

## LAST WEEKEND at The Attic . . .



. . . 17 of us spent our days learning reticello, an early form of needlelace originating over six centuries ago, under the expert guidance of designer and teacher **Diane Clements**. Personal, one-on-one instruction with each of us, no matter where we were on our project, accompanied by clear, detailed written instructions and incredibly well-done diagrams of the techniques, made everyone feel that this was a very doable technique and one that each of us could accomplish. We look forward to welcoming Diane back in the future. She does travel and teach all over the country, and if you have a chance to take one of her workshops in your area, jump at the chance. I am confident that it will be one of the best needlework experiences you've had.

## SUMMER HOURS

Following a great suggestion from several of my staff members, beginning Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day the shop will be **closed on Mondays**. However, we will be open by appointment if you find yourself in desperate need of a project after the weekend or you're visiting the Phoenix area and Monday is your only day to visit us. We will be in the shop and answering the phone on most Mondays, but if you wish to call ahead and make an appointment, that would be advisable. I am sure there are some Mondays when something may interfere with our being there for the entire day. There is 24-hour Voice Mail; please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

## CLASSES/EVENTS COMING Soon

Beginning Linen

Instructor: Linda                      One 2-Hr. Class

Saturday, May 19, 10:30-12:30      Fee: \$30 (includes all materials)

Usually held on the first Saturday of every month, this month this class had to be rescheduled because of last weekend's workshop. And one of these days I will remember to photograph the lovely geranium bookmark that is the class project that Linda uses to teach you important techniques using the classic book "Linen Stitches" as the class text. 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.

## Sampler Sunday ~ May 20, 1:00-4:00 p.m. ~ Fee: \$10

As the third Sunday of the month, it's time once again to gather with ladies of like mind and spend a pleasant afternoon with our needlework as I envision was done centuries ago by women of means. Our discussion will focus on flowers and gardening and their connection to and influence on needlework. The handout for May has graciously been provided by fellow sampler enthusiast and reproductionist Alison Smith of *Scholehouse for the Needle*. See below for two of Alison's newest sampler charts. If you spent time viewing the online needlework show, you may have seen the sneak peek Alison gave us of her newest reproduction, available later this month, of Laura Ann Ludington's 1828 sampler. Here are a few snippets from Laura's sampler. Laura stitched her sampler at the age of 14, and beginning this weekend it will be on display for all to see at the Colonial Dames' sampler exhibit in Chicago, through July 28. You will want to visit this exhibit if you're in Chicago during the next few months. Alison is traveling there as we speak for the exhibit's opening party on Monday evening.



The sampler includes four alphabets with dividing bands in a variety of stitches, a strawberry vine border on three sides, an oversized basket, kissing birds, a verse, and a house with a porch, quite unusual, Alison says, on a sampler. The chart will include stitch diagrams and instructions, as well as family history information.

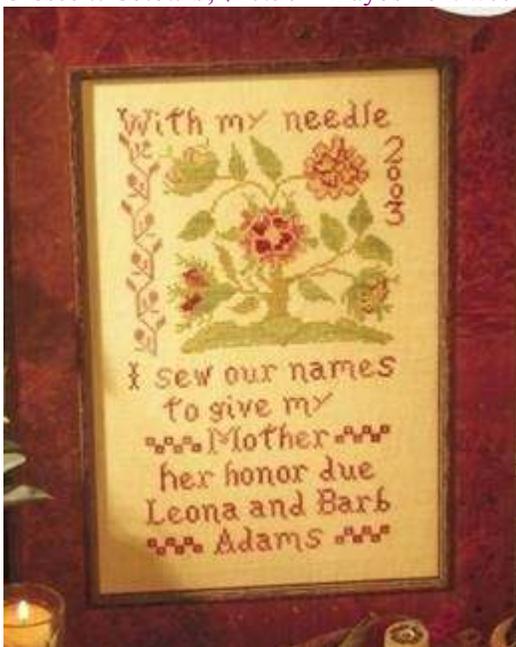
**Please call to register** if you would like to join us for the afternoon. This helps me plan not only the seating and table needs in the classroom but also the number of handouts and amount of dessert to be ready to serve.

