

MAY'S SAMPLER OF THE MONTH



"Lois Minshall 1832," a sampler reproduction from *Threads of Gold*, has been chosen as this month's Sampler of the Month for several reasons. First, it's a new model in the shop, and it is truly one of the most beautiful samplers I've ever seen. I only wish all of you could see it in person. I took a number of photographs of it and, as usual, none of them do it justice. The two above were taken first with no flash and then with, and I couldn't decide which one was better, so I've shown you both.

The second reason this sampler was selected for May is because of its verse. May is a special time to honor mothers, and this sampler seems particularly appropriate. Even if your mother is no longer here, it would be a wonderful sampler to stitch in honor of her memory.

**"A Mother's love, how dear the name,
What bliss unfolds its sacred power.
Then ever may its fairest flame
Illumine my evry given hour."**

Lois was an accomplished needlewoman when she completed her sampler in the 16th year of her age; she used mostly cross stitch with a bit of Algerian eye and long-armed cross. Many of the motifs she's included are found in Quaker samplers and are some of my favorite, especially the beautiful roses and the several birds. Cindy stitched this for us on 40c *Lakeside Linens* using *Needlepoint, Inc.* silk. Save 15% on the chart, fabric, and/or silks during the month of May.

MAY PREFERRED STITCHER DISCOUNTS

