

## APRIL CLASSES at The Attic

### Beginning Linen

Instructor: Linda  
Saturday, April 7, 10:30-12:30

One 2-Hr. Class

Fee: \$30 (includes all materials)

The longest running class at the shop continues to inspire needleworkers of every age! Using the classic book "Linen Stitches" as the class text, Linda will teach you the basics of stitching on linen. The class project is a charming fringed bookmark from the book featuring geraniums. You will learn basic techniques and a wonderful edge finishing stitch, the nun's stitch, as well as stitching with overdyed threads. Needleworkers who are self-taught have enjoyed this class as well.

### Punchneedle

Instructor: Christy  
Saturday, April ??, 2 - 4 p.m.

One 2-Hr. Class

Fee: \$50 (includes all materials)



Christy's on her way back from Australia and I don't know her April schedule, but this is a class she teaches approximately every 4 to 6 weeks, another opportunity for you to learn this fun, fast and easy centuries-old technique. The class project is your choice of either of the pins shown here ~ both designs come in your kit. In the 2 hours you may be able to complete your 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 this very easy technique and a number of her beautifully finished models featuring a variety of finishing techniques. You will also receive a 10% discount on all supplies ~ patterns, thread, etc. ~ for your next punchneedle project(s).

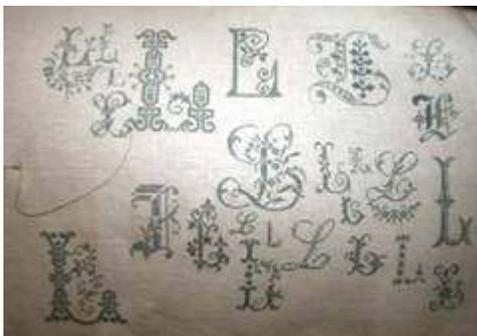
### Design Your Own French Alphabet Sampler

Class 2 of Three 2-Hr. Classes

Instructor: Jean

Fee: \$30

Saturday, April 14, 11:00-1:00 p.m.



It's time once again to gather together to work on this exquisite piece. Framed models above are Tamami's and Tedra's from a class of several years ago. One of these years I will finish my "L" sampler also, 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. The late-morning start time is to allow travel time for students coming from Tucson and San Diego. As always, previous students with this as an unfinished project are invited to "audit" the class at no additional fee, but **please register**.

Sampler Sunday ~ April 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m. ~ Fee: \$10

As the third Sunday of the month, this is the day for us to gather to spend working on one of our samplers in progress. Please join us for a lovely Sunday afternoon with a wonderful group of ladies who enjoy this artform as much as you! Also bring your show-and-tell pieces to share, finished or in progress ~ they're always inspirational! **Please call to**

register.

## Pineapple Saturday at The Attic aka "Welcome to our World"

Instructors: Christy (a.m.) and Debra (p.m.) Fees: \$20 (a.m.) and \$15 (p.m.)

Saturday, April 21, 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



This most charming set of needlework accessories will be the focus on **Saturday, April 21**, beginning at **9:30 a.m.** when Christy will teach the finishing for the pineapple pincushion, the needlebook, and the scrimshaw carriers. In the afternoon Debra will teach the beaded fob. You may spend the day with us or morning or afternoon, your choice. The materials for these workshops are included in complete kits from **Fern Ridge Collections**, priced as follows: Needlebook - \$30; Smalls (includes the pincushion and scrim holders) - \$26; Basket Lining - \$16; Beaded Fob - \$36. The basket itself is \$60 and the set of scrimshaw is \$90.

## Sampler of the Month

Only a day left to save 15% on the "New England Sampler," a new design (\$18) from Brenda Keyes of **The Sampler Company**, the March Sampler of the Month, and also on its materials. And then it's time for April's Sampler of the Month, "Sampler Hornbook" (\$24) from Pam Schmidt of **The Prairie Sampler**. I stitched our model on hand-dyed Muffin 29-count Glenshee with the new **Belle Soie** from **Crescent Colours** in Rose of Sharon.



If you'd prefer to stitch this charming little sampler in the five colors, here's a scan of five beautiful **Belle Soie** colors for your sampler. And a photo Tamami took at our last Sampler Sunday showing Linda's delicious hornbook cookies and the

cookie molds she used from House on the Hill, Inc. ~ <http://www.houseonthehill.net/> ~ and she shares the recipe below from their catalogue, with her personal annotations.



