



Shorelines

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When I was very small, probably about four or five years old, one of my beloved Aunties showed me how to embroider. I'm sure you are all familiar with the medium, stamped designs on cotton pillowcases, purchased at Woolworth's Five and Dime. With her and my Mother's help, I turned out those sets as fast as I could and amassed quite a collection. This was the beginning of a life-long love of all things fabric and/or thread related.

I was probably about eight before I became bored with this, and begged the same Aunti to show me how to do that fascinating thing that she was doing, crochet. And she refused! She said her techniques were all wrong, and didn't want to pass them on to me. It was another couple of years before I discovered a book that would teach me how to crochet. That as they say, is all I needed. From then on it didn't matter the technique; if there was a book available, I was ready to learn. I very quickly progressed to sewing. After all I had a Barbie that needed clothes. Another Aunti stepped right in to teach me. I have many, many treasured memories of learning from these two wonderful women whom I loved so dearly. My poor mother had to assist and deal with my many disasters. Often late at night! At some point in my twenties I discovered that you could actually take classes in the many different sewing techniques, and became a "Professional Art Student."

Twenty years and many, many, classes later, I discovered the Embroiderer's Guild of America and quickly joined my local chapter in Long Beach. I wanted to learn so much more about the techniques that I was using to embellish garments and dolls. One day I overheard my friend Retty Crocchi discussing with Idele Gilbert (whom I then only casually knew) **Needle Artist's by the Sea** and the new year-long project, Linda Driscoll's "Victorian Lace Box." I couldn't join fast enough.

Imagine my delight when I discovered more wonderful women willing to share their knowledge, and, become my friend. Peg Van Vooren immediately took me under her wing and was so very generous with her vast repertoire. Frances Packer was leading a Stitch of the Month gathering at each meeting. Amy Wolfson always had something new to show. And Idele Gilbert! I can only say about Idele is that she is one of the most talented people I have the pleasure of knowing. How fortunate we are to have a treasure like Margaret Bendig. My list could go on and on to include each and every one of our unique members. I continue to be in awe of all of this talent and will be forever grateful for your generosity of spirit. I am humbled that you have chosen me to represent your interests as President, and, I thank you.

I leave you with the words of African-American mystic and activist Howard Thurman:

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

Kristi



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2007 Programs

January Program – Stitching Program

Nancy Cucci and a Trio of Beaded on Canvas Snowflakes

You will have a choice of canvas colors (red, green or blue) and will bead a charming snowflake ornament. The kit cost is \$16.00 per color and will come with a 6" x 6" colored 18 ct canvas, matching skein of DMC floss, 2 packages of Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads, 3 yards of DMC Fil Argent Clair (silver) and a John James beading needle. You will provide the stretcher bars, Thread Heaven or bees wax and a #24 needle. Do one or all three! Let me know if you want to be included.

February Program – Lecture

Pat Rozendal and the Beginning of our Year-Long Study on Mexican Samplers

We are excited to announce that one of 2007's Year-Long study will be with Pat and Mexican Samplers in a collaboration with the Gene Autry Museum. We are planning a lecture, a field trip to the museum and a workshop at this time. Pat will be with us at other times during the year also. You will be able to purchase either her 1st book for \$32, and/or the second book for \$40 for a total of approx. \$72. We will be using the 1st book for the Sampler Project. It was done on linen, but we are looking into whether it can be done on Congress cloth also.

The Autry Museum has 5 Samplers in their collection are looking forward to working with us in our study. This is a great opportunity to learn a little more of the heritage of this area. We are taking sign-ups for the books and we will have more information of days and times for the Workshop and the field trip.

March Program – Lecture with Honored Guest

Carol Korman, President of ANG National

We are pleased to let you all know that Carol Korman will be with us (pending her husband's surgeries) to speak about Judging and what Needlework Judges look for when judging a Show (such as our Stitchers' Showcase). Carol is asking that members bring some pieces of their needlework to the March meeting to use as examples. She would really like to see not only our best work, but pieces that we know we could have

done better as a teaching example. She will also be willing to take questions about the National Organization to help us know what ANG is doing and how it affects all of us. It is an honor for us to be able to have her.

We will be doing a second Year-Long project with Amy Wolfson that will be completely different from the Mexican Sampler Study. More details will follow about this second great stitching opportunity.

Laurie McLellan, Vice-President Programs

Hospitality – Those signed up to bring goodies in December are: Rachel Watkins, Alice Weiss, Laura Hermann, Betty Smith, Anne Lenker, Jody Wolsey, and Debbi Power. Don't forget to bring your coffee cups!

Betty Van Acker, Hospitality Chair



Membership – January 2007

We had 61 members at the November Meeting and one guest. We also had one new member in November, Kay Rando. As of December 2006, we had 112 members compared to 112 members at the end of December 2005. Keep your eyes open for possible new members.

Important: National is updating their membership records. Please see Mary Ellen Bell if you did not get a chance to verify your membership information in November.

The 2007 NAS Roster should be available in early 2007. If you are unable attend and would like your roster mailed to you, please mail a check for \$1.00 payable to NAS-ANG to Mary Ellen Bell.

Mary Ellen Bell, Chair