239-6762 JRamsFAN@aol.com	Betty Rosenberger 314-821-1362 <a href="mailto:betty@rosenbergers.org">betty@rosenbergers.org</a>	Janine Webb 636-273-6223 <a href="mailto:douglaswebb@earthlink.net">douglaswebb@earthlink.net</a>	Ellen Cooley 314-997-5410
<b>Programs</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Ways &amp; Means</b>	<b>Philanthropy/ PR</b>	<b>Webmaster</b>
Linda Lesh 314-535-8455 Linlesh314@Aol.com	Linda Elkow 314-965-1925 elkowl@sbcglobal.net	Kay Schmitt 314-367-4554 <a href="mailto:kayschmitt@yahoo.com">kayschmitt@yahoo.com</a>	Peggy Nedeau 314-918-7381 <a href="mailto:djcornue@aol.com">djcornue@aol.com</a>	Lisa Balbes 314-966-5298 <a href="mailto:lisa@balbes.com">lisa@balbes.com</a>

If you have an address change: Send it to the **Membership** chair, **Linda Elkow**. There is no need to send separate, additional address change forms to the **Treasurer** and/or the **Newsletter Editor**.

Membership in the Gateway Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild is open to all needle-pointers from beginner to professional. Prospective members may attend two (2) membership meetings and receive two (2) complimentary copies of the newsletter before being asked to pay dues.

\*Needlenotes is published six (6) times a year in September, November, January, March, May, and July. The deadline for copy submission is the fourth Monday of the preceding month. To submit copy, send to Janine Webb, 309 Berry Brook Court, Wildwood, MO 63011 or E-Mail to [douglaswebb@earthlink.net](mailto:douglaswebb@earthlink.net). Ad rates for a business card size, \$30 for all six (6) issues. Send camera-ready art to the same address. **Sharing chapters please send newsletter copies to the same address.** Copyright - Gateway Chapter American Needlepoint Guild \*ANG chapters may reproduce for guild use, others require written permission.

### NEEDLENOTES

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