

# THIS WEEKEND AT *The Attic*

We are pleased to offer you these classes tomorrow, teaching you new techniques to enhance your needlework enjoyment, and each class still has room:

## Stitching on Silk Gauze

**Instructor: Jean**

**Saturday, January 21, 10 - 12 Noon**

**Fee: \$20 (includes chart of your choice)**

40c silk gauze is not nearly as difficult as you think ~ the gauze threads are very fine, leaving the holes for your needle really quite visible. And it's quick! On 40c anything, silk gauze or linen, when you're stitching over one you use the Continental Stitch, and the Basketweave Stitch for the background. Each stitch takes half the time of a cross stitch and, therefore, half the time to complete! 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. Stitching any design small enhances its appeal. Select your design from our *Threads Through Time* inventory when preregistering.

## Reversible Cross Stitch

**Instructor: Linda**

**Saturday, January 21, 1 - 5 p.m.**

**Fee: \$30 (includes the chart)**

In this four-hour class Linda will teach you four reversible cross-stitch methods: the marking stitch, the Italian reversible, and two other methods, all clearly diagrammed in Linda's first published design (there's more coming!). You can do this on either linen, evenweave, or aida, your choice. Below is a scan of the front and the back. And Linda will show you her reversible "Mouline Rouge" that she is stitching using this reversible technique.



Call the shop today (480.898.1838) to register for either class.

## COMING EVENTS at *The Attic*

- **Friday night, January 27, 7 - 11 p.m.** ~ pizza party with desserts, including a chocolate fountain, and door prizes and blue-light specials. Registration is full, with several on the waiting list ~ someone who shall remain nameless took more reservations than intended (it's so difficult for me to say "no"), so please be sure to have your registration fee (\$15) paid by close of business tomorrow so that we can let those on the waiting list know as soon as possible whether they will be joining us.
- **Saturday, February 4, Our Semi-Annual Framing Frenzy**, a chance to save 20% on your custom frame order. Bring in your completed needlework, give Sandy your budget, your likes and dislikes (i.e., "I love oak" or "I hate gold filigree"), make a \$20 deposit, and she will select your mats and/or frame. Many of you are already familiar with Sandy's skill in frame selection ~ after all, she was trained by the master, Be Caulfield Lundy, and she obviously was a good student! Sandy's very familiar with her stock of frame mouldings ~ we don't have room to display them all nicely; some are in boxes, but she knows what's there and will select the perfect frame for your piece. We at the shop no longer waste our time pouring through the mouldings when we have our own things framed; we know she will do it better than we can. Pieces are not accepted during this special event with any deadlines; and the discount applies to custom-frame orders only, not in-stock, ready-made frames, and not to the labor charge.

## What you should know about how we frame your needlework

Whether you choose to have your work framed at *The Attic* or elsewhere is your decision, but we want you to make an informed decision. After spending sometimes hundreds of hours on an heirloom piece, or perhaps only 50 hours, whatever, you will want to use a framer who knows how to treat needlework. Please think twice before taking it to the QuickFrame shop in the strip mall because you found a 50% discount coupon in a flyer in your mailbox. We've "rescued" needlework framed at a discount house where knowledgeable framers are not to be found, and it's shocking to see what's been done: staples or masking tape used for mounting, cardboard filler on the backside of the needlework, no protection between the frame and your needlework, dust covers applied with no protection, and even sticky-board mounted with the wrong side stuck to the sticky board! I know it's hard to believe, but it actually happened.

Acid-free materials will preserve your work, and that's what we use here, starting with the acid-free mounting board. The mounting process is very time-consuming. Sandy carefully stretches it over the mounting board, ensuring that each linen thread is aligned perfectly, with hundreds of pins temporarily holding it in place. Acid-free tape is then used to attach the piece to the mount board and the pins are removed. Again, there is a controversy about the best way to mount. Some people believe in lacing. Others argue that lacing creates tension in various places on your linen or fabric, and it does. Again, we've taken apart laced pieces and seen the damage done over time.

Additionally, Sandy covers the rabbet edge of the frame with an acid-free material so that the wood doesn't come in contact with the fabric. As you may know, wood is very acidic and can be extremely damaging. We take apart pieces that have corrugated paper or cardboard as the filler before the dust cover is applied. Again, that is very acidic material. We place a piece of acid-free material on the backside of your piece to protect it before applying the dust cover.

If you ask for glass, we will frame it with glass. You will see that most of our models aren't framed with glass. There is a real controversy in the needlework world about framing with glass. We don't use it because (1) it masks the beautiful stitching that has taken many, many hours to create and (2) we don't think it really protects your needlework. Again, we've taken apart previously framed, glassed pieces and find the dust particles there anyway ~ they're so fine that even glass doesn't keep them out. And with glass, they're trapped there. Without glass, the needlework can be cleaned in a variety of ways, such as with a clean, fine brush. If you do request glass, we suggest using spacers so that the glass doesn't touch your needlework. Again, glass is an acidic material and can damage the piece.

These are all the steps taken in ensuring that your needlework is framed in the best possible way that we know how. If you've waited longer than you think you should have for a finished framing, perhaps you will now understand the process. And I didn't even go into the extra steps involved when your piece has to be skirted, for example, to allow for matting, or framed with mats and fillets, or mounted with a piece of colored moire' applied to the mountboard first.