Watch for dates for other things you've been asking for:

- a beading class, with the *Fern Ridge Collections* fob of your choice, to learn the peyote stitch and several techniques Debra learned in a class she took in Nashville.
- our next **Ladies Night Out, a/k/a Friday Night Pizza Party, a/k/a Attic Lock-In**

#### MAY'S SAMPLER OF THE MONTH

In honor of Mother's Day, from *Blackbird Designs*, "Her Honor Due" ~ you may purchase any combination of the following at a 15% discount: chart, \$7; Lakeside Vintage fabric (count of your choice), \$10; and 5 Belle Soie silks from *Crescent Colours*, \$27.50 ~ maybe next week I can show you our shop model framed!



#### NEW IN THE SHOP

Here are the two newest charts referred to above from *Scholehouse for the Needle*:

- "Ackworth Quaker," (\$10) an original design which incorporates many motifs found on Ackworth pieces from the late 1700s to the early 1800s. It is charted for AVAS with a conversion to DMC, shown stitched on 34c Legacy Linen, Devonshire Cream ~ design size, 238 x 188. Here's a wonderful design to personalize for a loved one.
- "angels Gard thy bed," (\$10) a reproduction sampler that's perfect for a child's room or a birth sampler, charted for

AVAS ~ design size, 186 x 165. The verse reads: "hush my dear lie still and slumber holy angels Gard thy bed heavenly blessing without number Gently falling on thy head."



This one takes your breath away, truly! And the cover photograph is so beautiful that it doesn't even require a model to appreciate this design from *Rosewood Manor*, who also brought you "And A Forest Grew" a year ago. This one, "Inspiration," (\$22) is a 30-page book with LARGE charts that don't need to be further enlarged for stitching, and tucked inside the pages are several "smalls" that might be missed in a casual leaf-through: a scissors fob with the word "Friendship," a needlebook with a charming house and "Home Sweet Home," another scissors fob to personalize as a gift, and a small sampler ~ as well as encouragement from designer Karen Kluba to "Be creative! Stitch the center section of the design as a small sampler ~ everything inside and including the rectangle diamond." And so we've cut that part out to show it separately from the larger sampler. Wow! There are no words for this one. Well, I guess there are ~ I just wrote a paragraph. This is one that belongs in every collection! The stitch count for the large sampler is 230 x 290; for the **center section only**, 108 x 168. It is stitched on *Colorscapes'* Moonglow. It would also be equally lovely on *Lakeside's* Vintage Luna.



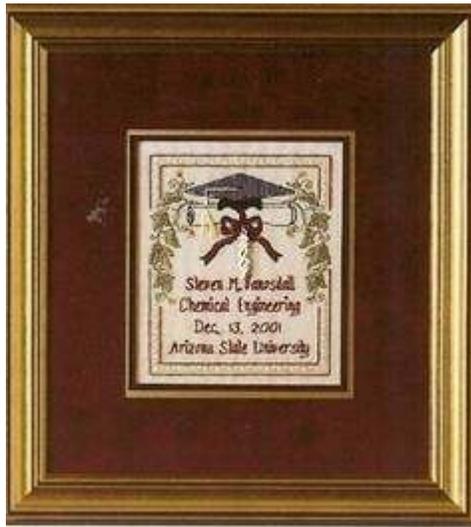
Another beautiful sampler that arrived this past week ("MG 1838" from *Wild-Heart Designs*, \$16) you may remember from last week's eNewsletter, but here are its AVAS jeweltone silks shown on two different fabric choices: Fossil from *Colorscapes* and Vintage Sand Dune from *Lakeside Linens*. Depending on your personal taste, these beautiful colors look gorgeous on both linens.



Also in the door this week, "Awake the Dawning Day" from **Blackbird Designs**, Design No. 25 in their VERY popular Loose Feathers Club series. Yesterday Joy, one of the ladies on our great Attic team, spent her day creating a beautiful 40-count linen for you for this project that we've named "The Crow's Dawn." It has been cut to size especially for this design with a 2-inch margin on all sides. The fabric cut (\$8) is shown here with the Weeks Dye Works called for in the chart and THEN with our conversion to Belle Soie silks from **Crescent Colours**. If you wish to order the silks for this project, they will not be here and ready to ship for several more weeks ~ two of the colors I used are being released the first weekend in June. But we all probably have something to keep our needles busy until then, even though this one says "Stitch me now!" For some of us, waiting for silks is worth the wait!