### Speculaas

These cookies are a holiday tradition in Holland, Belgium, Northern Germany and Scandinavia.

3/4 cup softened butter, preferably unsalted

2 cups brown sugar (spooned, not packed)

1 egg

1 cup ground almonds

2 teaspoons cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon each of salt, cloves, ginger, cardamom, and mace

2 teaspoons cocoa

grated rind of one lemon

3 cups flour

4-6 tablespoons milk

Cream butter and sugar together; add egg, then ground almonds, then salt and flavor ingredients. Finally work in the flour. Add the 4-6 tablespoons as needed to make stiff dough. Refrigerate 30-60 minutes. (Note: I got the best results by dividing the dough into 4 batches so that I could rotate them in and out of the refrigerator. When the dough gets too warm, it sticks mightily.) Flour resin molds (for each and every use) with dry pastry brush.

Place a ball of dough on the mold and press into mold following the basic shape of the carving. (Note: I found it to be most successful to make a cookie that would fill the mold and be about 1/4 of an inch thicker beyond that.) Trim the dough to follow the outline of the mold, turn the mold over, holding it just above the cookie sheet, and let gravity pull the cookie out of the mold for you.

Place on parchment lined or greased baking sheet (I used Silpat liners) Chill for a few minutes before baking to help set the pattern. If your pattern seems to "fade" try chilling the molded cookies a few minutes longer.

Bake at 350 deg F. for 8-10 minutes turning the pan once front to back during baking.

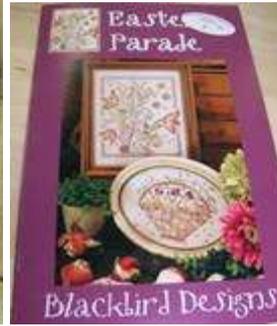
### April PSC Discounts

As a PSC member, you may purchase the following items any time during April and receive a 15% discount:

- *La-D-Da* designs
- *Lakeside Linens*
- All punchneedle designs

### WHAT'S NEW IN THE SHOP

It's "rabbit time" and here's a new one from *La-D-Da* just in time for Easter: "Briar Rabbit" (\$8) ~ and a new model stitched by Sandy and just framed by Sandy, "Easter Parade" (\$8), one from several seasons ago by *Blackbird Designs*.



And our customers share ~ here's the beautiful "Spring Sampler" silkpack (\$15.50) from *Sharon/Crescent Colours* and *Diane/Little House Needlework* ~ first one we've seen stitched. Linda stitched this in record time on 40c Vintage Pear from *Lakeside* ~ it is adorable! As are the two newest from *Little House*, "Ladybug, Ladybug" and "Stars & Stripes," each \$5. And the newest from daughter *Nikki/Country Cottage Needleworks*, "La Boutique," (\$7).



More for the Quaker devotees, and there are many of you out there ~ "Rebecca Jeffcoat," (\$21) the latest reproduction from *Jacqueline/Needleprint* ~ and from *Paula/Plum Street Samplers*, "Quaker Calendar II" (\$5).



Another very beautiful chartpack from *Tracy/Ink Circles*, in celebration of her 20th wedding anniversary, "I Still Do" (\$25) ~ and included in the same package (great buy!) is a second design entitled "Second Chances." The only dilemma: which one to stitch first?



Sandy's examples of how to make a design your own: A chartpack from *Twisted Oak Designs*, "Roses and Rooster" (\$6) shown in blue on yellow gingham fabric that Sandy stitched monochromatically over one on the 28c gingham pink and over 2 in the natural gingham in her colors.



And our customers share: Here's Courtney's now-framed "Village of Hawk Run Hollow" and Rhonda's "Angel's Song" in one of our glass showcases.



And our designers share as well. Here's Sandra Murray's model in progress of her reproduction of Sarah Parr's sampler on display in one of our glass showcases (\$12):



And arriving this week from **Charland**, her very charming Garden Needle House, a complete kit that includes beautiful finishing fabrics, the matboard house kit, and the Sterling Silver charm that has a dangling heart, as well as all the thread, all for \$76! All you have to do is sit down and stitch it! No need to spend time searching for supplies.



More complete kits from **Mill Hill** in their "Words for Life" series, each one \$15 complete!



