

SAMPLER OF THE MONTH

With all of the interest in the Ackworth School samplers and while we have this incredible model to show you, we have chosen a beautiful reproduction sampler from *The Scarlet Letter*, "Sarah Tatum." Our model is on loan from customer Deb Williams, and it is a beauty! Thank you, Deb, for sharing your beautiful needlework with The Attic's customers.



The reproduction is only available as a kit, but there are several choices to make when ordering: 35c or 40c **and** cotton (\$57) or silk (\$99). It's the thread you choose that determines the price. Marsha has had an avalanche of orders for this sampler in the past few months, she says, and has had to reprint the chart and is waiting for thread supplies to make more kits. So we await our order as well. She promises to get the kits to us as soon as possible.

PSC January Discounts

During the entire month of January, as a Club member save 15% on our in-store inventory in any of the following categories:

- All *Au Ver A Soie* products
- *The Scarlet Letter* kits and charts
- Ready-made frames

JANUARY'S PIZZA PARTY

On **Tuesday morning, January 10, at 9:30 a.m.** telephone reservations (480.898.1838) will open for our next pizza party, scheduled for **Friday night, January 27**, from 7-11 p.m. We will again serve pizza from our favorite East Valley pizza eatery, Red, White & Brew, desserts, and in anticipation of the forthcoming chocolate holiday, Valentine's Day, a chocolate fountain will be the dessert highlight. There will also be refreshments, blue-light specials, and door prizes. Bring your appetites and enjoy an evening of fun, food, and needlework. The \$15 fee can be paid by cash, check, or credit card before close of business on Saturday, January 21. After that date your reservation may be subject to cancellation and substitution with someone on the waiting list.

NEEDLEWORK NEWS

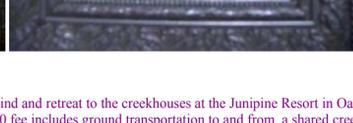
We were thrilled to learn that, for the fourth year, the very popular **LOOSE FEATHERS CLUB** from *Blackbird Designs* will continue. The first 2006 release will be on February 1, with subsequent releases scheduled for April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1, and December 1. When you join the Club, you will automatically receive the chart and, if you choose, fabric and fibers. These very charming designs are only available to Club members and after one year they are retired. The charts retail for \$8, and the designs, approximately 8 x 8, use a variety of overdyed threads on hand-dyed linen. We order the linen in varying counts, depending on your preference. If you have been a Club member previously, you will automatically be enrolled for 2006 unless you notify us to the contrary. For new Club members, membership is free, except it requires your purchase of whatever you sign up for, i.e., chart, fabric and/or fibers. All of these designs from Barb and Alma are irresistible, and most of them work up beautifully as an over-one-on-28c - talk about cute! Christy's on a roll with several of these over one.

From Lizzie Kate, the **2006 FLIP-IT CHRISTMAS CLUB IS HERE!** Called *The 12 Blessings of Christmas*, the first three blessings arrived this past week, "Love," "Friends" and "Hope." LK has also designed a special white ornament tree that is just the right size to accommodate your ornaments **AND**, for optimum use of your white feather tree, available soon, there will be future collections for this darling tree so that you can use it all year long. There is also available on their Web site (<http://www.lizziekate.com/lizzie-f48-hope.html>) a very easy, no-sew method for finishing your ornaments using wonderful felted wool from *Weeks Dye Works*. With these adorable designs Lizzie Kate hopes that we all can have the blessings of Christmas (in stitches) all year long!



The Sweetheart Tree TRUNK SHOW

We are fortunate to have Sandie (and Dave) Vanosdall of *The Sweetheart Tree* in our backyard ~ well, almost ~ and while they're between shows, they delivered their trunk full of Sandie's wonderful models for us to share with all of our Attic visitors. As is always true, these models are SO much more gorgeous than the photographs, even with their excellent photography. The fobs and door knockers and punch-needle designs scream "Stitch me now!" as do some of Sandie's new samplers, like "Fleur de Provence" ~ which is simply gorgeous. I've included some photos of our trunk show, but please go to <http://www.thesweethearttree.com/index.html> to see these closer. You will be captured!



The Attic's Annual Retreat

It's almost that time again, time to leave our busy lives behind and retreat to the creekhouses at the Junipine Resort in Oak Creek Canyon for the weekend of stitching, food, stitching, food, stitching ~ well, you get the idea. The \$300 fee includes ground transportation to and from, a shared creekhouse, and an opening reception. We depart The Attic at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 23, and return to the shop at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 26. The creekhouses are two-bedroom, two-bath accommodations with full kitchens, fireplaces with wood provided by the resort staff, and maid service. Each creekhouse will be shared by four needleworkers. The opening reception is at 5 p.m. on Thursday evening with food and soft drinks. Meals may be cooked in your kitchen or prepared for you at the wonderful restaurant on site. Annette and her friendly and capable staff are always a joy, and their food is something to come back for, often!

We sometimes have a project that is priced separately from the weekend. Many view this as a great opportunity to bring a tote full of unfinished projects and see how many you can finish in a weekend. As a matter of fact, that's what we've been discussing as a possible project for this year: Finishing Techniques. Our finisher extraordinaire, Christy, is checking her schedule now to see if she's available for the weekend. We necessarily limit registration to maximize the weekend's enjoyment for everyone, including myself. Many of those who attend our retreat come year after year, from places as far away as New York, Milwaukee, and Florida. Openings are limited. Please e-mail me if you're interested with "Junipine Retreat" as the subject.