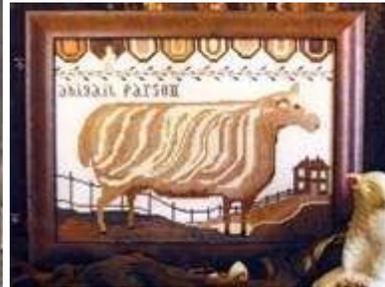
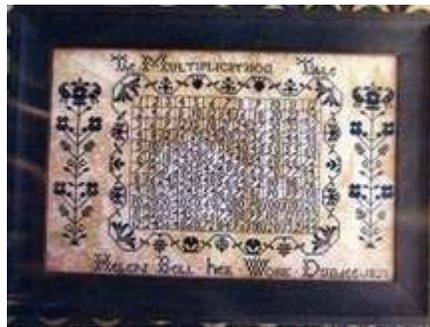


Just in time for the USA's red-white-and-blue season that typically runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day (and for some of us, it's year-round), two new limited edition scissors from **Gingher** appropriately called "Glory" ~ the 4-inch embroidery scissors is \$33; the 8-inch dressmaker shears is \$44. They are photographed with a very charming design from **The Cricket Collection** ~ and right now I'm not quite sure which leaflet, but I think it might be an "extra" design in No. 223 appropriately titled "Red, White & Blue." ~ and not new but still the best design as a graduation tribute is from our **Sandie/The Sweetheart Tree** ~ the Sterling silver charm is available in almost any year you wish, even including 2008 and 2009, if you want to plan ahead! "Teenie Graduation Announcement" is \$8 with the charm.



New from *Kathy Barrick/Carriage House Samplings*, several reproduction samplers, a design inspired by an early oil painting, and several have-to-punch designs:

- "Anna P. Fox," (\$9) a reproduction of an 1832 sampler ~ "Helen Bell's Multiplication Table," (\$12) a reproduction of an early Scottish sampler, shown with two colors of NPI silk on 40c Relic from *Colorscapes*, and as noted in the chart, the frame is available from **Attic Needlework** (that's us!), frame cost dependent on linen size/count and margins~ and "Only One Ewe," (\$9) inspired by an early oil painting, stitched with NPI silks on 40c Legacy from *Colorscapes* as well.



- Punchneedle designs that are calling for me to get out my weaver's cloth: This wonderful duo, "Miss Pitts & Her Sister Sophie," (\$12) photographed from both the front and the back ~ and "Paradise" (\$12) punched in *Thread Gatherer's* Sheep's Silk

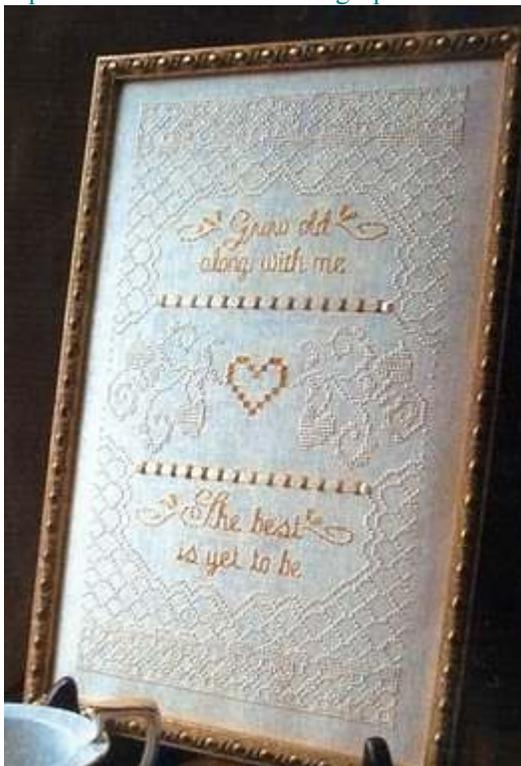
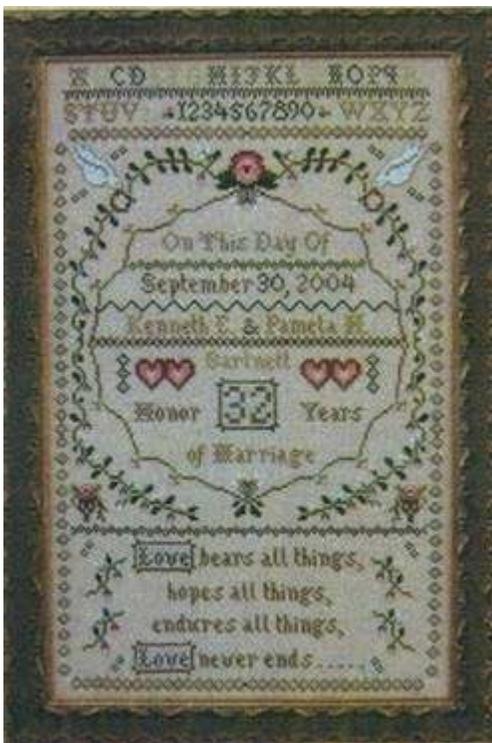


