

# Needlepoint Now News

## Between the Threads

FROM ELIZABETH



# Happy Spring!



The weather is starting to warm up in Oregon and we have actually had a few sun sightings recently. I was so encouraged by this, that yesterday I cleaned up the patio in anticipation of a little outdoor stitching time. The voice of reason told me that we still have a few weeks before it really warms up enough to stitch outside but I wanted to make sure that I would be ready.

When I got up today and watched the morning news I saw that the weather prediction is for rain for the rest of the week. Well, at least I won't have to water my garden. Being the fool that I am, I planted a few things this weekend. I know better than to plant before May but I was experiencing a bout of spring fever. Before I knew it, I was at the plant nursery purchasing a few plants. Not much, just a few bushes to replace the ones that were killed in the abnormally cold winter we had this year, a few tomatoes and some bush bean, lettuce, beet, and snow pea seeds.



Jay, whom we fondly call "Duck Man", was also under the influence of the spring fever spell and brought home four new baby ducklings. We have four blue runners to add to the flock of Rouens. The older ducks don't really want anything to do with the new girls. Ducks are very clickish!

This weekend I will be driving to Seattle to take a class from Carolyn Sherman. I have always wanted to take a class from Carolyn and feel very lucky to have this opportunity. *The Evergreen Chapter of EGA* is sponsoring the class and I am excited to get to see my Seattle friends while learning a few beading techniques.

The first of May, Mary Alice Sinton will be in the Needlepoint Now studio for four days of Japanese embroidery and beaded embroidery. The classes are run like a studio session to accommodate all levels of stitching. Everyone brings the piece that they are currently working on. Mary Alice will make laps of the room giving everyone the individual help that they need. When there is a learning opportunity that everyone will benefit from, she asks us to gather around for a demonstration of a technique. I find the classes

to be a relaxing way to learn an embroidery technique that is very structured.

I will be working on my *Phase 2/3 Hoigi Fan* as well as Mary Alice's "What A Hoot" beaded bag. If you are interested in Japanese beaded embroidery, I encourage you to visit Mary Alice's website and look at some of the fabulous pieces that she has completed <<http://www.bluebonnetstudio.com/slideshow/beading#>>.

If you are interested in being part of a pilot class for Janet Z. Casey's "Key to My Heart" the weekend of June 28th at the Needlepoint Now studio, call the office at (541) 935-0238 for more information. We still have four slots available. Janet will be teaching this piece at the *ANG Chicago Seminar* in August. The pilot class will help her fine tune her instructions and work on the timing of her presentation before teaching the piece at the national level.



*Whatever you have in mind for your spring projects, I hope you all have a wonderful spring.*

# Ta Da!



*I bought the prints at the Dirt Market in Beijing and then asked Mandy at local needlework shop to paint them on congress cloth for me. I finally finished them (after a long delay because I could not figure out how to attach the thread for their braids and hair) and got them framed.*

—Pat Dalton, Littleton, CO

# Where, Oh Where?

BY VICKY DE ANGELIS



You have just bought the canvas of your dreams, one that you have scrimped and saved for just about forever. You've laid awake at night thinking about the canvas and now it is in your possession.

You're so excited to start stitching it, but you're about to say the thing we always say: "where, oh where do I start?" You seem overwhelmed and intimidated by the magnitude of it all, and you start to wonder, what was I thinking?



Yes, *you can do it!* Look at your canvas, study it, hang it on the wall and immerse yourself into the nuances of it. Select a section or two—it doesn't necessarily have to be at the top or the bottom, just anywhere on the canvas where you feel like you want to begin your stitching.



Start picking out some threads for your canvas. Honestly, I don't try to select the entire canvas at once, because it is guaranteed that I am going to change my mind at least a million and one times. I know, I know, if you don't have a shop close by that can be a challenge, but that's when you need to find yourself a designated thread shopper!

Maybe that area that you want to start with calls for basketweave—well, what are you waiting for? Every canvas should have some basketweave integrated into it, a place for your



eye to rest. It's a place for you to lose yourself in your stitching and relax. When I am working on that plain old basketweave stitch, I am studying other parts of the canvas and gathering ideas of what kind of magic I can create.