CLASSES AT The Attic

It's January, a time when we customarily begin what we hope are fun classes for you to enhance your needlework enjoyment. We will be adding to the Class Schedule as time goes on, but here's what we have set up thus far:

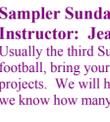
Design Your Own French Alphabet Sampler Three 2-Hr. Classes

Instructor: Jean Fee: \$30
Saturdays, January 14/March 11/May 6, 10 - 12 Noon
 Using beautiful French alphabet books, your choice of several, as our text, we will design our own French Alphabet Sampler. The classes are scheduled with time in between to allow for stitching, planning, stitching, inspiration, and stitching! Our models are all cross stitch, but there is a good deal of time invested especially in the larger letters. You will enjoy the inspiration and ideas that you get from your fellow students. As always, students with this as an unfinished project are invited to join the class at no additional fee, but please register. My model is stitched on 40-count cream New Castle linen using two shades of Soie 100/3, with *Alphabets Anciens, Le Livre Des Lettres, and Repertoire des Motifs and des Frises* as my primary references. Here are examples of mine unfinished, and Tamami's and Tedra's framed samplers.



Punchneedle One 2-Hr. Class

Instructor: Christy Fee: \$45 (includes all materials)
Saturday, January 14, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Another class setting and opportunity to learn this fun, easy, centuries-old technique. In the 2-hour class you should be able to complete your pumpkin pin. Your fee includes everything you need to get started: #3 Punchneedle, special locking hoop, design printed on weaver's cloth, and a threadkit. Christy will show you the technique and several of her finished models. This is a fast method for some of your Holiday stitching.



Sampler Sunday Sunday, January 15, 1 - 4 p.m.

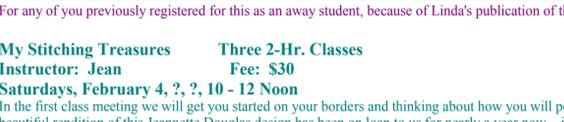
Instructor: Jean Fee: \$10
 Usually the third Sunday of the month, unless there's a conflict with a holiday or vacation, this is our first Sampler Sunday of 2006. Join us for a quiet time away from football, bring your favorite in-process sampler to work on, something for Show & Tell to share with the group of sampler lovers if you like ~ we all love to see others' projects. We will have a brief program, a computer slideshow of photographs I took on my trip last fall, and tea and dessert will be served. **Please call to register** so that we know how many tables/chairs to set up, etc.

Stitching on Silk Gauze Saturday, January 21, 10 - 12 Noon

Instructor: Jean Fee: \$20 (includes chart of your choice)
 In this 2-hour class you will learn the special techniques for this fun, quick, and easy medium for your needleart, and you will be thrilled with the results. Select your design from our *Threads Through Time* inventory when preregistering.

Reversible Cross Stitch Saturday, January 21, 1 - 5 p.m.

Instructor: Linda Fee: \$30 (includes the chart)
 In this four-hour class you will learn four reversible cross-stitch methods: the marking stitch, the Italian reversible, and two other methods. You can do this on either linen, evenweave, or aida, your choice. Below is a scan of the front and the back.



For any of you previously registered for this as an away student, because of Linda's publication of the chart, we are selling the chart (\$10) in place of an online class.

My Stitching Treasures Three 2-Hr. Classes

Instructor: Jean Fee: \$30
Saturdays, January 4, 7, 10 - 12 Noon
 In the first class meeting we will get you started on your borders and thinking about how you will personalize this to her take it home, but she has graciously offered to let us use it long enough to get this class started. The future class meetings will be decided by the class based on consensus and personal schedules.



Catherine Agnes French Alphabet Sampler Five 2-Hr. Classes

Instructor: Jean Fee: \$50
Saturdays, January 28/March 4/April 8/29, May 13, 10 - 12 Noon
 From the first time I saw this exquisite sampler by Catherine Strickler/Indigo Rose, I've wanted to stitch it. I've dedicated to stitching it in the small motifs that are central to the design. Her model is stitched with *Caron Collection Waterlilies* on 32c Light Sand Belfast; I've begun mine on 40c Light Sand Belfast. A threadpack will be available for students enrolled in the class. Stitches include the Rhodes stitch and variations, Rice Stitch, Queen Stitch, Queen Stitch, Double Running, Waffle Stitch, Lacin work, Buttonhole Bars, Trellis work, Spider Webs, Encroaching Satin, Boullion Knots, Alternating Double Backstitch, Twisted Fly Stitch, Reverse Smyrna Cross, Herringbone, Longarm Cross, Chevron Stitch, Basket Stitch, and Platted Fly Stitch. The surrounding alphabet and border is mostly cross stitch. Please state your linen preference when you register: 32c, 36c, or 40c.



Sampler Stitches 101 Saturday, February 11, 1 - 5 p.m.

Instructor: Linda Fee: \$25 (includes fabric & thread)
 In this 4-hour class Linda will teach some basic stitches to enhance your needlework enjoyment and results: the smyrna, 4-sided stitch, long-arm cross, and the eyelet stitches. Bring your scissors and any magnification you require. We will provide the materials.

CLASSES COMING

- French Monogram Set from *Thistle Threads*
- New needlebook design from Linda Vinson
- Flat-fold Finishing
- Beginning Hardanger



If there's a class we haven't listed that you'd like us to teach, please let me know. We're always happy to have your suggestions. That's all there's time for today. I hope you have been able to avoid the flu and respiratory infections that are making the rounds and are enjoying some down time after the Holidays. Thank you for all of your well wishes. John and I are both on the road to wellness, and that's a wonderful thing. Enjoy your week!

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