

Good morning!

There are some exciting things to tell you about ~ and more new than there's room or time for ~ so hang onto your hats for many exciting things in our needlework world.

TOMORROW at *The Attic*

- 10 - 12 Noon, Class 2 of this three-class series in our ***Design Your Own French Alphabet Sampler***. Jan, I know you're almost finished, but I hope you'll plan to join the rest of us, to inspire others with your beautiful alphabets. This is the third time we've scheduled this series of classes. In the first series in 2004, a sampler was designed and stitched that has become the **Best of Show** prize winner in the 21st Biennial Phoenix Needlework Show now on exhibit at the Shemer Art Center and Museum in Phoenix. Congratulations, Tedra! We are all thrilled for you, and anyone who sees your sampler agrees that it is most deserving of the recognition it has received. We are as proud as "parents" of your beautiful needlework. Here it is again for all to see. I only wish those of you out there in e-mail land could see it in person ~ an exquisite family record sampler, with parents, grandparents, siblings, and loving pets ~ as well as motifs representing important elements in Tedra's life ~ for example, the *Threads Through Time* sampler stitched over 1 on the lower right-hand side of the sampler.



If you'll be in the Phoenix area within the next week, plan to visit the **needlework show at the Shemer Art Center and Museum**, with over 150 entries in all needlework mediums now on exhibit. The show continues **through Friday, March 17**. The exhibit hours are M, W, F 10 - 5 p.m.; T & TH 10 - 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 - 4 p.m. There are a number of our other customers whose needlework has been recognized with ribbons and "Judge's Choice Awards" ~ and I'll tell you about those next week.

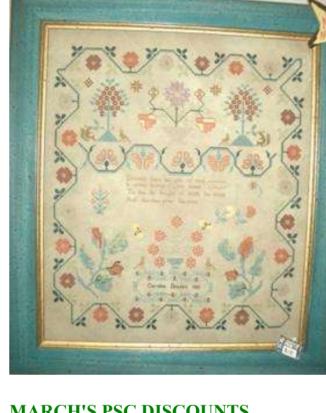
- Tomorrow afternoon, 2 - 4 p.m., **Punchneedle with Christy**. **Please call the shop to register (480.898.1838)**. We're trying to take advantage of Christy's time here before she leaves on a three-week trip to Australia to visit niece Celeste and her parents. We've found an adorable kit that we'll be using for this class ~ and you have your choice of either punching a heart or a star ~ that finishes into a charming pin. The class fee of \$50 includes everything you'll need to complete this project (except your scissors): design, preprinted fabric, thread, #3 needle, locking hoop, and Christy's expert instruction.

NEXT WEEKEND at *The Attic*

- **Saturday, March 18, 2 - 4 p.m., Flat-fold Finishing Class**. This unique finishing technique can be applied to many designs, and it's perfect for those "holiday" decorations that you display for a month and then store till next year. Bring a stitched piece, backing fabric, and Christy will teach you the rest. Your class fee of \$40 includes the wonderful text, *The Flat-Fold* by Judy Odell, along with the other finishing materials required. Go to <http://www.justathought.net/The%20Flatfold.htm> for some ideas for your flat-fold.
- **Sunday, March 19, 1 - 4 p.m. Sunday Sampler Class**. Being the third Sunday of the month, it's time again for our monthly gathering of sampler lovers who also enjoy learning about women's history and enjoy tea and dessert and the company of some very fine women who share their love of needlework. **Please call to register**. Fee, \$10.

MARCH'S SAMPLER OF THE MONTH

Last week's newsletter showed a scan of the chart photo ~ here's a photo of our in-shop model of "Caroline Braden - 1801," stitched on 40c Vintage Pear with Needlepoint, Inc. silk. I didn't have my "best" digital with me last night at the shop, so you'll probably see another photo next week. During March you will receive a 15% discount off the chart, fabric, and/or thread (except DMC) for this sampler.



MARCH'S PSC DISCOUNTS

It must be an indication of how fast February flew by ~ I'm way behind in publishing these for this month. PSC members will save 15% during March on the following items:

- **Threads of Gold** designs
- **Au Ver A'Soie** silks
- All Spring/Easter/Bunny designs/kits

INSIDE *The Attic*

- **My Big Toe Designs** Trunk Show continues ~ here's a photo of our in-shop display of the models. Debbie's designs run the gamut from the simple and fun designs (on the bottom shelf, "Cat Hair - just another specialty fiber" and "4 out of the 5 Voices in my head say eat the chocolate") to the elegant "Namesake Sampler" ~ the upper left corner of that sampler is framed in the gold frame on the left of the second shelf ~ you can see the "B" in the cartouche. Debbie has also designed a very beautiful "Lord's Prayer Sampler" and "The Beatitudes." Go to <http://www.mybigtoedesigns.com/> to view all of the designs from *My Big Toe*.
- Also showing as part of the trunk show are some lovely needlework accessory pieces ~ and Janet has done an exquisite job of displaying them at our front counter in a glass-covered cake stand. Included are a number of beautiful accessories for our stitching baskets: Scissors Fobs (self-explanatory), Thread Counters (a wonderful invention ~ anchor one needle where you need to begin counting, use the other needle to count 10 stitches and then anchor it; "hop" your first needle over the second and continue counting and anchoring until you reach the desired spot, Marking Pins (helps you keep your place on any project), and Thread Pickers (the greatest thing for frogging those pesky out-of-place stitches). These make wonderful gifts to a needleworker in your life ~ like yourself!