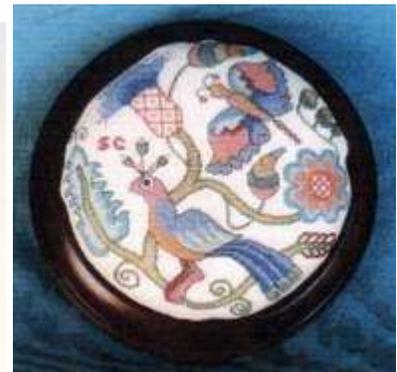
Also from **Mill Hill**, Beaded Pin Pillow kits, each \$10 ~ from left to right they are "Vintage Rose" ~ "Cameo Tulip" ~ "Pansy Petals" ~ "Starlight Lily" ~ very adorable beaded pincushions that include an extra magnet for attaching the finished Beaded Pin Pillow to your fabric ~ will hold the pincushion in place while you stitch.



Also from *Mill Hill*, two Buttons & Beads kits in their Winter Series, "Christmas Village" ~ the other four were mistakenly omitted from our shipment and are on their way. Each kit is \$12 and includes the beads, button, perforated paper, floss, and chart with instructions. Pictured below: "Toy Shop" and "Tree Farm." Also included in the series: "Country Church" (VERY cute), "Post Office," "Train Depot," and "Victorian House." Each one is cuter than the next.



We're delighted to see *Sharon Cohen/Nostalgic Needle* back at the markets, and here are some of the things we picked up in Nashville of Sharon's ~ some are new, some may be new to many of you but they're not new publications ~ just wonderful, classic designs from a most talented needlewoman. In order of appearance below, "Boxer Name Badge" (\$8) ~ "Pinball" (\$12) ~ "English Pinpillow" (\$12) ~



"Pendant Purse #2" (\$6) ~ "English Bird Sampler" ( \$25) ~ and "Strawberry Thief Cross Stitch Cushion" (\$6).



And, finally, a potpourri of designs and designers: From left to right, "Old Stone Church" (\$6.50) from *Elizabeth's Needlework Designs* ~ "Sassy Feline" (\$24 which includes mini heart charm and hand-grained frame) from *Homespun Elegance* ~ "Off the Deep End" (\$10) from *Raise The Roof*, with the footnote on the front cover, "Mermaids can be very shellfish"! Stitched on Vintage Charcoal from *Lakeside* ~ and, last but certainly not least, "The Sempstress" (\$9.50) from *Catherine/Indigo Rose*. Inquiring minds want to know, and I did, and Google gave me the answer: "Sempstress" is an Old English version of the word "seamstress" and is the title of a woman whose artistry is expressed in fabric. Sounds like many women I know!



It's time once again to bring this weekly tome to a close. A lovely thought from Donna about "stash": "I have always believed that this was one of the joys in life. Let's not count the stash but the enjoyment that we receive from stitching and the joys of others who receive our gifts or just get to see them on our walls. I always have more than one in my unfinished

basket. When it sits there too long, I decide if I want to finish it. If not, it goes to another who might want to finish it. I enjoy the sisterhood of creative people."

I couldn't have said it better! This is a wonderful sisterhood, occasionally shared with men, but mostly with wonderful women ~ whose joys and sorrows and illnesses and wellness are shared by all of us. And it affects us all when one of us is afflicted, and we rejoice when wellness is on its way back after a spirited fight. This was one of those weeks for sure, with a telephone call from Barbara, sounding just like the Barbara that we knew before she left last spring to return to her "summer home" in Kansas, only to be faced with a battle with illness unimagined when we said good-bye ~ and we rejoiced to hear she was driving again and wanting to stitch again! It made our week! And how wonderful to be able to give Angelica a hug and share some laughter with her after her sadness and grief these past few weeks in losing her father. I consider it a personal privilege to come to know so many of you and share in your joys and sorrows, and you in mine.

And this next week promises to be a joyful week as we head off to Disneyland with our grandchildren. Okay, if you twist my arm, I'll share a photo or two of all of us in Mickey's ears or some such. Yesterday was Grandparents' Day at Tyler and Hannah's school, and I wanted to show you a photograph or two but I forgot my camera, borrowed my son's, but he hasn't e-mailed the photos yet. But here's a photo taken last November on Hannah's birthday weekend of her engaged in one of her favorite pastimes, drawing ~ drawing one of her favorite things, horses! The practice was a good thing, I guess, because she was honored recently at the Annual Arabian Horse Show in Scottsdale as one of the finalists in their horse-drawing contest!



It will be a joyful week also because it's Easter. Hope all of you are experiencing Spring wherever you are.

Jean Lea

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Jean