Members of our PSC Club will receive a 15% discount on the following in-stock items at any time during the month of May:

- *Threads of Gold* charts
- *Lakeside Linens* fabrics
- *Needlepoint, Inc.* silks

THIS SATURDAY, CAROLYN STANDING WEBB

The Attic is privileged to host two workshops this Saturday with this EGA Master Craftsman in counted thread. A talented needlework designer and teacher for more than 20 years, Carolyn is from Salt Lake City, Utah with a degree in education who finds teaching needlework most rewarding. In addition to teaching all over the world, her designs have appeared in a number of needlework magazines, including *FineLines*, *Piecework*, and *Needlepoint Now*. There's still room in both classes if your schedule on Saturday is open either morning or afternoon or both.



STRAWBERRY NEEDLECASE ~ Saturday morning, May 6, 9 ~ Noon

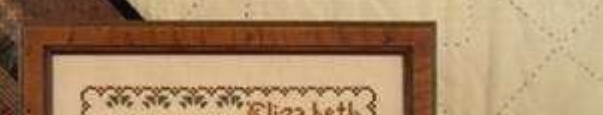
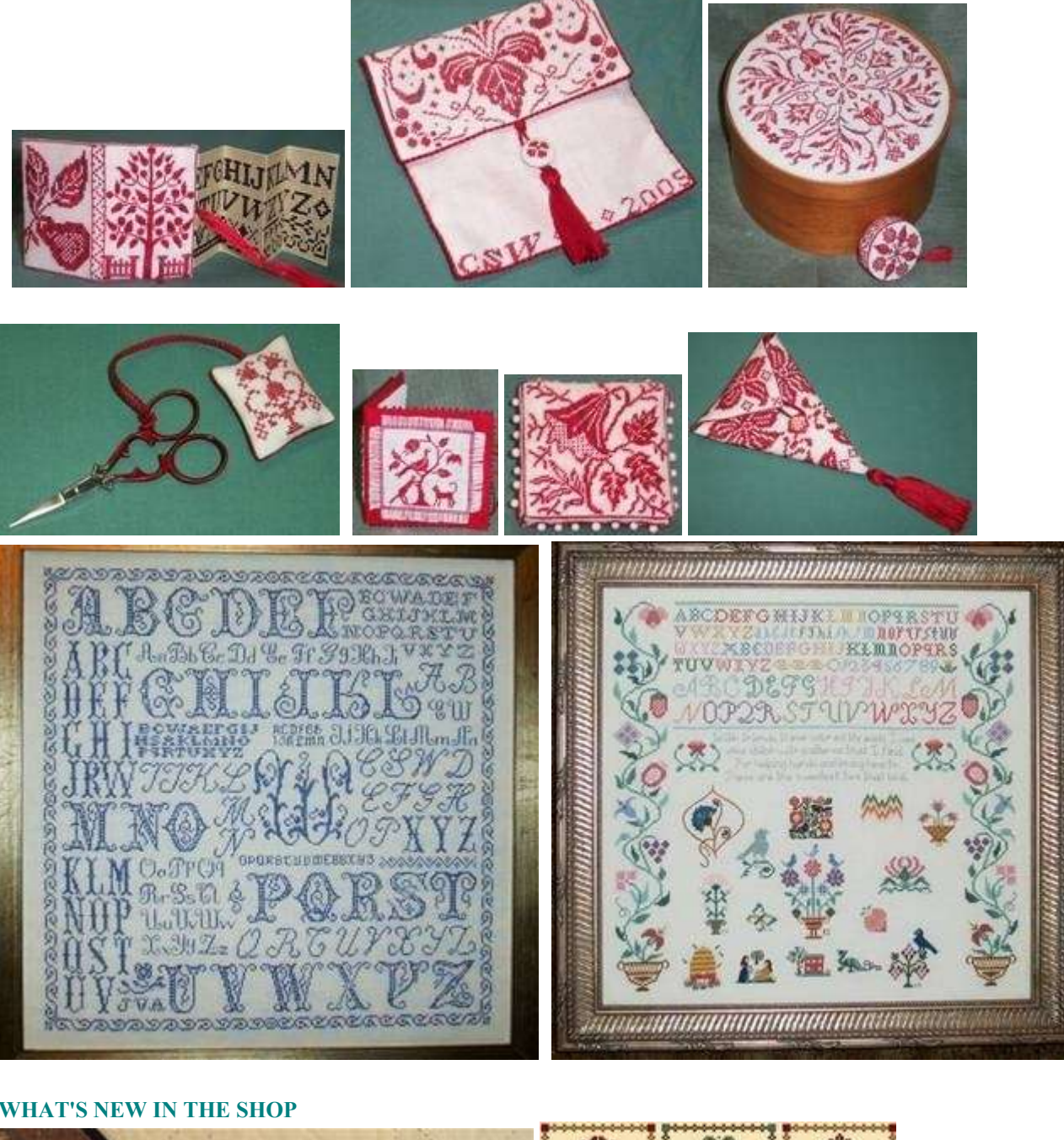
This charming needlecase has a most unique feature, a Jacob's ladder ribbon configuration. Many of us remember the Jacob's ladder toys that we played with as children, and this is the only needlecase I've seen with this intriguing feature. I am very excited to learn how this cleverly designed needlecase incorporates this feature. The back is personalized with your initials. Your workshop fee of \$55 includes all materials, 32-count linen and threads, as well as an alphabet for personalization.

