

# Needlepoint Now News

## Between the Threads

FROM ELIZABETH



## Re-centering to get back on track

By this time many of you may have already received your March/April 2016 issue. I feel like the white rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* as I type this as fast as I can because I know I'm late in getting this issue of the newsletter out. The words "I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date!" keep running through my flu infested brain. Yep, I have the flu.

Events leading up to the flu were enough to cause a lesser, or saner, woman to have either a heart attack or nervous breakdown but somehow I managed to stay calm and not hyperventilate or pass out. The day that I was to send the magazine files to the printer, as I was entering the last of the corrections, a message from our software company popped up saying that my software was being updated. My software lives on "The Cloud" and I am required to submit to their constant interruptions for software updates. This update contained a virus and before I could read the message, it caused my files to start deleting from my desktop right before my eyes. I tried shutting down the computer but it was too late. All of my work files were gone ... including the magazine files. I thought I was going to throw up!

When my brain started to recover from the shock, I called my computer tech service and bribed them to help me right away. I drove twenty miles to their office only to find out that my computer had to stay in the shop for diagnostics and have the nasty virus that Adobe sent me eradicated. The good news was that I back up my files in three places so I was able to pull an older version of the files off of a backup drive onto another computer and I only lost a few hours of work. I sent the files to the printer around 10:30 pm.

The next morning I hopped on a 6 am flight to Austin, Texas, to attend *The Blue Bonnet Studio Time Needle Arts Retreat*. I met two of my Seattle area friends, Debby Cox and Gen Tullis, and the three of us had a blast taking four days of classes and enjoying the warm weather of Austin.

Debby and I took a Spanish gold work class with Cristina Badillo Castillo, a teacher that Mary Alice Sinton, owner of *Blue Bonnet Studio Time*, brought in from Spain.



Not only is Cristina a fabulous needlework designer, she also restores the embroidery on religious relics, crests, uniforms etc. To see her work, visit her blog, <<http://artebordadooro.blogspot.com>>.

It was the first time Cristina taught in the United States. She knew a little English but the language barrier was minimal and I learned so much from her. Spanish gold work differs from English gold work in the dimension that is achieved through padding that is done with layers of leather, cardboard and felt. It is hard to pull the

needle through all of the layers but the final result is so worth it.

The return trip from Austin included flight delays, cancellations and rerouting to Portland where I had to arrange for ground transportation to Eugene. My stress level was probably an 11 on a scale between 1 and 10. I had to get back to the office to look over the printer proofs for the magazine and turn them around the same day so our printing wouldn't be delayed. I got to the office at 4:30 pm instead of 11am and got right to work. I sent the files back to the printer late that night and then I collapsed.

I knew when I bought *Needlepoint Now* that my job would be challenging and at times difficult, but I took on the responsibility of running the magazine knowing that I had the skills to work through many of the problems that arise in publishing. As prepared as I am to handle crisis and as much as I love my job, there are times that it beats me up.

The good news is that I made all of the deadlines except for this newsletter publishing date. I'll be back on my feet in no time and working hard to put the next issue of *Needlepoint Now* together for you.

As I was dealing with the travel and the computer problems, my friend Pat sent me a text that said, "I just read a philosophical piece about re-centering after you have been dealing with turmoil. The article talks about how hard it is, but you must refocus in order to get past the disaster. Once you refocus, the positive will return." I smiled as I read her note. She is so right and to prove it, as I was standing at the gate, waiting to board my plane, I got called out of line to be told that I was being upgraded to first class.

# Save the Date



## Wild West Tour will be in March 2017!

### **We will be visiting famous landmarks such as:**

- Hampton Court Palace
- Ancient castle in Windsor
- Stonehenge

### **Classes and People:**

- A Class at the Royal School of Needlework
- Felting course with Lizzie Houghton (expert felter)

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

# Ta Da!



After two years of thinking, including close to a year of stitching, I've completed my version of *Les Chapeaux* or *Church Ladies* as you called it in the May/June, 2013 issue.