*Designs from Pamela* has several new patriotic charts:

- "Betsy Ross Stitching for America" (\$8.50) ~ "Liberty Tea - The Tea of the Revolution" with the design matted and framed with an original poem that is included in the chartpack on parchment paper ready for your frame, which reads: "We'll take no more of English wares, The ribbons, laces, oh so fair. Our homespun cloth we'll wear with pride And bow not to King George's side. We'll drink the English tea no more, Instead, our own tea we will pour. They'll hear our cries across the sea . . . Drink the Teas of Liberty!" Also included in the chartpack is the history of "Liberty Tea" and several recipes for the Revolutionary Times' herbal Liberty Tea that was brewed at teatime rather than give up the ritual comfort of a nice cup of tea. Last in this row, silhouettes of America's first First Family, George and Martha, adapted from centuries-old antiques (\$9).



Two new lovely anniversary samplers: the first from *Designs from Pamela*, "Love Never Ends" (\$12) featuring the beautiful words from Corinthians ~ and "Anniversary Exemplar" (\$10) from *Medeiros Needlecraft Design*, which celebrates the years of companionship with a quote from Robert Browning's poem.



More from the online needlework show, these from *The Stitching Studio*, charts from several great artists. First, from the Sue Coleman Collection, a renowned West Coast artist who has earned international recognition for her distinctive watercolors, especially those in her interpretive North West Coast Aboriginal series that contrast her First Nations designs with the bird or animal it represents.

- "Hummingbird" (\$14) ~ "Kingfisher" (\$14) ~ "Wolf Pup" (\$14)

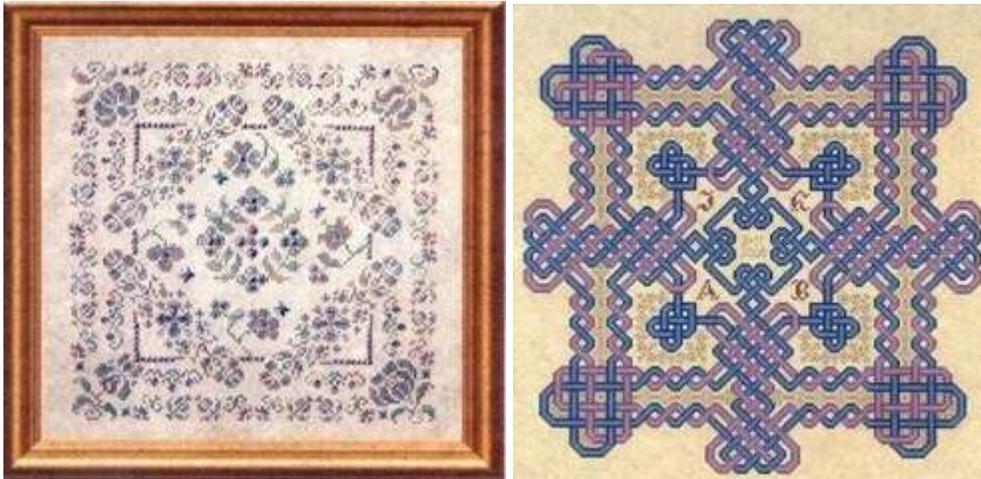


And also from *The Stitching Studio* and the artwork of two more artists, Blaine Billman and Todd Jason Baker:

