

JANUARY at *The Attic*

Gingerbread Knotwork Tomorrow, January 13, 2 - 4 p.m.

Instructor: Jean Fee: \$30



While we still have part of the **Teresa Layman Designs** trunk show here for you to enjoy her beautiful models, we're holding a class to teach you how easy it is to make these charming and detailed designs using just two simple stitches: French Knots and Colonial Knots. Your class fee includes the chartpack of your choice, A (Sugar & Spice) or B (Nutmeg & Ginger), the locking hoop, and the needles. You will need the floss of your choice to stitch the design: DMC, Anchor, or overdyed - Crescent Colours thread works up beautifully! Overdyed threads add so much to the finished product, and if you're a regular reader of this e-newsletter, you already know how much I love Crescent Colours and the reasons why: fluffy, beautiful overdyed cotton with a beautiful sheen that stitches like a dream. On the day of class students may purchase the WhimZi Frames as well as any other Teresa Layman Designs and threads for them at the class discount of 10%.

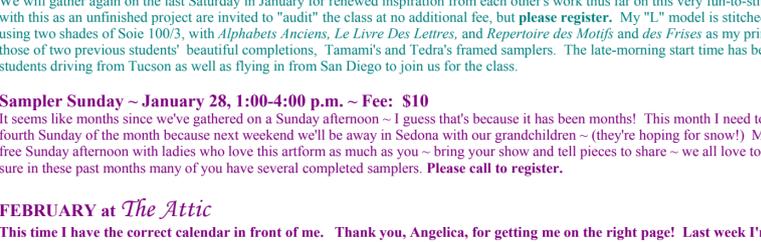
Punchneedle **One 2-Hr. Class**
Instructor: Chrissy **Fee: \$50 (includes all materials)**
Saturday, January 20, 2 - 4 p.m.



It's time for January's punchneedle class. Both designs come in the kit. In the 2 hours you may be able to complete your pin of choice. Your fee includes everything you need to get started: #3 Punchneedle, special locking hoop, design printed on weaver's cloth, and a threadkit. You will also receive a 10% discount on all supplies - patterns, thread, etc. - for your next punchneedle project(s).

Friday night, January 26, 7:00-11:00 p.m. - Ladies Night Out. \$15. Details in last week's newsletter.

Design Your Own French Alphabet Sampler **Class 2 of Three 2-Hr. Classes**
Instructor: Jean **Fee: \$30**
Saturday, January 27, 11:00-1:00 p.m.



We will gather again on the last Saturday in January for renewed inspiration from each other's work thus far on this very fun-to-stitch sampler. As always, previous students with this as an unfinished project are invited to "audit" the class at no additional fee, but **please register**. My "L" 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 et des Frises* as my primary references. Also pictured above are those of two previous students' beautiful completions, Tamami's and Tedra's framed samplers. The late-morning start time has been chosen to allow travel time for students driving from Tucson as well as flying in from San Diego to join us for the class.

Sampler Sunday ~ January 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m. ~ Fee: \$10
 It seems like months since we've gathered on a Sunday afternoon ~ I guess that's because it has been months! This month I need to alter the schedule a bit and make it the fourth Sunday of the month because next weekend we'll be away in Sedona with our grandchildren ~ (they're hoping for snow!) Mark your calendars and have a football-free Sunday afternoon with ladies who love this artform as much as you ~ bring your show and tell pieces to share ~ we all love to see what each other is stitching, and I'm sure in these past months many of you have several completed samplers. **Please call to register.**

FEBRUARY at *The Attic*

This time I have the correct calendar in front of me. Thank you, Angelica, for getting me on the right page! Last week I'm not sure which year or month I was looking at. **Please amend the dates on your calendars!**
SEMI-ANNUAL FRAMING FRENZY ~ Saturday, February 3, beginning at 10 a.m.
 It's time once again for this twice-yearly opportunity for you to save 20% on the custom-frame costs for framing your needlework heirlooms. Bring in your stitched piece (s), give Sandy your budget parameters and a brief idea of your likes and dislikes, and Sandy will do the rest. A \$20 deposit (plus tax) is required. Many of you have come to know Sandy's eye for selecting exactly the right frame for your needlework piece. This 20% discount applies to custom frames only, as opposed to ready-mades, and includes the frame and any mats or fillers. It does not include the labor charge, which is never discounted. No orders will be accepted with a deadline. Depending on the number of orders taken and the materials selected, turn-around time can be several months. It should also be noted that any non-promotional framing orders written at our regular framing rates will take precedence over the FF orders.

Nashville Market Day

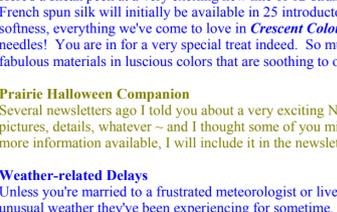
It's almost that time again! On **Saturday, February 17**, we'll have the suitcases unpacked and the classroom tables full of lots of wonderful stitching stuff to inspire you to spend more time with your needle. Special early shopping hour beginning at 9 a.m. for current PSC members. Doors open at 10 a.m. for others. Last year we brought back eight suitcases full of wonderful goodies, designs from many of your favorites and some surprises! Come early for best selection ~ some items are very limited.