I purchased Judi Alweil's painted design on 18 mesh and adapted my version from Jamie Prosser and Natasha Higgins's stitch guide. I used different threads (a huge variety of silk, wool, metallic, cotton, etc.) and often different stitches. I also added my own contemporary message in the earrings. (Mary K. Campbell wrote a wonderful editorial in *Needle Pointers* about making designs relevant to our world, something I've been doing since the 1970s.) I renamed my

version *Les Chapeaux Go to Wall Street* in honor of some of the issues taken up by the Occupy Wall Street movement. Going in a clockwise direction starting with the woman in the green hat, they include symbols for Black Equality, economic equality, love (in the original pink heart), women's equality, and world peace.

I hope you enjoy the results. Thanks for the wonderful, wonderful magazine,

Harriet Alonso  
Brooklyn, NY

Back in March I contacted you about using Pat's Candy Corn patterns as our *Canvas Etc.* group's donation to our EGA drawing for our annual show. We have had our show and am happy to say that the Candy Corn ornaments were a big hit.

The stitchers were: Debra Steaffens, Mary Ellen Tennis, Kathie Zwettler and Nancy Daly. We are all members of the Madison Area Chapter EGA. They were donated by the Canvas, Etc. interest group (mostly we work on canvas projects, but sometimes we just have to work on something else, thus the "Etc.") to our drawing as part of our 2015 Annual Show in October.

Thank you once again for allowing us to use these patterns to raise money for our Chapter program.

Yours in stitching,  
Debra Steaffens

P.S. As always, *Needlepoint Now* continues to inspire both my mother and me with great stitching ideas.



## Ad Reminder!

Reservations for ad space in the May/June issue are due March 1st

Ad materials for custom design due March 8th.

Camera-ready ads are due April 1st.

—Thank you!

# Coming up...

in the March/April Issue



## Sights and Scenes of London

by Kirk and Bradley with a stitch guide by  
Jinny Barney

London is one of the top tourist destinations in the world. Stitch a few of the sights and scenes that the city is famous for. What a great memento from a past or future trip!

## It's a Mystery

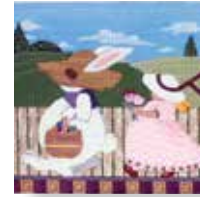
by Patricia Hartman, Mary Knapp, Linda Reinmiller and Debbie Rowley

For almost ten years these four women have been putting on a Mystery Retreat where each one of them designs a piece of the puzzle that is to be taught.

## Twilight

by *Stickideen von der Wiehenburg*

Circles and squares and crescents, too, make up this design in soft teals and purples.



## Blue Bird

by Maggie & Co. with a stitch guide by Kathy Kulesza

Known for her three-dimensional stitching techniques, Kathy doesn't disappoint with a Turkey work tail and attached picot flowers.

## Quilt Flower

by *Finger Step Designs*

Take a simple quilt pattern, fun colors and interesting stitches and you get a great piece that can be made into an ornament or pincushion.

## Easter March

by *Liz Goodrick-Dillon* with a stitch guide by *Susan Portra* and stitched by *Fay Haverley*

The ever popular March series never lose popularity with stitchers and Easter March is no exception.

## Caribbean Waves Bargello Ornament

by *EyeCandy Needleart*

The second in the series of four bright and colorful ornaments for those with a less than traditional style of decorating for the holidays.

## Enter to Win!

### Seven cards of Twinkle

Subscribers, enter to win seven cards of the newest colors of Twinkle.

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

The drawing takes place on  
April 4th, 2016

email: [contest@needlepointnow.com](mailto:contest@needlepointnow.com)  
Phone: (541) 935-0238

## And the winner is ...



Congratulations to the winners of the Bead Dazzlers seed beads:

Judy Ray  
Houston, Texas