BUTTERFLY PIN & NEEDLEKEEPER ~ Saturday afternoon, May 6, 2 ~ 5 p.m.

With a few hours of prework for this charming butterfly-shaped needlework accessory, you will be ready to learn the finishing in this afternoon class with Carolyn. This accessory is also a pincushion, and its wings are tied with silk ribbons that, when undone, let the wings unfold to reveal a place for your needles. The kit includes five different butterfly designs from which to choose. The \$55 workshop fee again includes all materials for creating this adorable accessory for your needlework basket.

CAROLYN'S MODELS

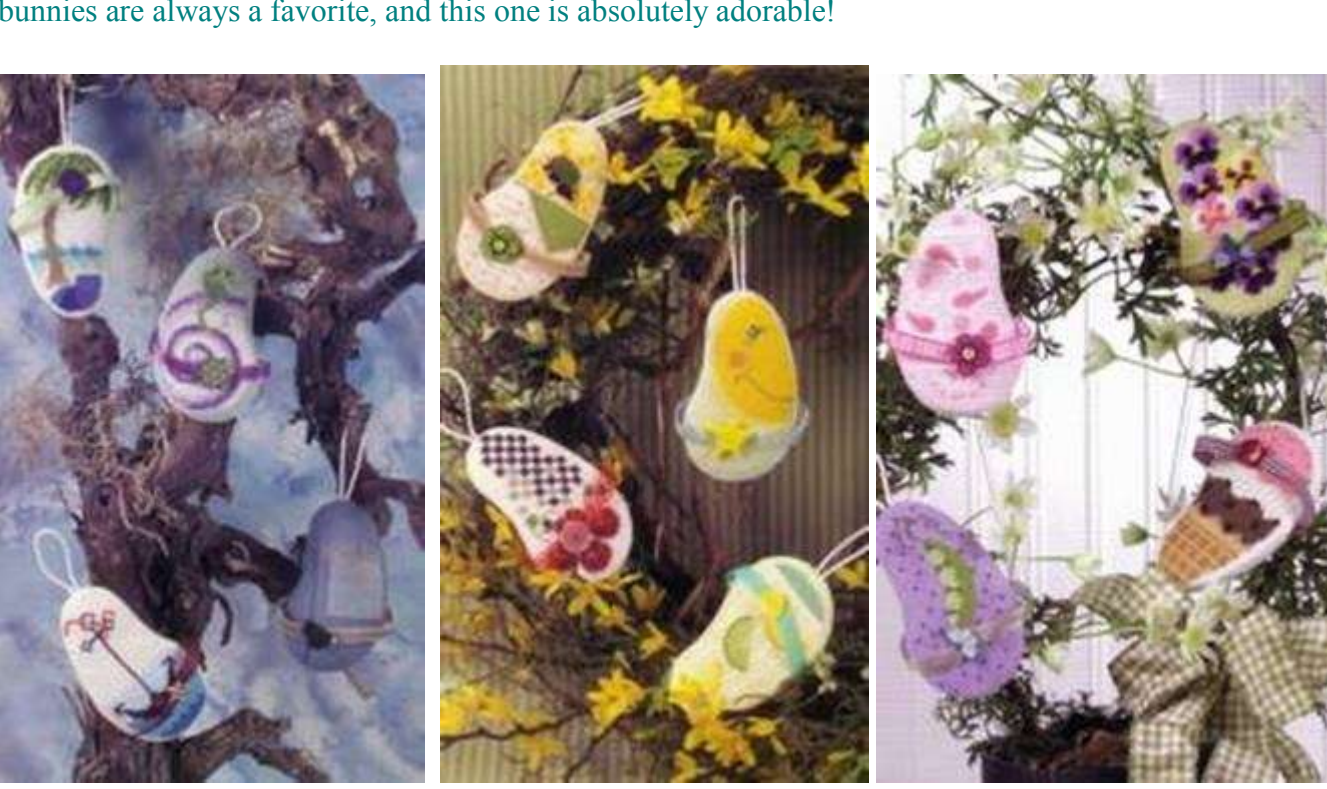
If you're not taking the workshops but are in the area, you will want to visit *The Attic* later this week when we will have many of Carolyn's beautiful designs on display. Her newest series, the Colonial Coverlet Series, will be here for you to see as well as several of her framed models. Carolyn will also be bringing charts for all of these designs with her. Those of you who are waiting to receive these should be in your mailboxes within a week.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE SHOP



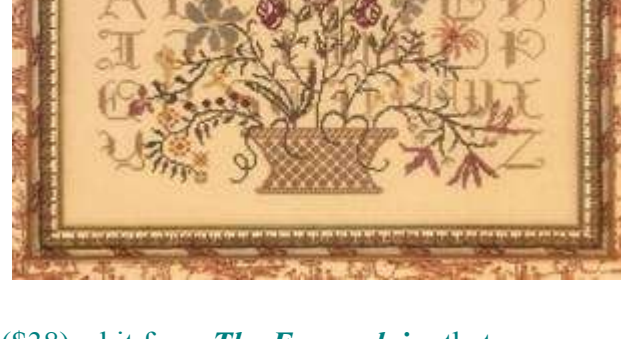
From *Diane Williams/Little House Needleworks*, third in her "Dear Diary" series of eight designs set in time and a place long ago is Elizabeth McGuire, who lives in the Shenandoah Valley. The fabric used in the framed design is 28 count Light Exampilar from *Lakeside Linens*. The pillow pattern included in this design is Kindness. As shown on her Web site, if you stitch all of the pillows on one piece of fabric, you can see what the finished piece will look like. The free center design will be given in the eighth pattern. Also new from Diane is her latest punchneedle design, "Garden Rabbit." No matter what time of year, but especially in springtime, bunnies are always a favorite, and this one is absolutely adorable!



From *The Cricket Collection*, finally, the long-awaited series, "Always Summer 1," "2," and "3" (each \$7) ~ we saw these in Nashville and have been waiting to show you, and now we can! We've got some of the specialty fabrics in and the rest are on their way, per our distributor, along with button packs and Kreinik metallic packs, all you'll need to stitch these adorable flip-flops! As soon as the rest of the fabric comes in this week, we'll put fabric packages together and show you in our next e-newsletter.