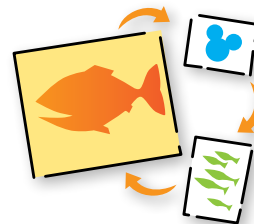


If you do begin stitching in an area and with a stitch that you're comfortable with, I guarantee that will motivate you to keep your needle moving. Making progress in the beginning of your stitching journey is the key to not relegating that canvas to the deepest recesses of the closet, never to be seen again in your lifetime.

Now if you really are a go-getter and would rather start with a wonderful stitch that you absolutely love, go for it! Start it in the largest area where you want to work the stitch so you don't have to compensate right away. Get in the flow of the stitch, know the count forward and backward and every which way, and then stitch the areas that need compensation.

Keep a smaller project, or two or three (I think that you get the idea), in your stitching rotation. This is to give yourself a little respite from your larger canvas, and when you go back to stitching it, you will have a new and refreshed outlook.

*See, I told you you could do it!*



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on Facebook

Join us for peeks at the future and the chance to see what other people who love needlepoint are up to. All you have to do is sign onto Facebook and "like" Needlepoint Now. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Is it soup yet?

*Bead Soup, that is.*

Subscribers, enter to win a Merry L. Prints Bead Soup scissor fob or this scissor fob/needle minder set!

Just email or call us with your *subscriber I.D. number*—it's as easy as that. Your number is located above your name on the mailing label of the magazine.

The drawing takes place on June 13, 2014.

email: [contest@needlepointnow.com](mailto:contest@needlepointnow.com)

Phone: (541) 935-0238





# in the May/June Issue Coming up...



## Labors of Love The Tudors

Talk about a team effort! *Labors of Love* designed the canvases of Henry VIII and his six wives—many based off the famous portraits by Hans Holbein the Younger.

Anne Connerton did an amazing job of stitching the canvases and having them finished in Sudberry's treasure box and trivet frame. Vicky De Angelis put Anne's stitch notes into words and my friend Joanne Colandrea wrote the introduction to each of the historical figures. Henry and Catherine of Aragon are featured in this issue and we'll be following up with Henry's other wives in the next three issues.

## The Winfields in Winter

It will be sad to say goodbye to the *Winfields* as we work through the final installment for this Curtis Boehringer design with Susan Porta's stitch guide.

Vicky stitched the snowman while I was out of town and I picked up where she left off. Susan's stitch guide was a good stitch! I enjoyed working through the guide and I'm sure you will too.

## Bluebell Cushion

A few months ago I received a beautiful book in the mail with a very nice letter from the author, Diane Grant, asking me to review the book. The book contained five designs and many tips and techniques by the author. As I read through

the book, I was inspired by her design process and hard pressed to say which of her designs I liked better because they are all wonderful. I contacted Diane and asked her if she would consider publishing one of her designs in the magazine. *Bluebell Cushion* is the result of that conversation.

## Stained Glass

Susan Jones of *Finger Step Designs* has given us a fun, Art Deco stained glass window design that uses nine filling patterns to create the pebbly look of textured glass. Stitch the piece exactly like Susan's or use the stitch patterns to make your own stained glass window.

## Gypsy Girl

Ann Winn recently designed a series of matryoshka dolls, also known as Russian nesting/nested dolls or babushka dolls. *Gypsy Girl* is one of Ann's creations that she has made into a scissor case. Brightly colored with fun stitches, who wouldn't want to stitch a matryoshka doll of their own?

## Tropicana Cuff Bracelet

Ada Haydon has done it again with a vibrant cuff bracelet that showcases the fun blingy needle-minders that we love to collect. To make it even better, she also used some sequins and a few Swarovski crystals to make the piece even more eye catching.

## Turquoise Holiday Light and Blue Holiday Gift

A couple more of Susan Porta's Holiday Ornaments finish up our project line for the May/June issue. I have heard from so many of you that you are enjoying the ornament series.

## Needlepoint Now Snap Trays & Frame Weights

Get yourself a fun snap tray or frame weight from your favorite needlepoint magazine!

Available at  
[needlepointnow.com](http://needlepointnow.com)  
or call 541-935-0238.



**Snap Tray:** \$33 plus S/H. 7.5 x 7.5" (folds flat to 11 x 11"). Fun patterns and bright embroidery! Check out the web site for all the combinations available.

**Frame Weight:** \$24 plus S/H. 7.5 x 2.75", 2 lbs. Black-on-black swirls with colorful varied embroidery.

## Ad Reminder!

Reservations for ad space are due May 1st with ad materials for custom design due May 8th. Camera-ready ads can be sent in as late as June 2. —Thank you!

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