- **SPRING has come to *The Attic*** ~ we've finally finished our front display, featuring bunnies and eggs and flowers and springtime colors and pillows and threads and bags and samplers.



COMING soon to *The Attic*

- 2-session class in wool applique featuring the bunny pillow by **Sandra Sullivan/Homespun Elegance** that was our retreat project last month ~ Classes will be on Saturday, April 1 and 15. Times and kit prices will be announced next week. Here's Linda first-one-finished pillow



- **"Woolly Thyme Club"** ~ Calling all sheep lovers! Sign up for this year-long Club, a very clever design idea from **Sandra Sullivan/Homespun Elegance**, and you will receive a "Woolly Thyme" sheep (all you have to do is stuff the sheep and he's ready for his monthly blanket design) and the first blanket design. Your enrollment is \$26, which covers Woolly and the first design ~ all subsequent monthly design packets for Woolly's seasonal blankets will be \$8. The sheep is made from cotton batting that has been overdyed; his face is embellished with "vintage" button eyes and embroidered mouth and nose. **Woolly** measures approximately 12.5" x 6" ~ our first shipment is on its way. Go to Sandra's Web site to see better photos of the first two designs: http://www.homespunelegance.com/woolly_tyme_club.html



- **Punch & Cookie Club** ~ another very clever idea from the talented **Sandra Workman/Pine Mountain Designs**. These very limited edition monthly "punch" kits will come with a special cookie recipe selected specifically for that month and a punchneedle kit containing screen-printed weaver's cloth, floss, color photograph, and instructions ~ all for \$12. Some months will have finishing kits available, i.e., a club-exclusive frame or pillow. These will not be available for individual sale. Club kits are **exclusive** to club members and will not be sold individually, and we have a **very** small window of time when we can add to our order ~ each month's kit is retired. To enroll in the club, please provide credit card information as well as mailing information, if applicable. Cancellation of your membership will apply to the **next** month's kit so that we may have time to change our order.
- Our April kits are on their way. Here's a sneak peek at it:



I hope by this time next week we will have our kits, have our model "punched," and will have the date and time for the first gathering of ***The Attic's* Punch & Cookie Club**, where we will serve punch and cookies, homemade from the recipe included. If you haven't tried punchneedle, we've gotten missing out on some adorable designs ~ at the Nashville market there was an amazing selection of new designs, and we've gotten most of them in the shop. I'm hoping to scan them in soon and send an all-punchneedle newsletter so you can get a "flavor" (pun intended!) of what's out there.

COMING IN MAY

- **Saturday, May 6, 9 till Noon and 2 till- 5 p.m.** ~ two different workshops with Carolyn Standing Webb, a talented needlework designer and teacher for more than 20 years. She is from Salt Lake City, Utah with a degree in education who finds teaching needlework most rewarding. Carolyn has received the EGA's Master Craftsman in counted thread and is currently EGA's chairman for the counted thread program. In addition to teaching all over the world, her designs have appeared in a number of needlework magazines, including *FineLines*, *Piecework*, and *Needlepoint Now*.

This strawberry needlecase has a most unique and intriguing feature: it is a Jacob's ladder needlecase. Many of us remember the Jacob's ladder toys that we played with as children, and this is the only needlecase that I've seen that incorporates this intriguing feature. The back is personalized with your initials.

The butterfly-shaped needlecase is also a pincushion ~ its wings are tied with silk ribbons that, when undone, let the wings unfold to reveal a place for your needles.



All details will be included in our next e-newsletter.

That brings me to the end of my time for this morning. We've been very busy processing your "A Most Noble Pursuit" orders and "Beatrice Potter's Quaker Sampler" orders and Berlin Woolwork Sampler orders (Part 9, the last and final part, is now out ~ I'm a bit behind in my stitching and, therefore, behind in making the threadkits ~ I'll try to mend my ways in case any of you are caught up to me) and other orders and not enough time in the days and weeks to do it all. It's a bit frustrating because there's so much new in the shop that it's almost overwhelming ~ where to begin? I'll try to divide it into categories, and into newsletters, and get the information to you soon, before it's old news!

We're promised thunderstorms and wind tomorrow ~ it's Spring Training time here in the Phoenix area, and some baseball fans may be disappointed, but if the rain comes, it will be an answer to your prayers. A record-breaking dry spell reached 143 days yesterday without rain. After the showers come the flowers ~ we hope so! It's spring break for ASU and many other students and faculty. Spring is a beautiful season in Arizona with its paradise-like air, especially in the evening time when the fruit trees give off their incomparable perfume. We hope your world is filled with flowers and the hope of Spring.

Jean Lea

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