February's Sampler Sunday ~ February 19, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

NEWS & NOTES in the Marketplace

Within a few short weeks this part of the newsletter will be jam-packed with news about wonderful new things, so before then, as the information comes to us, I'll include it here to ensure that none of it gets overlooked in the sheer volume.

Soie Belle from Crescent Colours



Here's a sneak peek at a very exciting new line of 12-strand hand-dyed silk floss from **Crescent Colours**, being introduced at Nashville in a few weeks. The 5-yard skeins of French spun silk will initially be available in 25 introductory colors, with another 25 colors scheduled for release in June at the next needlework market. The colors, the softness, everything we've come to love in **Crescent Colours'** fine hand-dyed threads for needlework, will now be available to us in SILK! Wait until you get these in your needles! You are in for a very special treat indeed. So much of what we love about our needlework is the sensory satisfaction and pleasure and enjoyment from using fabulous materials in luscious colors that are soothing to our touch. These new silk hand-dyed threads will appeal to all of that and more ~ a beautiful finished piece!

Prairie Halloween Companion

Several newsletters ago I told you about a very exciting Nashville release for the many Halloween fans out there. Last night Sherie asked if I had any more information, pictures, details, whatever ~ and I thought some of you might be wondering the same thing. I don't know anything more than previously written here, but as soon as there is more information available, I will include it in the newsletter. More may not be available until we get to Nashville.

Weather-related Delays

Unless you're married to a frustrated meteorologist or live in the Seattle area and surrounds or have friends or relatives who live there, you may not be aware of the most unusual weather they've been experiencing for sometime, beginning on Halloween and still continuing: windstorms, this week with 95 mph winds, snowstorms, power outages, live wires down, no Internet or e-mail capability, no hot water to dye with, no irons, and on and on ~ you get the picture, and it's not a pretty one! Hmm, can this be blamed on global warming? Unfortunately, all of the power outages negatively impact our lives in ways we can't even imagine until we have no power! On the rare occasion that we're without power here in the desert I inevitably decide that I'll read since I can't watch TV. Hmm! It takes a while for the brain to comprehend life without electricity.

Our dear friends at **Lakeside Linens** are doing their best to fill our orders, but please understand the problems they're dealing with that no one can control. Pat and Violet feel terrible that they've had so much down time and can't get us their beautiful linens fast enough ~ we all know their product is worth waiting for, and we all have one or two other things we can stitch on in the meantime. There's some good in everything, as with this. Pat says the snowfall is beautiful, now that the winds have stopped. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we endure this short-lived weather delay.

NEW in the Shop This Week

John and I were out of town for an extended weekend, and I came back to the shop to find two new "threadpacks" from **Diane Williams/Little House Needleworks** and **Sharon Crescent/Crescent Colours** - it's almost a misnomer to call them threadpacks (\$12 each, a true bargain in today's world!) because they're so much more than that: very charming designs in the Fruit and Scripture series that each contain five full skeins of the hand-dyed floss - These two latest made me want to drop my current project (but I didn't because I've set a goal for finishing the beautiful Berlin Woolwork Sampler sooner than later) ~ these to me scream "Stitch me now"! "Peace" and its threads and "Cherries" and its threads.



BEAUTIFUL NEW SAMPLERS ~

~ from **The Essamplaire** arrived this week.

Row 1: The gorgeous new Ackworth Quaker that everyone has been most anxious to get their hands on, "Maria Spence," came in in the cotton kit (\$78), and Margriet tells me that her back-ordered silk has arrived, she's now waiting for the linen, expected very soon, and she anticipates she'll have our silk "Maria Spence" kits on their way to us sometime next week.

Next, "Aeltie Claes-Anno 1673" (\$186) kitted with 40c linen and Soie d'Paris, an exquisite fine French silk from Au Ver A'Soie. This sampler belongs to a group of samplers made from the 1640's to the 1680's, fourteen that are known of thus far. They all have a similar text-wrapping worked around two or three sides, where the maker and state whose daughter they were and their age. Besides the Edam church in North Holland, they all contain similar motifs, such as a large ship, heart-shaped trees with numerous birds indicating a connection with heaven, large geometric motifs, the lamb of God, dogs fighting over a bone, reclining stag, a man and woman holding a wreath-a marriage symbol, the fountain of life-a vase with two birds, a spinning monkey, sewing basket with scissors, and family marks.

Third in this row, another favorite of mine, "IV CF - Circa 1700" (\$135 for silk, \$111 for DMC) ~ because I love roses and I love the colors. This brilliant German sampler, Margriet says, was stitched in or around Nuremberg and uses a variety of stitches: cross stitch, Hungarian, queen, diamond queen, flame, Algerian eye, tent, Roman, rice, and satin.