- "Spirit of the Sockeye" (\$14) ~ "Northern Lights - Common Loon" (\$14) ~ "Dolphins, Mother & Child" (\$14)



From *Papillon Creations*, "Blossom Time" (\$12.50) and "Lover's Knot" (\$14.50)



From *Reflets de Soie*, "De Blanc et de Nacre" (Google translation, "Of White and Mother of Pearl"), \$16 ~ "Coeur Baroque" (Heart Baroque), \$13 ~ and "Violette de Parme" (\$14)



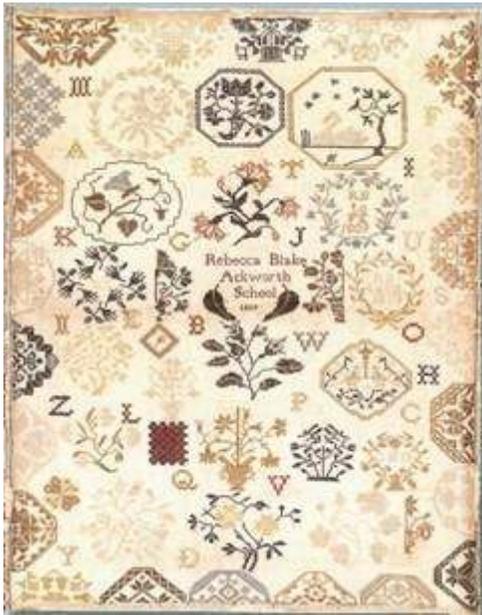
Stunning designs from *Chatelaine/Designs by Martina Weber*, "Evening in the Park - Mandala Garden, formerly Mystery VIII" (\$26.50) with its graceful swans ~ "Egypt Garden - Mandala Garden" (\$19.50) with its pyramid corners ~ "Autumn Dusk - Enchanted Gardens IV, formerly Mystery VII" (\$18) with its acorns and adorable squirrels ~ "Snowflake Nativity" (\$18.50), with a gorgeous center Madonna motif that would make a stunning Christmas ornament by itself.



From two Italian designers: *Passione Ricamo*, "The Queen of Fairies" (\$17) ~ and from *Per Segno Per Filo* "Sampler Blu" (\$11.50)



Last, but certainly not least, another Quaker reproduction that is now in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, a gift to the museum in 2003. "Rebecca Blake" (\$21) from *Needleprint* is charted for AVAS silks (Au Ver A'Soie, sorry for the abbreviation) with a design size of 300 x 432. I had a favorite among these beautiful Quaker reproductions with their Ackworth origins, "Ann Trump," probably because of its horizontal shape, but Rebecca Blake's is vying for that favorite role for sure.



We got part of our *Dessins* order from the on-line needlework show so I'll wait until next week for those and show you all of them at the same time ~ the second package will probably arrive today. And next week will also bring many more wonderful new designs, many on their way from Europe, a number of them new to the US marketplace.

This weekend Americans celebrate a special day, not really conceived of in the Hallmark Company boardrooms but a day that became a national holiday in 1914 when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day. If you are fortunate to still have your mother, enjoy this opportunity to spoil her and show her how much you care. It's a difficult day for some who can no longer enjoy their mother's company or send her flowers because she has gone on to a better place. Meta, our mother, has been gone now for nearly 16 years, and all of us, children and grandchildren who knew her, honor her memory. I wish she could have met Billie, the mother I have come to know these past 14 years as the mother who adopted and raised my son. She would have loved her and shared the gratitude that I have for raising such a fine son and grandson.

Happy Mother's Day to all of you from the ladies of the thread at The Attic. In your role as a mother and grandmother your devoted love, nurturing, and guidance continue to be a very critical part of our American family.

Jean Lea

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