## WHAT'S NEW

- From *Long Dog Samplers*, we now have Julia's two newest in stock, "Bienvenue" (\$11) and "Do Bears?" (\$17)



- From *Thistle Threads/Tricia Wilson Nguyen*, a limited edition kit, "Joys Many Sorrows Few Sewing Box," with everything you need to complete this box, including wonderfully photographed and detailed finishing instructions (\$110). The photographs below show the box from various angles, front + left side, front + right side, back, top, inside, and the acorn button closing



- Just in the door on the "Brown truck," the newest releases from *Just\*NaN*:

(1) Three sentiments available in one chartpack (\$9) called "WhimZi Heartfel" with embellishments ~ "Forever Friends," "Happy Birthday," and "Love," each framed in a new WhimZi frame, Matte Silver Embossed and Antique Brass Embossed (\$12) and Antique White (\$12.50), also arrived.



(2) "Winter in the Square," featuring a beautiful Winter Sheep Visions Charm ~ to see that more closely, go to <http://www.justnan.com/jn154.html> ~ and the exciting news is there will be more in this series in February with more beautiful charms, like Swan Lake, Rose & Violets, Phlox & Ivy, and Lilacs, some of them gold and some silver. And "Jasmine Mix," a companion piece to "Wintery Mix" shown on the right.



(3) And two more new ones from *Just\*NaN*, "WhimZi Snow Faces" (\$4) and "Flying Colors," (\$16) another in the Lessons on Linen series.



## EXPECTED NEXT WEEK

- An automatic shipment from *With My Needle/Ellen Chester* with two beautiful sewing accessories: "Petit Carnet d'Ouvrages, Livre I" and "Flowers for Lily" ~ I've ordered extra *Gloriana* for the accordion-style book that Ellen says was "inspired by old pattern books," and the exciting thing is this is the **first in a series** of little books, according to Ellen's Web site. I just love the deer and the borders and the alphabets. In addition to the front and back cover, there are eight more pages of stitched alphabets, borders, and motifs.



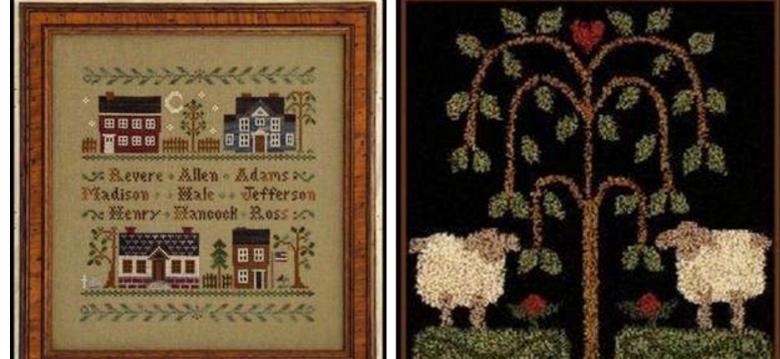
If you wish to see enlarged photographs of these projects, please go to Ellen's Web site, <http://www.withmyneedle.com/#Sewing%20Cases,%20Needle%20Books>.

- An automatic shipment from *Little House Needleworks/Diane Williams*:

which will introduce us to a very clever new series, "Dear Diary." First in the series is "Abigail Winslow, 1780" and second, "Mary Horton, 1878." Each chartpack contains the diary running, an antique gold key, and the sampler as well as the pillow designs, which are mounted on Dye Works wool. After Abigail finds her younger siblings rummaging through her personal things to find her diary, Abigail hides the key to her diary in her sampler.



Also included in Diane's automatic will be the latest in her Americana line, "Colonial Homes" (everyone loves houses, and here are four charming ones) and, in her punchneedle line, "Sheep Gathering," sure to be a winner with its adorable sheepies. For any of you who haven't tried punchneedle yet, here's a good reason to do so soon. We'll have her key sometime in February ~ join us and see why so many people are trying it and loving it.



To see these close-up, go to *Little House's* Web site: <http://www.littlehouseneedleworks.com/pages/1/index.htm>

## PHOENIX NEEDLEWORK SHOW

It's soon time once again for the biennial Phoenix Needlework Show sponsored by a number of needlework guild chapters and others. This year's show, the 21st, will be held from **March 4 - March 17**, again at the **Shemer Art Center, 5005 East Camelback Road, Phoenix**. There are a few schedule changes, put in place by the Shemer, including no Sunday exhibit hours, but an additional evening. The show hours will be M,W, F 10 - 5 p; T and TH 10 - 9 p; and Saturdays from 9 to 4 p. Registration deadline is January 31, and entries will be accepted on Saturday, February 25, from 9 - 12 Noon. Entry forms are available at all of the Phoenix and Tucson area needlework shops, including *The Attic*. As in previous years, there will be a Preview Tea Party on Friday, March 3, with new time constraints established by the Shemer, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. If you would like to attend the Preview Tea Party and didn't receive the mailing, please call or e-mail Alaine Steuk for a response card. RSVPs are due by February 18, 2006. Alaine can be reached by e-mail at [rasteuk@aol.com](mailto:rasteuk@aol.com) or by phone at **480.991.7539**. Please note that all proceeds from the show, including entry fees and donations for admission to the show, benefit A Stepping Stone Foundation. You may visit the show's Web site for additional information and forms: [www.members.cox.net/phxneedleworkshow](http://www.members.cox.net/phxneedleworkshow).

That's all for this week. It's an exciting time in our needlework world, with many new things expected to arrive within the next month, some on automatic, some by preorder, and some at Nashville. We'll try our best to keep you posted on all of it.

## Jean Lea

### *Attic Needlework & Collectibles*

106 East McKellips Road, Suite 111  
Mesa, Arizona 85201  
480.898.1838 ~ FAX: 480.898.0332  
Toll-Free: 1.888.94-ATTIC  
[www.atticneedlework.com/](http://www.atticneedlework.com/)