Row 2: "Rebecca Walker" (\$105 w/silk, \$81 w/DMC, both on 35c linen) is a reproduction that we watched unfold before our eyes as Attic customer and friend Karen stitched the model. Margriet says that this beautiful Quaker sampler is typical of the samplers made in the Delaware River valley, which feature a central cartouche, sprigs of flowers, lettering, and floral borders. This sampler is part of the collection in the Chester County Historical Society in Pennsylvania, and the stitches used in its creation are cross stitch, queen, cross over one, and eyelet over two.

On the right in Row 2, "'Marianna Lignani" (\$114 on 40c w/silk) is an Italian sampler worked entirely in cross stitch except for the woman's hair, which is worked in straight stitches. The wonderful garden scene, with the gentlemen smoking long-stemmed pipes and dressed in smoking robes, Margriet could be from a possible print source and imitates what the middle class thought was going on with the elite.



Row 3: "Augusta's Bristol Orphanage Sampler" (\$83, 40c w/silk) is not new to this newsletter but worth showing you again, now that many of you have spent time with the wonderful Witney Antiques' publication, *Stitched in Adversity - Samplers of the Poor*. Reading that book, I think, increases one's awareness of really how remarkable are these orphanage samplers, where every inch of space has been used and taken up with rows of alphabets, numerals, and border patterns.

On the right in Row 3, another Quaker sampler, this one stitched in Ireland. The block-letter style of lettering and the ligatures, Margriet says, point to this being a Quaker sampler. We have it available in chart form for \$15.

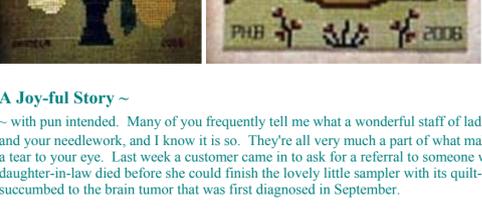


Row 4: Two others that we have available in chart form: "Elizabeth Thompson" (\$19), a gorgeous Scottish sampler with its large house, birds on the chimney, pansy band, wonderful tree, and cartouche with the Scottish thistle. Stitches used: cross, satin, queen, rice, herringbone, double running, chain, tent, and back stitch.

On the right in Row 4 is "Elizabeth Burton" available in chart form for \$35. The origin of this sampler is housed in the Philadelphia Museum of Art and is representative of a group of samplers stitched by Judith Hayl's pupils, one of only two teachers known to us from the 17th century. Common elements in these samplers are a square cartouche, believed to be a sewing cushion, the initials IH, for Judith Hayl, on one side and the initials of the student on the other. Stitches used: cross stitch over three, two and one threads, Algerian eye, satin, double running, and some detached buttonhole.



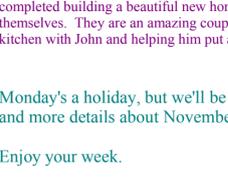
Two other new charts in the shop this week are "Partridge in a Pear Tree" (\$9.50) and "The Shepherdess" (\$10.50).



A Joy-ful Story ~

~ with pun intended. Many of you frequently tell me what a wonderful staff of ladies we have here at *The Attic*, knowledgeable, helpful, with a sincere interest in you and your needlework, and I know it is so. They're all very much a part of what makes our shop a special place. Here is a story of joy ~ and of Joy, our Joy, that may bring a tear to your eye. Last week a customer came in to ask for a referral to someone who could complete a piece, a gift intended for her, a quilter, but her 46-year-old daughter-in-law died before she could finish the lovely little sampler with its quilt-block border surrounding a charming verse about quilters. In early December she succumbed to the brain tumor that was first diagnosed in September.

Joy, of course ~ and I say "of course" because you will understand if you know her ~ volunteered to finish it for her. This week Joy brought it in completed and when the woman came in to pick it up, she brought Joy these beautiful white roses and a charming creamy Teddy bear to thank her for her kindness. See, I knew it would bring a tear. We were all in tears on Wednesday. Needleworkers are very special people ~ but then all of you know that because you are them! Slowly and quietly moving the needle through the fabric rewards us with a special spirit that only a needleworker understands. Our families witness the bad attitude when we can't find time for our needlework, but they don't really fully understand the power of that little needle.



And speaking of special people, John and I spent the weekend with two of our favorite special people, John's sister Barb and her husband Ken. I have Barb to thank for reintroducing me to cross stitch in 1981 when we visited them at Christmastime in San Diego. Now retired and living in Palo Cedro near Redding, they have just completed building a beautiful new home on their acreage. And when I say "completed," that is meant in the literal sense because they did so much of the physical work themselves. They are an amazing couple that, together, have accomplished great things: raising two wonderful children, remodeling their Escondido home, gutting our kitchen with John and helping him put a new one in its place, and now building the majority of their new home.

Monday's a holiday, but we'll be here for you. Next week I'll have information about a wonderful two-day workshop the first weekend in May and more details about November's Merry Cox weekend workshops.

Enjoy your week.

Jean Lea
Attic Needlework & Collectibles

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