- The newest design from another of Arizona's own, *Deborah Thorpe/Midsummer Night Designs*, "Song of Solomon," (\$8) a charming and beautiful sampler design that can be stitched as you see it or in smaller, ornament-size designs. Each "piece" is about 47 x 39 stitches, which includes its border, and would make wonderful ornaments or scissors fobs or small pillows. The beautiful verse surround contains familiar words from the Bible's Song of Solomon, thus its name: "Lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing birds is come."
- And from *Scarlet Quince*, "Lady with Unicorn: Sense of Taste" (\$29). The Lady and the Unicorn tapestries are among the most beautiful art treasures of the world. They were woven c.1500, probably in the workshops of Flanders, in the medieval style of mille fleurs, a "thousand flowers." Since 1882 the tapestries have been housed in Paris. The tapestries represent the six senses: Hearing, Sight, Touch, Smell, Taste, and Love.



- "Prickly Pine Needlebook," (\$38) a kit from *The Essamplaire* that comes complete with the wool felt, silk, and pins as well as the silk threads and linen, would make a lovely addition to anyone's needlework accessory collection, and one that's easily finished.
- I'm not sure, but I may have already shown you this beautiful design from *Karen Kluba/Rosewood Manor* that Karen has entitled "Silent Sampler" (\$6.50) ~ despite its title, I think its beauty speaks volumes ~ a gorgeous arrangement serves as a backdrop to a lovely floral arrangement. Wouldn't this be spectacular on 40c OR 48c *Lakeside Linens* with *Needlepoint, Inc.* silk or *Au Ver A'Soie's Soie de Paris*?



- Speaking of *Lakeside's* 48c and *AVAS's* Soie de Paris, here's a scan of my recently completed "Petite Mexican Sampler" from *Page Dorsey/The Sampler Workes* while it awaits its frame. I have to admit, when I first began this piece, I wasn't enjoying it, the first I'd done on 48c, but as it "grew" and its beauty unfolded, I began to love it ~ the small count combined with this beautiful silk thread gives it an "antique sampler" look to my eye. On their Web site, http://www.silk-thread.com/silk_thread_embroidery.htm the AVAS Soie de Paris is described as a "6-strand filament that is soft, lustrous, and lustrous." Its silk is incomparable to any of the products on the market that I've used, and its strand diameter when using one ply is perfect for 40c, 45c, or 48c.

Unfortunately, only a few designers that I know of are using it in their designs. In addition to Page Dorsey, *Margriet Hogue/The Essamplaire* uses it in several of her kits, including "Augusta's Bristol Orphanage Sampler" (\$78) shown below using Soie de Paris No. 4624 and available with either 45c or 40c linen. Also shown below is Page's "The Wisdom Sampler." She stitched hers on 45c; the scan of my start is on 40c.

If you've not used this silk before, you're in for a special treat. It's a bit "fussy" in that it snags a little on a rough cuticle ~ the AVAS Web site recommends using their hand cream on your hands as well as on the thread "to reduce the frictional force." I haven't tried that yet ~ *Thread Heaven* would be my choice. But even without conditioning the silk, I love this product!



- Also shown is a scan of my progress on *Blackbird Designs'* "Quaker Garden" on *Lakeside's* 40c Vintage Pear with *Gloriana's* 5 shades of Luminescence. Those of you awaiting your order, and there are a number of you, I am pleased to report that we expect the fabric shipment later this week, and I'm exploring today with *Gloriana* the possibility of paying a "rush" fee to get the Luminescence colors prioritized in their dyeing schedule and on their way to us and to you. I know how anxious you are to start this latest in the *Loose Feathers Club*, Pattern No. 19.

That completes our news for today. Our somewhat regular Friday edition of this e-newsletter didn't go out last week because John and I were on our way to Colorado on Friday for a seminar we were presenting to the Colorado Court Reporters Association this past weekend. We had a lovely two days in their cooler weather and enjoyed a Rocky Mountain high gazing out our hotel window at the snow-capped Rockies. We enjoyed breakfast yesterday boarding our plane with our nephew Chris (a Denver-area "man in blue" that any parent would be proud to call "son" and) and his wife Sarah. What a beautiful couple, both inside and out!

Before we left we were still enjoying Spring-like weather here in the valley ~ we came home to a rude-awakening: Summer had arrived with a vengeance. It was 95 yesterday and may hit 100 in the next day or two. Here's a glimpse of our backyard rosebush and its beautiful blossoms before the summer heat.



I also returned home to the realization that Cox.net, my e-mail provider that I use for much of my e-mail, has "improved" their Web mail and now some e-mails seem to be going elsewhere. If you've sent me an e-mail and I haven't replied, it may be because I never received it. I know other Cox users are having similar problems, so I'm sure a fix will be coming soon. In the meantime, thank you for your patience.

Happy Monday!

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